Holy Childhood and Rochester Area Employers – Building Successful Partnerships

Two successful Rochester area employers have been recognized for showing their commitment to workforce diversity by hiring talented workers, specifically graduates from Holy Childhood’s School Program.

Doug Niblack, owner of Niblack Foods at the Genesee Regional Market was selected as First Runner Up for the 2015 Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Works for Me Recognition Award in the category of Small Business Employer of the Year. This statewide award is presented to employers who show a strong commitment to workforce diversity through their hiring of people with developmental disabilities. “The fact that Andrew is as productive and capable as he is, he’s a product of years of learning those traits at Holy Childhood,” comments Mr. Niblack.

Also recognized, Union Street Eatery owners, Steve Hann and Pete Marra were honored with the 2015 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) award for their employment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Julianne, who is also a graduate from Holy Childhood’s School Program, has worked at Union Street Eatery for two years.
Dear Friends of Holy Childhood:

What a wonderful year it has been! As the calendar year 2015 comes to a close, I’d like to personally take a moment to reflect on the positive experiences we collectively share here at Holy Childhood.

It has been an eventful year; from time to time you have received updates about various changes in the statewide system which funds the services which we provide. I remain extremely optimistic that we are embarking on development of innovative service delivery which will both continue to provide quality person-centered options for the people of Holy Childhood, and be structured to meet the spirit of New York State’s intentions.

Much of what we are talking about is the development of a portfolio of community-based services. We have made tremendous strides this year, both in the school program and in our adult services, including development of a suite of Employment Services which are providing tremendous opportunities for work and meaningful activities—all with the people we serve expressing their own hopes and desires.

So, back to my personal reflection. The positive spirit which has always existed at Holy Childhood is evident every single day. I feel very fortunate to be able to be part of it—to feel it—and recognize how meaningful our work is.

Perhaps the greatest gift, though, is the perspective I gain from the purity and honesty which exists in interactions with the people we serve. I have often said that we all owe it to ourselves to seek experiences in our lives which bring us joy. Make no mistake, Holy Childhood is joy.

My sincerest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Cordially,

Donna M. Dedee
President & CEO
Her job responsibilities are many, from slicing and dicing vegetables, to bussing tables and seating customers. “She smiles the minute she walks through the door until the time she leaves,” says Julianne’s boss and restaurant co-owner, Steve Hann. “She lifts everyone’s spirits and makes the work environment more lighthearted.”

Both Niblack Foods and Union Street Eatery have demonstrated that employing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is not only great for business, it is proof that they’re valued members of the workforce.

And new this year, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield has developed a paid internship program with Holy Childhood as part of their Diversity & Workforce Inclusion division. The position, mailroom intern, was presented to all of the students in our Community Classroom. Interested students applied for the position and were interviewed. Andrew was hired in April and worked at Excellus BCBS three days a week through the end of August. The paid internship position was two years in the making and was similar to his job at Niblack Foods. Andrew worked with many machines which he loves. When asked if he likes what he is doing, Andrew enthusiastically responds, “I don’t like it, I love, love, love it!”

Joseph Searles, Corporate Director of Diversity & Workforce Inclusion says, “This internship position mirrors the company’s philosophy, Excellus BCBS is helping to develop tomorrow’s diverse and inclusive workforce today. It is our hope that these paid internship positions develop into lifelong jobs and careers for the students. It’s important that we open our doors to high school students of all abilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to work side by side with non-disabled employees.”

Joan Michaelree, Employment Services Manager at Holy Childhood comments, “Excellus BCBS has been a wonderful partner. Joseph and his team; Timothy Muellner, Carla Fantauzzo and Nicola Burroughs have embraced the idea of providing our students with real work opportunities and they worked tirelessly to make this happen. The team at Excellus BCBS agrees that Andrew’s successful internship has opened the door for future collaborations.”

We thank and congratulate our other area business partners for recognizing the unique value that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can bring to their business. Holy Childhood Employment Services currently has successful partnerships with Wegmans, Wendy’s, Lackmann Culinary Services at St. John Fisher College, Seneca Park Zoo, Taste Buds Café, McDonalds, St. Joseph’s Mother House, and East Henrietta Day Hab.

For more information about Holy Childhood Employment Services, contact Joan Michaelree at 585-359-3710, ext. 294, or jmichaelree@holychildhood.org.
Do you need to take a Qualified Minimum Distribution from your IRA?

Historically, year-end is a popular time for making stock gifts. If you’ve reached 70½ years of age and you have an IRA or 401(k) you know that you must begin to take your required minimum distribution (RMD). Did you know that the IRS allows you to exclude up to $100,000 from gross income donations paid directly to a qualified charity from your IRA?

Key points about Qualified Charitable Contributions (QCDs) include:

- The donation satisfies any IRA required minimum distributions for the year.
- The amount excluded from gross income isn’t deductible.
- Donations from an inherited IRA are eligible if the beneficiary is at least age 70 ½.
- Donations from a SEP or SIMPLE IRA aren’t eligible.
- Married individuals filing a joint return may exclude up to $100,000 donated from each spouse’s own IRA ($200,000 total).

For the charitably inclined, conducting what’s called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can help kill three birds with one stone. By steering the IRA distribution directly to charity (rather than pulling the money out and then making a charitable contribution which is then deducted), the QCD enables the investor to fulfill the RMD, contribute to charity, and reduce his or her adjusted gross income (AGI) at the same time. From a tax standpoint, reducing AGI is preferable to taking a “below-the-line” charitable deduction, because a lower AGI may qualify the taxpayer for credits and deductions.

Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your retirement plan may be a good way to support Holy Childhood while, at the same time, lowering your tax burden. For more information on how to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution, please contact Holy Childhood’s Development Office at (585) 359-3710.

As always, we encourage you to consult your tax advisor before taking any distribution from your retirement plan in order to make sure your decision best suits your particular financial needs and goals.

Friendship from Far Away

Once again, our friend, Ryan Martynowicz, who lives in New Jersey, has provided a generous donation for the benefit of the students and adults who participate in our swim program at Holy Childhood. A competitive swimmer in his hometown, Ryan has collected 70 pair of new and gently used swim goggles and 60 new and gently used swim caps from area New Jersey schools and swim clubs and shipped them here for our use. We are grateful to Ryan for his generosity and friendship. He found us on social media, and immediately knew how he could help Holy Childhood. Thanks, Ryan!
Holy Childhood Custom Woodworking Products are in High Demand

With our Annual Woodworking Sale right around the corner (December 10-13) at Eastview Mall, the Woodworking Shop is operating at warp speed!

In addition to the many beautiful items sold at our recent Art & Craft Sale earlier in November, and the items we’ll be bringing to Eastview Mall in December, some unique custom products have been crafted in between—because of some terrific partnerships with local businesses.

Black Button Distillery President and Head Distiller, Jason Barrett was already working on a project with our Partners with Industry (PWI) Program when he took an interest in our Woodworking Shop and had a question... could we produce an item based on an idea he had? (Jason had a need for unique, custom-made racks to display his Black Button spirits in area retail locations.) After a few conversations, drawings and prototypes, a design was chosen and production began. So far, 30 floor display racks and 20 countertop display racks have been produced by Holy Childhood woodworkers. For Jason Barrett, it was an obvious decision to have the display racks built in Holy Childhood’s Woodworking Shop. “Since the beginning of Black Button Distilling, we have had a positive relationship with Holy Childhood with regards to our labels. Following our partnership with our labels, we approached Holy Childhood in assisting us with a wooden display concept for our bottles. They were successfully able to take this concept and turn it into a beautiful finished product. These displays can be found not only in New York but in the eight other states our spirits are currently located in. It is great that we are able to see a mutually-beneficial relationship between a local business and a local non-profit.”

In addition to the Black Button Distillery project, another area business owner has contracted with Holy Childhood’s Woodworking Shop to help him meet his business needs. Baytowne Liquor owner, Peter Nowack, needed display racks to use in his newly remodeled location in Webster. Holy Childhood’s relationship with Peter began in a very unique way. While having a conversation about where he might find wood shavings for his horse stalls, his co-worker suggested he visit Holy Childhood’s Woodworking Shop. After his visit, he was so impressed, production began almost immediately. After various prototypes, a design decision was made and a total of 48 wine racks were ordered. Once all of the display racks are finished, stained and in place in the Webster location, Peter plans to invite the woodworkers that participated in this project to the store so they can see their work put to in use out in the community. He also plans to devote space in his store for the sale of smaller Holy Childhood woodworking items, like the unique cutting boards they create. In addition, talks have already begun to build display racks for a new Baytowne Liquor location opening soon in Victor.
We put the “Fun” in Fundraising Events

Back to School 5K and Fun Walk - September 19, 2015

Our 2nd Annual Back to School 5K and Fun Walk was a huge success this past September! It was a picture-perfect day for a run or walk in Genesee Valley Park as more than 140 of our Holy Childhood families and friends gathered at the Roundhouse Pavilion. We thank our presenting sponsor; Raymour and Flanigan Furniture for their generous support and for helping us distribute race materials from their three area locations. Thank you to our additional sponsors, Salvatore’s Pizza, Sahlen’s, Dunkin Donuts, Project Lean Nation, Reed’s Ice Cream, Amiel’s, Tiny Fish Printing, Signs Now, and Rochester Rotary Sunshine Campus for their generosity and support. We are eternally grateful to our dedicated volunteers, Holy Childhood staff and the many runners and walkers who participated and raised nearly $9,000 to support Holy Childhood’s programs and services. We couldn’t do what we do without you!

Annual Art and Craft Sale
November 7, 2015

It was another fabulous kick off to the holiday shopping season at our Annual Art and Craft Sale here at Holy Childhood! More than 45 vendors sold unique and one-of-a-kind items and our very own volunteer craft group stole the show with their beautiful handmade items they create for us all year long, including their ever-popular quilts. As usual, Special Touch Bakery sold nearly 500 pies during the early hours of the sale. Our Holy Childhood Parent Association made and sold tasty treats to hungry shoppers and vendors. And Coffee Connection joined us this year to keep the hot coffee flowing! We thank everyone who supported, participated, shopped, and helped to make our annual Art and Craft Sale a success once again. We’ll see you again next year on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.

March 4, 2016
3rd Annual Wine at Center Ice

This not-to-be-missed unique event takes place at Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road. Join us at center ice for wine and craft beer tastings, delicious food, live music, a silent auction and a whole lot of fun and games!

June 20th, 2016
25th Annual Golf Tournament
Midvale Country Club

Join us for a great day of golf, raffles, auction items, lunch and dinner!

July 11th, 2016
31st Annual Ladies Golf Tournament
Penfield Golf Club

Join us on a summer day in July for breakfast, lunch, raffles, auction items and a round of golf to benefit Holy Childhood.

October 15th, 2016
Holy Childhood 70th Anniversary Gala

Come and celebrate all that is Holy Childhood at the Hyatt Regency Rochester, 125 E. Main Street, downtown. Plans are underway for an enchanting and unique evening you won’t want to miss!

For event and sponsorship information, contact our Development Office at 359-3710.
December 1st is ROC the Day!  
Your Opportunity to Become a Holy Childhood ROC Star!

What is ROC the Day?
ROC the Day is a 24-hour, online giving event. It’s a fun and exciting way to support Holy Childhood! On December 1st, visit www.ROCtheDay.org, to contribute. It’s easy!

A matching grant is available!
Our good friends, Rich and Tamye Lozyniak have once again generously offered a matching grant of $5,000 to encourage everyone to donate! Every ROC the Day donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to a total of $5,000 thereby making the grand total $10,000.00.

Let’s get ready to ROC!

Thank you…
To the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, for their generous grant allowing Holy Childhood to purchase a new Dodge van for our adult program. The van is being used to transport Holy Childhood Partners with Industry workers to Complemar, a fulfillment company located in Gates where they participate in training and employment opportunities thanks to our partnership with company leadership who have been instrumental to our expansion of community-based work initiatives.

Christmas Eve Mass –  
A Holy Childhood Tradition
Join us on Thursday, December 24th at 3:30 p.m. for Christmas Eve Mass, celebrated by Father William Spong here at Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Rochester, NY 14623. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 585-359-3710.
Helping Hands Needed!

Each year, we hold our multiple-day Woodworking Sale at Eastview Mall in December to sell beautiful handcrafted products made in Holy Childhood’s Woodworking Shop. Volunteer help is strongly needed to staff the booth during all open mall hours and also for the setup and cleanup portions of this event. Volunteers will be working alongside a Holy Childhood staff member and fellow volunteers to help fill out invoices, accept payments, and assist customers in getting their purchases to their vehicles as necessary. The details for the sale are as follows:

**Holy Childhood Woodworking Sale at Eastview Mall**

SETUP ONLY – Wednesday, December 9 at 9:30 PM  
Thursday, December 10 – 1 PM to 10 PM  
Friday, December 11 – 1 PM to 10 PM  
Saturday, December 12 – 10 AM to 10 PM  
CLEAN UP – Sunday, December 13 at 8 PM

To schedule your time:  
Call Rose Marie Pape at 359-3710, ext. 131

All volunteers will receive a phone call or email confirmation prior to their scheduled shift. Please arrive 15 minutes before your shift and check in with the Holy Childhood staff person on duty.