



inner strength

The Newsletter of Cardinal Hayes Home for Children

Spring/Summer 2017

Our Pauline

“Share Your Shine” was our challenge last year as we celebrated our 75th anniversary. Our recent retiree, Pauline Cotter, did this throughout her 33 years at Hayes, quietly yet brilliantly, and the sparkle continues in all whose lives she touched – both residents and staff.

Pauline was the Supervisor of St. Clare Residence. She began to work at Hayes as a direct care worker on the night shift. Originally from England, Pauline received her degree in KNMS (Registered Nurse for Mentally Subnormal) after three years of study in that country, and she has always worked with young people who are disabled. Pauline has been a supervisor at Cardinal Hayes Home for over 25 years.



As a young woman, Pauline had a friend whose daughter had cerebral palsy. This child's father went to extraordinary lengths - building equipment, etc. - in order to help his daughter



overcome some of her disabilities. Pauline was fascinated by what one person could do for another. From that time on, she always wanted to work with young people who are disabled.

Pauline does not accept the statement, "they have always done that" - her philosophy is, why don't we try to change that negative behavior? Pauline has seen a lot of big changes and a lot of simple changes in behaviors because "we see them in a different light."

Pauline's biggest challenge was encouraging her staff to make this more than a job - to see these young people as an extension of their family. Pauline felt working here should be an important part of their lives and she wanted her staff to be happy with their work so that the kids will respond. Each resident should be seen as an individual for each one is different. "It is important to find each young person's strength and build on that strength - make them feel important."

Pauline described those in her house as very active and inquisitive, loving, full of energy and with

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Our Pauline

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a good sense of humor. When asked what reward or satisfaction she had from her job. Pauline replied, "I love my work. I love what I do...I love being around the kids. At the end of the day, there is always something I can look back on that was a joyful moment. One of the kids has always done something that touched my heart. I get satisfaction just from being around these kids - they can make you laugh, they can lift your spirits when you're having a bad day - they just know when you don't feel good."

Pauline shared with us some memories of her early days at Hayes –

I started working at CHH in 1984. It really doesn't feel like 33 yrs. It just goes to show "time does fly when you're having fun," or should I say when you are truly enjoying what you do.

I have so many memories over the years. I have met and worked with some incredible people who have left a lasting impression on me. I had the opportunity to serve and love many beautiful children who touched my heart, and will remain there forever...many of whom have left the agency, and some who have sadly moved to Heaven where I know they can run and talk and sing, and be with old friends and family, and, of course, never have to worry about pain, sickness, or disabilities again. These young people have left memories embedded in my heart forever. I remember when I first started - "back in the day" when I was a Direct Support Professional. I call those "the good old days," when I was working at LaGrange, Intermediate Care Facility.

I loved the summer when the kids were out from school. We would go to one of the nurse's homes and enjoy her big pool. All 10 kids and several staff would spend the entire day there swimming, BBQ, volleyball

until it was time for showers and bed... and you know everyone slept good! We would go camping for the weekend (even in the rain). We would build campfires, cook on the grill, splash in the muddy puddles after the rain, and at night all 10 kids and staff would huddle in one big tent to sing silly songs, and read stories with flashlights. We would go fishing, take train rides and boat rides, make our own ice cream in the summer, and pick apples and make our own apple pies from scratch in the fall, and in the winter go sleigh riding, and build snowmen on the front lawn.

Nothing but good times, good memories of old friends, and of the beautiful children I supported and loved for all the years.

Cardinal Hayes has always felt like home to me. Many of my "Life's lessons" have been learned here, like patience, caring, understanding, compassion, commitment, and loyalty. For this I am truly grateful.

We are truly grateful that she has touched our lives. We acknowledge and celebrate Pauline as -

Purposeful - always has a positive plan

Advocate - seeks the best for her kids

Understanding - acceptance of each person as they are

Loving - everyone

Intuitive - understands the needs of each person in her care

No Nonsense - self explanatory

Energetic - giving her all each day



This is our Pauline

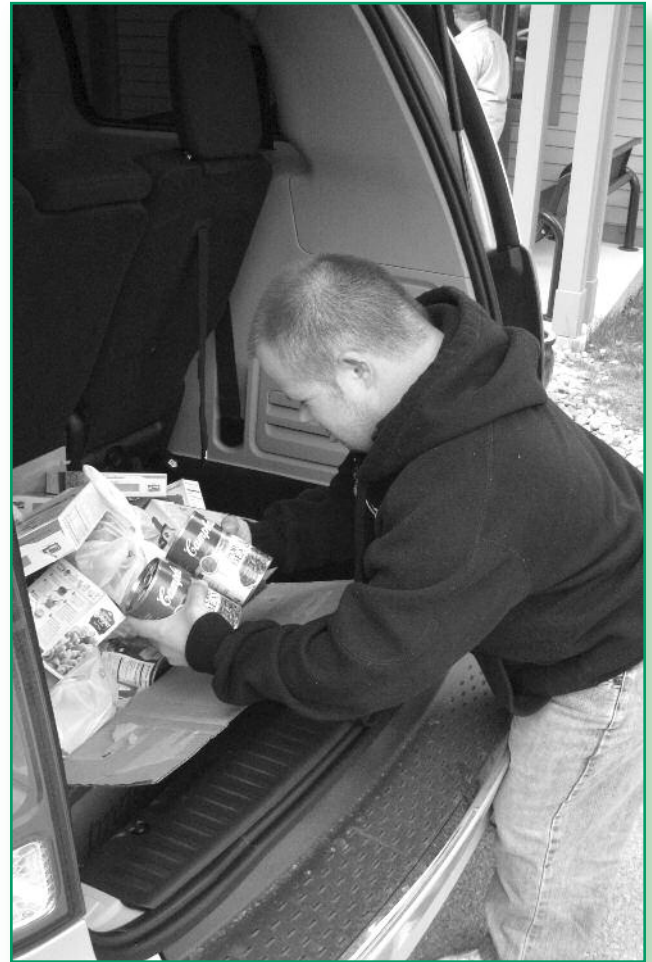
PS. Pauline returned for a visit recently. To see the response of our young people was truly a blessing ...smiles, direct eye contact, mischief, excitement!

Congratulations, Pauline, on a job well done!
May God bless you and grant you many years of happy retirement!

SPRING ACTIVITIES

Food Drive

Our staff were invited by the Mission Effectiveness committee to reach out to others in our Spring Food Drive, giving what they were able. We had a good response, and participants at our WATCH, day service program for young adults, delivered what we collected to a local food pantry.

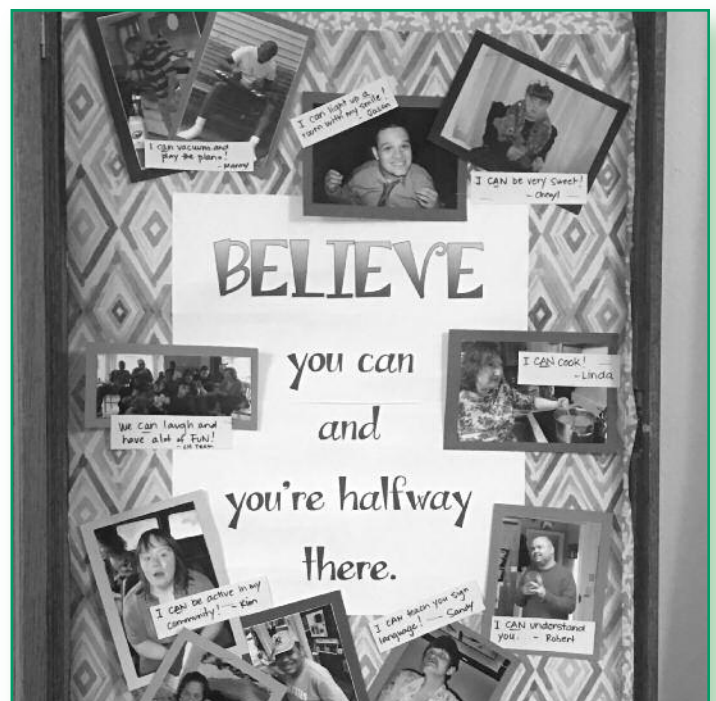


Mission Month

During May we celebrated Mission Month. Each residence had an Open House during the month. Visitors had the opportunity to tour other houses and get together with the employees who work at other localities, to gain an appreciation of the creativity and challenges of our staff within our various settings. Our theme for this year, chosen by the Mission Effectiveness committee, is posted on mission boards throughout the Agency -

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Staff in each residence takes great pride in their welcome and hospitality to all visitors. Refreshments or light lunches were enjoyed and prepared by staff at the site.

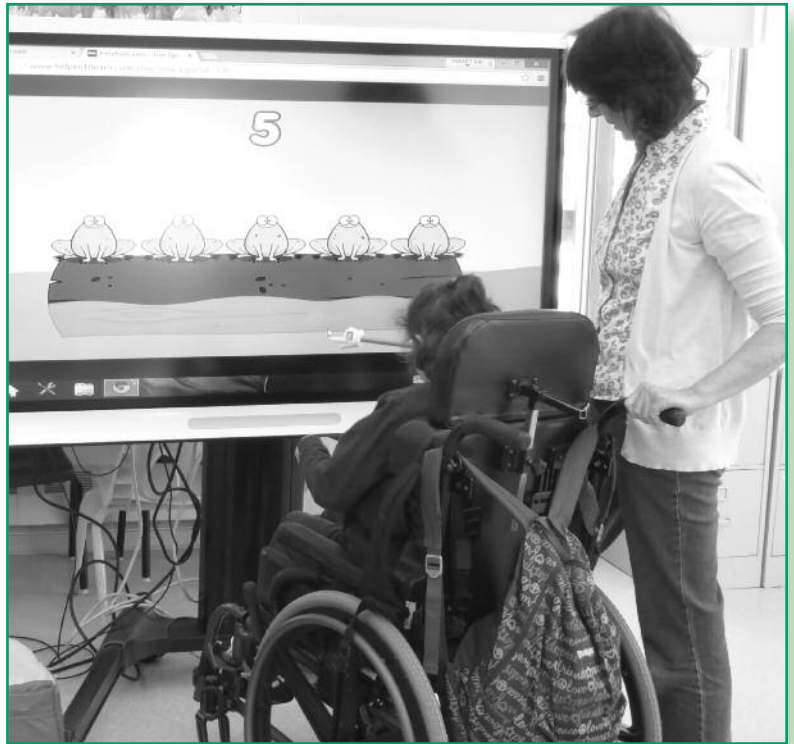


Students and Special Technology

Students have been getting “techy” at Hayes Day School. We continue to expand our fleet of assistive technology which includes two eye-gaze accessible computers, iPads for all classrooms, 4 smartboards, voice output devices, and switches of many shapes and sizes.

Our students who have the most complex bodies and most intense physical needs are now finding ways to use computers for education and communication. Students use their eyes to act as a mouse when using the adapted computer. This allows them to click links to songs and videos that interest them, play games, and turn pages in digital books. Other students use switches placed near their most easily controlled body part, whether that is their head, hands, legs, feet or anywhere in between. Their faces light up when they realize that they are controlling the fun on the screen.

We have expanded our curriculum to include literacy software specifically designed for non-verbal students which accommodates for eye-gaze or switch access. We continue to use iPads for communication, leisure, and educational programming. There are a multitude of apps that benefit our students ranging from simple cause and effect type activities to higher level vocabulary and literacy



programs. iPads have also been used to teach students specific skills through the use of video modeling. This decreases the need for a hands on approach for those students who struggle with tactile defensiveness.

Classroom lessons come to life on our giant sized smartboards which also accommodate users with a variety of physical needs. Students can be positioned around the boards while in their standing equipment or while seated. They can touch the boards with their hands, use a wand or use switches. The teachers' lessons are reinforced by incorporating visual, auditory, and tactile input which the smartboard provides.

The addition of assistive technology at Hayes combined with the creativity and ingenuity of the teachers that use it has opened many doors for the students to become more active participators in their education.

Laura Teetz, Hayes Day School
Speech Language Pathologist
Assistive Technology Specialist



YOUR DONOR DOLLARS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED, ALWAYS WISELY SPENT!

At Cardinal Hayes Home, we are reminded daily that the kindness of friends like you helps us acquire equipment and undertake projects that would otherwise not be possible. Donations to CHH do not go into general funds but are used for specific needs that have long-term benefit for the youngsters in care. Here are two current examples:

We are expanding our play area. Many of the children entering our program require full wheelchair accessibility. We maintain medical and therapeutic equipment to meet these special needs; however accessible playground equipment is expensive and limited in availability. There is no doubt that the youngsters in our care will greatly benefit and enjoy the physical and sensory benefits of an accessible playground. Our project will also offer opportunities for inclusive family play when siblings and parents visit. Your ongoing donations have made it possible to purchase and professionally install the required equipment this summer.



Current renovations are also underway in our main building. We are converting a large dining room into a hospitality center for visiting families and our staff needing a well-deserved scheduled break during work hours. The majority of this project is being handled in-house by our skilled maintenance department, thus reducing renovation costs.

Cardinal Hayes Home is most grateful for the financial support of our donors in such matters. Your generosity makes a positive impact in the daily lives of our young people.



A Message from Fred Apers, Executive Director

Spring/Summer 2017

Dear Friends,

We are always proud to share our Inner Strength Newsletters with our many friends for 25 years (1992-2017, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter editions). Because of you, many wonderful opportunities have evolved within our agency. Our newsletter enables us to share photos and stories which highlight our daily works, specialized services and positive growth of the children and young adults in our care.

Because of you, we continually strive to elevate our commitment to quality in challenging times. Your donations enable us to offer consistent services and address individual needs despite fluctuations in governmental funding. Please always be assured that your gifts help us immensely as quality care remains our number one priority.

Our relationship with you is a special blessing and thank you for your continued good faith partnership in our mission.

Sincerely,



Fred Apers
Executive Director

Philosophy of Care

In the spirit of St. Francis,
all who come to us are to be treated
with dignity and respect.
No matter what may be their limitation,
race, color or creed,
each one is a masterpiece
formed by God.

By our attitude of acceptance
of children as they are,
we strive to provide an atmosphere
where the children can sense that they are loved,
and thereby are enabled
to blossom and grow to that fullness of life
for which they were created.

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.

In serving our children,
we not only "give" but we are offered
many opportunities to "receive."
As the Lord Himself has said,
As often as you did it for the least
of my sisters and brothers,
you did it for me.

Embracing the Inner Strength of People with Disabilities

Cardinal Hayes Home for Children
P.O. Box CH, St. Joseph Dr., Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-6363



Sponsored by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Executive Director: Fred Apers
Mission Coordinator: Sister Anne Turbini, FMM

Visit our website:
www.cardinalhayeshome.org



Enclosed is my donation of \$_____.

- I would like my gift to be used for the general needs of the young people in care at Cardinal Hayes Home.
- I would like my gift to support special activities.
- Please pray for my special intentions listed on the back of this form.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail address (optional) _____

Please charge my Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card # _____

Authorized Signature _____

Exp. Date _____



Please return this form with your donation payable to:

Cardinal Hayes Home for Children

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank You and God Bless You!

Cardinal Hayes Home for Children PO Box CH, St. Joseph Dr., Millbrook, NY 12545 • (845) 677-6363

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www.cardinalhayeshome.org



Special Intentions

Compassionate care for young people who are disabled

Sponsored by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary since 1941



Cardinal Hayes Home for Children

PO Box CH, St. Joseph Dr.
Millbrook, NY 12545

Sharing our “Inner Strength”
...your newsletter enclosed!