“So Long Mr. Dave”

We say “so long”, but never good-bye to David Halpern (“Mr. Dave”), Director of Holy Childhood’s School Program as he prepares to embark on his next adventure…retirement.

A truly well-respected and admired colleague, Dave will cap off his career and service to Holy Childhood at the conclusion of this school year. While we all agree that retirement is a well-deserved reward following Dave’s more than four-and-a-half decades of dedicated work with our community’s children, we’re still going to miss his presence throughout the hallways and classrooms of Holy Childhood. “Upon coming to Holy Childhood, I found a new home and what I had hoped would be a wonderful way to end my career in education. I was correct in that analysis,” said Halpern as he announced his retirement. “I have found working here to be a profound experience and one I will surely miss… I have loved working with the kids and young adults, alongside a dynamic staff, and the best collection of families outcomes for our students. During his time here we have witnessed the advanced professional development of the school staff; a greater focus on accountability and structure; instituting best academic practices; a stronger focus on the behavioral needs in the program; and expansion of our innovative, award-winning Work-Based Learning program which has provided hundreds of community-based work experiences for Holy Childhood students.

Mr. Dave, we sincerely thank for your commitment to Holy Childhood and wish you all the best in your retirement.

Mark your Calendar
Wine at Center Ice
March 1, 2019 at
Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex
Get tickets now at
wineatcenterice.com
MESSAGE FROM

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends,

In this wonderful holiday season I would like to thank you for being such an important part of our Holy Childhood family. You support our mission; you encourage us every day. You remind us what is important—providing the children and adults we serve with the greatest opportunities to achieve lifelong success.

We appreciate your time, talent, and treasure. We always recognize how fortunate we are to have so many friends and volunteers, and this is an appropriate time of year to say, thank you! Donors, volunteers and friends help inspire our work every day.

It has been another eventful year. We launched or expanded services that help reach our goal of inspiring lifelong success. From expansion of programs that focus on early development of work skills, to more effectively aiding transition from school to work and community engagement, to a sharper focus on the evolving needs of our most senior friends who need some extra help with the challenges of aging—it is a continuum of great service we strive to achieve.

Our reach into our broader community continues. Holy Childhood was among regional agencies involved in the formation of the care coordination organization Person Centered Services. We are active members of DDAWNY—the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York and other state-wide organizations which give us a voice and collective impact as organizations in our field navigate a changing landscape of care provision.

Special Touch Bakery celebrated its one-year anniversary of its expansion this fall. Those incredible bakers show us all what is possible, as their products graced many-a-holiday table - record numbers, actually!

I’d like to express my gratitude to Dave Halpern as he concludes his tenure as Holy Childhood’s School Program Director in June. His cover story gives you a sense of the man; from my personal perspective, I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work alongside a person whose driver is the success of every student, and whose ethics and intellect have influenced me very deeply.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and entire staff at Holy Childhood, and all the people we celebrate in our services every day, we wish you a wonderful holiday season, and extend best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019. Hope to see you at Wine at Center Ice on March 1st! It’s going to be a great tasting event for an even better cause!

Cordially,

Donna M. Dedee
President & CEO

Holy Childhood does not discriminate based on race, color and national or ethnic origin.
A culinary adventure for your senses featuring food, wine, beer and spirits.

Support Holy Childhood while attending one of Rochester’s most unique tasting events!
Our 6th Annual Wine at Center Ice event takes place on Friday, March 1, 2019 at Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road in Henrietta.

Grab your comfy clothes and warm sweater and join us along with emcees, Pauly Guglielmo (iHeartMedia/Guglielmo Sauce) and Jim Salmon (WHAM Home Repair Clinic) as they take you through a night filled with delicious local food, wine, beer and spirit tastings. You’ll enjoy live music from the band, Everheart, play fun games on the ice and browse our popular silent auction. One lucky raffle winner will ride the Zamboni! It’s a great night out; just ask any one of last year’s 600 attendees.

New this year, VIP Hour from 6:00-7:00 p.m.!
VIP Hour attendees are provided early access to the event and with your VIP lanyard; the experience includes exclusive appetizers and specialty drink tastings from select vendors, live music by Tennessee Lights, early access to our amazing silent auction and more.

Our incredible team of volunteers helps to make this event a success each year. From handing out food samples and selling 50/50 raffle tickets, to stamping hands and cleaning up, there’s something for everyone to do. Visit holychildhood.org to sign up to volunteer.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and can be customized to suit your needs. Visit holychildhood.org or contact Brittany Neumann, Coordinator of Special Events and Fundraising at 585-359-3710, ext. 169 or email bneumann@holychildhood.org.

Tickets are on sale now and early bird pricing is in effect! Get your tickets at wineatcenterice.com

- Designated Driver Ticket ......$25
- Individual Ticket .................$45
- Couples Ticket ..................$80
- VIP Ticket ......................$75
2018 Classroom Renovation Project

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the families who generously supported the renovation of 11 School Program Classrooms, and two Day Habilitation rooms this year. Their charitable gifts funded much-needed improvements including, new carpeting, tile, and painting in each room, providing a welcoming and fresh new environment to all.

Holy Childhood Receives $10,000 GM Grant

As part of GM Rochester Operations Manufacturing Day this past October, Holy Childhood was awarded a $10,000 grant as part of the GM Community Giving Program.

“We appreciate the generosity and ongoing support we receive from Neal Evans, GM Rochester plant manager and all of the employees at the GM Rochester Operations plant,” said Brian Wirth, Director of Development. “This money will help support the creation of new jobs for people with and without disabilities at the new Special Touch Bakery on Mt. Read Blvd.”

Holy Childhood is so grateful to our friends at GM Rochester Operations for including us in their recognition of outstanding human service providers in the Rochester community.
Newly Expanded Special Touch Bakery Celebrates One Year Anniversary!

100,000 pies and counting!

That’s how many delicious pies the talented bakers have made since the doors opened last October at the new Special Touch Bakery located at 1999 Mt. Read Blvd. in Rochester. After a robust Thanksgiving holiday season, (as of this writing more than 8,000 pies ordered for Thanksgiving alone!), the bakery is in full swing this month and next, as the year comes to a close and the holiday baking season winds down. Our loyal customers and new friends alike know that our bakers make the best pie ever, and that no family gathering is complete without a Special Touch Bakery pie on the table.

It’s been a busy year! Within the first year of operation, Special Touch Bakery launched its Fundraising Program. Dozens of organizations have already partnered with the bakery to help raise money for their schools, churches, sports and dance teams, just to name a few.

“We’re looking forward to partnering with more groups and organizations to expand and grow our fundraising program in the year ahead,” comments Director of Bakery Operations, Joe Perdicho. “Like the organizations we are serving, we have our own great story to tell by providing employment opportunities for people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. We’re proud to help support our customers’ fundraising efforts for their own organizations; it’s a great partnership.”

Since opening on Mt. Read Blvd., Special Touch Bakery has expanded its production capabilities, and now can offer a variety of product offerings to include more pie sizes to meet customer demand. The premium 10-inch Special Touch Bakery pies our regional customers have always loved are still made by hand—with a lot of love! Now, with more than 55 scrumptious varieties of pie, non-GMO, vegan and no sugar added varieties, there truly is something for everyone.

If you would like to see our bakers in action, the bakery is open weekdays, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 1999 Mt. Read Blvd. To place a pie order for pick up at either the Mt. Read location, or at Holy Childhood in Henrietta, simply call the bakery at 585-359-BAKE (2253).

Look for Special Touch Bakery pie out in the community at your favorite restaurant, farm market, festival or retail location as our expansion continues. You can always visit the bakery anytime online at specialtouchbakery.org or on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter platforms, please click the “like” button while you’re there.
Inspire

Participate in the Holy Childhood 2018 Friendship Campaign

Success happens every day on the campus of Holy Childhood. Victories big and small are achieved by the students and adults being served in the programs and services provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It’s these joyful triumphs that make Holy Childhood what it truly is and has been since 1946. Inspiring lifelong success is what we do, and the results are real.

Meet Holy Childhood School Program graduate Carli—a full-circle success story. It had always been Carli’s dream to work with children, a goal she has worked toward for many years. While Carli was a student at Holy Childhood, teachers, staff, job coaches and classmates have been right there, encouraging her every step of the way.

While attending the Community Classroom in the Genesee Regional Market, Carli participated in Holy Childhood’s award-winning Work-Based Learning Program, honing her skills at job sites at the American Red Cross Meals on Wheels program. Carli quickly excelled and began taking on more independent tasks. Carli also spent time at CP Rochester in the pre-school program as an assistant to classroom aides, all the while working on her own communication, socialization and other skills to prepare for work in the community after graduation. All of this experience, knowledge and guidance have prepared Carli for what she proudly calls her “dream job”.

And now, Carli has truly come full circle. At the start of this school year, Carli was ready--and she was hired at Holy Childhood as a full time classroom aide in Mrs. Greco’s classroom. “Carli has proven herself to be a positive, flexible, receptive, patient and perceptive addition to the staff,” says Mrs. Greco. “She is inspirational.”

Each day at Holy Childhood, you’ll find people in Partners With Industry (PWI), Woodworking or Special Touch Bakery working hard and putting forth their best efforts while gaining skills. Students in the School Program receive on-the-job training, work hard on their academics, and receive hands-on training in Life Skills and Activities of Daily Living instruction. Programs like Seniors Day Habilitation, Supported Employment and the Work-Based Learning teach valuable skills in and outside of the classroom. These far-reaching, highly regarded programs and services are funded, in part, by our annual Friendship Campaign. We appreciate your generosity and support and kindly ask that you consider a donation at a level comfortable for you.

Please visit holychildhood.org/friendship to make a secure, online donation or contact Brian Wirth, Director of Development at 585-359-3710, ext. 140 or bwirth@holychildhood.org.
Holiday Closing

During this holiday season, we sincerely thank everyone who has supported Holy Childhood with their time, talent and financial contributions. We look forward to the continued support of our friends in the coming year. Please note that Holy Childhood will be closed for the holidays from December 24 through January 1, 2019. If you plan to make an additional gift to the agency before the end of the year, we encourage you to consider the electronic giving options on our website at holychildhood.org. If you would like to mail a check, please be sure your contribution is postmarked before midnight on December 31, 2018.

We thank you for your ongoing support of Holy Childhood and Special Touch Bakery.

Holy Childhood Board of Directors

Timothy McLaughlin, Chairman
Michael Faillace, Vice Chairman
Susan Reschke, Finance Committee Chair

C. Terence Butwid
Julie Camardo
G. Thomas Clark
Louis Cristo
Jeffery A. Davis
Robert Drago
John S. Dretto
David Gaudino
Sister Judy Greene
Christopher Mooney
John Myers
Brigid M. Noonan
James P. Prinzi, Ph.D.
William D. Pum, MD
Matthew Ray
Gabriella Rood
The Honorable John R. Schwartz
Michael Stapleton
Carrie Tschetter
Christopher Wiest

The agency sends the bereaved family a note of sympathy and informs them of the gift, without disclosing the amount. Friends of Holy Childhood may also mark joyous occasions – like birthdays, anniversaries and weddings—by donating to Holy Childhood in honor of a friend or family member. Contact Rose Marie Pape at 585-359-3710, ext. 131 or email, rpape@holychildhood.org for more information.
Christmas Eve Mass at Holy Childhood

Join us on Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. for Christmas Eve mass, celebrated by Rev. William Spong at Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Rochester, NY 14623. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 585-359-3710.