Holy Childhood Students Lead the Way on the Healthy Highway

March was National Nutrition Month, the perfect time to launch a school-wide initiative for students and staff to make healthy choices.

Each classroom took on the Healthy Highway Healthy Choices Challenge with gusto, setting the bar very high. Teachers and staff developed specific projects for their students to make 500 healthy choices throughout the month of March. Their goals were achieved in a big way - students made an amazing 8,000 healthy choices in all!

It’s not just the fruits and vegetables that drove this challenge, academics were right there in the passenger seat playing a big role. Math was incorporated into some of the classroom projects as those students are learning to count by 5’s and 10’s. Reading was important because recipes and shopping lists needed to be followed. Road maps and posters, which currently line the agency hallways, were designed by the students, and track the progress that has been made. “Miles of Smiles” are also on display to show the goals each class has achieved. There were shopping trips to Wegmans, creating healthy snacks in the classroom and learning about the benefits and the importance of a living a healthy lifestyle.

The goal of the Healthy Highway Challenge was simple, to raise awareness to all types of healthy choices students and their families can make — in school, at home and while out in the community.

To learn more about Holy Childhood’s Healthy Highway Healthy Challenge and other projects, visit us on Facebook any time and be sure to “like” our page while you’re there.
Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast

We’re grateful to Heidi Grenek and her entire staff at Moonlight Creamery in Fairport for our partnership on Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day each year. This past February, hundreds of ice cream fans gathered to eat delicious treats for breakfast, with proceeds benefiting the programs and services Holy Childhood provides to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We thank all the ice cream enthusiasts and Holy Childhood supporters who came out on a chilly winter day to enjoy the best breakfast holiday of the year! Fast Fact: This international holiday was started right here in Rochester nearly 60 years ago!

Music To Go

The “Blue Bones Trombone Quartet” from the Eastman School of Music visited and performed at Holy Childhood recently. We learned interesting facts about the trombone and how these talented students learned how to play.

Friends of Holy Childhood

We welcome McQuaid and Mercy School for Young Women students to our classrooms throughout the school year. Holy Childhood teachers invite one or two young students into their classrooms to help them engage in activities, attend physical education classes, art classes and more. This allows visiting students to interact with our School Program students while gaining an understanding of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We thank all the ice cream enthusiasts and Holy Childhood supporters who came out on a chilly winter day to enjoy the best breakfast holiday of the year! Fast Fact: This international holiday was started right here in Rochester nearly 60 years ago!

Best Buddies

Holy Childhood students Nicholas and Satchel were on hand for a recent check presentation, proceeds from Buffalo Sabres hockey player, Jack Eichel who sold his autographed hockey jerseys for charity. Proceeds from the sale benefited Best Buddies New York and Courage for Carly.

Thank You

Donna Dedee Honored

Congratulations to Holy Childhood and Special Touch Bakery President and CEO, Donna Dedee, who was honored by Senator Pam Helming as one of New York State’s Women of Distinction nominees. The award recognizes the outstanding work of extraordinary women from our area and throughout New York State. Donna was recognized at a ceremony in April. A well-deserved honor indeed!

There’s been some extra-special baking going on at Special Touch Bakery lately! To get everyone in the mood for St. Patrick’s Day, the bakers created a fantastic Irish Soda Bread, available for retail sales at the bakery during the month of March. In April, bakery staff baked delicious Placek, a Polish Easter Bread, featuring our famous crumb topping and golden raisins. It was an absolute hit with the customers! Special Touch Bakery fans were able to purchase these specialty baked goods at the bakery located at 1999 Mt. Read Blvd., or at select retail outlets including, Calabresella’s NY Style Deli, Rubino’s Italian Deli, Dell’s Market and Costanza Sausage.

Also available at select retail outlets, Special Touch Bakery Chocolate Brownies! Our bakers have been baking up some pretty amazing brownies that any chocolate lover would approve of. We’ll be on the road in mid-June, making our return to the Greece Ridge Mall Farmer’s Market, stop by our booth on the Long Pond Road side of the mall and pick up a delicious fresh baked pie, brownies or our new Country Buttermilk Biscuits, a perfect partner for your farm market strawberries! Stay up on all the latest Special Touch Bakery news on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages and be sure to ”like” us while you’re there.

Holy Childhood does not discriminate based on race, color and national or ethnic origin.
It was an outstanding night on the ice at Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex on March 1 to benefit Holy Childhood! As one attendee put it, “This is a great evening for an even greater cause.”

Our 6th Annual Wine at Center Ice tasting event fundraiser welcomed a crowd of 525 people to enjoy local food, wine, beer, spirits and ciders from 42 participating vendors – so much to enjoy! The event raised more than $32,000 to help support the programs and services that Holy Childhood provides to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

New (and very popular) this year, the VIP Hour was held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and sold out in a hurry to 150 guests! VIP attendees enjoyed specialty hand-passed appetizers, exclusive drink tastings and live music from Tennessee Lights. The general admission portion of the night was held from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

In addition to our Sip and Savor vendors, guests were treated to fun games on the ice, a silent auction and a raffle to win a ride on the Zamboni. As a surprise to everyone, the enthusiastic couple that won the Zamboni raffle at last year’s Wine at Center Ice, won it again this year!

Live music was provided throughout the evening by the Everheart Band, who have been with us all six years and NewsRadio WHAM 1180 Home Repair Clinic’s Jim Salmon was the evening’s emcee.

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Wine at Center Ice 2020 on March 6 at Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex. You don’t want to miss Rochester’s most unique tasting event!

Thank You to our Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors

VIP Sponsor

Wine ‘N Dine Sponsor

Partners With Industry

Partners With Industry is a busy place these days! We’ve recently contracted with the Ford Gum Company on a project for their Big League Chew bubble gum. PWI workers are busy assembling various product displays for the gum, which is then shipped to the company for distribution.

Fun Fact: The softball player currently featured on the packaging is Alayna Berry, a softball player and sophomore at Spencerport High School. It’s the first time a female athlete has been featured on the gum package in the company’s history.

If your business is in need of fulfillment services, call Dan Tortora at 585-359-3710 for more information.

6th Annual WINE AT CENTER ICE

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Mr. Dave Bobblehead

We all know that with retirement, comes the obligatory “cleaning out of the office” — that’s what Mr. Dave has been doing ahead of his next adventure this coming June.

His collection of bobble heads has adorned his office since his arrival here at Holy Childhood. Collecting these bobble heads has been somewhat of an unintended hobby for Dave and his wife Noreen as they travelled to major and minor league baseball games across the country. “We’ve gone to games all these years and collected them along the way,” said Dave. Devoted NY Yankee fans, the two have been Rochester Red Wings season ticket holders for more than 25 years.

As we say so long to Mr. Dave and wish him well, we also say good-bye to his beloved bobble head collection as they travel to new homes with his Holy Childhood co-workers.

Inspire
Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Holy Childhood Events!

Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, June 17
Presented by Prudential

The 38th Annual Holy Childhood Annual Golf Tournament is one of this community’s most popular golf tournaments, attended by more than 125 golfers and business leaders. Please join us on Monday, June 17 at Midvale Country Club, 2387 Baird Road in Penfield.

In support of the many programs and services Holy Childhood provides to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your great day of golf includes: lunch, 18 holes of golf, on course refreshments, cart and golfer gift. Afterward, enjoy a spectacular silent auction, dinner and Special Touch Bakery pie with your fellow golfers.

For more information and online registration, please visit: www.holychildhood.org/AnnualGolf
For details, please contact Brittany Neumann at: 585-359-3710, ext. 169 or bneumann@holychildhood.org. Non-Sponsorship Golf Fees: $225 per person — $900 per foursome.

34th Annual Ladies Golf Tournament
Monday, July 8
Join us for the 34th Annual Holy Childhood Ladies Golf Tournament, being held on Monday, July 8 at Penfield Country Club, 1784 Jackson Road in Penfield. This tournament is one of the few remaining women’s-only golf tournaments in Rochester with a Four Girl-One Ball Best Ball format. Enjoy a continental breakfast, morning flight of golf and luncheon complete with fabulous raffles and golfer prizes. This tournament, in its 34th season is run by a volunteer committee. Sponsorship opportunities are available and can be customized to fit your business needs.

For more information, please contact Brittany Neumann at: 585-359-3710, ext. 169 or bneumann@holychildhood.org. Non-Sponsorship Golf Fees: $150 per person — $600 per foursome.

Touch-A-Truck
Saturday, August 10
Presented by the Trucking Assoc. of New York
This family-friendly event features a variety of trucks, police cars, ambulances, fire trucks and antique vehicles for kids to play on and climb in. It takes place at Veterans Memorial Park, 595 Calkins Road in Henrietta on Saturday, August 10 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A suggested donation of $5 per person/$15 per family benefits Holy Childhood. This is a sensory friendly, horn-free event.

For more information, please visit: www.touchatruckrochester.com or call Brian Wirth, Holy Childhood Director of Development at 585-359-3710, ext. 140.

What will your Legacy be?
The word “legacy” is frequently used to describe the property that people leave their heirs when they pass away. But every human being also leaves behind a non-material legacy, one that is harder to define, but often far more important.

Your legacy is made up of a lifetime of relationships, accomplishments and values. It lives on in the lives of those you have touched.

“Choose well. Your choice is brief and yet endless.”
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

We are available to assist you with meeting your estate planning goals so your legacy will hold a special meaning for you and those whose lives you have touched. There are many ways for you to leave a lasting impression on future generations to come.

We would be honored to work with you to create a legacy that recognizes your desire to help those children and adults that will attend Holy Childhood for years to come. Your legacy is about life and living. It’s about learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future.

For more information or to discuss the many ways you can leave a lasting legacy, please call Brian Wirth, Holy Childhood Director of Development at 585-359-3710, ext. 140.

Congratulations
Suzanne Rosso, RN

Making lives better, one person at a time is what Suzanne “Sue” Rosso does each and every day in the Holy Childhood Health office. Sue was recently honored with the Rochester Business Journal’s Healthcare Achievement Award in the Special Needs category.

Serving as the clinic treatment coordinator for a decade, Sue administers medications, develops the medical and nursing components of the student and adult treatment plans and maintains files on all who receive care through the Holy Childhood health office.

In addition to providing direct care for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Sue works in collaboration with the College at Brockport to provide nursing student training at Holy Childhood. She also collaborates with exchange students from the University of Costa Rica to provide information about nursing programs and services here in the United States.

Sue leads health teachings for Holy Childhood staff members, serves as a health provider network coordinator and has collaborated with the Allergy Advocacy Association to provide staff training on anaphylaxis prevention and treatment. Her main focus, obviously, is helping to make people’s lives better.
We rocked our colorful socks on 3.21 in support of World Down Syndrome Day.