



School of the Holy Childhood

Fall 2011

Children's Program's library opens



Cutting the ribbon to dedicate our new library are (from left) Children's Program Principal, Melanie Byrne, students Ella and Paige and President and CEO, Donna Dedee. Pictured in the background are members of Michele Keihl's family and Board President, Michael McEvoy.



Students in the library have access to laptops and RAZ Kids, a literacy program which allows them to access books online at their assessed reading level, which they can read themselves or the program will read to them.



Student Jake made a new friend in John Harris, of the Glover Crask Charitable Trust, at the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 20th.

Thanks to many supporters and friends, our agency's Children's Program has a new library as part of our literacy initiative. With the help of funding from the Glover Crask Charitable Trust and the Iacona Family and the donation of services from HBT Architects, the library task force - led by teacher Michelle Greco - we were able to realize this goal. Hundreds of books were collected and donated by the Keihl family and friends, Holy Childhood staff and the Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club. Volunteers Maria Carrone, Gabriella Rood, Laura Masterson, Betsy Sherwood and Jen Rygiel volunteered hundreds of hours sorting and cataloging books. A ribbon-cutting ceremony held on October 20th included a dedication to the late Michele Keihl, who laid the groundwork for developing our summer literacy program and the library.

Also on the library committee were staff persons Erin Pease, Joanna Adamson, Dan Keihl, Megan Keller, Pat Finch, Kathy Miller and Joe Abbott. Additional thanks to Flower City Glass, Concord Electric, Sedgwick Business Interiors and Sara Rexford and Nixon Peabody for their work on this project.

Message from our President and CEO

Dear Friends,

As we enter the holiday season, it provides an opportunity for reflection on the past year. For me, in particular, it is a great time to think about the experiences I've had as I close in on my one-year anniversary as President and CEO at Holy Childhood.

My first defining moment, within days of my appointment, was to witness the annual holiday party hosted by firefighters from Henrietta and the City of Rochester. I saw such unbridled joy that day, and amazingly, that joy carries on throughout the year here at Holy Childhood!

We are pleased to be working on a number of initiatives to benefit the children and adults served here, from establishment of the new library to plans for an Activities of Daily Living Center, and planned program enhancements in the adult wing which will come to fruition during 2012.



Melanie Byrne, center, with County Executive Maggie Brooks, far left, Melanie's family and students and other Town of Henrietta Asset Builders.

I am also very pleased to announce the appointment of Sarah Clark as Director of the Jimmy W. Wilmot Adult Day Training Program. She had previously served as our Assistant Director.

In the meantime, we have some wonderful successes to celebrate. I am pleased to report that our Children's Program is now recognized as a statewide benchmark for New York State Alternate Assessment. Recently in Albany, principal Melanie Byrne presented samples of our teachers' work, which will help more than two dozen educators, from around the state, develop training materials and scoring procedures. This speaks volumes about the high regard for our children's program in the field.

Come February, we will also host a United Way Learning Circle event at Holy Childhood, where more than two dozen United Way-funded agencies will hear about our success with differentiated instruction and literacy.

One more note regarding Melanie! She recently received the 2011 Asset Builders Recognition Award from the Henrietta Youth Bureau and Monroe County. Each year, leaders from across the county are recognized for building community and providing our children with the assets they will need to become healthy, caring and responsible adults. Congratulations, Melanie!

And one more congratulatory note goes out to the wonderful bakers at the Special Touch Bakery. This time of year they are up against the calendar with production, and they did a wonderful job with holiday pies. 500 were sold at the Annual Craft Sale; another 1,000 were delivered in time for Thanksgiving (in addition to those sold at the Generosity Store); we took orders for the first time ever after Thanksgiving for Christmas. At year's end, we will have baked more than 16,000 pies. That's sweet!

I wish all of our Holy Childhood friends and families a wonderful holiday season. Looking forward to a terrific 2012 as we celebrate the children and adults we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Donna M. Dedee'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donna M. Dedee
President and CEO

Going Green

We are trying to make your donations go further by offering an email version of this newsletter. Sign up on our website (www.holychildhood.org) or our Facebook page to receive a digital copy. Due to some delays in the process of upgrading our system, those who have previously signed up may receive both print and digital editions this time. **We appreciate your patience** and promise we will get green in the very near future!



65th Anniversary Celebration

As part of our year-long celebration, Holy Childhood marked 65 years on September 24th with the Generations of Generosity Gala at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Chaired by Wade and

Maryalice Keller, the event raised \$115,000 with the generosity of sponsors and more than 500 guests. With Sister Seraphine Herbst, SSJ, as Honorary Chair, proceeds supported the establishment of the **Sister Seraphine Project Fund** (a board designated fund) to support agency initiatives.

The sold out event featured live and silent auctions, a paddle call and a musical performance from Holy Childhood students. Special thanks to Dinner Sponsors Tom and Colleen Wilmot and Wegmans as Platinum Sponsor. Thanks also to anchor and Associate News Director for WHAM-TV News, Don Alhart who emceed the event. More events will be held in 2012 as part of the celebration. Check our website, www.holychildhood.org for updates.



Students stopped for a picture before their musical performance.



Donna Dedee (at left) presents a framed moment in appreciation to event chairs Wade and Maryalice Keller.



Candy Sale is on its way!

It's a Candy Countdown! Two tons of chocolate will be arriving at Holy Childhood on January 5th from Gertrude Hawk Chocolates.

With the help of parents and friends, the Candy Sale is one of Holy Childhood's best known and much-anticipated fundraisers. This year's chocolate bar flavors will include Milk Chocolate, Peanut Butter, Dark Chocolate, Dark Chocolate Raspberry, Chocolate Almond and more.

You can also order more than 50 varieties of Easter Candy, novelties and merchandise online or manually for arrival just before Easter. If you want to help, please call 359-3710 for more information. Or check out our website in January for more information about the sale and Easter candy!

Holiday Closing

Holy Childhood will be closed for the holidays from December 26th to January 3rd. Year-end gifts can be made online at www.holychildhood.org, however, stock gifts will need to be made by **December 17th**. If you have any questions about year-end gifts, please call Debra Salmon at (585)359-3710, ext. 140.

Meanwhile, have a safe and joyous holiday!



Consider Leaving a Legacy

A gift of a bequest, a life insurance policy or a retirement plan, are popular and convenient ways to support School of the Holy Childhood that will not impact your current lifestyle, yet will give you the satisfaction of making a gift that will influence the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities for years to come.

Bequests

A will is essential if you wish to make a bequest to Holy Childhood and you should consult your lawyer to prepare or revise one. We hope you'll tell us when you have named Holy Childhood in your will. We would very much like the opportunity to thank you for your generosity, but will be respectful of your privacy.

The official bequest language is: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Rochester School of the Holy Childhood [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Life Insurance

You may change or name the beneficiary on an existing policy to Rochester School of the Holy Childhood.

Retirement Plans

Charitable gift opportunities exist through IRA, 401K and other retirement vehicles. The tax advantages can be comparable to those available from a bequest.

Of course, you will want to consult with your attorney or tax advisor to develop the estate plan that best meets your needs.

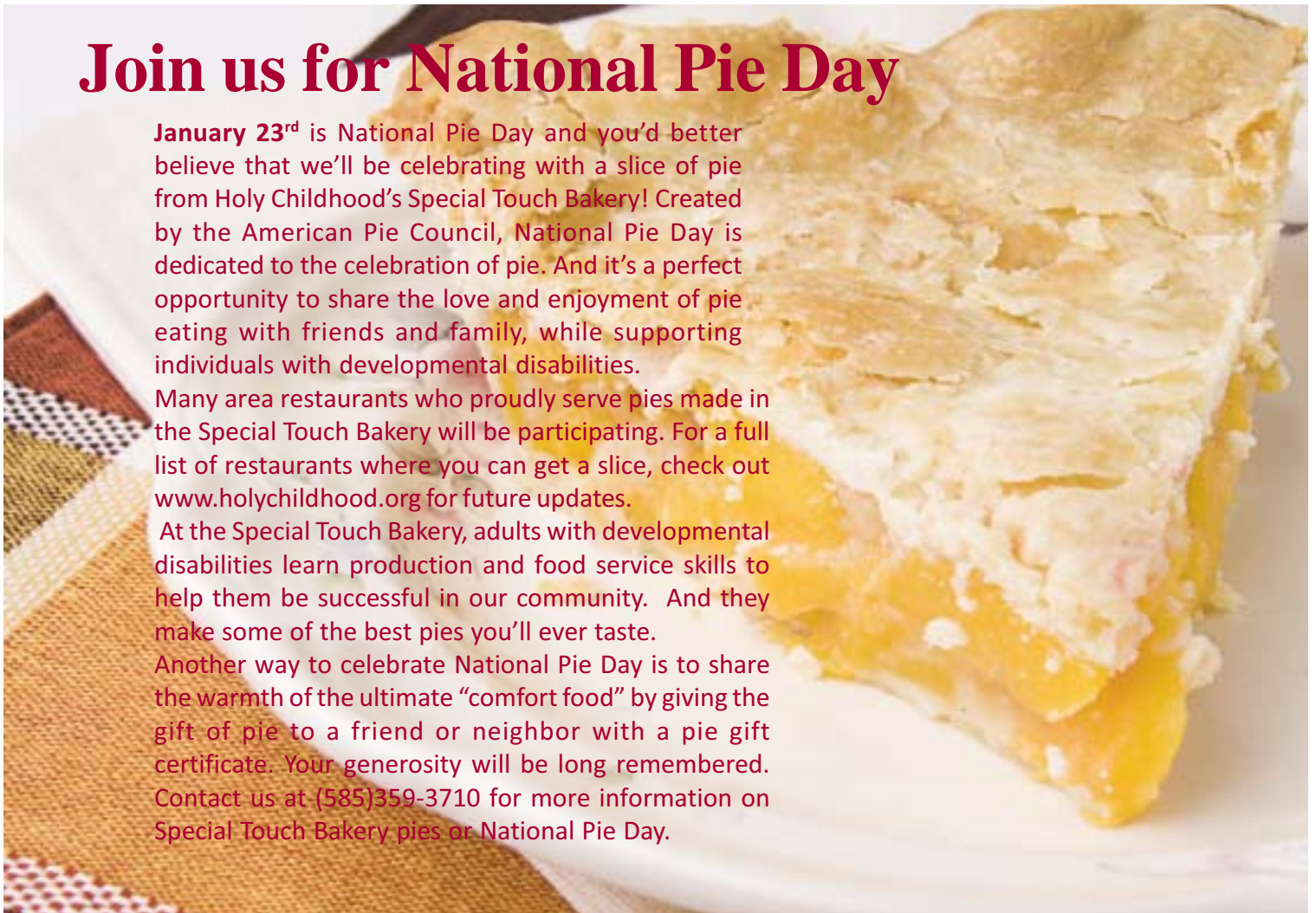
Join us for National Pie Day

January 23rd is National Pie Day and you'd better believe that we'll be celebrating with a slice of pie from Holy Childhood's Special Touch Bakery! Created by the American Pie Council, National Pie Day is dedicated to the celebration of pie. And it's a perfect opportunity to share the love and enjoyment of pie eating with friends and family, while supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

Many area restaurants who proudly serve pies made in the Special Touch Bakery will be participating. For a full list of restaurants where you can get a slice, check out www.holychildhood.org for future updates.

At the Special Touch Bakery, adults with developmental disabilities learn production and food service skills to help them be successful in our community. And they make some of the best pies you'll ever taste.

Another way to celebrate National Pie Day is to share the warmth of the ultimate "comfort food" by giving the gift of pie to a friend or neighbor with a pie gift certificate. Your generosity will be long remembered. Contact us at (585)359-3710 for more information on Special Touch Bakery pies or National Pie Day.



Thanks to our Caring Friends



Claire receives a dictionary from Steve Synesael and Walt Springer of the Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club. The club members were here to distribute dictionaries to all of our students as part of their literacy initiative.

In September the Genesee Valley Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge held its Sportsman's Raffle, raising \$1,000 for Holy Childhood.

One of our student's favorite visits is from the Italian Women's Civic Club who stop by each year to treat them to an afternoon of bingo. This year's bingo was based on literacy and each classroom's vocabulary words. The Club also provided snacks and gave each student a book of their own to keep.

The Joseph family awarded the Lucie and Al Joseph Award - which recognizes the MVPs of the Annual McQuaid Jesuit vs. Aquinas Institute football game - to Bill Lombardi, Aquinas MVP and Cory Parker, McQuaid MVP. In addition to recognizing the athletes, a \$500 contribution was made in the names of the students to Holy Childhood.

Many thanks to the Men's Room Barber Lounge & Spa and Webster Properties, LLC for co-hosting an Oktoberfest event to benefit Holy Childhood. \$800 was raised from the event for our Scholarship Fund.

We are grateful to caring students! Students from the University of Rochester celebrated Wilson Day by helping with yard work and cleaning out some storage areas. Our Lady of Mercy students have been helping out in the classrooms and the Bishop Kearney soccer team provided a soccer clinic for our older students.

Thanks to UPS! Members of the Henrietta and Fairport management teams took care of some fall cleaning, inventory and yard work for us in October as part of their Neighbor to Neighbor program.



Holy Childhood has a new playhouse, donated and built by the Koinonia Mission Company (KMC) as part of Flower City Habitat For Humanity's Women Build 2011. The playhouse was a practice build before the group attempted a full-size house in Rochester this past year. Our students will make sure it is appreciated for all the hard work that went into it!

Memorial Donations

We are grateful to those who choose to support our activities by making Memorial and Honor Gifts (which are tax deductible.) Contact Rose Marie Pape at 585.359.3710, ext. 131 to make a donation by credit card or to be sent a form. Donations can also be made online by visiting www.holychildhood.org.



Thanks to local artist Joanne Sharpe who donated time and talent to our students in Teresa Cote's art classes. She taught them techniques using scrap wood that she then turned into fun signs that were sold at the Craft Sale to raise money for our agency.

Pumpkins on Parade



Thanks to the Moore family of Gro-Moore Farms, seen here with Donna Dedee, for hosting Pumpkins on Parade!



Students, like Andrew, got hands-on training in food service at the event.

The 6th Annual Pumpkins on Parade event was the most successful ever! Hosted by Gro-Moore Farms in Henrietta on Sunday, October 2nd, it raised close to \$11,000 through sponsorships and live and silent auctions of painted pumpkins and raffles. The event also featured delicious food from Formula One Catering, served by students from Holy Childhood's Food Service Program and music from the Backsliders. Read's Ice Cream provided a variety of seasonal ice cream and the pumpkin painting contest was sponsored by Xceed Financial Credit Union. Thanks to the Moore Family, the Kiwanis Club of Henrietta, Holy Childhood and Gro-Moore staff, sponsors, volunteers and artists who helped to make it a success!

Craft Sale success

Special Touch Bakery pies, hand-crafted furniture made in Holy Childhood's Woodworking programs and one-of-a-kind items were all popular at the 31st Annual Craft Sale, held on Saturday, November 5th. New this year were outside vendors who brought in additional traffic, sales and added new enthusiasm to the event.

The 12-month effort of dedicated volunteers and Holy Childhood staff raised more than \$15,000. Thanks to chairpersons Karen Rickard and Barbara Pum and the Craft Group - led by Marie Barkley- a dedicated group of volunteers who work all year to create many of the unique craft items that are sold at the Sale.

A Scholastic Book Fair was part of the event as well. Many thanks to those who gave the gift of reading to our students by purchasing books or gift certificates for our classrooms and literacy program.

Work has already begun on items for next year's sale. If you are a talented crafter and are interested in getting involved in the Craft Group, please contact Kate Balconi at (585) 359-3710 or kbalconi@holychildhood.org. The group meets weekly but volunteers are welcome to work on their own projects from home.

Friendship Appeal Underway

For 65 years, with the support of the community and friends, Holy Childhood has provided children and adults who have varying abilities, opportunities for individualized lifelong learning, social development and personal achievement which will enable them to achieve their greatest potential.

Please support Holy Childhood and our children and adults with a gift to the Annual Friendship Appeal. Your generosity will help us define how we will serve the next generation of children and adults at School of the Holy Childhood.

To donate on-line, visit our web site at www.holychildhood.org.

Points of Pride



Sheila and Jennifer, participants in the Jimmy W. Wilmot Adult Day Training Program, package the ornaments for the Angel Ornament Project.



Students ready to serve at the Sunrise Café.



You may have heard about the Generosity Store, created to help local children and adults at Holy Childhood and other charities. Several days a week you can find some of our students there putting out store inventory, pricing items and running the cash register. The store is now one of our job training sites for our students. Visit our website to learn more about this unique store.

2011 marks the 30th anniversary of Holy Childhood's partnership with the **Angel Ornament Project** which has benefited individuals in need all over the world. Students in the Ceramics Program have made white ceramic angels, and a non-denominational ornament, which are commissioned each year by St. Louis Church and then sold by merchants in the Rochester area. The Ornament Sales benefit several children's charities, including an orphanage in Haiti. Participants in Holy Childhood's Jimmy W. Wilmot Adult Day Training Program also package the ornaments as part of their vocational training. Find retail locations and more information on our website at www.holychildhood.org.

Pat Boyle's Intermediate Classroom has started a new learning project this year called the Sunrise Café which features coffee, juice, bagels, muffins and other breakfast goods. The Café is open on Monday mornings and serves staff, guests and adult consumers. Our students plan and shop for the café, serve as greeters, take orders, and run the cash register. In addition, the experience allows students to work with the public and to perform an analysis and graph the results from each day, providing hands-on learning for them.

Check out our new agency videos on-line. You can view them at any time on our website, www.holychildhood.org, our Facebook page and our YouTube Channel. Thanks to 321 Productions, McCardles Restaurant, The Generosity Store and parents, staff and students who helped to make it possible.

Adult participants in the Jimmy W. Wilmot Adult Day Training Program held their Annual Woodworking Sale on December 10th and 11th at Eastview Mall in Victor. Featuring beautiful, hand-crafted products made by adults in the Woodworking Shop, the sales also provide an opportunity for our adults to show their capabilities to the community.

For more pictures and happenings follow us on Facebook, Twitter or check our website.



www.holychildhood.org



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Community Partner

Celebrating our
65th year!

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This mailing prepared by **Partners With Industry** - a division of Holy Childhood. For more information visit holychildhood.org or call (585)334-7570.



Calendar of Events

January 5th

Candy Sale starts

March 28th

Spring Candy Pickup

April TBD

65th Anniversary Spring Brunch

June 18th

Annual Golf Tournament*

June 4th - 10th

Wegmans LPGA Championship*

July 9th

Ladies' Golf Tournament*

July 14th

Friends & Family Golf Tournament*

Check
www.holychildhood.org

for updates

*Volunteers needed. Contact
Kate Balconi at
kbalconi@holychildhood.org
or 585.359.3710, ext. 169