

# Clelian Heights Newsletter

*A Family Affair*



# Shavings

SUMMER 2005

## DEAREST FRIENDS...

As far as Clelian Heights is concerned, all our donors are the greatest! We feel a tremendous sense of gratitude for you. You have certainly been a wonderful friend and a blessing behind the scenes in the life of Clelian Heights' children and young adults -- always there to show support when an unexpected need crops up.

Clelian Heights could not survive without the financial help of you faithful friends who support our programs. We have many reasons to be thankful. Daily we see small 'miracles' as the children make progress in areas we thought beyond their ability. They surprise us and we continue to encourage and affirm them in their struggles to succeed. But we are especially grateful for friends like you who choose to support our mission with your generous donations because we know that without you, we could not provide the equipped facilities and programming that are so vital to the children's progress.

Progress at Clelian Heights is slow but steady and its nurturing environment plays a big role in that success. Building an inner sense of security and self-confidence is one of the first steps. For our students, standing alone at a microphone facing a large assembly of familiar faces and singing a solo for the first time or signing the words to a song; or sitting at a desk in the classroom during a lesson and finally grasping an understanding of the math that had been only a rote exercise but now has meaning; or signing a word and attempting to verbalize it with prompts from the teacher and hearing your own voice echoing it correctly; using an assistive communication device to help you say the words you cannot seem to speak no matter how hard you try; walking the stairs one foot after another without the assistance of the physical therapist after many 'practices'; holding utensils correctly and eating neatly on one's own; learning to button a shirt, tie a shoe; strengthening muscles in order to walk correctly;

participating in races at the Special Olympics or swimming a whole lap of the pool; or completing a task without letting distractions divert one's efforts; learning to ride a bike; attempting to blow up a balloon; sharing a story, telling a joke; laughing and smiling and having fun—these are all very much "everyday things", but they are the part of life that nourishes and fosters growth and love. They are what Clelian Heights is all about.

And it is your contributions, your reaching out to extend a gift, share a talent or spend some time, that has helped make the HEART OF CLELIAN strong and well and ever beating to welcome more children, to challenge them to be more, to do more, to get into the act of life and enjoy every moment of it as they are, as they can respond, as they can make it better for one another.

It all started with your first gift and ever since then, it has continued to grow and now we can see results in the faces of the children and adults here at Clelian. And we can hope and pray that the future will be even brighter for those here and those to come because we have the hearts of so many wonderful people supporting the HEART OF CLELIAN. God bless you!

Sr. Benjamin, Development Office



# Congratulations to.....

**Sr. Charlene, Sr. Clotilde and Sr. Dolorita** as they celebrate special anniversaries of their religious life as Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a total of 50 collective years being served at Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children.

## **Mission Statement:**

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

## **Vision Statement:**

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

## **Sr. Charlene is celebrating her Silver Jubilee**

as a Religious Sister. She has been at Clelian Heights as a teacher of the younger students for 20 years. Sr. Charlene sees God's face, His love and beauty in each of the children she teaches now and throughout her years here. The children have shown Sr. Charlene how to be grateful to God for the gift of each day and to be thankful for His goodness. In her ever-serene manner, Sr. Charlene lives out the challenge to be a channel of peace to the children and everyone she meets.



**Sr. Clotilde is celebrating 60 years** as a Religious Sister and has served at Clelian Heights for the past 17 years in Direct Care Service to the girls and young ladies in our residential program. She has worked with them one individual at a time, one day at a time to help them become more independent. Sr. Clotilde strives to encourage the young ladies to develop healthy and strong relationships as they mature into young adulthood. The activities that the young ladies engage in are sometimes a challenge to Sr. Clotilde, but she meets their needs head on and encourages them to do their best at all times.



**Sr. Dolorita has been a Religious Sister for 65 years** and has been involved in special education programs for many years. She ministered in Michigan, Florida and at St. Anthony's School in Oakmont and has been here at Clelian Heights for thirteen years. She has served in teaching and administrative positions and was instrumental in beginning Special Education programs in Michigan and Florida. Presently Sr. Dolorita is a "jack of all trades" keeping busy making crafts, helping the young adults to develop skills in crocheting, knitting and sewing. She keeps herself busy in all aspects of the program and looks forward each morning to serving the residents a healthy and delicious breakfast. No one makes scrambled eggs like Sr. Dolorita. Her culinary arts are outstanding!



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## *They Make Your Gift Work Twice as Hard!*

The following corporations and foundations have generously matched gifts of their employees, directors and retirees to Clelian Heights. Is your employer listed below? If it is, you can double (or even triple) the power of your gift. Contact your HR department for information on their Matching Gift Program.

(**Note:** Even if you don't see your employer listed here, check with your HR department to see if they have a Matching Gift Program.)

**Aegom Transamerica Foundation**  
**American Express**  
**BP Amoco Corporation**  
**H. J. Heinz Company**  
**National City Bank**  
**PPG Corporation**  
**Microsoft Giving Campaign**

## *Tips for Charitable Giving*

Did you know that you can get more mileage from your charitable dollar by donating property that has appreciated in value without converting it to cash first? For example, if you bought stock at \$600 that is now worth \$1000, you can make an outright gift of the stock to charity and receive a \$1000 charitable deduction on your annual income tax with no tax due on the gain. Had you cashed in the stock first, you would have to pay income tax on the \$400 gain, even if you contributed all of the \$1000 to charity.

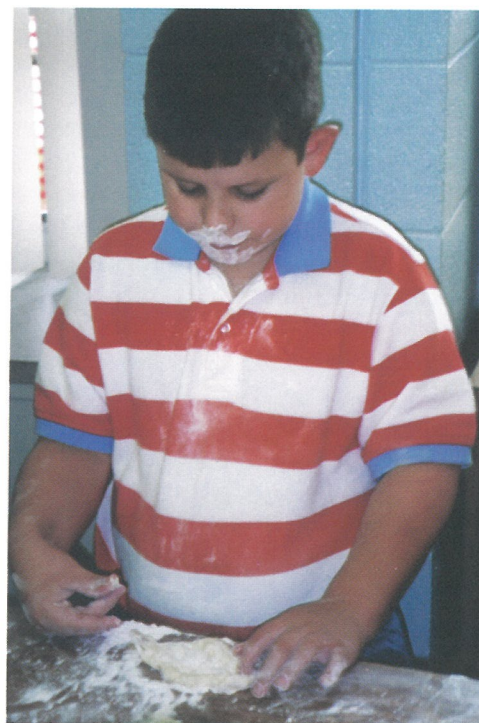
Similarly, if you want to make a specific bequest to a charity at your death, consider naming the charity as a full or partial beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), or commercial annuity account instead of leaving a cash bequest to the charity and naming your relatives as sole beneficiaries of your IRA or 401(k). Since the charity is exempt from income tax, the charity will receive the full amount of the bequest without having to pay income tax on the distribution. Had your relatives received that portion of your IRA, 401(k) or commercial annuity, they would have had to pay income tax on the interest portion of any commercial annuity and on the full amount of any IRA or 401(k).

For information on remembering Clelian Heights in your planned giving or estate planning please contact Sr. Rosemary Zaffuto, Executive Director.

## *Cathedral Window Quilt*

**Many hands make light work and a quilt.** Thanks to Loyalhannah's Quilt Guild, Margie Palmer, Alicia Harter, Anna Suman, Brenda Wilde, Jan Hower, Laura McElhinny, Sandy Sucke, Ann Miles, Sr. Clelia, Sr. Dolorita and Sr. Estelle, Clelian Heights has a beautiful handmade Cathedral Window Quilt to raffle. This quilt is a double/queen size and the colors are mainly soft, calico prints on an unbleached muslin background. Of the 666 squares, many could tell a story - a first party dress, grandmother's apron, my aunt's curtain or a son's cotton shirt. You'll also find a butterfly, a shamrock, a cross and a star square scattered throughout.

If you would like information about this quilt or would like to take a chance, please call Ann Miles in the Development Office, 724/837-8120, ext.315.



# Around Clelian Heights



*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

Thomas Kenn:  
*Morning and Evening Hymn, st.10*

## *Clelian Heights Begins New Therapeutic Program*

Clelian Heights is now the proud owner of a miniature horse named Dusty. Dusty will hopefully help to build self-esteem and responsibility as well as provide fun for our students and adults. They will learn the humane treatment of animals as they exercise, groom, feed and love Dusty. Just petting an animal can be soothing to a child with autism or even a sad child who might be hesitant to interact with people. Dusty will also be used with our 4H program as a special service project and may even be trained to visit the elderly. Pet therapy has proven beneficial to maintaining good mental health.

Dusty became a reality thanks to the efforts of many individuals. Dr. and Mrs. Phil Masciantonio, an Advisory Board Member and his wife, purchased the horse. The 84 Lumber Company donated a wood truss barn and two additional Advisory Board Members and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Mario Ferretti and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Policastro, donated the fence. Mrs. Heeter, a parent, the Greensburg Kiwanis Club, and Mrs. Linda Lewendowski, aunt of one of our adults also helped make Dusty's arrival at Clelian Heights a reality.



*...as we have opportunity,  
let us do good to all people.*

*Galatians 6:10(NIV)*

**Mark your calendar** for Sunday, Oct. 9, 2005 (not a Steeler Sunday) for our 8th Annual "old fashion chicken barbecue" sponsored by Sam Wholey and the entire family of the Robert Wholey Company from the Strip District of Pittsburgh. **Good Food and Fellowship at its best!** For more information, contact Clelian Heights Development Office at 724/837-8120, x315.



## *A.B.A.T.E. Toy Run Benefits Clelian Heights Students*

The annual ABATE (Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education) Toy Run, held in September, 2004, earmarked their donations for the Clelian Heights Playground Project. Bikers converged on the campus of WCCC filling the air with cracking pipes and exhaust. Rolling thunder was heard as they departed and snaked their way through Youngwood, Greensburg and on to Mammoth Park.

The ride was followed by many festivities. A biker applause welcome was given to Sr. Charlene and to Sr. Margaret Ann who offered a "biker blessing." A heartfelt thanks goes to Jeff Bolen, Vice President of the Westmoreland County Chapter of ABATE and Toy Run Chairperson and his committee who organized the run.

This new inclusive designed playground enables children of all abilities to learn independence and self-direction in play as well as creating a safe environment. We are grateful to ABATE for providing our school and students with this new playground being used with a great deal of fun and excitement every day.

### **United Way Contributor Choice Donations**

Clelian Heights can receive United Way Campaign donations. On you pledge form list our Contributor's Choice Code #403 and write in Clelian Heights' address.

## 2006 Lottery Calendars On Sale Now

The 2006 Yearly Lottery Calendar is now available. Based on the 7 p.m. 3 digit PA State Lottery Number, you have a chance of winning money every day of the year. A total of \$15,000.00 in cash will be given away. The cost of a calendar is \$25.00 and only 1000 are sold.

Be a savvy shopper - this a great gift for birthday, anniversaries, Christmas or any occasion you want a gift that "keeps on giving."

For more information or to purchase a calendar, call 837-8120 ext. 315.

**DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, RV OR BOAT TO CLELIAN HEIGHTS FOR A TAX DEDUCTION!**  
Please call Ann Miles at 724/837-8120 x315 for information or to make a donation.



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