Holy Childhood’s Mission is the Foundation for the Agency’s Updated Safety Plan

Holy Childhood has always been viewed as one of the most welcoming places in our community. From the days that Sister Seraphine would grace the threshold of the building, embracing every person who walked through the front doors, to the warm feeling which still embraces everyone who visits to this day, it’s clear that this really is a special place in our community.

In this day and age, though, we all take pause to think about emerging perspectives about safety, situational awareness, and our responsibility to each other. One look at a newscast or social media reminds us of what could be, no matter how far removed from malice we may feel.

Providing a safe environment for all those in our building is, and always has been, of paramount importance.

That’s why, in recent months, Holy Childhood’s leadership team began a top-to-bottom review of our safety plan for the agency. As part of this process, we partnered with law enforcement, other first responders and safety experts who evaluated all of our policies and practices. We had conversations about best-practices with other organizations who shared their learnings from recent safety and emergency experiences. The end result is the creation of the 2018 Holy Childhood Emergency Response Plan. The document is more comprehensive than ever, and now, the updated plan will be put into practice.

Mark Your Calendar!

DETAILS INSIDE

27th Annual Holy Childhood Golf Tournament
Monday, June 18, 2018
Midvale Country Club
2387 Baird Rd.
Penfield, NY 14526

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MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends,

We are proud of our mission of preparing those we serve for maximum independence and integration in the community in an atmosphere of dignity and compassion. When we reflect on this, our core mission at Holy Childhood, we hope it is understood that one of the most important underlying goals is to ensure the safety and well-being of every person we serve, all staff members carrying out their daily work, and every volunteer, family member and friend who walks through our doors.

In the world in which we live today, there are too many reminders of what could go wrong, both on a national basis, but also right here in our own backyard, whether it is through someone’s malicious intent, or if a vulnerable person finds him or herself in peril. It doesn’t matter how or why; it’s just important that we are prepared.

That’s why Holy Childhood recently conducted a comprehensive review of our policies and practices related to safety and emergency response. Our senior team took the lead; we partnered with law enforcement and other experts. We’ve started a rollout to update and re-train every staff member, and we will keep practicing every scenario.

While we continuously focus on the delivery of excellent programs and services at Holy Childhood, this overall safety focus is just as important! We want everyone to know—this is a responsibility we take very seriously.

With warmest regards,

Donna M. Dedee
President & CEO

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Holy Childhood sadly acknowledges the sudden passing of long-time dedicated board member Kevin Meath, whose heart was full of love for our organization and, most especially, the people we serve. Kevin’s lifetime of service to our community will live on as an example to us all. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Meath family.

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Our Board of Directors

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Holy Childhood Rolls Out New Safety Plan

“It’s imperative for us to do everything possible to ensure the safety of everyone at Holy Childhood,” said President and CEO Donna Dedee. “Every person we serve, every staff member who works hard every day, and our friends and visitors, remind us of our responsibility to make sure we get this right.”

Updating the written plan is only part of the process. Holy Childhood is also rolling out a process to update and re-train every staff member. Part of the training will be putting the updated plan into action in the form of practice beyond customary drills which have always been an important part of our safety protocol.

Even beyond this updated plan, there’s a renewed and strengthened staff commitment to safety protocols. Staff members are volunteering for a newly formed Safety Committee, focusing on ways, big and small, to continuously improve the means by which we keep the building, and all those in it, safe. It’s this kind of commitment, review and conversation that not only aims to put the Holy Childhood community at ease, but ensures we are ever-vigilant.

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Department has always been a great partner to us. We are grateful for our neighbors from the Department’s “B Zone”, which covers our geographic area, for the care they have taken to getting to know us and our building. It is not unusual to see a sheriff’s patrol car outside, and a deputy inside our building chatting with people, not because there’s an emergency, but because they have simply built up a terrific rapport with people being served and staff alike. Tremendous community interactions like these make our plan all the more effective.

“The way we see it, we will never stop practicing and improving on our plan,” said Dedee. “This is an evolutionary process; we can learn much from this and the experience of others, and we will work very hard to put that knowledge to work.”

We “Rocked Our Socks” for World Down Syndrome Day
MARCH 21, 2018!

Bright colors, mismatched, short and tall – we mixed it up for World Down Syndrome Day celebrating all the beautiful things that make us unique and special. See our full “Rock Your Socks” photo album on our Facebook page and please “like us” while you’re there!
You are invited to join us on Monday, June 18th for Holy Childhood’s 27th Annual Golf Tournament at Midvale Country Club in Penfield. The Annual Holy Childhood Golf Tournament is one of Rochester’s most popular tournaments, attended by more than 125 golfers and business leaders from throughout the Rochester community. Your great day of golf includes lunch, 18 holes of golf, cart, on course refreshments, and dinner.

Multiple levels of sponsorship are available. Each opportunity can be customized to meet your unique needs. For additional information, please visit our website at holychildhood.org.

If you would like to register as a golfer, or participate through one of our sponsorship opportunities, please contact Samantha Gonzalez at: 585-359-3710 ext. 169 or sgonzalez@holychildhood.org.

The Annual Golf Tournament supports the programs and services Holy Childhood provides to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Holy Childhood’s 5th Annual Wine at Center Ice lived up to its billing! It was truly a culinary adventure for all of your senses featuring food, wine, beer and spirits and a tremendous amount of fun! Despite Mother Nature’s attempts to bury us with an early morning snow storm, the skies cleared and a great time was had by all of the 550 tasters who braved the storm’s aftermath and graced us with their presence. Wine at Center Ice is fast becoming our signature fundraising event of the year!

Each year, for one night in March, Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex is transformed into Rochester’s most unique tasting event, featuring more than 40 popular vendors offering the most enjoyable and scrumptious samplings of food, wine, beer and spirits, all to benefit the programs and services Holy Childhood provides to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“We couldn’t hold an extraordinarily successful event such as this without the ongoing support of Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex and our presenting sponsors, Bartlett Tree Experts and Elmer W. Davis, Inc. Roofing”, says Samantha Gonzalez, Manager of Special Events and Fundraising for Holy Childhood. “We sincerely appreciate our dedicated volunteers, whose hard work and attention to detail make this event a success each year. We are extremely grateful and thank everyone who attended this year’s event.”

Mark your calendar now for the 6th Annual Wine at Center Ice which will take place on Friday, March 1, 2019.
Attention Lady Golfers – Save This Date!

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018
7:00 a.m. Breakfast / 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

Penfield Country Club
1784 Jackson Road
Penfield, NY 14526

Golf Entry Fee:
$150 per individual golfer,
$600 per foursome

The 33rd Annual Holy Childhood Ladies Golf Tournament is the only all women’s golf tournament in Rochester that supports a non-profit agency with a Four Girl – One Ball Best Ball format. The tournament features a continental breakfast, morning flight, and luncheon complete with fabulous raffle and golfer prizes. One third of the playing field goes home with a special prize sponsored in part by A Different Point of View! Golfers must have an established handicap.

Holy Childhood provides to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Multiple levels of sponsorship are available. Each opportunity can be customized to meet your unique needs. For more information about Holy Childhood’s Ladies Golf Tournament, please visit our website at holychildhood.org.

If you would like to register as a golfer, or participate through one of our sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Samantha Gonzalez at Holy Childhood
585-359-3710 ext. 169
sgonzalez@holychildhood.org
Take Us Out To The Ball Game!

You can help our School Program students attend a Red Wings Baseball Game at Frontier Field on Education Day, May 17!

It’s more than a day at the ball park

By attending a Rochester Red Wings baseball game as Community Based Instruction (CBI), students are included in a Rochester tradition, encouraging further integration and community experiences.

Donate by visiting this website: support.holychildhood.org/RedWings2018

After donating, be sure to click “Share on Facebook” so others can donate too!

All donations will fund the cost of Holy Childhood’s CBI to the Red Wings game including, but not limited to: tickets, transportation, and refreshments.

Questions?
Contact Samantha Gonzalez
585-359-3710, ext. 169 or sgonzalez@holychildhood.org

Fabric Needed!

Our volunteer craft group is looking for donations of fabric; any color will be gladly accepted. Fabric material will be used for creating crafts that are sold at Holy Childhood’s Annual Art & Craft Sale. This year’s sale will take place on November 3, 2018 at Holy Childhood. Donations may be dropped off at the agency located at 100 Groton Pkwy., in Henrietta. Please include your name and address with your donation.

NEW!
Cream Pies at Special Touch Bakery!

Have you tried Special Touch Bakery’s new line of scrumptious cream pies? They’re absolutely creamy and dreamy! Our Banana Cream pie is bursting with banana flavor, the Chocolate Cream is a must-have for all chocolate lovers, and our Coconut Cream pie is a tropical delight! Don’t forget to try our new decadently delicious Cannoli and Chocolate Peanut Butter pies; they are the ultimate Special Touch Bakery experience.

P.S. Look for the Special Touch Bakery booth at the Rochester Public Market on Saturdays.
You can help our School Program students attend a Rochester Red Wings baseball game on Education Day, May 17!

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