



# inner strength

The Newsletter of Cardinal Hayes Home for Children

Fall 2025

## *Providing Compassionate Care*

### Since 1941

#### *A message from Mary Sontheimer, Executive Director...*

Dear Friends,

Individuals at Cardinal Hayes Home and students at Cardinal Hayes School (Hayes Day School) are enjoying many exciting opportunities and experiences and are happy to be together learning, growing, and thriving. It is a joy to witness their interaction with each other and with our wonderful, caring staff. We are all very blessed to be a part of the lives of the individuals we serve. The spirit and mission of our agency shines brightly in their eyes!

Our annual "Fun Day" was held in June attended by many friends, family, staff, and individuals. The theme of this year's event was "Everyone Deserves a Chance to Fly"! As many of you know, it is our tradition to hold a contest to design a special t-shirt based on the theme. Everyone has an opportunity to wear the shirts at the event. It is always a wonderful feeling to walk out and see everyone in matching shirts enjoying the carnival atmosphere of face painting, games, hayrides, dancing, activity booths, a delicious barbeque, and of course cotton candy, popcorn, and plenty of ice cream! Each year, God blesses us with perfect weather!!

The individuals at our WOW (With Out Walls) day habilitation program continued their partnership with Stonewood Farms. For those who may not know, in late March of 2021, a representative of Stonewood Farm, a certified purveyor of organic produce located close to Cardinal Hayes' main campus in Millbrook, NY, contacted us. The Stonewood Community Project Inc, their not-for-profit organization dedicated to

charitable and educational missions, asked to partner with us to create a raised garden bed on our main campus. The project was given the name, "The Giving Garden", and it has certainly lived up to that name, not only with respect to the produce that has been enjoyed, but also because of the wonderful relationships that developed with the folks from Stonewood Farm.

Hayes Day School continues to thrive. Our school is consistently at or above capacity, providing education opportunities to students from our residential program, as well as day students from twenty-one local school districts spread out over six counties. In addition to the daily curriculum, special activities are held frequently to the delight of students, staff, and families. Graduation this year included three students from our residential program and two students from the community.

In all its programs, Cardinal Hayes Home upholds the philosophy so lovingly established in 1941:

"Aware of God's deep compassion for the sick and suffering, we use our talents, confident that He is with us and no effort will be lost. We bring strength to each other by our mutual support and affirmation."

We hope you enjoy our Newsletter. The following pages further highlight the events and activities that we are so happy to share with you. We look forward to Fall, Thanksgiving and most of all, the magic of Christmas!

We are so very blessed to have you, our loyal friends, as part of the Hayes family and thank you for your many gifts and prayers. All your gifts directly benefit the individuals in our care.

Sincerely,

Mary Sontheimer, Executive Director

# CHRISTMAS 2025



# CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY'S



SUMMER

FUN DAYS



**FUN DAY 2025**

**"EVERYONE DESERVES A CHANCE TO FLY"**



**WE LOVE OUR MILLBROOK LIBRARY**



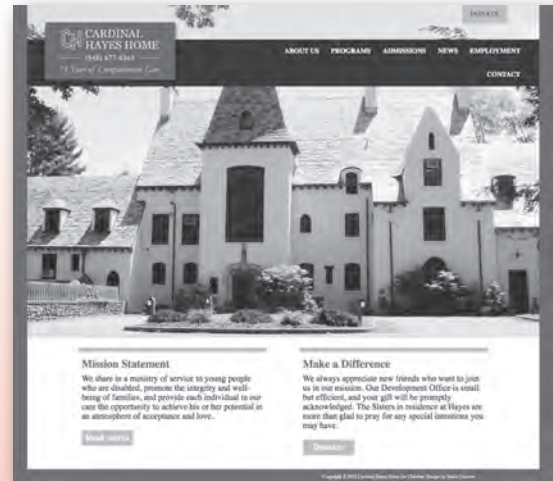
**MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER**



## Remember

Cardinal Hayes Home and Hayes Day School have Facebook and Instagram pages. Being part of social media has truly helped us stay connected.

We also have a website [www.cardinalhayeshome.org](http://www.cardinalhayeshome.org) which shares the history of the Home, the sponsors, our programs and our administration. Through our website, you are also able to make online donations via safe and secure means.



## IT'S IMPORTANT!

***If you don't have a will, your state has one for you!***

We all know it's important to have a valid will in place, but many of us delay beginning the process. However, once this is done, you will feel greatly relieved. Remember, you have the right to decide how your estate will be distributed in the event of your death.

If you currently have no will or need to update an existing will, we can help you. Our free leaflet, "Will your Will make a difference?" explains in easy terms what steps you need to take – tips on retaining an attorney, deciding where you want your estate to go, and how to remember a charity in your will.

If you would like a copy of this pamphlet, just fill in the request form and mail it back to us, or send an e-mail to [mbroe@cardinalhayeshome.org](mailto:mbroe@cardinalhayeshome.org) or call us at 845-677-6363, ext. 1110. There will be no follow-up phone calls to your home.

If you want to designate Cardinal Hayes Home as a beneficiary, our legal name is Cardinal Hayes Home for Children at Millbrook, New York. Please let us know if you ever decide to do this so we can say, "thank you." Unless otherwise requested, bequests are placed in our Endowment Fund, thus helping to support programs for individuals with disabilities, both now and in the future.

PLEASE SEND ME THE FREE PAMPHLET, ***"Will your Will make a difference?"***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Embracing the Inner Strength of Individuals with Disabilities

Cardinal Hayes Home for Children  
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(845) 677-6363

Sponsored by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
Executive Director: Mary Sontheimer

Visit our website:  
[www.cardinalhayeshome.org](http://www.cardinalhayeshome.org)