



Clelian Heights Newsletter

Shavings

Spring 2014

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.

Publication Statement

This publication is produced by the Clelian Heights School Mission Advancement Office. Clelian Heights is a non-profit organization. No copy or distribution of this publication is permitted without permission. It is mailed several times a year. For information contact us at: Clelian Heights School 135 Clelian Heights Lane Greensburg, PA 15601 or 724-837-8120 or visit www.clelianheights.org.

Winter - Spring Activities



Family Focus: Alisha Wontroba



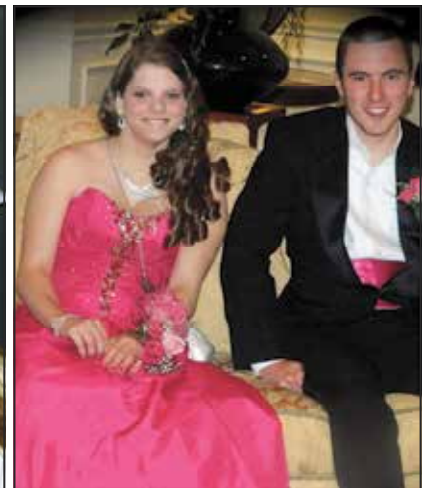
Alisha Wontroba entered Clelian Heights in the ninth grade after her family had heard about Clelian through a friend who highly recommended the school. According to Luann Wontroba, Alisha's mother, "I felt Clelian Heights would be the best choice for Alisha's education. Clelian Heights is a wonderful school."

Her mother is very happy with Alisha's progress over the years. "She has far surpassed everyone's expectations. Alisha's progress has been unbelievable. She is now reading on a high school level. She has more self confidence and her social skills have increased."

Alisha says that her ability to interact with others has been the biggest benefit to her since attending Clelian Heights. "I could talk, I just didn't want too," said Alisha. "I just felt so awkward, especially more, if I didn't know someone. Now I am better at talking around other people." In addition, she has made some deep friendships with others at the school. "Being here helped me to make friends," said Alisha, "because I am around my kind of people."

Like every other high school teen, she and best friend Amber recently attended the Clelian Heights Prom and had a great time dancing and taking 'selfies' on their cell phones of each other and their friends. Alisha is looking forward to graduating with her class. "They are really nice," said Alisha, "They are great people."

Her teacher, Amanda Montell, says, "Alisha has grown alot personally and as a student. In the last few years, as we have gone to job sites for training, her job skills and personal interactions with others has greatly improved. Now she is willing to try new things when on work outings. She is a sweet, awesome person, and I am going to miss her!" said Miss Amanda.



Family Focus: Alisha Wontroba

Luann Wontroba sees a bright future for her daughter. “Alisha now has a wonderful education to help her begin her adult life,” says her mother. “She likes going to work sites and enjoys the field trips with the other students. Alisha would like to work, and set up an art studio after graduation. I feel with all the job training she received at Clelian, she will succeed.”

Alisha lives at home in Uniontown with her parents, Mark and Luann plus her six brothers and sisters, Kristian, a speech pathologist in North Carolina, Aaron, a business major in college, Melissa, a nursing student, Juliet (10), Brianna (7), Rachel (3), plus Gilbert, the goldfish. Alisha’s main hobby is art in general but she spends most of her time drawing and studying art techniques especially “anime,” Japanese animated art.



New Job for the Clelian Center at Alcoa Tech Center Cafeteria



The Alcoa staff welcomes the Clelian Center Workers



In April, Alcoa Technical Center in New Kensington reached out looking to support developmentally disabled adults seeking to use their job skills in the community. The Clelian Center responded. Three teams of three adults along with a Clelian Center staff person have been working in Knew Kensington at the Alcoa Center . Three times a week, the teams alternate at the work site to assist in the employee cafeteria. “The adults find it very affirming,” said Sister Shawn, Clelian Center Director. We look forward to growing this relationship with Alcoa .”

“When we met with the Alcoa coordinators, they made it clear that they were wanting to do this program to show their employees diversity in the workplace,” says Connie Gipson, job coach. “They know that it takes all kinds of people to make the world work.”

The Clelian Center workers help to prepare for the day’s food service by stocking and maintaining the condiment bar and coffee service areas. All tables and chairs are wiped clean throughout the lunchtime . At the end of the day, everything is put in order for the next day. The Clelian Center workers have begun expanded their job responsibilities including work that they see needs to be done.

“The workers from Clelian are treated like Alcoa family,” said Robin Lasich, Clelian Center Job Coach. “The Alcoa staff are wonderful to us. They respect our workers and even give them lunch. The Clelian team loves that!”



“Working in the community once or twice a week allows our workers to see and do new things,” said Connie. “They are always appreciated and treated with respect wherever we go because everyone sees how hard they work and how much pride they show in doing a good job. We feel blessed!”

Best Wishes to Parting Staff



SISTER MARGO REY, ASCJ

Sister Margo came to Clelian Heights seven years ago and began working with the younger children teaching music and math.

Previous to her Clelian ministry, Sister Margo has had 35 years of teaching experience with pre-school and primary and elementary school children.

According to Sister Margo, God had a plan for her. After an accident left her with a broken ankle making it difficult for her to move from classroom to classroom carrying all her equipment and supplies, she transitioned to the Clelian Center where she began supervising the adults with their small parts assembly and bulk mailing operations.

It seems that God has planned something new for Sr. Margo and on June 26, she will begin her newest assignment working with the elderly and infirm sisters at Sacred Heart Manor in Hamden Connecticut.

The Manor encompasses a retirement home for the sisters, an adult day care program for the elderly of the community, and a kindergarten and nursery school. Sacred Heart Manor was established by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the early 1970s.

Sr. Margo says she is going to take advantage of the slower pace at the Manor and looks forward to this next adventure. "I will take the opportunity to help wherever I am needed, but I will miss Clelian Heights."

"I am so grateful that God has put me on this path to work at Clelian Heights and for all the blessing he has given me during my years here," said Sister Margo.

"I would like to give a special 'Thank You' to everyone here. There is really no place like Clelian Heights."



Best Wishes to Parting Staff

SISTER VIVIAN CHIODONI, ASCJ

“The children at Clelian Heights are very prayerful and very close to Jesus who loves them,” said Sister Vivian Chiodoni, teacher and tutor at Clelian Heights. “Teaching here has been a very enriching experience for me—one of simplicity and trust.

It is such a valuable gift to work with our children who live so honestly and simply. They are so ready to trust those who help them.”

After seven years of working with the students at Clelian Heights teaching Character & Values training and tutoring math and reading, Sister Vivian will also be moving to Hamden, Connecticut, for an assignment at Sacred Heart Manor to begin in late June.

She sees her new role of assisting the elderly sisters as being very similar in spirit to what she has been doing at Clelian Heights. She said she finds there, as here, “such a joyful spirit”. “The sisters are simply themselves, as the children are here, and I learn from them and their good example of what it is to be a true seeker of God,” said Sister Vivian. “I look forward to helping and serving their needs.”

Each day at Clelian Heights Sister Vivian shared the following words of advise with her Character and Values Training classes, “Do the right thing at the right time.” She would ask the children to repeat the words back to her hoping that they would remember the lesson. “I have tried to instill in the children the skills they need to lead a good life.”

“I tell a story, often a Bible story, to convey a lesson and I add a song about the lesson along with pictures that convey the story. Combining the singing of the song, coloring of the pictures depicting the lesson while telling the story, provides a multi-sensory approach to the lesson so that it can be understood and a part of them.”

“I focus my lessons on kindness and respect, on making the right choices and on learning to uncover the good even in the bad,” said Sister Vivian.

Teacher Gwen Diddle said several of her students often came back to their classroom and wanted to discuss the subject or lesson for that day. “Sr. Vivian really held their attention,” said Gwen, “and they enjoyed her stories.”

Sister Vivian was also called upon to guide individual students through their Sacramental program or to prepare them for attending Mass or assisting them with their worship skills. This one-on-one help prepared the children to more fully participate at their home churches with their families.

“I will miss Clelian Heights and the spirit of the children and staff,” said Sister Vivian. “I will keep them all in my heart and prayers.”



Best Wishes to Parting Staff

MRS. JENNIFER DeRUSHA

It was a difficult parting after twelve years of service, but Speech and Language Pathologist, Jennifer DeRusha, has had to leave Clelian Heights as a result of her husband's recent job transfer to South Carolina .

Over the years, Jennifer served individual students with one-on-one therapy sessions that include speech or oral-motor therapies which also help the children with safe swallowing and articulation. In addition, the speech therapy team worked together with classroom groups to support speech skills.

Leah Bailey, who worked alongside Jennifer for the last seven years said, "Jen was a great teacher for me when I first started here," said Leah. "She taught me so much about working in this environment and helping the students really make progress."

During the summer Extended School Year Program (ESY) Jennifer continued speech therapy for individuals and classroom groups as needed.

It was a true family affair for the DeRusha's. Jennifer's husband Glenn and several of his friends were long-time volunteers at the barbecue pit for each of the Annual Wholey's Old Fashioned Chicken Barbecue fundraisers. In the last several years, Jennifer's uncle, Michael, was enrolled at the Clelian Center where he worked in candy and soap making and at the dog biscuit bakery.

Principal, Sister Charlene Celli, ASCJ, said, "Jennifer's compassionate support of our students really showed. She often went above and beyond the expected, continuously searching for the best tools and technology to help each student reach their goals. Jennifer was kind and caring and her love for the children and her concern for their success was evident."

Below: Jen is pictured in the middle of the therapy team. Speech and language pathologist Ashely Malone has now joined the team.



Life-Skills Training Includes Home-Economics Classes

Students at Clelian Heights take Home Economics class on a regular basis as part of their Life Skills Training.

Mrs. Elizabeth McCormick has been teaching Home-Economics to students at Clelian Heights for a number of years. "I am teaching tasks that students should be doing at home," said Miss Betty, "things like washing and drying dishes and we are expanding their abilities to include more actual cooking."

"Students learn how to use the common appliances such as blender, microwave, toaster; then, the oven and stovetop," said Betty. "Some students can use appliances more independently than others, but there is constant supervision for everyone. Students are also taught proper hand-washing and cross-contamination awareness as well as proper safety habits. Home-Economics is also an opportunity to teach table setting and table manners."

Over the years, some challenges have arisen such as finding gluten free recipes that the students can use or the challenge of getting the students to try new unfamiliar foods.

"I am trying to teach them many of the skills they may need to work in our Clelian Center," said Betty.

The Clelian Center adults work in the kitchen on campus and assist in service work off-site, in addition to the biscuit bakery and soap making, where many of the same skills may be used.

Evan, a student in Room 105, enjoys Home-Economics class. He likes to prepare food and enjoys eating the fruit of his labor. "My favorites are pizza muffins, spaghetti, and shamrock cookies," said Evan. "I like to stir the ingredients." Evan has already begun to use his skills at home where he can make items such as grilled cheese.

"Betty does an excellent job in teaching our students practical skills in the kitchen," said Sister Charlene Celli, school principal.

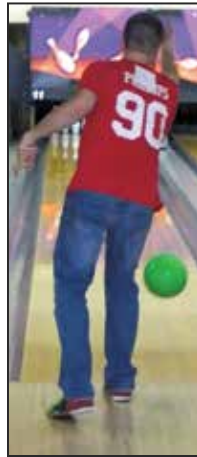
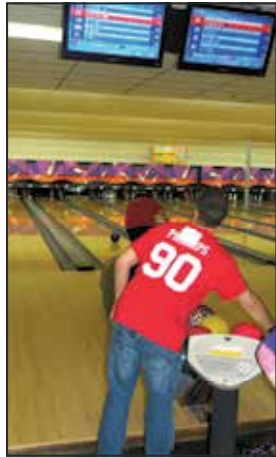
"Everything Betty introduces in Home Economics class, whether it be safety in the kitchen, preparing simple meals, or teaching other functional life skills, fosters greater independence in each student."



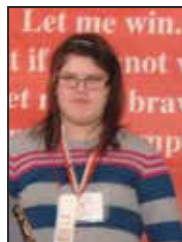
Special Olympics: Swimming and Bowling Events and Medals



Swimming Olympics
April 12, 2014
Greensburg YMCA
19 Participants:
 11 Adult; 8 Students
 14 Gold 12 Silver 3
 Bronze
 13 Ribbons
Adults: 1st Place
 4x25M Freestyle Relay
Student: 1st & 2nd Place
 4x25M Relay



Special Olympics: Skiing and Track and Field Events and Medals



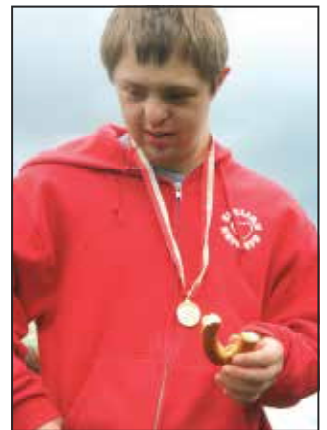
Track & Field Olympics
May 17, 2014
Latrobe HS Stadium
 45 Participants:
 35 Gold 7 Silver x3 Bronze

**Snowshoeing and Cross Country
 Skiing Olympics at Blue Knob**
February 9, 2014
 10 Gold 5 Silver 0 Bronze

Bowling Olympics
at Hillview Lane Oct. 5, 2013
 60 participants
 40 Gold 15 Silver 5 Bronze



Special Olympics: Track and Field Events and Medals



Softball



Crusader Basketball



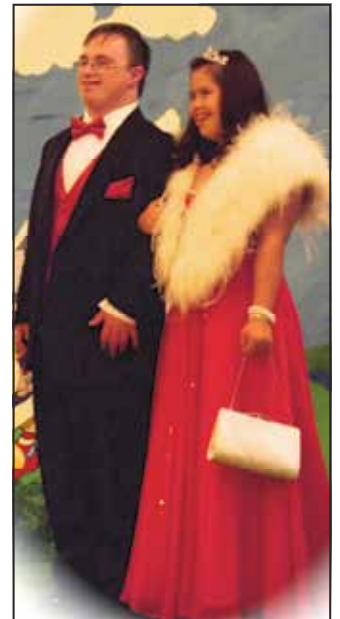
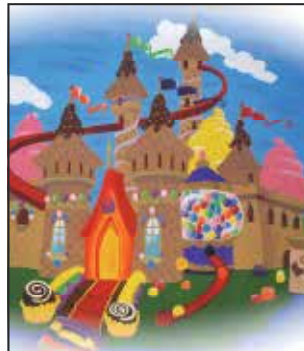
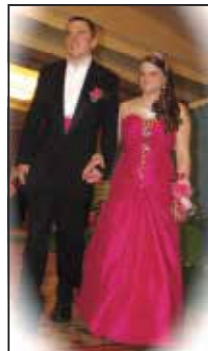
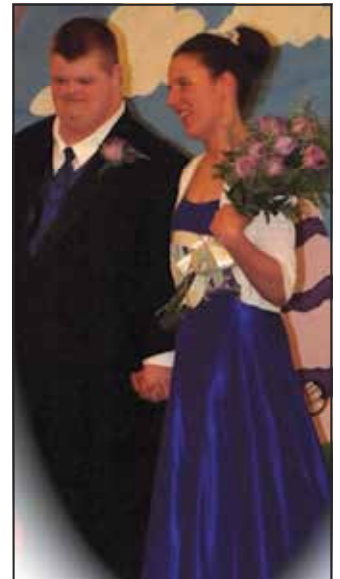
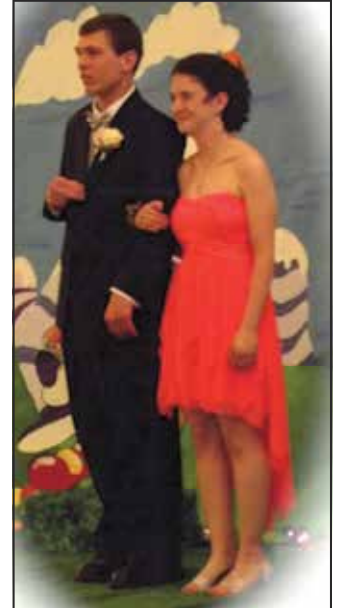
Crusader Basketball



2014 Prom - Sweet Adventure

The students of Room 105, 106, 107 and 108 danced the night away during the annual Clelian Heights prom. A Sweet Adventures theme filled the Greensburg Country Club with a candyland castle, giant lollipops, a chocolate swamp, and life sized game board.

"It's a night to be free to celebrate with friends," said teacher and prom coordinator Catherine Petrosky, .



2014 Prom - Sweet Adventure



Our Athletes Team With Seton Hill University



SHU sponsored a basketball clinic for Clelian Heights then invited the Crusaders to their court



Sports Awards



May 30, 2014 Graduation

"Today our graduates begin a new journey to a new and exciting phase of their adult lives. We are grateful for the many gifts and talents which they have developed here over the years. They have worked hard during their formal school lives and accomplished much.

We rejoice in their achievements and know they will continue as they are now to be God's blessing for each of us. We congratulate also their parents, families, teachers and staff members and so many who have watched them grow, those who have nurtured them and encouraged them along the way to be who they are today.



In the book of Jeremiah God says: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to help you grow, plans to give you a future full of hope."

We continue to support our graduates as they move on to another venture and a new hope. Our prayer for you, graduates, is that you know you are loved and are held continually in the Heart of Christ who loves you and cares for you, that you move forward with heads held high into the future that God has prepared for you. Our thoughts, best wishes and sincere congratulations are with you, members of the Class of 2014!"

Sister Ritamary Schulz, ASCJ, Executive Director



At the Clelian Center and the ATF the Focus Is On Achievement



Be sure to be a part of the 2013-2014 Annual Report by donating today!

Deadline for inclusion ends June 30. Any gift received on or after July 1 will be reported in the 2014-2015 Annual Report.

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

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

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

New Address or Phone Number Written Above

This gift is to be recorded as an Anonymous donation

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

Payment Method:

Check: *Payable to Clelian Heights* Check #: _____

Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Card #: _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Signature: _____

Expiration Date: _____

I am interested in leaving Clelian Heights in my will.

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

Thank You!



CORRECTION: Sam Wholey was omitted from the listing of Advisory Board members in the 2012-2013 Annual Donor Report from the Winter 2014 *Shavings*. Our sincere apologies.

Night at the Races a Success



It was a record breaking night of success at the **13th Annual Night at the Races** held on March 22, 2014, which raised an outstanding \$12,538, the most in the history of the event.

We also had a record attendance of 225 guests who enjoyed a delicious meal from Ski and Nick's and some very exciting racing.

Our fantastic soliciting volunteers, Anna Suman and Kathy Christy gathered an amazing 98 Basket Raffle and Winner's Choice donors with a prize value of \$6,714.00! Our basket making and display duo of Beverly Kosor and Joyce Trew really made the donations into a winner's delight!

We hope you can join us next year at the **14th Annual Night at the Races on Saturday, March 21, 2015** at the Harrison Room at Harrison City Volunteer Fire Department.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

- Sister Vivian Chiodoni, ASCJ
- Kathy Christy
- Robert Clementi
- Tammy Cox
- Pam Cusano
- Jackie Fawcett
- Ashley Faylor
- Lynn Hawkins
- Nancy Harris
- Erika Holleran
- Joe Hornock
- Karen Hull
- Beverly Kosor
- Erica Kurutz
- Lisa Liston
- Marti Mandella
- Paula Martino
- Laura McElhinny
- Sister Benjamin Merlotti, ASCJ
- Lisa Monzo
- Patricia Policastro
- Diane Ramsey
- Jeff Smith
- Mike Smith
- Anna Suman
- Joyce Trew
- Lee Urbanski and Friend
- Vickie Usher
- & all the dessert donors!*



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15601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**JOIN US at the 17th Annual
Wholey's Old Fashioned Chicken Barbecue
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014
Watch for mailing in August!**

**2015 Clelian Heights' Lottery Calendars
Available SOON!
Reserve yours today for \$25 each!
Call us 724-837-8120 ext. 124**



Special Olympic Moments

