



inner strength

The Newsletter of Cardinal Hayes Home for Children

Fall 2011

GROWING TOGETHER

A message from Fred Apers, Executive Director...



This past June marked the 70th Anniversary of Cardinal Hayes Home providing care for children and young people in need, under the continued stewardship of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Cardinal Hayes Home is a mission driven organization. The foundation for our work was embedded in this agency the first day the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary set foot on the property in 1941. These compassionate nuns, with the help of local lay people, provided loving care for children who were unable to live at home with their families. We have never strayed from that fundamental, admirable mission.

Over the years, the Sisters responded to pressing social needs. As a result, we have evolved as care-givers with a unique calling as a service provider for children and young adults with severe disabilities.

Throughout these 70 years we have maintained a profound belief in the sacredness and value of each life entrusted to our care. The continued formation of our spirit of caring is an extension of the philosophy of our founding stewards – our Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.



This wonderful setting on the hill overlooking the Village of Millbrook is certainly a flagship blessing for our work. Mr. Oakleigh L. Thorne, who lived in the adjoining estate, donated this “country home” with the stipulation that it be used for a worthy charitable purpose. His decision was a very generous “good faith” act in memory of his deceased friend Cardinal Patrick Hayes, who began the Catholic Charities movement in the United States.

Mr. Thorne referred to the Hayes Home and our surrounding property as the, “Holy Hill,” a tribute to the selfless work of the Sisters. I often reflect on the first time I traveled up the hill to this gracious home. I remember being awestruck by the architecture and the natural beauty of our location. Every day I feel it is a privilege to be a part of the stewardship of this blessed place.

Our 70th Anniversary celebration theme, “Cardinal Hayes Home – Growing Together 70 Years,” was carried through a week long schedule of events held in September, organized in a way to be shared and enjoyed by the young people in our care and our

staff. The activities included a prayer service in our Chapel and commemorative tree plantings on our campus. Staff and participants from our various programs and departments participated in 24 group projects by creating molded concrete “stepping stones” with themes reflecting the interests and achievements of our various programs. These garden “stepping stones” were proudly displayed at our various functions and will be incorporated into our greenhouse/raised bed garden project for spring 2012. A two day public Art Show featuring art work created by our residents (with staff assistance as needed) was held. Our staff, residents and local community members enjoyed the event, marveling at the abundance of creativity! Finally, we hosted a fantastic luncheon celebration prepared by our kitchen staff for 250 staff, our sisters, retirees and members of our Board of Directors in a large open tent encircled by the natural beauty of our property.

By the end of our anniversary week of events it was clear that our theme “Growing Together” runs very deep within our organization and has brought greater personal meaning to our ability to work together.

Art Show

We hope you enjoy this pictorial review of our celebration!



Each of our residences was represented at the Art Show by both group and individual work in a variety of media.



One of our residents loves to play the “drums” on tables with his hands. This piece of art was made by scattering small pieces of clay on the canvas. He then flattened all the pieces out with his hands by playing the “drums” and made it extra special by adding some glow in the dark paint!



At our LaGrange house, doing art is always an experience. Sometimes peaceful, sometimes funny, and always messy. This project was done using handprints and tempera paints.



St. Francis Residence recycled old CDs into art. After gluing the CDs together the fun of painting began. Armed with paintbrushes, paint and old clothes, all the boys took turns splattering paint.

Commemorative
Tree & Campfire



Our residents gathered to bless “their” commemorative tree.



*We sang as we blessed the tree
and concluded with our favorite song
“He’s got the whole world in His hands.”*



*Roasting marshmallows and
enjoying s’mores at our campfire*



Stepping Stones

You are given an 8 lb. bag of dry concrete mix and invited to make a stepping stone to reflect your residence or department. What would you create?



Staff admire the creativity of each stepping stone.



Nurses are all heart.

A tree in bloom by St. Christopher's Unit represents how the residents bloom through their years with us. All of the residents' names are displayed on branches of the tree showing how all are unique yet all a part of the St. Chris family.





The Big Tent... awaiting our guests



A fantastic luncheon



Staff and guests gather for luncheon



Happy Birthday cupcakes!



*Creating a mosaic for our campus.
We started with the CH Logo.*



Residents and staff were invited to add tiles.

Continued Message from Fred Apers, Executive Director...

When we opened our doors in 1941, the world was in turmoil. Franklin D. Roosevelt was our President and on December 7th the attack on Pearl Harbor, a date that will live in infamy, drew America into World War II. Gasoline was 19 cents per gallon, bread was 8 cents per loaf, minimum wage was 30 cents per hour and the average annual income was \$2,050.

Now 70 years later our country is facing unprecedented economic problems, families must deal with increasing hardships, and threats to our society come from radical terrorists.

To our many friends who help us along the way, you keep our Mission alive and our blessings meaningful. We hope that you will find the means to help us carry our work forward.

I believe that your involvement with this special place – Cardinal Hayes Home – has blessed your own life in very personal ways. I further believe that the philosophy of compassionate care



at Hayes enables each of us to be better people.

On behalf of our Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, our young people and our staff, thank you. May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

In 1963, Carmen de Jesus, twelve years old, wrote the following:

**When children in this world are alone
they're always welcome at
Cardinal Hayes Home.
No matter the color, or speech or race,
at Cardinal Hayes there is always a place.
In a peaceful house the children sleep,
at night you cannot hear a peep.
And people passing say in their own ways,
that house belongs to Cardinal Hayes.**

Embracing the Inner Strength of People with Disabilities

Cardinal Hayes Home for Children
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Sponsored by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
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Visit our website:
www.cardinalhayeshome.org