



# inner strength

The Newsletter of Cardinal Hayes Home for Children

Fall 2021

*We cannot control the wind, but we can direct the sail*

CELEBRATING

## *80 Years*

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### *of Compassionate Care*

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## 1941-2021

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

Cardinal Hayes Home for Children has a rich history, dating back to 1941 when Cardinal Spellman, the Archbishop of New York at that time, asked the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to transfer their small convalescent care center for children from Palenville, New York, to Millbrook. Under the sponsorship of the sisters, CHHC has served hundreds of youngsters from many different ethnic, religious and social backgrounds.

The main facility in Millbrook was once a private home that was built in 1925 by Oakleigh L. Thorne, a prominent member of the Millbrook community. Mr. Thorne had the mansion constructed for his daughter, who occupied the home for only a short time as she moved to California for reasons of health. Although Mr. Thorne was a Quaker, he was a friend and great admirer of Patrick Cardinal Hayes. After the Cardinal's death, Mr. Thorne donated the home and 68 acres of land to the Archdiocese of New York in memory of Cardinal Hayes, with the stipulation that it be used for a charitable purpose. Although the original

structure has been remodeled several times and enlarged. The unique character of the home has been preserved.

Cardinal Hayes Home opened its doors in June 1941 as a convalescent home serving children discharged from hospitals who could not be provided with adequate care in their own homes. By 1960, the need for convalescent care had decreased substantially, and programs were restructured to provide services for neglected and dependent children. Throughout these years, there were always some young people at Cardinal Hayes who were physically and mentally disabled. By the late 1970s, the critical need for residential programs for developmentally disabled children was apparent, and Cardinal Hayes Home began the gradual transition to serving these young people. In the 1980s, several Community Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) were opened in Dutchess County, and the main residence in Millbrook was enlarged and extensively renovated.

Today, a total of 119 individuals live in Cardinal Hayes facilities. On our Millbrook campus, there are six handicapped-accessible cottages and a special unit in the main building. The Millbrook ICF is home for 60 children and adults. Our Community ICFs encompass five



## Continue message from Mary Sontheimer . . .

residences in various parts of Dutchess County – 10 individuals reside in each of these houses. Our IRA (Individualized Residential Alternative) Program offers 3 separate apartments providing supervised living for 9 people with complex care needs.

Day Habilitation Services provide a broad range of activities and learning experiences for adults with developmental disabilities. The program offers therapeutic opportunities to develop confidence, build self-esteem, enjoy meaningful relationships in the community, participate in work/volunteer activities and benefit from life skills training.

In 1984, Cardinal Hayes School for Special Children, also known as Hayes Day School, was established. Our day school provides continuity of programming for the children at CHH and serves special needs children residing in the area. The school is situated on several wooded acres at the eastern end of the Village of Millbrook in a building designed to serve the educational needs of students with multiple disabilities.

2021 marks our 80th year of service to God’s most special individuals. With His help and guidance, and your

prayers and generous support, we have navigated this very difficult time. We celebrate our individuals and staff, who are happy, healthy and thriving under the most challenging circumstances. We are profoundly thankful for our staff, who provide compassionate care to our very special people, many times leaving their own loved ones to do so. They truly do God’s work!

Every day, Cardinal Hayes Home upholds the philosophy so lovingly established by the sisters 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 fall newsletter. Although we were restricted in many of our usual activities this year due to the pandemic, we found innovative ways to celebrate safely, recognizing our staff and individuals with sweet treats, holding mission focused activities and small gatherings. We are filled with gratitude that these celebrations afforded us an opportunity to reflect on all that is good; including the generosity of you, our donors. As you know, all gifts directly benefit the children and young adults in our care.



▲ **A DAY AT THE PARK!!!**

◀ **ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE!!**

### ▼ **EXPLORING THE AQUARIUM!!**



## THOUGHTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITAS, FRED APERS



Thank you for your good faith confidence in our unique mission at Hayes. 80 years of providing excellent standards of care throughout our history of service. Throughout my 48-year career at Hayes, I have been blessed to walk among direct support staff who provide high quality care for our residents and support one another in challenging times. Over these many years the strength of our organization has grown in very positive directions – a vision of compassion and grace. Our stories of hope and your acts of kindness go a long way in our special mission. Thank you for being a part of our success and embracing the inner strength of people with disabilities.

## OUR MISSION

In the tradition of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, serving those most in need, we share in a ministry of service to developmentally disabled children and young adults. With profound belief in the sacredness and value of each life, our spirit of caring reflects compassion and reverence.

## OUR VALUES

Respect for Life/Dignity of the Person  
Competent, Compassionate Care of Those We Serve  
Partnership/Cooperation in the Workplace  
Responsible Management of Resources

## Cardinal Hayes Home Wins At The Dutchess County Fair

Although it was not safe for our individuals to gather at the Dutchess County Fair, we are very proud of our artists who entered their creations in the Hobbies & Crafts and Fine Arts categories at the Dutchess County Fair and won first, second and third place ribbons! *Wonderful job!!*



# STONEWOOD FARM PROJECT

## Jean Dreaper, Habilitation Coordinator, WOW Program

Cardinal Hayes Home and Stonewood Farm have partnered in an adventure in gardening at our Millbrook campus. Stonewood Farm is a certified purveyor of organic produce located on nearby Bangall Road in Millbrook. The Stonewood Community Project Inc, their not-for-profit organization dedicated to charitable and educational missions was looking to create a raised garden bed on the main Cardinal Hayes campus.

Over the next few weeks, soil was brought in, and the list of items to be planted was finalized, with heavy emphasis on produce that could be incorporated in salads, as all the participants were excited by this idea. The final list included strawberries, peas, flowers, peppers, cucumbers, a variety of lettuces, carrots, radishes, beets, scallions, and everyone's favorite, tomatoes.

The Stonewood group floated the idea of naming the project and after some thought and discussion, "The Giving Garden" became the official name of



On April 28, 2021, the WOW Program participants and staff met with the growers and owners of Stonewood Farm near the campus greenhouse, to discuss vegetable and flower options, take measurements, and plan the design of the garden. This included moving a square garden bed which allows for greater participation for those in wheelchairs, to a spot near the new garden bed and arranging available flowerpots from the greenhouse to make the space even more inviting.

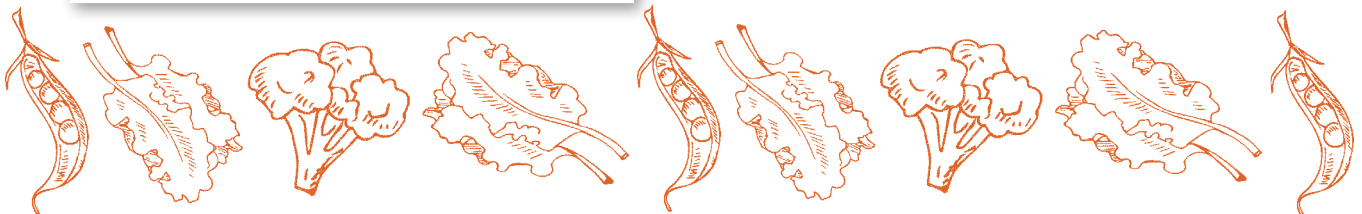
the site. Planting began on May 21, 2021, with help from WOW participants. Throughout, the summer the garden was maintained, weeded and watered. Extra produce from Stonewood Farm enhanced our first harvest and many fresh vegetables were brought to our residences to make salad to share with housemates.



In addition to some picking and snacking along the way, three other “Big Salad” days were enjoyed. The WOW participants helped pick, clean, and prep the vegetables and made individual salads for themselves. The results were delicious! Our final hurrah for the season culminated in a “Salsa Day” on August 31, 2021.



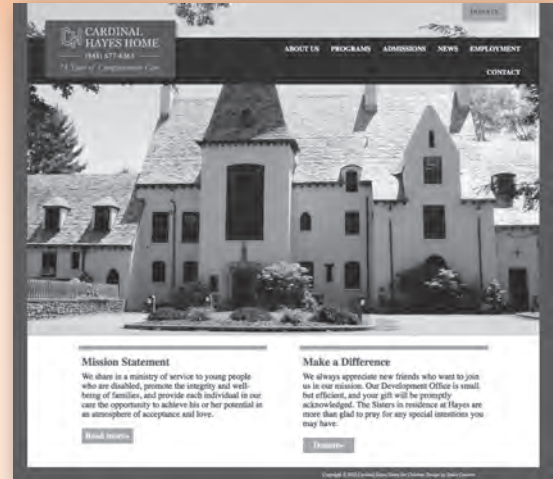
The Giving Garden has lived up to its name, not only with respect to the produce we have enjoyed throughout the summer, but also because of the wonderful relationships that developed with our friends from Stonewood Farm. We look forward to reaping the benefits of both for many years to come.



## IN STEP WITH THE TIMES

Cardinal Hayes Home and Hayes Day School have Facebook and Instagram pages. Now more than ever, people are turning to their electronic devices to keep in touch with family and friends. Being part of social media has truly helped us stay connected when visiting is limited.

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 young people 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 People with Disabilities

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

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