

Clelian Heights Newsletter

A Family Affair



'For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven'

Shavings

Volume 1 No. 1 WINTER 1998

*A Letter
from
Sister
Adrienne*



Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children welcomed its first students in September 1961. In these past 37 years we have continued to expand and change to meet the needs of our children and young adults. In 1991 we had a dream that has brought Clelian Heights new life as well as new challenges. Two phases of our dream have been successfully completed. Phase I was realized by the completion of two apartment buildings for young women which are currently "home" for twenty-two women. Phase II gave us the beautiful Recreational and Therapy Center which provides an exciting recreational venue for all our students and adult clients. As we look back over the years we are very grateful for all our dreams which have been realized.

Our next dream is to secure the future of our mission and programs through Phase III -our Endowment Fund. In the past we have received generous support from our parents, benefactors, and corporate sponsors whose financial support and

commitment has helped us to realize our goals and dreams. Our challenge now is to seek additional benefactors and corporate sponsors who will assist us in reaching this goal. Together we can realize our dream and secure the future of Clelian Heights thus insuring our "special" children and adults the opportunity to be all they can be.

We, Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pledge our continued support of the Endowment Fund and ask you to share in our ministry of providing quality education and care of mentally and physically challenged children and young adults. You can do this by supporting the endowment work in various ways including planned gifts, wills, charitable gifts, annuities, gifts of real estate, life insurance or through any other creative manner in which you wish to remember Clelian Heights School. The enclosed envelope is for our Annual Christmas appeal. I am grateful for your generous gifts in the past. I hope you can continue to be supportive of our mission.

Know that God who created and loves His special children will reward you richly! Happy Thanksgiving, and a very Merry Christmas to you and yours from Clelian Heights!

Why Shavings?

Does anyone remember where the name 'Shavings' came from? The story is a lovely reminder of just what our mission is all about. It is worthy of being repeated here.

Shavings the little unglamorous necessities of the Master's creation - just as important in their seeming uselessness as the beautiful wood that captures all the praise and attention. But without them, the master's thought would take no form; his plan would have no shape.

Shavings fallen to the carpenter's floor...their part in the overall creation of the finished thing of beauty, seemingly forgotten. Jesus, as an infant crawled among the wood shavings in his carpenter father Joseph's shop. They were his delight. He caressed them, loved them in their simplicity. He asked, "Father, may I have them?" They were far more important to him than the finished masterpiece. So, we too take the 'shavings' of this world and they are indeed our delights.

You are Invited!
Please join
us for our
Spring Banquet!

Keynote Speaker
Fr. Martin Bartel, O.F.M.
St. Vincent College,
Latrobe

March 27, 1999
6:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Four Points Hotel
by
Sharon
Greensburg

R.S.V.P.
Sr. Adrienne DiLonardo
Executive Director
(724) 837-8120

SHAVINGS

CLELIAN HEIGHTS
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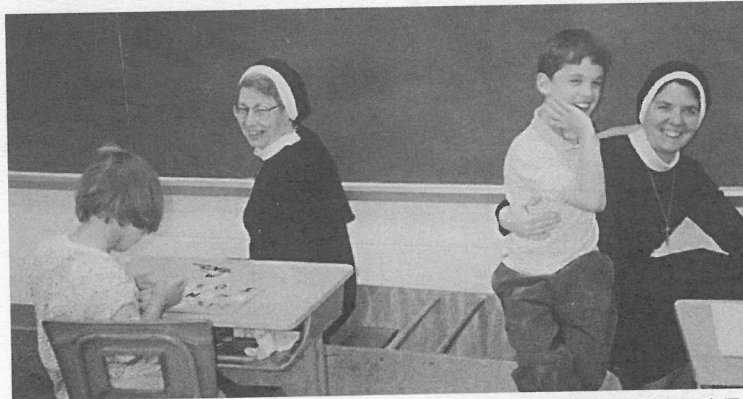
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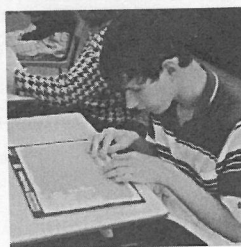
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Who Do We Serve?

Clelian Heights serves individuals with a variety of disabilities. Several of our students and young adults are affected by chromosomal disorders or Syndromes such as Downs, Fragile X, Prader-Willi, and Smith-Magenis. Some individuals carry a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy or another type of neurological disorder which affects their cognitive ability as well as their motor skills. While still others may be developmentally delayed because of autism, accident or due to some undiagnosed cause. Academic learning may be difficult for some individuals but with proper education, vocational training, encouragement and a caring environment, these students and young adults can achieve the goal of leading productive, happy lives to the fullest extent of their ability.



UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTOR CHOICE DONATIONS

The 1998 United Way Campaign is underway. Many companies ask their workers to make a payroll deduction or cash contribution in support of this campaign. We encourage you to participate in Contributor Choice, a United Way program that allows you to choose where your contribution will be used. Clelian Heights is approved by the United Way to receive Contributor Choice donations. Please consider exercising your right to select CLELIAN HEIGHTS for your United Way gift. The code for Westmoreland County residents is N-008. Those in Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania, simply mark your form with Code Number 403. Through these gifts last year we received about \$9500.00. May God bless all those who not only participate, but encourage others to participate in this donor option program.

Spotlight Lauren Ciccarelli



Periodically we would like to focus in on one of our special people. To begin we will tell you the story of a timid, retiring little girl who today is an independent woman holding down two part time jobs!

In 1978 Lauren a little 10 year old girl with a big smile, was enrolled in our school program. She had started out in public school until her parents found out about Clelian. While at Clelian Heights Lauren participated in our life skills program as a day student. At the time, the thought of staying at Clelian Heights as a resident was very frightening to Lauren as she was still very shy and reticent to even socialize with the other students or to participate in after school activities. Her teachers attest to the fact that Lauren was a joy to have in class. Her winning smile and desire to succeed are Lauren's strong points. With a positive attitude towards life Lauren tried her best at every task and seemed to enjoy challenges. She developed a sense of responsibility and a thoughtful, respectful concern for others, qualities she still lives by today.

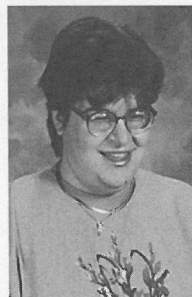
Over time and with much support and encouragement from her teachers



it was heartwarming to see Lauren progress into a confident young lady. Upon graduation from Clelian, Lauren surprised her mother by deciding to enter the young adult program as a resident in the "White House."

Despite the fact that many Sunday evenings were met with fears and tears about returning to Clelian from home, Lauren soon adjusted to her new situation as a resident in the adult program.

Today 20 years later Lauren not only works at Kings Restaurant 2 days a week and Super 8 Motel, but also manages to maintain her own apartment in the Sweeney Apartment building. She has a very active social life, participating in dances, aerobics and family gatherings. Lauren is an excellent role model not only for the younger students in the school but also for her peers. Her subtle sense of humor and easy going nature make her well liked by everyone. All of us would readily agree with her mother who says that in reflecting upon

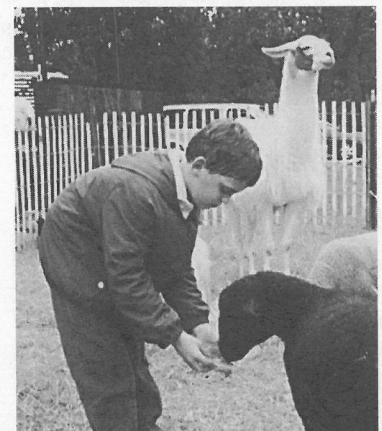


Lauren's progress over the years, "I feel very proud of her maturation into a lovely and lovable young woman dealing with a full range of emotions and responsibilities."

emotions and responsibilities."

Clelian Wish List

Gym Mats
Videos
Laser Printer
Color Printer
Imac Computers
Scanner
Adult tricycles
Software upgrades
Craft ideas/projects
Small print Material
Narrow ribbons
Sewing Threads
35 mm Zoom camera
35mm Film
Photo Albums
New Bed Linens
Newsletter Sponsor
Treadmill
Dishwasher for
HomeEc



VOLUNTEERS

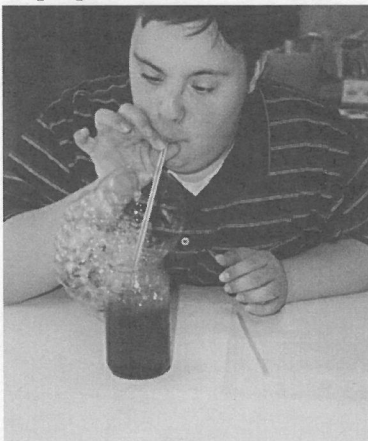
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Clelian Heights Staff is grateful to our generous volunteers that help in a variety of ways. There are many areas of the school, grounds and the physical plant itself that could use an extra pair of willing hands.

We **always** welcome new volunteers - if you can spare some time to come and help us out we would be more than happy to put you to work. We always need help with special maintenance projects, such as touch-up painting, seasonal yard work, interior and exterior maintenance, as well as one-on-one aides working alongside a special child in school or in the workshop. Providing after school companionship, age 18 and up, weekdays from 3-9 p.m., for reading, tutoring, computers, swimming, cooking, games and general recreational fun is another area of need.

From Friday, November 27th to Thursday, December 24th, many hands are needed at the Clelian Heights Gift Wrap Booth at Westmoreland Mall. To sign-up for the best afternoon or evening for you, please call Hallie Kissell, booth co-ordinator, at (724) 423-3217

Just give us a call - we'll find the right place for you, one that is **guaranteed** to add a whole new meaning and appreciation to your life, by truly understanding the phrase 'simple pleasures'.



DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Tina Rusiski

P R E P A R I N G

FOR THE

M I L L E N N I U M

PHASE III
ENDOWMENT
FUND

How do we prepare for the future? For many, just the thought of getting our affairs in order is frightening and rather unsettling. Why? Possibly because the necessary planning and ensuing discussions require a strong sense of **FAITH** and a mature awareness that we can only control and make financial decisions over gifts **GOD** has already blessed us with. The gift has already been received and unwrapped; now careful, **PRAYERFUL** discernment needs to occur.

This special place that is Clelian Heights is about to embark on an amazing project. The task, although arduous, is also very, very special. It will mean the difference between steadily increasing financial concerns, and a calm, prayerful, peaceful knowledge that **God's** work here for his special little ones will continue and thrive. As we begin, we will explore the issue of **ENDOWMENT**, gifts that continue giving in **perpetuity**; or gifts with an annuity payable indefinitely.

In this type of Investment Instrument, the principal will **NEVER** be used; only the annual return will be used. The goal of these particular funds, received annually, is to try and offset the huge operating costs of this institution, while keeping tuition at an affordable rate for our families. Can you help us?

A Gift of Love

Can you make a Christmas or end-of-the-year gift to help the children at Clelian Heights? As we begin 1999, it is good to know we have friends we can always count on. Your gift goes directly to helping God's special ones at Clelian Heights School and Vocational Training Center. Gifts for the operating costs, or the Endowment Fund are tax deductible items for your 1998 Income Tax.



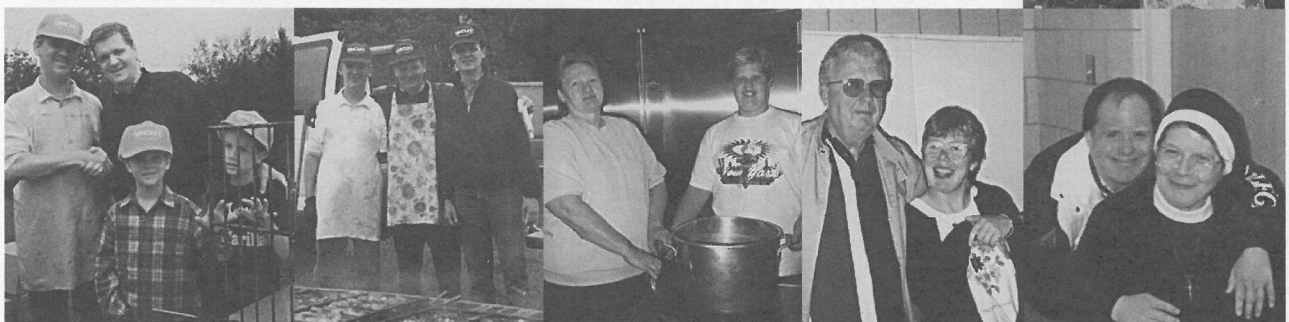
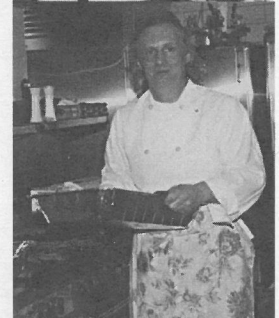
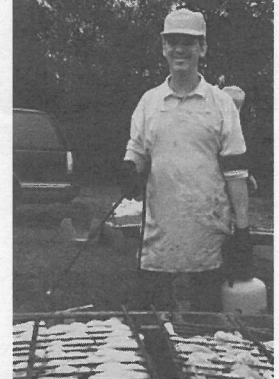
Fall Feasting at its Best !

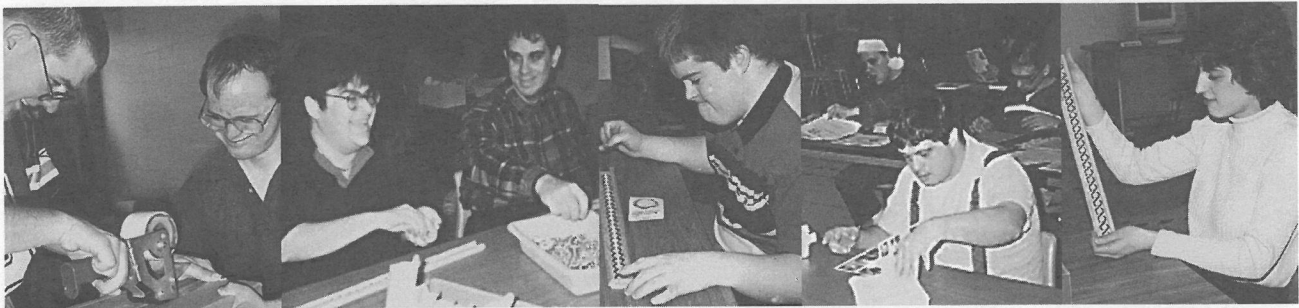
Sunday, October 4, began as a beautiful, chilly morning in western Pennsylvania. However, by mid-afternoon, the full warmth of the very best gifts of humanity; compassion and genuine interest in our Clelian students was clearly evident throughout the campus. Sam Wholey of The Robert Wholey Company graciously provided an 'old fashioned chicken barbecue' as a fall open house event at Clelian Heights. Raffle items were a beautiful Michael Anthony handmade rug, a Pasta basket from Rizzo's, and a lovely afghan made by Sister Clelia.

Over 500 guests enjoyed visiting with the Sisters, the students, and each other during a very pleasant afternoon. Many of these guests had never been here before, but have been loyal and devoted supporters of our mission at Clelian Heights. A full tour of the school, the Recreation Therapy Center, the dormitories, the apartments and Chip's House was available for all those interested.

Sam Wholey's generous nature is evident throughout the entire Wholey Family. For decades, Sam's father, Robert Wholey always provided a chicken barbecue picnic for St. Anthony's School for Exceptional Children in Oakmont, a previous mission of the Sisters of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Sam, continuing in his father's footsteps, truly made the Barbecue a 'WHOLEY FAMILY AFFAIR', joined by his brothers Dan and Jim Wholey, as assistant grillmasters, and Dan's two sons, Michael, age 9, and Mathew, age 6, as well as Jim's son, Max, age 7. Another critically important Wholey helper was 'Burger Bob'; alias Master Chef and Caterer extraordinaire, Robert Mehalich, who effortlessly supervised the Clelian kitchen staff and volunteers. Additional indispensable grill helpers were Dewey and Alicia Harter, our Chips's house residential supervisors, and Rob, Eric, and Adam Rusiski.

We heartily thank Sam Wholey and his entire family for one of the most enjoyable and memorable feasts ever! Sam, we love you!





Clelian Business Center News

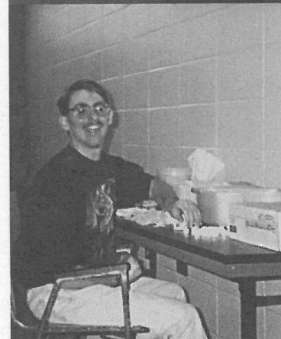
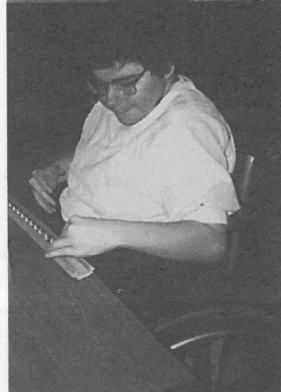
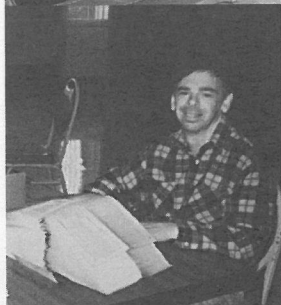
One of the busiest places within the Clelian Heights complex is the adult work room and vocational training center.

Run very much like a corporate office setting, it is under the supervision of Charles Demangone, the Production Manager. He and his brother, Lawrence Demangone, Vocational Trainer, and Job Coach, have almost as many years at Clelian as the Sisters. Charles has had 27 years association with the school, but Lawrence tops that with 29 years!

From a small beginning with just 10 client workers packaging window latch assembly kits for Amocor Industries, the center now employs over 40 young adult clients. Everything from small parts assembly, like the contract for porch railing kits for Age Craft Industries, to mailings of catalogs, newsletters, and monthly calendars for the Central Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce are handled in an extremely efficient and timely manner. A simple 1500 piece newsletter has an average turn-around delivery time of 24 hours. The most complicated and biggest project successfully completed by the center was a 25,000 piece sports catalog mailing for Scott A. Smith of Allegheny Publishing that involved placing and glueing a baseball card and batting roster into the catalog.

Clients are matched to specific jobs based on their abilities, speed, and attention span. They receive wages based on their own productivity on a piece rate basis. All clients are exposed to normal business conditions and equipment, and learn to operate copiers, staplers, and a time clock, thus learning the value of quarters of an hour. Items needed for the Business Center include scrap paper, invitations, reply envelopes, ink stamps, and mailing labels for use as practice pieces. On the 'wish list' is an additional heat sealer and a window air conditioner.

The Clelian Business Center staff includes Mary Jean Bryan, Sister Dolorita Colianni, ASCJ, and Sister Dominic Joseph Valla, ASCJ, Vocational Trainers. There are two additional Job Coaches, Sr. Margaret Ann Calcutta and Ms. Colleen Radebaugh, responsible for job coaching and placement for young adults in competitive employment. In addition to office procedures, food service training in the Clelian Heights kitchen is under the supervision of Gerry Vought, while the commercial laundry training is under the guidance of Sister Angelica Zarinelli, ASCJ. Housekeeping is supervised by Sister Marietta Bartone, ASCJ. Please consider using Clelian Business Center for your packaging, newsletter and/or Christmas card mailings. Just like the postal service...we'll come through regardless of snow, sleet or rain!



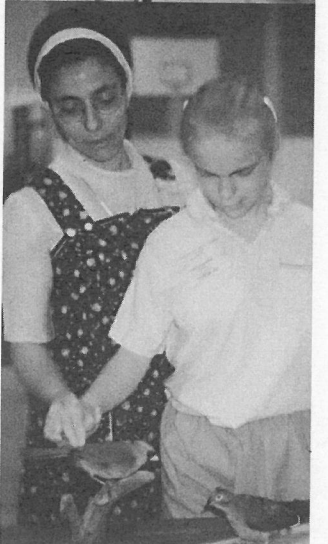
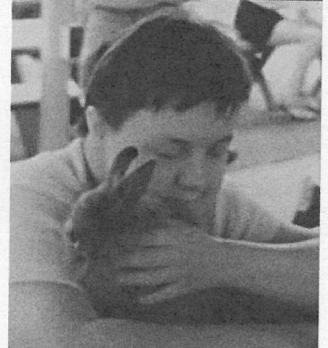
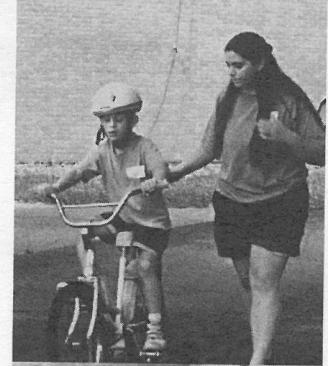


Summer Camp 1998!

As Mother nature reveals her first signs of winter...the "fun in the sun" experienced during the summer months is a memory that is quickly fading for most of us. This is not the case for a group of people who will not let this season die because it represents the friendship and love, enjoyment and good times they experienced during the summer camp program at Clelian Heights.

Each year, during the month of July, Clelian Heights opens its doors to many children and young adults with developmental disabilities for a summer camp program which provides academic enrichment, community awareness, socialization and various forms of recreation. Even more important than the daily activities, a very special part of camp is the interaction and friendship that develops between the campers and the many people who volunteer to help out during the program. This past July, we were fortunate enough to have about 35 day volunteers. Many of these volunteers signed up for only one day a week. After only a few encounters with our special campers, the volunteers would appear at camp more and more throughout the month. Our "live in" volunteers, Sisters and high school girls from CT, MO, and NJ, traveled great distances to spend every moment they could with our children and young adults.

How many wonderful gifts came out of these four short weeks! Our campers received the gifts of love, support and encouragement in so many ways from these generous volunteers who they now call "friends". Although the volunteers come with the idea that they would do the giving, they too received so many marvelous gifts as well! What more could they ask for but unconditional love and acceptance. Perhaps the summer camp program at Clelian Heights extends beyond seasonal boundaries. The obvious warmth and joy experienced by both campers and volunteers is something that will not change like the weather...It is something that lives on because hearts have touched and the love of God has been shared.



*The Christmas
Holly Sale
Crafts, Gifts,
Surprises*



*thru
December 22, 1998
Clelian Heights School Lobby*

In 1961 Clelian Heights School was founded as a private, non-profit school with the goal of helping developmentally delayed individuals. The school's mission is "to provide spiritual, educational, vocational, and residential programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities that enhance the quality of life and maximize their potential for independent living." In the Fall of 1997 Clelian Heights received a Private Academic License from the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Clelian Heights is a home, a school, a place of work, and a place where friends live, gather and recreate. The unique programs at Clelian Heights School emphasize a holistic approach to education and life long learning - one that takes into consideration the whole person's needs from early childhood through adulthood. The atmosphere created by the staff is one of total acceptance, care and love, while challenging and supporting all children to reach their potential. The small classes, along with a developmentally appropriate curriculum, emphasize academic education as well as pre-vocational training. The staff and parents are equally proud of the accomplishments of the children as they continue to attempt to reach for new and challenging goals. For more than 35 years Clelian Heights School has made a lasting difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Clelian Heights truly is an exceptional place for exceptional children. For further information or to plan a visit please contact Sr. Linda at 724/837-8120. Visit our website at www.clelianheights.org

Have you remembered Clelian Heights in your Will ?



Clelian Heights Shavings

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