

Celian Heights

A Family Affair



'For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven'

Shavings

Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 2 SPRING 1999

A Letter
from
Sister
Adrienne



Once again signs of new life are all around us as dormant trees and bushes bud forth. Daffodils, tulips, and crocuses are blooming with vibrant colors announcing that winter is past and spring is here in all its glory.

New signs of growth are seen not only in nature but also in the lives of many Celian Heights students and young adults who blossom forth as they master new challenges. A child conquers the art of shoe tying; the Celian Center clients receive a new job contract; our five seniors prepare for graduation; new clients enter the competitive work force; new students enroll for the fall semester. In this edition of *Shavings* you will read how evident these signs of growth are in the lives of our students and adults.

The theme of our recent Endowment Banquet, "Come Grow With Us" is appropriate because for almost forty years Celian Heights School has been nurturing children with developmental disabilities and watching them blossom into adulthood.

Our task is to secure the future for these children and young adults. We dream to do this by increasing our endowment fund to at least 3 million dollars over the next few years. We count on the encouragement, support, and cooperation of our many friends and benefactors to help us in our mission to provide programs that enhance the quality of life for our children and young adults and to maximize their potential for independent living. We, cannot do this without you!

Enclosed you will find our spring appeal inviting you to "Come Grow With Us." There are several levels of giving possible. As the Millennium quickly approaches, we encourage you to become a member of the Millennium Club, a special group of people who contribute \$2000 in honor of the Millennium. However, any contribution you are able to make will be deeply appreciated. Thank you again for your generous support of our programs. You have a special place in the daily prayers of the children, adults, staff and sisters. May the Risen Savior fill you with Easter peace and joy.

Variety Club "Sunshine Coach" Arrives

The gleaming white 12 passenger van you may have seen on campus is part of a special program from the Variety Club of Pittsburgh and the Ford Motor Company. We are so very grateful to Mr. Joseph Salvucci, Chief Barker, and Mr. Robert Brozovich who were instrumental in helping Celian Heights receive the new van. Resolving mobility issues for physically challenged youngsters is the focus of the Variety Club. Please support their efforts in helping others in need each time you hear of a Variety Club event. Thank you Variety Club Members...we LOVE the new van!



Mr. Joseph Salvucci, Chief Barker, presents the keys for the new Variety Club Van to Sr. Linda, as Sr. Adrienne and Variety's Executive Director, Al Schubert show it to some Celian students.



*Things we could use at
Clelian Heights School:*

- Laser Printer * Adult tricycles * 35 mm Zoom camera * 35mm Film * Photo Albums * New Items for '99 Auction * Power Mac or iMac Computer * Folding tables * Filing Cabinet * Commercial or Home Refrigerator * Freezer * Table Games * Computer Workstation * Summer craft projects * Craft Paints and brushes * Zip disks * Zip drives

* Receive a Tax deduction for every item of value donated.

SHAVINGS

CLELIAN HEIGHTS

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Development Progress

This year we received many positive responses from our grant proposals. The following is a brief description of the specific project funded, and the corporation or foundation responsible for the grant.

The Anne and George Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust

\$10,000 for the "Transition -To-Work" project, providing sorting, manipulative, and classification work sets, as well as a Video series on pre-employment issues.

The Ronald MacDonald House Charities

\$5,000 towards transportation needs of young students.

McFEELY-ROGERS FOUNDATION

\$1,000 toward Scholarship **McKinney Charitable Trust**

\$15,000 towards a new handi-capped accessible van.

PNC Charitable Trust

\$11,000 towards renovations to residential dormitories.

EDEN HALL FOUNDATION

Funding of Grant for programming support.

The Edith Trees Charitable Trust

\$166,879 grant to repave the campus driveway and parking lots, replace outdoor lighting, railings, and provide back-up generator for kitchen freezer.

The Community Foundation of Greensburg

\$2,500 to retrofit public restroom for handicap accessibility.

STAUNTON FARM FOUNDATION

Two-year grant for the "Transition-To-Work" Project.

We are very grateful to these foundations and private trusts who have made a commitment to the mission of Clelian Heights.

**Clelian Heights
Summer Enrichment
Program**

We are happy to announce our 1999 Clelian Heights Summer Enrichment Program. This program is a continuation of our ministry to children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Sessions will begin on Monday, June 28th and end on Friday, July 23rd. As in the past, the main emphasis of our enrichment program will focus on weekly themes, socialization and recreation. The following activities will be offered: special programs from the Carnegie Museum, arts and crafts, biking, sports, visitors from the community, and weekly field trips. We welcome anyone who might be interested in volunteering for this program. For more information, please mail the section below.

Clelian Heights

Summer Enrichment Program

Please send me information about the following:

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Student Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail To:

Sr. Charlene Celli
RR 9 Box 607
Greensburg, PA 15601

This form does not promise nor guarantee acceptance; space is limited.

Spotlight



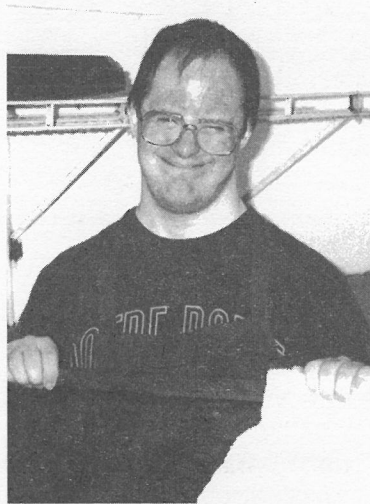
*Michael
Policastro*

Spotlight this issue is on a very hardworking young man who lives at Chip's House. Michael Policastro is an easy-going 30 year old who has been at Clelian Heights for 24 years. Michael has been employed at Christopher's Sweet Shop in Murrysville for almost four years. His responsibilities include washing, drying and putting away the pots and pans used for baking the delicious goodies for sale at the shop. Michael takes his job very seriously and he rarely misses a day. He knows that the bakers are counting on him so they can do their jobs.

Michael has many recreational interests that he engages in while at Chip's House and when home for the weekends. He enjoys swimming, skiing, bowling, and basketball. Michael loves to tease with the other guys, and he is always ready for a good water gun fight.



Michael, right, with friend Mark Suman and Mom Pat



Michael at work at Christopher's Sweet Shop

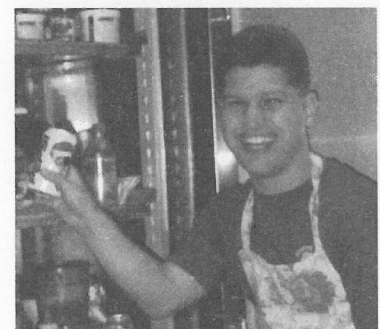
During Notre Dame football season he can always be found in front of his television. He watches the games religiously, praying his rosary for a Notre Dame victory each week. Michael is a longstanding member of the Clelian Heights Boy Scout troop, and now as a senior scout he willingly helps the younger members learn the Scout ways. Michael also participates in the local Faith and Light group at St. John's in Delmont, and is an altar server in his home parish, Mother of Sorrows.

Clelian Heights is Michael's home away from home and he enjoys living at Chip's House with his friends. He recognizes his own growing sense of independence, and he is very proud to be an independent young man. We too recognize that Michael has grown up to be a responsible, sensitive and gentle person, and we are very proud to be a part of his life.

Job Development News

During the past few months several of our adults have made the transition into competitive employment. Aubree Roberts, who has a fondness for animals, is currently volunteering at All Pets Hospital, Greensburg and hopes to be put on the payroll in the near future. Since Bobbie Joe Skufca has a natural ability for working in food service Sr. Margaret Ann, her job coach, had no trouble finding employment for Bobbie Joe at the Greensburg Country Club. There she joined two of our other young adults, Sherrie Furtak and Carolyn Trilli who work in the laundry department. Tracy Balcerek is our latest young adult to be hired in the community. She recently began working at McDonald's in Delmont where she is responsible for a variety of tasks.

We are proud of the accomplishments of all of our adults and are grateful to our local businesses who recognize quality workers and are willing to give them a chance.



Cliff Trice at work in the Clelian School Kitchen



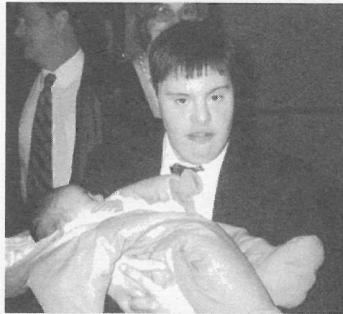
Sr. Adrienne with the Wholey Family



The Clelian Singers, led by Sister Margaret Ann, accompanied by Mr. Lawrence M. Demangone



Joe DeNardo, Fr. Martin Bartel, OSB and Sr. Linda Pettinella, ASCJ



Clelian student Brendan Murray with his niece, our youngest guest 7 week old Miss Emma Cullo

Endowment Banquet



“Come Grow With Us”, the theme of the newest effort to secure the future of Clelian Heights was taken quite literally by our loyal supporters as the banquet at the Four Points Sheraton on Saturday, March 27th was filled to capacity. Emcee was WTAE Meteorologist Joe DeNardo, and the Keynote address of the evening was delivered by Fr. Martin Bartel, OSB, President of St. Vincent College in Latrobe. Mr. DeNardo had the overflow crowd laughing at his witty commentary and wry observations of being glad to be in the company of some very special people.

Fr. Martin shared some of his fond memories of his time as a young seminarian working at Clelian Heights during the 1980's. His favorite memory was of arriving at the front door of the school in late October, to be greeted by a beautiful young princess, who escorted him to help lead a parade of young Clelian students dressed in costumes for the school's traditional Halloween Parade. Fr. Martin noted that he specifically remembers the very real sense of love for the children conveyed by the Sisters here, and how they were able to make every little girl feel like a beautiful princess, and every little boy feel like a superhero.

We extend sincere thanks to all who made this evening of learning and sharing possible. We are grateful to The Endowment Banquet Committee: Betty and Tony Abramovic, Ben and Ellie Bernacchi, Gwen Brown, Tom and Barbara Drozd, John Howard, who donated the tiny trees given to each guest, Hallie Kissell, Kris Leonard, Olga and Jules Melogran, Pat Policastro, Carol Sue Rocker, Monica and Karl Vent, Lisa Vinck, and Sam Wholey, who donated the salmon entree from the Robert C. Wholey Company.

We also thank Mr. Bob Mori, who produced the video for the evening, and Mr. Ted Thompson, who produced slides for the slide show.



Sr. Adrienne and her sister Lena DiLonardo greet the Vent and Drozd Families



Joe meets Clelian's Michael Kissell



Carol Sue Rocker and Family



The John Howard Family meets Clelian's Greg Boyle and Michael Kissell

Happenings out and about...

If you happen to think that January, February and March are "tunnel" months with not much going on then you certainly have not spent any time at Clelian Heights! Despite the snow, ice and sleet, activities were still plentiful from cross country skiing to selling Girl Scout cookies to Easter egg hunts to preparing for the Swimming Special Olympics!



Our athletes are involved in a variety of Special Olympic events: bowling, swimming, skiing and track and field. In early February vans of Clelian Heights students, adults and chaperones traveled to Hidden Valley to practice cross country skiing, despite the lack of snow. Creative thinking by the Hidden Valley staff turned a would be disaster into a terrific experience.

Our cross country skiers practiced at the base of the down hill slopes that were snow covered. Three weeks later Michael Anthony, Priscilla Fitzpatrick, Sherrie Furtak, Courtney Gabos, Katie McDonough and Bobbie Joe Skufca participated in the state winter olympics games, and came back with lots of medals!

Upcoming events are the Swimming Olympics on April 17, with over 25 Clelian participants. Our youngest swimmer is 10, the oldest is veteran swimmer, Arthur Russo at age 43! Track and field events are May 15 at Latrobe Stadium.

Life Enrichment Classes

This year a series of Life Enrichment Classes was offered to our young adults. The first class was an Art Experience class and this semester we offered a Cake Decorating class taught by Mrs. Mary Zappone, food service instructor for Westmoreland County Community College. The sessions focused on learning how to use various tools and tips for cake decorating.

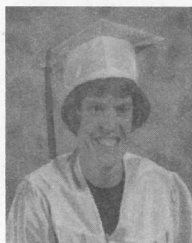
The class began decorating a cookie, then a cup cake. The final session involved applying their recently learned skills to decorating an eight-inch layer cake!

Congratulations

May 29 will mark a milestone in the lives of five very special people at Clelian Heights. On that day, Courtney Gabos, Michael Kissell, John Kita, Kimberly Nunley and Christian Redfern will graduate! Over the years we have seen them grow and develop into mature men and women. Not only have they learned academic skills but have also received vocational training as well.

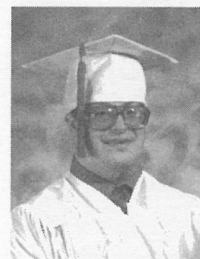
Currently all five students are involved in a "Transition-To-Work" program and volunteering in diverse fields.

Since Courtney expressed an interest in beauty salon work, Ms.

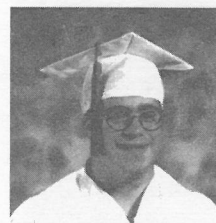


Tami Rottler, the teacher/job coach, found a position for her at Country Cuts Hair Styling Salon.

John Kita and Michael Kissell are both at St. Anne's



Home working in the kitchen and dining room areas. Mike enjoys working in the kitchen and has made many new friends.



Transporting residents back to their rooms after a full afternoon of activities

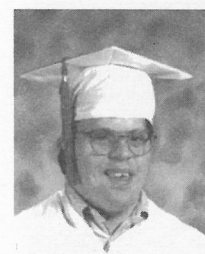
keeps John on the go.

Every Tuesday after-



noon Kim can be found at the Delmont Salem Cross Roads day care assisting with the four year old class.

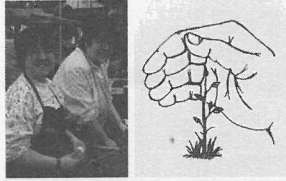
Christian Redfern has discovered his niche working in the Clelian Center laundry every Monday morning



helping Sr. Dolorita and her crew sort, wash, dry and fold rags for Maids to Order.

We are proud of the achievements of these students and wish them well as they move into the Clelian Center adult program.

"Gardening from the heart"



What to do when 1,550 geranium shoots arrive on the Clelian campus? Call on the devoted members of the Western Pennsylvania Garden Club # 1183. Eight gardeners, under the direction of Joe Calcutta, father of Sister Margaret Ann Calcutta, spent an entire day working with our young adult women Tracy Balcerek, Lauren Ciccarelli, Diana Gaydos, Aubree Roberts, and Jonna Villella. The gardeners and their apprentices unloaded the crates of shoots, prepared hundreds of pounds of potting soil and potted each shoot in about 7 hours of non-stop gardening fun.

The men participating included Joe Calcutta, Bob Carney, Tom Piotrowski, Jerry Suman, Randy and John Fehl, Anthony Chepanoske, and Rick Fleming. These lovely Geraniums will be sold from our Greenhouse May 17th thru the first week of June.



Fragile X syndrome

Fragile X syndrome is currently considered the most common genetically-inherited form of mental retardation. It can be passed on in families by members who exhibit no signs of the syndrome since not all who carry the Fragile X gene are symptomatic. Great strides have been made in diagnosing individuals with Fragile X in the last ten years because the genetic testing has become so much more refined. Geneticists recommend that all family members be informed when someone is diagnosed with Fragile X so all can be tested for the syndrome, more specifically to see if an individual has the capability to pass on the gene if that person has a child. The mystery of this syndrome is that not all who can pass it on will have a child or children who have Fragile X syndrome, but they might.

In the past many individuals with Fragile X were considered autistic since they often exhibit similar characteristics. A simple genetic test can confirm or deny the presence of the Fragile X gene. Individuals with Fragile X syndrome may have a few or many of the following characteristics. Some physical characteristics common to the syndrome are large ears, a long narrow face, a prominent forehead, large testicles, high palate, hand callouses, mitral valve prolapse, seizures, and eye problems.

Some non-physical characteristics are developmental delay, mental retardation, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, short attention span, autistic-like features: hand biting, hand flapping, poor eye contact, shyness, social anxiety, talkativeness, rapid repetitive speech, and difficulty adjusting to change. This syndrome is passed on the X chromosome so males usually have more symptoms because the only X chromosome they have is affected. Females have two X chromosomes and therefore have one chromosome that will function normally.

It is important to be educated about many various syndromes and types of disabilities because all individuals with mental retardation are not the same, and they can not be treated as if they are. Children with Fragile X do not learn in the usual systemic method. These individuals learn by seeing the whole picture again and again. This is a vital piece of information for a teacher in a classroom or for a parent of a young child. Families should not be afraid to push clinicians to get diagnoses for their children. It is only when a disability is known and well understood by families and educators that the person with the disability can best be served.

Estate Seminar

For Parents and Guardians of Children and Adults with Special Needs. Presented by First Insurance Management, a Subsidiary of First National Bank of Herminie and Hartford Insurance Company.

May 25, 1999 @ 7pm
Ferrante's Lakeview
Rt. 30 in Greensburg

To reserve a seat, call Violet at
1-724-446-3400
1-724-744-3440

30 Plus Years of SERVICE

Sr. Angelica has been living and giving and growing at Clelian Heights for 32 years. Words fail to express our gratitude for her years of faithfulness, generosity and love in this ministry. Sister Angelica came to Clelian Heights with a wealth of experience in teaching and administration. Prior to arriving at Clelian, Sr. Angelica served in over eight ministries throughout the country.

Sr. Angelica came to Clelian Heights in 1967 just as construction was beginning on the main building. The few Sisters lived in the White House with the children they served. Quite a different Clelian Heights than the one we know today! As the program grew so too did the responsibilities that each of the Sisters had to assume. Sr. Angelica was never afraid of that responsibility, and therefore has worn many hats over the years. No job was ever too big or too small if it was going to benefit Clelian and its special people.

For many years Sr. Angelica taught in the school in the morning and taught practical crafts in the Ceramic and Sewing Rooms in the afternoon. She spent nine years living with the young women in the White House. She would teach all day, have a break until after dinner and then go over to the White House and help Sr. Virginia, the residential Supervisor, in the evening. Even though the days were long and the work was, at times, hard, Sr. Angelica remembers being very happy.

This spirit of happiness and dedication carried Sr. Angelica through the many changes at Clelian Heights over the years.



As the adult program began to expand, she moved from teaching in the school to training the adults in the workshop. Sr. Angelica began taking care of the chapel when the main building opened, and she did this job with joyful dedication throughout her time here.

Sr. Angelica moved to Sacred Heart Manor in CT on April 8, 1999. She left behind a legacy of love in the lives of the many people she encountered in her many years at Clelian Heights. Her gentle spirit touched more people than we could ever imagine because she treated everyone with the dignity and respect that all of God's people deserve.

- Alicia Harter

"Miss Perfection"

Sr. Angelica worked many years training our young adults in the laundry. I knew immediately if Sister was not present; the girls' sheets did not have that same smooth, perfect fold! Go into the Chapel closets and drawers at any unexpected moment, and you will find the 'Sister Angelica touch' everywhere! The same is true of her own room or any area under her care. Most amazing of all is that all this would be done with the greatest calm and serenity! God Bless You, Sister Angelica...we certainly will miss you and that special touch!

-Sr. Clotilde

It has been my great fortune and pleasure to live at Clelian Heights with Sr. Angelica for 14 years. During this time, I have learned so much from Sister regarding ministry with children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Sr. Angelica always had a wonderful way of making each person feel special. She gave so many the opportunity to produce wonderful works of art through her talent in the areas of ceramics, knitting, hook rugs and so many other hobbies. How important this all was in building up the self-esteem of many of our children and young adults. I think Sr. Angelica will be best remembered here at Clelian Heights for her ability to spread the love of the Heart of Christ -- by making everyone feel so important, accepted and loved by God.

-Sr. Charlene

Remembering Sister:

I have lived with Sr. Angelica for over 30 years and I consider myself blessed to have known such a beautiful person. Her kind, gentle spirit showed her love for Clelian Heights and for all the children. Her prayerful presence revealed her dedication to her vocation and mission as an Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I will really miss Sr. Angelica and I hate to see her go.

-Sr. Clelia

"Such good things can happen to people who learn to remember."

Emily Dickinson

Strolling back "memory lane" my fondest memories of Sr. Angelica are when she was my principal during the 1960's at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Pittsburgh. Those were joyfilled happy days. As a young Sister, I was deeply impressed by Sister Angelica's ability to assume the responsibilities of leadership along with a fulltime teaching position. Sister led by her quiet example of dignity, fairness, patience and humor.

Under Sister's leadership, a tone of Christ-like serenity and peace prevailed throughout the school. Her gentle kindness earned the respect and trust of the Pastor, parents, faculty, students, and community at large.

Sisters' many years of service to the church and to the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus earned these words: "Well done, good and faithful servant...A crown of glory awaits you."

It has been a privilege to know and work with 'A perfect Lady and good friend.' God bless you, Angel. Your example will linger in my heart and memory.

-Sr. Electa



Thank you, Sr. Angelica, for your years of service given unconditionally for the good of a ministry you believed in with your whole being. In your quiet and unassuming way you provided Clelian Heights with a strength and a stability that helped make it the program it is today. We love you and we'll miss you terribly.

Marathon

Our annual Marathon will be held **Sunday, April 25, 1999** from 3:00 PM to 7: 00 PM. This is a very special day for Clelian Heights because it's a day set aside to spend together to raise money and have a fantastic time doing it.

The procedure for the Marathon is that each walker gets as many people as possible to sponsor them. The day of the Marathon, they walk on the marked off path and receive punches on their card for miles walked. After the Marathon they inform their sponsor how many miles they walked and collect the money that was pledged to them. All of this money goes to Clelian Heights. If you would like to sponsor a Clelian Walker, please call Sr. Margaret Ann to select one by name. The event also features delicious food for sale and plenty of fellowship. Bring your family and friends because a good time will be had by all!

Upcoming Events at Clelian Heights

Card Party

The Spring Card/Game Party and Fashion Show will be held on May 1, 1999. The co-ordinator, Mrs. Betty Abramovic has the plans for another delightful afternoon well under way. This year's fashions will be presented by J.C. Penney's and our own models: human and canine. Tickets are now on sale, so get your "foursome" together. To reserve a table, or to bring your group, please call Betty at (724) 863-3892

Spring Women's Tea

The next Women's Tea is set for Wednesday afternoon, May 12 from 1 :00 to 3:00. This is a special time to visit the Clelian Heights campus, enjoy a relaxing afternoon of French Pastries, Teas, Music, the art of conversation and a sharing in the mission of Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children. If you would like to receive an invitation, please call The Development office at (724) 837-8120

Sixth Annual

JPK Golf Classic will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club on June 14, 1999. Proceeds from this event will support the school's Endowment Fund. If you don't golf but would like to be a part of this wonderful event, consider having your company be a banner or tee sponsor, or come just for the elegant evening banquet at the country club! For further information, contact the Development Office at 837-8120

Have you remembered Clelian Heights in your Will ?

Thank you, Angel!



'For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven'

Building for the future



A Family Affair

Clelian Heights Shavings

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