



Clelian Heights Newsletter

Shavings

Spring 2012

Mission

The mission of Clelian Heights is to provide spiritual, educational, and vocational programs for children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities that enhance their quality of life and maximize their potential for independent living.

Vision

The vision of Clelian Heights is an atmosphere of choice, mutual acceptance, respect, and love that will make a lasting difference in the lives of persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Non-Discrimination

Clelian Heights offers services to all without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, religious creed, disability, sex, ancestry or national origin.

United Way

Clelian Heights can receive United Way Campaign donations. On the pledge form list, our Contributor's Choice Code is #403. Write in our address:
135 Clelian Heights Lane
Greensburg, PA 15601.

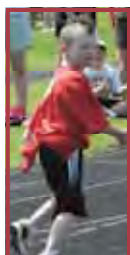
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724-837-8120 or visit
www.clelianheights.org.

WINTER-SPRING ACTIVITIES



School Program: Girls' Softball



On Monday, April 23, Clelian Heights held its first competitive girls' softball game against the students of Westmoreland Intermediate Unit's Clairview School.

In 2009 the boys' Clelian Crusaders competitive basketball team along with a girls' cheer squad was formed. By the end of the season, the older girls wanted a team of their own. Softball was the choice and plans began for a competitive girls' team. Teacher, Melissa Fligger, agreed to help organize the effort. This included finding other school programs with students who had a team or wanted to form a team.

"We had little equipment but lots of desire. The girls had a deep commitment to wanting to get this team up and going," said Coach Fligger. "We practiced and learned the rules of the game throughout the last two years, inside when the weather was too bad, and outside on our ball field when it was dry. I am thrilled with how well the team has come along and we are very excited to have the opportunity to play. We held a scrimmage against the staff in the beginning of this school year and it was great to see how much the girls' skills had improved. Their hard work was paying off on the field."



Coach Melissa Fligger's dedicated efforts have paid big rewards.



Fundraising was begun within the school for athletic uniforms and various area donors supported the team with equipment donations. Other staff members volunteered to assist with coaching; Margie and Leah McElroy are serving as assistant coaches. Sister Charlene Celli, ASCJ, Clelian Heights' school principal said, "We see many positive benefits from our team-sport program and I am so happy that our young women have the same opportunity."



Many of the Clelian Heights students participate in the Special Olympics sports competitions—skiing, bowling, golf, swimming, track and field events, but organized competitive teams such as the Clelian Heights' Crusaders Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball teams, the Lady Crusaders' Varsity Cheer Squad and Lady Crusaders Softball Team are recent additions to the school.

Teachers' Present In-Service Training

Throughout the school year, our staff takes part in several in-service training days. Recently, teachers Amanda Montell and Melissa Fligger spent a portion of the in-service presenting new ideas and ways of working with the students at Clelian Heights.

Amanda Montell trained the staff on the many uses of a new cutting machine, the *Cricut*. Miss Montell showed how both the classroom environment and lessons learned in class can be enhanced with the cut-outs made by the *Cricut*. It is another way to combine visual and tactile stimuli in a lesson to enhance what is being taught. For example, you can create a bus and people. As the students add or remove people, they are reinforcing math skills. The various cartridges of the software program allow users to select a theme from pre-loaded artwork to create and cut out game pieces, letters of the alphabet, numbers, people, seasonal and holiday artwork, and many other school related cut-out items for classroom activities.



Melissa Fligger and Amanda Montell

All the staff had an opportunity to create something on the machine during the training. "It is a great tool," says Miss Montell. "I have even taught one of my students to use it, since she is very artistic. It is simple to use and great for enhancing the environment of the classroom through bulletin boards and calendars, and a fun option for student-learning."

Receiving the *Cricut* was part of a promotion at Michaels craft store. Terri Kelly, a relative of one of our staff, purchased a *Cricut* and was given one to donate to a place of her choice. She selected Clelian Heights because of all the wonderful things she heard about the school and felt it would be really helpful for teachers to have. The machine is typically used for crafting and scrapbooking but, as Amanda demonstrated, it has many uses in the classroom as well.

Miss Fligger gave a presentation on "Modifications for Successful Community Outings" based on the book "*The Child with Autism Goes to Town*" authored by Kathy Labosh. There are twenty-five different modifications outlined for specific community outings.

"The author provides insights and suggestions for twenty-five of the most common outings," said Melissa. "Some of the suggestions offered, although common, are often not utilized at the right time. I chose to focus our training on the typical outings we take and suggestions for challenges we encounter during community trips including activities at amusement parks, restaurants, malls, church, movie theaters and parks."

After Melissa's presentation the group discussed situations in which they typically encountered issues then broke into small groups to role-play solutions that they just learned. The keys to successful learning experiences for the students are: 1) prior planning and teaching for the activity so that the students know what to expect and to eliminate surprises 2) strategize with the staff modification ideas in preparation for the outing 3) inform everyone in advance. Everyone involved with outing (parents, students, aides, volunteers) should be aware of what they will be doing, when it will occur and what they should expect.

Kylen Ferrett, a newer PCA, enjoyed the opportunity to discuss ways in which she could best serve the students for whom she is responsible. "It gave me a new understanding of how I could create a "social story" to walk the students through each step of an outing so it becomes more familiar," said Miss Ferrett. "It takes all of the fear out of the equation for them."

Family Focus: Alex Grubisa Family



Alex Grubisa is a typical teenager who says that “hanging out with friends” and “surfing the web” on his laptop are two of his favorite activities when home, but he adds that reading books is his most favorite thing to do! He loves learning and his parents attribute this trait to the positive influences of his teachers and the staff at Clelian Heights.

Alex came to Clelian ten years ago as a first grader. His parents, Michael and Suzanne Grubisa, were planning to send him temporarily while his mother finished her graduate studies in Special Education, then she planned to home school him, but that never happened.

“When I entered Clelian and saw all the statues of Mary, I just knew Alex belonged there,” said his mom, Suzanne. “Ever since he was a small toddler, Alex had a ‘special relationship’ with the Virgin Mother. She led us to Clelian!”

The Grubisa’s have been very happy with the growth and changes they have seen in Alex. He has numerous friends who have been an important part of his social growth. He has had many social outings to the mall and movies and other fun events on the weekends with his friends. He is active in Special Olympics and is member of the Crusader’s varsity basketball team.

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Cheers for Alex!

The many faces of Alex Grubisa: enjoying the sports he loves; playing varsity basketball and swimming in the Olympics; having fun with his girlfriend and taking her to the Prom; enjoying quality time with his family.... always a contented and smiling young man, sharing his happiness and enjoying life!



Family Focus: Alex Grubisa Family

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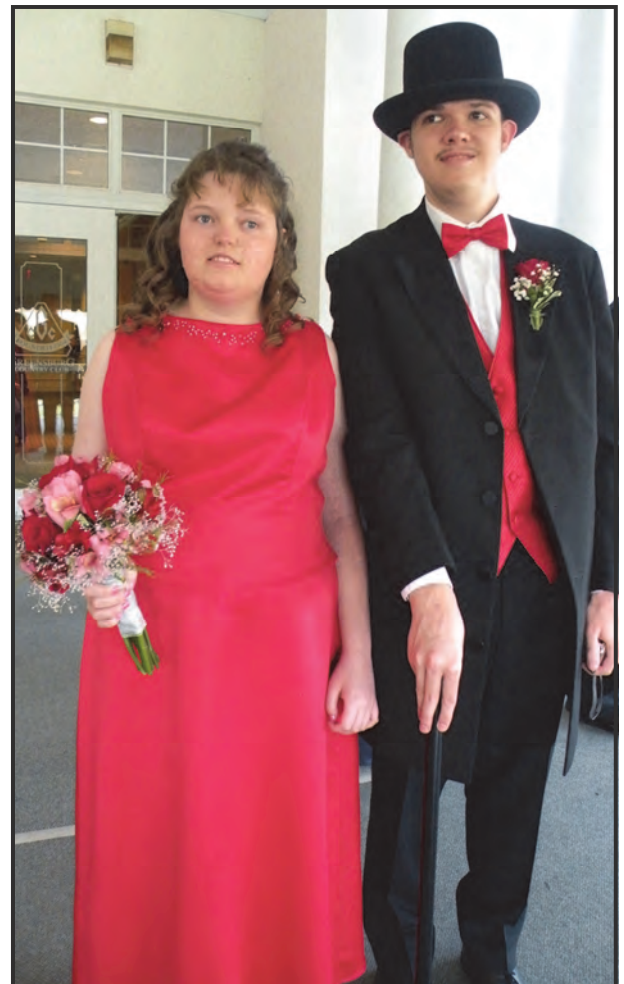
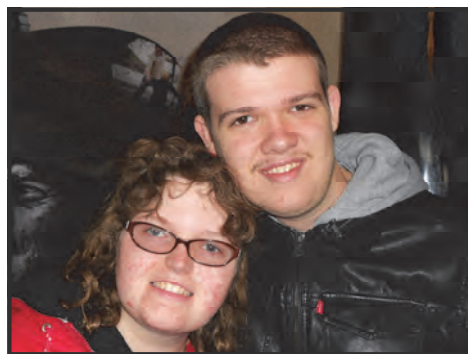
“He has learned many life skills at Clelian including grooming, cooking, and housekeeping. These have generalized into a happy home life and have greatly enhanced his independence,” says his mother, Suzanne. “Academically, Alex has been continuously and appropriately challenged each and every year. His spelling, writing, and reading skills, especially his comprehension, have all grown tremendously.”

Suzanne says that Alex is fully immersed in his love for Clelian Heights. He is often thinking of ways to improve or enhance the school. He would love to become a classroom teacher at Clelian. He has a true love for school. Recently, Alex decided to help raise money for the school library. The library has several duplicate books, so he decided to sell the extra books and use the funds to buy a clock and other items to enhance the space. Each Wednesday, he skips recess so that he can sell his used books to other students and staff. He has created posters to raise awareness, organizes his inventory, and monitors the money. He has raised nearly \$200 in his endeavors.

Amanda Montell, Alex’s current teacher, agrees with his mother regarding Alex’s love for his school. “At the beginning of the school year, Alex brought in a ‘No Bullying’ poster to hang in our hallway,” said Miss Amanda. “He also made a suggestion box for Sister Charlene’s office.”

Alex says that his favorite things about Clelian are playing sports and his friends but he also loves how the school is run.

“Alex has had some awesome, truly dedicated teachers along the way, who have made all the difference in his education. He comes home happy each and every day,” Suzanne comments gratefully.



Special Olympic Competition



Clelian Heights' students have participated in the Special Olympics of Westmoreland County since 1970. Recently, competitions were held in swimming and track and field. All athletes competed according to age and skill level in the various events. Clelian athletes include both school age students and workshop adults.

In mid-April, the regional competition for swimming was held at the Greensburg YMCA where 20 Clelian Heights athletes gathered. Our group was the largest represented at the event. The competition included both individual and team relays. The events included breast-stroke, backstroke, freestyle, and butterfly. Clelian athletes brought home 3 trophies, 38 medals, and numerous ribbons after the day-long event.

Our swimmers trained at school then in late February weekly at the YMCA where they were given free pool time. State swimming competitions will be held in June at Penn State University campus. Fifteen athletes will represent Clelian Heights at the State swimming meet this year. We wish them well!



In mid-May, the Latrobe Stadium at Legion-Keener Park in Latrobe, hosted the Westmoreland County regional track and field meet. Twenty-four adults from the Clelian Center and 28 school students competed in three types of events, running, throwing, and jumping. Our athletes trained on campus for all their events. Many ran the 50M, 100M, and 200M events while two students attempted the 400 Meter event. Numerous adults and several students competed in the softball throw, standing long jump, and the running long jump. A smaller group tried the shotput. Clelian Heights participants won many metals and ribbons!



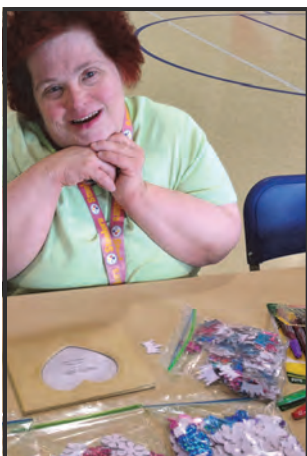


“Let me win. And if I cannot, let me brave in the attempt” That is the pledge of all Special Olympic athletes. We gave it our best at the Track and Field events. It is a challenge that we love be a part of.



Apartment Women Enjoy Community Outreach Programs

The women in residence at the Sweeney and Melenzyer apartments at Clelian Heights take part in numerous activities both on and off campus and enjoy every minute of involvement. The activities enhance their social skills and personal independence and provide many hours of fulfilling recreation. On any given week or weekend, the women may attend a play or symphony, enjoy a movie or some shopping, play a game or two of bowling or go to a local restaurant for a favorite meal. They do many of these activities with community friends.



“Having the opportunity for sharing in a variety of activities with others has been the start of lasting friendships between the women and the community members who join them. This growth of relationships has certainly made a difference in the day-to-day lives of the women. Because the activities are shared with community outreach volunteers, the bonding of friendships that has resulted is authentic and caring,” says residential director, Sister Margaret Ann, ASCJ. “We are blessed to have others reach out to us. We feel doubly blessed when they say that they have not only enjoyed the experience but have gained in many ways because of it. They share their time and talent to plan fun events that all can fully participate in. True friendships have been made and that is such a tremendous boost to our women. Each has flourished in her own way.”

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Apartment Women Enjoy Community Outreach Programs



Designing picture frames and enjoying some friendly conversation.

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Saint Vincent College (SVC) has several groups and programs that Clelian Heights has been a part of over the years. These include a Best Buddies International chapter and, more recently, the Service Corps for Exceptional Children.

Best Buddies International was founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver. It was originally a National program which expanded to an international outreach for middle school, high school, and college students who “buddy up” with children and adults in their area for recreation, friendship, mentoring and job skill development.

The SVC chapter of Best Buddies was established about ten years ago and Clelian Heights has been involved in the program for most of that time. Periodically throughout the year the

members of the Best Buddy chapter organize events and activities in which the adult women on campus participate. Activities include arts and crafts on our campus, going out with Buddies for a movie and pizza off campus, or attending St. Vincent “Bearcats” basketball games at SVC campus. SVC Chapter advisor, Paul Whiteside, said the benefits of the program are two-fold, “The goals for inclusion and integration into society is an obvious benefit for those with disabilities but the real advantage is for our college students who have this opportunity to benefit from the experience and make some true friendships.”

The Clelian folks enjoy “Sports Friendship Day” at SVC--an annual event hosted by the Best Buddy chapter. It is an afternoon and early evening of activities, games and dinner, closing with a special Mass. The ladies proudly wear their t-shirts signifying participation in this special day.



The Service Corp for Exceptional Children is another SVC student-run campus organization that was formed in 2010. The group is comprised of mostly education majors. While involved in the SNAP service project they met our adult residents and after an evening of volunteering, they were able to coordinate through Sister Margaret Ann, “Friendship Fridays”—held on the alternate Fridays of the SNAP program. Approximately 4 to 6 St. Vincent students come to Clelian and engage the women in physical activities and games. “We decided that going to Clelian was more than just a service project,” says Caitlin Ross, a Graduate Assistant in the Graduate and Continuing Education Department and one of the group’s founders. “We’ve built a friendship with the residents and the sisters.”



The East Suburban Citizen’s Advocacy has reached out to Clelian in many different ways. Citizen’s Advocacy seeks volunteers or groups who wish to include individuals with disabilities in their activities and develop friendships. The organization holds events such as “Art from the Heart” on “Sunday Fundays” at Chaye’s, a local coffee and gift shop in Murrysville--the Advocacy and Clelian women make arts and crafts and jewelry which is then sold at the venue. The proceeds are used to purchase additional supplies for the craft projects.

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Apartment Women Enjoy Community Outreach Programs

Citizen’s Advocacy volunteers have also accompanied the Clelian women to ball games, Christmas parties, and other community outings. Kate Calla, Executive Director of East Suburban Citizen’s Advocacy, has also been instrumental in assisting the Clelian Center workshop in finding new outlets for their Clelian “Scentsation” soaps and Captain and Sandy dog biscuits.

Several members of the advocacy group visited the women in their apartments and gave them cooking lessons sharing their special recipes. As a result of this experience, a cookbook, which includes recipes from other Citizen’s Advocacy volunteers and board members, was compiled and published as “Cooking with Care”. The donations received were given to Clelian Heights.

In addition, Mrs. Calla has facilitated the partnership of many individuals and organizations introducing them to Clelian Heights. This is how an Advocacy volunteer became interested in forming an adaptive drumming exercise class. As a result, in March, the women were invited by the **Delmont YMCA** to attend the new “Drum Stix” program. The program features movement and rhythm that incorporates aerobic activity, balance, and mental stimulation, all by using drumsticks on large balance balls. The women enjoyed this tremendously and now attend the “Y” class regularly. “This class really strengthens many skills particularly listening, balance, eye/hand coordination, and following directions,” said Sister Margaret Ann.



Drumming at the YMCA.

The Citizen’s Advocacy also paired the **Mother Theresa Outreach** group of Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville with the Clelian women. For many years, the women have been invited by the group to various community outings and events. The Mother Theresa group has accompanied the women to performances by the River City Brass Band, plays at Franklin Regional High School, bowling outings and out to dinner. “They have even taken the women shopping for Christmas,” say Sister Margaret Ann. “They buddy up in pairs, so it is a wonderful, one-on-one experience and the women just love to go out with the friends they have met from this group. We appreciate all of these groups and individuals who have reached out in true friendship to us. It is truly a blessing and very meaningful for all involved.”

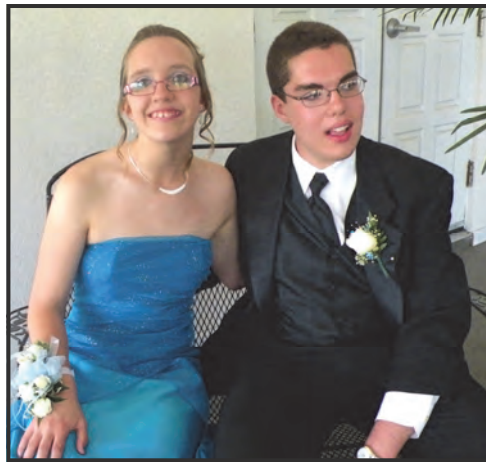


We love to have fun and enjoy some exercise with our college friends.

A Night To Remember: Prom 2012



Clelian Heights held its 6th annual prom on May 3rd at the Greensburg Country Club. Thirty-nine students attended the evening and paraded for their family and friends in their lovely gowns and dapper tuxes in a Grand March while 8 queens and 6 kings were crowned. They danced and mingled in a ballroom decorated with a nautical theme including a romantic ocean sunset, lighthouse, and a cruise ship that lit up the night.



Community Partnerships Enhanced By Friendships

Community Action Program-CAP

For more than 15 years Patricia Blahovec, Penn Trafford High School nurse, has visited Clelian Heights' campus as coordinator of CAP - Community Action Program, a special volunteer program of Penn Trafford School District students that contributes hundreds of hours of community service to many human service organizations in the area. CAP is a totally voluntary organization that gives Penn Trafford students the opportunity to share their friendship and talents with the community.



Whoa! Look at the balls go! This is a favorite activity with CAP.

When CAP students come to Clelian Heights, there are twenty or more of them, in grades 9 to 12, who plan and organize special programs for our residents. All activities are done after school or on weekends. They come about six times during the school year. The activities they organize vary each visit including singing and dancing, sports and exercise and arts and crafts.

Students are required to contribute 30 hours of community service before graduating. According to Mrs. Blahovec it is much more than reaching a requirement, "Students develop a sense of service and a commitment to neighbor and they become involved in a life-time of service. Their enthusiasm is contagious and friends and family members also get involved and the volunteer effort grows. When the students move on to college, many of them often work in a similar program there because community service has become a part of their lives. They see the need and know they can help make a difference. This is so rewarding to me, knowing that we are opening an opportunity for good that will span a life-time."

Alicia Harter, residential supervisor at Chip's House, says the CAP students provide quality programs for both the men and women on campus.

"Many of the CAP students come to Clelian Heights all four years of high school and the Clelian group really looks forward to seeing and spending time with the friends that they have made through this program," said Alicia.

All Stars Bowling League

Chip's House residents have eagerly gathered at the Export Moose every other Monday evening from Labor Day to Memorial Day as members of the All Stars Bowling League. The Moose hosts the 25-member All Stars for these evenings of bowling and fun. With donations from families and friends, the League sponsors a very popular annual bowling banquet dance complete with certificates and awards for League success. Chip's House has been in the League for over 15 years.



Some of our friends from All-Star Bowling enjoy the end of year dinner.

Community Partnerships Enhanced By Friendships



Master Gardeners work with Clelian Center Greenhouse Program

For many years, the adults in the Clelian Center have had the opportunity to learn planting and horticulture skills through their work at the greenhouse on our campus. Four times a year, our very popular plant and flower sales are held with purchases made by our Clelian families and the general public.

Each spring, teams of six to eight adults begin to prepare the greenhouse for the summer flower, vegetable and bedding plant sale. Together with volunteer Bob Carney and several of his gardening friends, the Clelian Center workers clean pots and trays as well as the entire greenhouse to ensure it is bug and disease free for the new, young plants. They then assist with the preparation of 1,000 geranium plugs for growing and selling. One team fills the newly cleaned pots with fresh soil; another team carefully plants the plug in the center of the pot; and the final team inserts identification sticks for the plant type and color into each pot and sorts them into the appropriate trays. Later, once the plants are larger, the teams group and replant the flowers into hanging baskets and patio pots for the annual sale where other bedding plants and vegetables are also sold.

Additional seasonal flower sales are held in the fall (Mums), winter (Poinsettia), and Easter (Lilies and bulb flowers). During the sale, the Center teams are busy assisting with unloading the delivery, initial sorting of the plants, grouping and identifying the plant orders by individual, and helping folks load their cars on pick-up day.

Sister Margaret Ann Calcutta, ASCJ, organizes the greenhouse operation and sales. "Some of our customers come back year after year because they are so pleased with the general health and high quality of our plants," says Sister Margaret Ann. "They know that our plants are treated with extra love and care by everyone involved with growing them."



Clelian Benefits from College Collaborations

Westmoreland County Community College:

Westmoreland County Community College has sent both education and nursing department majors to our campus for internship or observation experiences. We typically have had up to four nursing students per semester to fulfill their pediatric observation requirement.

Seton Hill University

Seton Hill University students come to Clelian Heights for a variety of programs: to receive student-teaching credits or practicum hours. Students majoring in education, music therapy and even nutrition/dietetics have worked or observed in either the academic setting or adult workshop.

An alternative to these is a daylong interactive experience with Clelian folks. For example, each year, several students from Seton Hill University's Nutrition/Dietetics program spend the day in the Clelian Center as part of their supervised practice experience requirements giving health and nutrition tips to the Clelian adults. They reviewed healthy food choices, health and sanitary habits, and easy and effective aerobic exercises. Four stations were set up by the Seton Hill students: healthy vs. poor food choices; hygiene, sanitation, cross-contamination and prevention steps; healthy snack preparation using safe kitchen skills; and easy but effective aerobic exercises for fitness without the use of special equipment. Each station had a fun and interactive lesson: selecting "good" and "bad" food; participating in a "germ light up"; a cross-contamination demonstration; preparing a healthy snack; trying out new user-friendly aerobic exercises. After the presentations by the Seton Hill students, the adults were eager to share what they had learned through an arts and crafts project. Serving sizes and healthful alternatives were also part of an active question and answer session.

Saint Vincent College

Saint Vincent College has sent many students for observation or intern hours from the education, psychology and physical or occupational therapy departments. In addition, many freshmen come to Chip's House several times a semester for community service hours.

Saint Vincent Seminary

Saint Vincent Seminary has also sent students to Clelian as part of the pastoral ministry program. They have spent time in the both the school program and in the Clelian Center.



At top we learned an aerobics routine and simple exercises. Above, left, and below, we learned about healthy eating and good food choices.

We enjoyed the opportunity to show what we learned by "making" our dinner using pictures of our choice. We had a fun day and learned a lot from the students from Seton Hill.



Advancement Office: Partners in our Mission



Lions Club International

Lions and Lioness Club organizations have a core belief that “community is what we make it” and several local Club’s have decided to fulfill their mission and help their community by supporting the children and adults at Clelian Heights. Holding several fundraisers throughout the year, each area Lions Club supports Clelian Heights in different ways.

Keith Rubright, a member of the Bushy Run Lions Club, said his club’s relationship with Clelian Heights began to grow after they were contacted in 2006 requesting help to purchase an audiometer, a specialized piece of equipment used by our speech therapist to test the children’s hearing without the need for the child to give a verbal or non-verbal response.

“We were invited to visit the campus and were not able to finish the tour, there was so much to see and learn.” explained Mr. Rubright. “So I asked to return and offered to hold our meeting there and have a Thanksgiving dinner with the residents. We sat with them at their tables and they eagerly participated in our meeting. After that, we really got to know the people and some members have even started correspondence and exchange cards and things. It makes you feel good to reach out in friendship and they are just so friendly and appreciative.”

Bushy Run	Norwin
Delmont	Rostraver Twp.
Greensburg	Sewickley
Jeannette	Slickville
Manor	New Alexandria
Murrysville	Youngwood
Whitehall Community	

The Bushy Run Lions hold a chicken barbecue twice a year donating chicken dinners for our children who love this very special meal.

They also sponsor a Boy Scout troop which has also involved itself with Clelian Heights; spending time with the residents and even volunteering service hours on campus to beautify the grounds.

Last year, Alex Ciccotelli, a ninth-grader at Penn-Trafford High School, completed a project at Clelian Heights as one of the requirements for his Eagle Scout badge. With help from fellow scouts and family, he installed a flower bed and several raised gardening boxes around campus.

“Our troop was at Clelian helping with weeding and I heard Sister Marilyn say how she wished she could get the residents and students more involved in gardening,” said Alex. “So I thought it would be great to install the beds and they could grow their own vegetables and eat them. They could learn a lot.”

Several Lions Club groups participated in the fundraising for the audiometer in addition to donating for other on-going projects such as the drainage and landscaping project, facility upgrades, community outings and much more. Since 1992, the area Lions Clubs have donated over \$18,000 to help Clelian Heights.



Rotary International

Clelian Heights has been very lucky to have the friendship and support of several area Rotary International clubs. With the motto ‘Service Above Self,’ Rotarians are a special group of men and women business owners who want to improve their local community as well as those around the world. Members of several local Rotary clubs, particularly the Murrysville-Export Rotary, have been very instrumental in awarding gifts and grants which have enabled us to complete many projects; purchases included much needed equipment at Chip’s House, program expansions, as well as, assessment and learning materials. Together, the Rotarians have donated over \$33,000 since 1992.

Delmont-Salem
Greensburg
Latrobe
Murrysville-Export
Westmoreland

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Advancement Office: Partners in our Mission

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The relationship with individual Rotarians has grown as they have helped or sought out the help of our adults in the Clelian Center to provide services for their businesses. The late Myles Sampson, Ed Ferri and Ben Getty, long-time Rotarians and businessmen who first contracted with us. Sylvia and Ben Getty helped with our dog biscuit packaging and his sons continue Ben's generosity. Carole Ferri, too, has remained an active supporter.

Tony and Ann Pauly, members of the Murrysville/Export Rotary, and partners in Ventana, USA, makers of vinyl windows and fencing contract with the Clelian Center for small parts sorting and bagging. "It makes us feel good to know we are helping these young people," says Ann Pauly. "The Sisters and staff are so good with the adults and we are so impressed with Clelian Heights."

The Pauly's and several other Rotarians from the Murrysville/Export club have been on our campus and toured our facility during their annual Christmas dinner and visit from Santa they host each year for the residents. Each resident meets and speaks with Santa and receives a personal gift. It's a special Holiday fun time for all.

As part of their commitment to provide quality service to the community, members of the Greensburg Rotary have also contracted with the adults in the Clelian Center. They are happy with our adults' training skills and word has spread. Dawn Roberts employs Clelian Center adults at the Courtyard by Marriott in Greensburg. (See more in story below.) Ben Policastro Sr., President of Age Craft Manufacturing in Greensburg, has been a long-time partner with the Center. Age Craft Manufacturing produces fences, railings and awnings and the Clelian Center does parts packaging for these. Ben is very pleased with the adults' work, "They do an excellent job at Clelian," said Ben. "I have never ever had a problem with any job that they have packed for me." Ben and his family have been wonderful supporters of Clelian Heights. In 2006 the Greensburg Rotary also awarded Clelian Heights a grant to purchase equipment for the school Sensory Room.

Courtyard By Marriott

Dawn Roberts, General Manager of the Courtyard by Marriott in Greensburg, heard Sister Benjamin Merlotti, ASCJ, Director of Mission Advancement, speak at a Greensburg Rotary meeting and thought that the Job Coaching opportunities offered through the Clelian Center might be a good match with her facility.



Celebrating with our Marriott Friends at a picnic.

Today, adults from the Clelian Center comprise a team of twelve plus three substitutes, who compliment the Marriott's regular cleaning and janitorial staff. "They do so much more than was originally anticipated in the beginning," says Job Coach, Connie Gipson. "We cover all the public areas, the lobby, stairwells, we even clean up the dining room after 80+ Rotarians every Tuesday. A lot of guests have complimented our group's conscientiousness. The Marriot team members have accepted us as part of them."

That is one of the goals that Dawn Roberts had in mind when bringing the Clelian group on board. She wanted to create awareness among her own staff that people of all abilities and backgrounds have something to offer. She is also involved with an international exchange program and she loves to see the genuine excitement from the Clelian staff when they meet someone from Turkey or Chile. Some of the Marriott staff have developed relationships beyond the workplace; they have cheered their friends on at Special Olympics and attended social gatherings especially birthday parties. "Concord Hospitality has been very supportive of my decision to open our

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Advancement Office: Partners in our Mission

(Continued from page 15)

doors to the members of Clelian Heights,” says Ms. Roberts. “The adults here work really hard and do a great job for us. They are a part of our team. We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, holidays with them; together, we add some fun to work. That’s how I would want my employer to treat me.” According to Ms. Roberts, it’s a great relationship for all. The Clelian Center team is a happy, industrious group and the Courtyard at Marriot is a cleaner, well-taken care of facility. “I love my Clelian team,” say Ms. Roberts. “They make you realize all the great people there are in the world.”



The Italian Heritage Society of America

The Italian Heritage Society of America has been supporting students and adults at Clelian Heights since 1989, when they first began awarding scholarships to school students enrolled at Clelian Heights as part of their “We Know No Boundaries” scholarship awards. The scholarships were distributed during their annual Italian Heritage Society Awards Gala, begun in 1986, held to honor influential leaders and entrepreneurs from throughout the Southwestern Pennsylvania area who are of Italian descent. Clelian Heights students and adults, along with their families, joined graduating high school students from area high schools and a few college undergraduates who were also receiving scholarships at the awards gala.



Jules C. Melograne, the founder of the Italian Heritage Society, decided to look for a charity to support as part of one of the Italian Heritage Society of America’s goals “to establish a foundation for the education and cultural enrichment of the Italo-American family and community.” The recognition of Clelian students and adults began with an invitation to visit Clelian Heights School extended by Society members, Dr. Sebastian Arena and his wife, Mary Arena, who knew that Clelian Heights was founded by a community of sisters who originate from Italy. The Sisters named Clelian Heights after it’s Italian Foundress, Mother Clelia Merloni, as a mission for special children. The Arena’s son, Sebastian, was a student at Clelian Heights. He now attends the Clelian Center and resides at Chip’s House.

“When we visited, we were so very impressed with the facility, the students and everything that was being accomplished there,” said Olga Melograne, Jules’ wife. “Jules is happy to support such a wonderful place. We took our information back to the scholarship committee and the rest is history.” The Society awarded scholarships for education and training to three students the first year and that number eventually grew. Jules and the scholarship committee have overseen the awarding of \$122,000 to Clelian Heights’ students and their families over the last twenty-three years. Funding for the scholarships comes in part from the proceeds of the gala, some individual donors, a portion of members’ dues, and various activities and fundraisers.

“We are so very blessed to have such a special relationships with the members of the Italian Heritage Society through this scholarship program,” says Sister Rosemary Zaffuto, former Executive Director and past recipient of an Italian Heritage Society Award in the area of education. “To have our students acknowledged through a scholarship program and included in these awards is truly a blessing.”

As a result of this partnership, friendships have developed with the Melograne’s and with many members of the Italian Heritage Society—all this has resulted in many years of support for Clelian Heights above and beyond the Society’s scholarship program. Sam Selario, in particular, has annually contributed to the Scholarship Partners Foundation providing tuition assistance for a student at Clelian. Jules and Olga have often visited with the Sisters and the students and, most recently, as founding leaders of the Italian Heritage Society, presented the above plaque that now hangs on the donor recognition wall at Clelian.

Clelian Center Highlights

Clelian Center Hosts Chamber Bash

The Clelian Center recently hosted the Spring Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce Bash. The Bash is a get-together and meeting of business members. It's an opportunity to meet and greet new and familiar colleagues, exchange and gather information, and offer support and assistance where needed.

Sister Shawn Lyons, ASCJ, Clelian Center Director, hosted the spring event to give the Chamber members an opportunity to see the Clelian Center Business Services close-up since, for several years now, the Clelian Center's mailroom operations group has done the collating and mailing preparation for the Chambers' monthly newsletter.

During the Bash, Sister Shawn provided information on the business services, employment services, and job coaching available for the many adults who work at our vocational workshop and training Center. The attendees also toured the parts-assembly and mailroom workshop, the commercial laundry, and dog biscuit bakery. Several of the adults who live on campus during the week were on hand to give demonstrations, including sample assemblies of fence springs, and of the paper shredding and mail operations. In addition, a selection of Clelian "Scentsation" soaps, Captain and Sandy dog biscuits, and Clelian Confections were on display. Several other men from Chip's House and women from the Sweeney and Melenzyer apartment buildings helped to prepare food, greet Chamber members and mingle as servers of hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

We welcome local businesses interested in our services to visit. We may very well be a good business match offering just what you need. If you would like to inquire about ways we can service your business, please call for information and a free quote at 724-853-9540 ext. 116.

Expanded Business Contacts Bring New Contracts

The adults who work each day at the Clelian Center have the opportunity to learn a variety of skills. Recently, several new business service contracts have begun as a result of word-of-mouth promotion, relationships with the adults and their families, or through relationships with previous contracted businesses.

Currently, a large contract with Wendell August Forge, in Grove City, includes preparing ten's of thousands of ribbons for use with their Christmas ornament assembly. Previously, this work was contracted out to China, but as the word spread about what the Clelian Center can do, this is now done locally in our workshop. The men and women in the Center take pre-determined lengths of ribbon to loop, knot and bundle for attachment onto Wendell August's wide array of custom and collectable ornaments.

(Continued on page 18)



We greeted our special guests. Later, Sister Shawn took everyone on a tour.

We demonstrated some of the jobs we do while working at the center including making dog biscuits and soaps for sale.



Advancement Office: Partners in our Mission



(Continued from page 17)

Shredding contracts have also been secured due to the recent change of medical records from paper to electronic computer documentation. Currently we provide services to a physician's office in Murrysville and an Optometrist's office in Monroeville.

Some contracts are new in nature, but with others, we have expanded services to meet new needs taking on additional jobs with businesses that we have serviced for years. For example, we do a fence-spring assembly for Kencove Farm Fencing Inc, of Blairsville; we have taken a recent contract increasing our services to punch holes into metal warning signs for Kencove's electric fence division. We have had several jobs with Ventana USA of Export. In the fall, a contract was completed to assemble sample chip rings for retail outlets to display new countertop materials and colors.

We expanded our laundry contract with the Center of Rehab Services to include their Greensburg location where we clean all specialty items such as warming pad covers.

The mailing services area has picked up a new contract for quarterly mailings with PA Cleanways and monthly mailings for the Masonic Lodge in Greensburg.

Our supported employment program, which includes supervision by Center staff, has secured another contract for cleaning at the new Marriott hotel to be located in Latrobe. They will work three days a week beginning in June.

The soap and dog biscuit making have continued to expand as well. The soaps have become really popular as specialty holiday items and gifts. The demand for unique baby and wedding shower gifts has really taken off with word of mouth advertising. Displays in community events such as the "Stop the R Word" event held at Westmoreland Mall and a few church and community craft shows have also helped. In the last year, several new businesses have begun to sell Captain and Sandy dog biscuits, since many discerning dog owners like the all-natural, locally made appeal of the treat. Special holiday packages and biscuit shapes have expanded the gifting market as well. The biscuits are sold at Nemaocolin Wooflands, Pet Resort & Spa. They can also be found in other venues such as K. Vet Animal Care, Inc. and Bortz Hardware Co., and even at a chiropractor's office, Shine Chiropractic and Neurology-all located in Greensburg. Check our website, www.clelianheights.org for listing of other businesses selling our dog biscuits.



We enjoy being busy and like the different variety of jobs we do. We're happy to have such a great center and to know that we are helping other businesses in the community.



Advancement Office: Loss of a Special Partner

Rest in Peace, Our Benefactor, John Nagy

On May 22, at age 82, long-time friend and special benefactor, John Nagy, left us for heaven. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Elaine. Every few weeks in the early hours of the morning the couple could be found in the Strip District of Pittsburgh filling the Clelian van with fresh fruits and produce – only one way they help support our mission.

John first met the sisters when he was a supervisor for Union Fruit Auction Company located in the Strip District. His desire to help Clelian Heights began a decades'-long relationship of caring and generous support. Along with Elaine, we will miss him and his ever present smile, open heart, and loving dedication.



Night At The Races A Success!

The 11th Annual Night at the Races was held at the Harrison Room in Harrison City with 194 attending. Everyone enjoyed the food buffet, great basket raffles and numerous "Winner's Choice" raffle prizes available that evening. Betting was wild as the horses kept people guessing race after race. A little over \$9,000 was netted from the evening's festivities! A tremendous thank you to everyone who attended, purchased a horse or sponsored a race, donated a basket or raffle item, or baked a dessert! And an extra special thanks to Glenda Uncapher and Anna Marie Suman for their hard work in finding sponsors and prizes that dazzled and to Bev Kosor for her artistic displays. Thank you ladies for making this year one of the best!



CORRECTION: 2010-2011 Annual Report *The Clelian Friends' Club* (\$100—\$249) H. Joseph and Mary Lou Muller Luxor United Methodist Church. *Sincere apologies to the above donors for their omission from the Annual Report.*

Be sure to be a part of the 2011-2012 Annual Report by donating today!

Deadline for inclusion ends June 30. Any gift received on or after July 1 will be reported in the 2012-2013 Annual Report.

I am no longer able to help support Clelian Heights, please remove my address from the mailing list

Name(s): _____ Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

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This gift is to be recorded as an Anonymous donation

I would like to enclose a gift for the Project Fund:

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Visa MasterCard Discover

Card #: _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

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I am interested in making an IRA Direct Transfer of funds to Clelian Heights.

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Class of 2012 Moves On To New Opportunities

Congratulations Graduates!

