



ANGELS' PLACE INC.
A PLACE TO GROW

Crib Notes

Spring 2009

FORMERLY MOM'S HOUSE OF PITTSBURGH

Issue Number 97

Graduations and Glad Spring Tidings



Mom and son enjoying the graduation party.

Spring is one of the happiest times of the year at Angels' Place because it's a time when we honor the accomplishments of our graduating parents! We also celebrate as several of the children in our care make the exciting transition into kindergarten. Our three centers enthusiastically host graduation parties and share in the thrill of goals achieved.

These current graduates join hundreds of our past graduates who have finished their education and moved on to find meaningful employment. It's such a joy to watch as they establish careers, knowing that their hard work and your support have created a brighter future for them and their children.

Both those who have supported Angels' Place through the years and our new friends play a significant role in the successes of our graduates. Without the generosity of our donors, Angels' Place would not be able to provide the many services that help these parents attain goals. From everyone at Angels' Place – especially from our graduates – we send a heartfelt thanks to all our caring friends for investing in the futures of these young families!



Volunteers from St. Anne Ladies of Charity share gifts with our children who are going into kindergarten.

Gratefully,

Michelle Smith Tipton

Michelle Smith Tipton
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community - Saturday, May 30th - Heinz Field
www.walkforahealthycommunity.org

Sign up for a 5K or 1 mile fun walk or sponsor a walker!
Proceeds benefit Angels' Place, Inc.- No Registration Fee

Peters Township Referral Network Golf Outing benefiting Angels' Place, Inc.
Friday, June 26th – Scenic Valley Golf Club
www.peterstownshipreferrals.com

We need golfers! Call 412.321.4447 for more info!

Angels' Place Halo Award Dinner - September 2009
Join us for our annual Fall Gala honoring Dennis Sipe,
Angels' Place Advisory Board Member & CEO of All-Pak, Inc.

ANGELS' PLACE
A PLACE TO GROW

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Pittsburgh, PA 15214
412.321.4447
angelsplacepgh@hotmail.com

BROOKLINE
600 Fordham Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412.531.6667

SWISSVALE
2538 Woodstock Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA. 15218
412.271.2229
www.angelsplacepgh.org

HIGHLIGHTING OUR BROOKLINE CENTER

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

In December of 2008, our Brookline Center Program Director, Annette Aguiar, resigned in order to spend more time with her family. We are deeply grateful for the love and kindness Annette shared with Angels' Place during the six and a half years she was a member of the team.

At the same time, we are fortunate and pleased to introduce to you Annette's successor, Andrea Schachner, who transitioned into the role just before the turn of the New Year. Andrea began at Angels' Place in August of 2007 as the Preschool Teacher at our North Side Center. Andrea also served as our Mentor Teacher to both Brookline and Swissvale centers. She comes to us with an MAT in Education from Chatham College and has a clear understanding of Angels' Place mission and philosophies.



Andrea Schachner

It's been a joy getting to know Andrea and her family: husband, Sam, and son, Max. With a new baby due at the end of April, she will be absent for a brief while on maternity leave. But soon, please do take time to visit or call Andrea and speak with her about the many ways you can help out our program there. Thank you to everyone in the Brookline community who has already showered her with support.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Andrea as our Brookline Program Director!

Brookline – Andrea Schachner

The Brookline center has gone through some exciting changes since the New Year! With the change of directorship, the staff, parents and children have all opened their hearts to welcoming a new member of the family. The past four months have been a time for forming relationships and experiencing new adventures together.

The children enjoyed the snowy days of winter building snowmen, playing with ice, and exploring the snow under their boots. As spring is in full bloom the children are even more excited to play outside in the sun and observe the trees and flowers growing before their eyes. They love their walks through the neighborhood and time outside on the playground.

The preschoolers have also begun an extensive unit on nursery rhymes. They are learning and exploring with language, rhythm, and rhyme through classics such as Hickory Dickory Dock, Jack and Jill, and Humpty Dumpty. Ms Katie has made this a wonderful experience for the children incorporating aspects of science and art into the study.

Brookline has been blessed with several volunteer groups from the PNC Grow Up Great Initiative. Their teams have helped us tremendously in cleaning up the center and bringing the center up to compliance for our annual Department of Public Welfare visit as well as our Keystone Stars evaluation. The groups organized and cleaned up the basement storage rooms, put a fresh coat of paint in the young toddler room, and cleaned out the back alley garages. Special thanks to Ann Adams for coordinating these wonderful opportunities and making Brookline a safer place for the children and staff.



Brookline kids and staff enjoy a springtime visit with our friends at the Devonshire.

As always the Devonshire opens their arms and hearts to our children. The staff and residents delighted us with stories, songs, and treats for Valentine's Day. They also sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for our children. We are always so delighted to spend a morning with our friends at the Devonshire creating special intergenerational bonds. We are looking forward to this year's Week of the Young Child celebrations. This year's theme is Bring Communities Together for Children--Children Bring Communities Together. The Brookline center kicks off the week with a field trip to the local Brookline Fire Station. In between Brookline will host a story time and parent breakfast, plus a field trip to the Post Office, where the children will learn how our mail system functions!

The children and staff will end the week with a picnic carnival including games, face painting and yummy food! The Ladies of Charity from St. Anne's are generously sponsoring our Graduation Party during this week as well. They will supply us with a wonderful celebration with yummy finger foods and special gifts for the graduates: Bonnie, Melissa, Lauren, Elon, and Laura. We look forward to celebrating both our parents and students accomplishments. As always, we would like to thank everyone who supports Angels' Place through donations big and small. This helps us provide the services we do all through the year. We wish you and your families an enjoyable and memorable summer!

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTS

Swissvale – Beth E. Banas

We have almost completed another successful school year and have been most fortunate to witness so much growth in our internal as well as external world. First off we would like to congratulate our graduates: Diana, Dana, Na'Keyda and Tereasa. We have another special graduation this year to celebrate. Our preschool class, the majority having been here since infancy, will be getting ready to go to kindergarten in September of 2009. We wish Brendan, Audra, Ava Jo, Zoe, Marcaya, Jusden and Jordan the best as they move forward into the world.

This spring the children had the opportunity to explore the Pittsburgh Zoo, Roundhill Farm, Frick Park, Point State Park and downtown Pittsburgh. These trips were dedicated to the celebration of young children and our commitment to get children outdoors and playing. Our teachers very creatively planned additional activities to supplement these themes and lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Recognizing The Month of the Young Child, Children and Nature Awareness Month along with TV Turnoff week provided the perfect occasions to make family and community connections, further strengthening our efforts for greening and sustainability.

On the subject of greening I would be remiss not to mention our success in recycling through the Paper Retriever program. In four short months, with all of your help and support, we have recycled 2.31 tons of paper. We have saved 6.93 yards of land fill space and 9,475.62 KWH of energy, and we are awaiting another pick up.



Swissvale children enjoy the warm spring weather while on a nature hike.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR NEWSPAPER, JUNK MAIL, PAPERBACK BOOKS, CATALOGS, MAGAZINES, ETC. TO THE SWISSVALE SITE FOR RECYCLING. OUR GOAL BY DECEMBER 2009 IS TO REACH 10 TONS. WE OF COURSE NEED ALL OF YOUR HELP. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED EFFORT AND TIME.

No school year would be complete without thanking all of the generous groups who made our holidays special. Thanks to Kohl's, North American Martyrs, Christ the Light of the World Parish, St. Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas More, St. Bernard's, Barnes and Noble, St. John Capistrano, St. Maurice, Cottrill Arbutina and Assoc., Triko Enterprises, St. John Fisher, Nello Construction Co., Nordstrom, Madonna del Castello and the Stitching Angels. A very special thanks to Jackie Klunk for regularly donating items from our wish list. Combined with our daily volunteers, staff and other friendly donors we have all the ingredients for a flourishing organization.

North Side – Jen Leck

Spring is always such a wonderful time of the year. The excitement to be outdoors is contagious and the children love the sunshine. The children recently helped to plant seeds in our garden box out back. As the weeks go by, they will be able to watch lettuce, cucumbers and other veggies grow as they help to take care of them.

We celebrated Week of the Young Child in April and the children enjoyed a field trip to the Children's Museum. There are so many things for them to learn and do, but for some of them, their favorite part is the bus ride. Shannon Evans and a group of friends from North Hills Junior High came to our center to read and acted out stories for us, which everyone enjoyed immensely.

In May, we will celebrate graduation time with our families. Cristyn graduates from BCCC with her degree in Computer Networking. Stacey earns her degree in nursing from CCAC and Danielle graduates from Kaplan with a degree in criminal justice. We will also celebrate our graduating preschoolers – Steven and Alina, who will be leaving us this year to go to Kindergarten.

As we move into summer, the children will be enjoying outdoor activities such as bike riding, swimming, gardening and sand play. It is the best time of year for the children to enjoy nature and the teachers will be planning a lot of activities to encourage exploration and enjoyment of the outdoors.

A special thank you to Shannon Evans and the students from North Hills Junior High for the support they give to Angels' Place. The children really enjoy their visits to our center. Also, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports our mission throughout the year. You make all we do for our families possible.

Have a wonderful summer.



Teacher Diana paints a flower on Emma's cheek, while Naomi looks on.

A PARENT'S VOICE

Angels' Place has been a part of my family's life for years. My grandmother volunteered for them years ago when it was known as Mom's House. I have known about the organization since I was a child because my grandmother lived across the street. I've been fortunate enough to have Angels' Place Brookline as a safe learning environment for my son and me. My son has been attending Angels' Place since he was one-year-old and he has just turned five years old. Our experience at Angels' Place has been a wonderful one! Christopher has learned to listen and play well with others. His teacher, Miss Katie, works hard to do many fun activities that encourage an exciting drive to learn and enjoy school. As for me, Angels' Place has given me a chance to be very involved in my son's life at school. With all the holiday dinners and field trips it gives me happiness to get to enjoy the time together with my son and other families with similar issues. I have always loved the parent meetings because they give me a chance to learn from others' wisdom and now share some of my own wisdom with the newer parents. Doing the chores as payment helps build responsibility and also makes me feel better because I know that my child's school is clean and safe. My employer says that she was impressed because I told Christopher to use his "walking feet" instead of yelling at him and then I explained why he should not be running. All I could say was "I learned that from Angels' Place!" I am constantly receiving compliments on Christopher being so smart and well behaved and what a good mother I am. Angels' Place will always be a huge part of why my family is and will always be successful. Thank you Angels' Place for giving my family a chance at real life full of happiness!



Carla & Christopher

Carla A. Marratto

MEETING OUR CHILDRES NEEDS

While in our care, children eat two meals and two snacks every weekday. This year for the first time we have a heaven-sent opportunity to buy weekly deliveries from a local organic farmer of fresh picked vegetables and fruit from June to Thanksgiving.

Will you help make this healthy food available to our children? We rely on thoughtful individuals and compassionate groups who see value in our mission to help underwrite crucial program components like our 2009 healthy nutrition initiative.

This initiative to improve the children's nutrition is a bold one, given the budgetary threats we are experiencing now in rising costs of materials and supplies. It is safe to say that we cannot provide healthier meals without additional support.

Please consider underwriting our Healthy Meals Campaign in this, our 25th year of fostering brighter futures for single parent families. Your investment in Angels' Place is an investment in two generations of young people who will achieve their educational goals only because community people care enough to share.

You can provide fresh produce all summer long at one of our centers for \$360, or purchase a month's worth of fresh fruit and vegetables for one center for \$90. Your gift of \$22.50 will translate into one week of lunches prepared with fresh vegetables at a center, or your contribution of any size will help supply children's nutritious snacks. All Healthy Meals Campaign donations are important – and all are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Speaking of ways to help children, Adopt-An-Angel is a yearly pledge program which is also tax-deductible. Through it, you can defray the costs of keeping a child in our program. In addition to a healthy nutrition program, an Adopt-An-Angel sponsor underwrites other important costs such as educational supplies, items for creative play, and everything that is needed for a safe, nurturing environment.

The major source of funds needed to operate Angels' Place centers on a daily basis and help these families comes from friends like you. If you are interested in sponsoring a family through Adopt-An-Angel, please call us at 412-321-4447. Thank You!

SPRINGTIME FASHION SHOW A BLOOMING SUCCESS

On March 29th spectacular views and radiant décor accentuated the elegant atmosphere of Mount Washington's LeMont Restaurant as 230 guests attended **The "Generations of Love" Luncheon and Fashion Show**. As guests began to arrive, they participated in the Angels' Place one-of-a-kind Silent Auction and Designer Purse Raffle; one lucky winner took home two roundtrip airline tickets on AirTran Airways. Event Chairwomen Therese Rocco and Mary Jean Evans greeted guests as they stepped into the luxurious banquet room. Dennis Sipe, CEO of All-Pak, Inc. was the premier sponsor for the event. Prior to the Luncheon guests were welcomed by Michelle Smith Tipton, Executive Director of Angels' Place and then enjoyed scrumptious cuisine prepared by the LeMont's renowned chefs. The tables were decorated beautifully with colorful spring arrangements provided by Lily's in Burgettstown.

Guests viewed spring's latest fashions for women from The Name Dropper in Sewickley and Kohl's for the children. The adult models displayed poise and style as they walked through the dining room. However, it was the child models who stole the show. Mistress of Ceremonies Peggy Finnegan, WPXI-TV anchor, provided entertaining and informative commentary during the show. After the beautiful display of fashion, smiling patrons took home fabulous auction items and door prizes, having experienced a charming afternoon!



Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this terrific event:

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Jena-Anne Sabom
Christy Stuber
Dolores Warwick

All of us here at Angels' Place are extremely grateful to the many individuals, couples and families who made recent monetary and non-monetary donations, and to the foundations, organizations, and houses of worship for their generosity in support of our parents and children.

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 Pruners, loppers, rakes and
 hedge trimmers

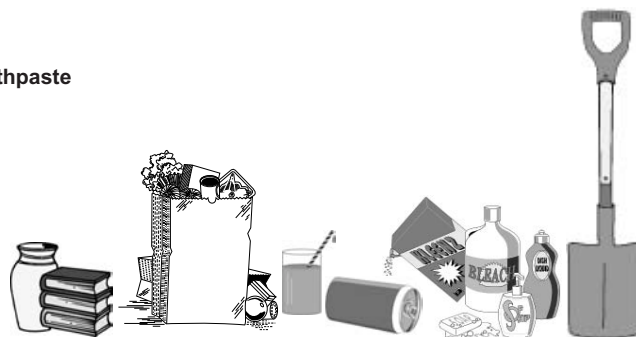
Wish Lists

Brookline

Jet Dry
 paper towels
 cereal: Cheerios, Kix, Chex, Mini
 Wheats, oatmeal
 cleaning product
 CD player
 children's CD's
 crackers
 healthy snacks
 arts and crafts supplies
 fresh and dried fruit
 100% juice
 trash and tall kitchen bags
 freezer baggies
 dish soap
 laundry soap
 child toothbrushes and toothpaste
 lawn and leaf bags
 oven mitts
 Huggies Pull-ups

North Side

dishwasher soap
 dish soap
 aluminum foil
 plastic wrap
 cookie sheets (13"x9")
 can opener (electric)
 disposable diaper wipes
 13-gallon kitchen trash bags
 black trash bags
 energy saver light bulbs
 Crayola markers
 hamster and guinea pig food
 hand soap
 paper towels
 cake mixes and icing
 printer paper for computer



25 Years of Making a Difference!
 As a result of the love, kindness and tireless efforts of
 so many who care deeply about the mission of Angels' Place,
 we are now in our 25th year of providing services
 to low-income, single, full-time student parents and their
 children! Please stay tuned for details about our Fall Dinner
 where we will commemorate this milestone in style.



Return Service Requested

600 Fordham Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15226

ANGELS' PLACE
 A PLACE TO GROW



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