



ANGELS' PLACE INC.
A PLACE TO GROW

Crib Notes

Fall 2009

FORMERLY MOM'S HOUSE OF PITTSBURGH

Issue Number 98

Celebrating a Quarter-Century of Your Caring

Never once has an eligible parent had to pay a fee to receive our services during the 25 years your generosity as our donors has sustained Angels' Place. Additionally, you have provided the buildings and utility costs, the supplies and materials - and the fun, such as toys, playground equipment and field trips. (And let's not forget daily essentials such as diapers, formula and food; imagine the total number of diapers that have been changed in 25 years!).

It's mind-boggling to me that this need in our community has been met all this time by the giving and caring hearts of people like you who understand the Angels' Place mission and selflessly give to see it continue.

Now more than ever, on this 25th anniversary milestone, I would like to ask you to give as generously as you can, remembering that every amount donated - large or small - helps keep our doors open for families in need.

Angels' Place (known as Mom's House when it opened in 1984) was established to promote positive outcomes for low-income student parents and their children, primarily by providing free, high quality early care and education for the children and supports for parents that include parenting classes, counseling, career exploration and help with basic needs such as food and clothing.

As Angels' Place celebrates a quarter century of service, if every *Crib Notes* reader saved and shared a quarter a day over time to keep us afloat for our 26th year, those gifts would make big differences in whether we will be able to meet our budget for the 2009 - 2010 school year.

Some of the differences that have been made by your donations are printed in the insert here that quotes parent graduates through the years. As you read their heartfelt words, consider that though it's often hard to make a big impact in our community as an individual, together with each of us giving something, we can help many reach their goals, changing their lives.

Gratefully,

Michelle Smith Tipton
Executive Director

Yes! I plan to attend the Halo Award Dinner - September 23, 2009

Please reserve _____ Individual reservations at \$85 per person
 _____ Patron reservations at \$100 per person
 _____ Table reservation at \$800 for 10 people

I am unable to attend, but would like to contribute \$_____ in support of Angels' Place.
 (Please make checks payable to Angels' Place)

Visa/Mastercard/AMEX #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
 (Please Print)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Please attach any special seating instructions.

Special dietary needs, if applicable: _____

Your response will be appreciated on or before **September 16, 2009.**

ANGELS' PLACE
A PLACE TO GROW

NORTH SIDE
2615 Norwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
412.321.4447

BROOKLINE
600 Fordham Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412.531.6667

SWISSVALE
2538 Woodstock Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA. 15218
412.271.2229

info@anglesplacepgh.org
www.anglesplacepgh.org

Brookline Update by Andrea Schachner



Isabella, Shane and Xavier join the volunteers from St. Bernards in a bean bag toss.

The staff at Brookline are eager to start a new school year. We are excited and ready to fill the time with learning and fun! While we are sad to see so many of our children move on to kindergarten, we wish them the best on their new journeys. We would like to welcome our new clients who are students at Kaplan Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Job Corp. and CCAC with their three daughters and five sons.

The children loved their time outside this summer cooling off in the sprinklers and pool, exploring in the sandbox, and riding their bikes in the shade. The busiest time of the year is right before us. All the great holidays are coming up and we will also have a lot of goals to tackle. With school starting anew, we are working on updated requirements which the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is expecting of us.

In August we focused on getting our center ready for the new school year. We scrubbed, set up and decorated our classrooms. The infants, young toddlers, older toddlers and preschoolers are ready for another exciting school year!

Activities we have planned for the fall are our annual field trip to the pumpkin farm; celebrating Halloween and Thanksgiving. This fall we will also be inviting all of our children's grandparents for a special event - the Grandparents' Luncheon!

I don't want to miss thanking everyone who helped over the summer: **Shirley Nedzesky** and her youth group of volunteers from **St. John Capistran** cleaned and organized both of our kitchens and cleaned the center from top to bottom for us. **Angela Gaughan** and her youth group from **St. Bernard** visited us twice in July. They planned activities with the children including a puppet show and spent the rest of their time cleaning up our yard and sanitizing toys around the center. On their second visit they brought us plastic bins and began the organization of the toy closet. All the wonderful volunteers from **PNC Grow Up Great** have continued to keep our yard looking nice as well as various projects within the center. Also a very special thanks to **Dolores** who's smiling face we always love to see on Wednesdays. Thank you also to **Kretshmann Family Farms** for donating delicious, organic produce to our center. Thanks to so many people's untiring efforts and generous donations our program is brighter and our families are receiving goodies and much needed items.

All of us here are truly blessed with an exciting place to be and work and grow. Thank you for making this possible. Have a great fall!

North Side Update by Jennifer Leck

It is always unbelievable how quickly summer goes by bringing us to the start of a new school year! Over the past couple months, the children have spent a lot of time outside enjoying water play, riding bikes and building sandcastles. They also planted a vegetable and herb garden which provided us with lots of delicious food all summer.

As an organization, we have been making great strides to conserve resources, make our centers green and recycle more. This fall, we are going to expand our efforts by giving the children opportunities to learn about recycling and taking care of our earth. The teachers will be incorporating monthly activities into their lesson plans to teach the children about the importance of conservation, greening and recycling.

Through the fall months, the children will have the chance to observe the wonders of nature as they play outside everyday. While in their classrooms, they will learn about colors and shapes, animals, fall and friendship. We work to make every day a fun adventure for the children filled with opportunities to learn and grow. It is a blessing to us to have the opportunity to work with so many wonderful children and their families.

We would also like to express our sincerest appreciation to all the volunteers who have spent time at our center during the last few months. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our friends from **Saints John and Paul**. They have worked so hard making repairs, cleaning and painting to help make our center, back porch and outside look wonderful. Thank you to Angels' Place Executive Board Member, **Marie Milburn** and volunteer, **Linda Kleeb** who have been coming to our center weekly to read and play with the preschool children. A special thanks to the youth group from **St. Bernard** who cleaned the outdoor toys and organized our toy shed.

We would like to welcome our new clients who are students at DeVry University, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and CCAC, along with their three sons and three daughters.

Thank you to everyone who supports our organization throughout the year. You help us to provide the children with the care and opportunities they need to grow. Have a wonderful autumn!



Preschool friends taking a break from their climb to give a quick smile

Swissvale Update by Beth E. Banas

Hooray! At Swissvale we are so excited to enter into our 20th year of service to the community; not to mention celebrating our 25th birthday as an organization! We have had the rare opportunity to visit and connect with many of our children who have now started their careers or moved on to higher education. It never ceases to amaze me when former clients touch base with us again and share the positive impact that the organization has had on their lives. We would like to welcome our new clients who are students at Pitt, Carlow, Empire Beauty School, Stanford Brown, Carnegie Mellon and Triangle Tech, along with their six daughters and one son.



Fingerpainting and summer fun

The summer flew by as it always does. Although we had a great deal of rain it provided many opportunities for different kinds of outdoor play and opportunities for experimenting and exploration. Our new rain barrel filled quickly providing an inexpensive and sustainable water source. A week in August provided us a chance to give our site a complete overhaul. Our wonderful teachers wholeheartedly participated in deep cleaning, organizing and doing minor repairs and renovations. What a difference this time and effort makes in maintaining the high quality services we offer. We are also in the process of getting our new roof which will enhance our commitment to sustainability.



Enjoying a birthday celebration at Swissvale

We would like to thank the following groups for helping to maintain our property: Employees from **Deloitte** replaced ceiling fans, created a butterfly garden and completed other needed projects. **PNC Grow Up Great** sent a group of volunteers that toiled with maintenance and outdoor projects. Our young friends from the **Diocese's Dept. for Youth and Young Adult Ministry** worked very hard on our children's library organizing and cataloging books. Shannon Evans and her friends kindly presented a rhythm and rhyme storytelling program for our children. The students from **Dickson Intermediate School** collected much needed supplies for our program.

The past two decades have provided the impetus for many individuals to connect and develop relationships that ultimately benefitted and sustained Angels' Place. It has been a wonderfully inspiring journey and I would like to thank all of the people that made it possible to continue to move forward successfully.

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 NEED YOUR HELP! THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED EFFORT AND TIME.

Welcome April in Her New Role!

We are pleased to announce that effective August 18, 2009 April Scassera became our full-time Director of Family Support and Outreach. April has been employed with Angels' Place as the Family Support Specialist since 2001, however many of you know that her ties with Angels' Place go much deeper! April and her son, Blake (now 20 years old and a United States Marine) were two of the first clients at our Swissvale center when it opened in 1989. Angels' Place (then called Mom's House) supported April as

she earned her high school diploma from Woodland Hills High School in 1990 and her Bachelors degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh in 1994. April then went on to receive her Masters degree in Social Work, and is licensed by the state of Pennsylvania. We are thrilled that she'll be with us on a full-time basis strengthening our visibility within the community as well as continuing to provide support to the parents enrolled at each center.

A PARENT'S VOICE

My daughter Alina and I have been a part of the Angels' Place family for almost two years now. Notice how I call them family - because that is what they are to us.



Olga & Alina

I learned about Angels' Place through another single mom, like myself, while attending school. I contacted them in hopes of learning more about their program, and soon after, my daughter started attending. Alina had never been in a daycare setting so like most children, she was shy at first. I cannot believe how quickly she warmed up to the staff and adapted to the environment. It was rewarding to see that she was not only excited for school every day, but also that she had made so many new friends.

Angels' Place is very flexible, worked with my school schedule, and is always willing to help when able. There is a small amount of chore hours that are required for their services, but being low-income- it is only practical. I couldn't even imagine paying out of pocket costs for daycare, let alone daycare as great as what we have been provided.

What I enjoyed most is that Angels' Place is not only a daycare, but also a preschool. As I worked towards my education, I know that my daughter was doing the same thing - and in good hands. Not to mention, she was being prepared for a smooth transition into Kindergarten.

I think this program is amazing and I'm so grateful to have had them in our lives. I am a single mom, with all of my family living out of state, and this organization came into our lives to become the support group that we needed. They have helped so many single parents, and I would highly recommend them to anyone. It is nice to know that there are 'angels' out there to help people like me accomplish the unimaginable.

PLEASE KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND FOR HELPING ANGELS' PLACE

Your business that pays state taxes in Pennsylvania can instead make a contribution to Angels' Place for children's scholarships and in return be granted that same amount in state tax credits. In effect, this allows you to direct your hard-earned dollars to Angels' Place instead of to state government. For more information, please call Meliza Jackson at 412-321-4447 or email mjackson@angelsplaceph.org.

Beginning at **10 am on Wednesday, October 28** those who donate a minimum of \$50 by credit card that morning through The Pittsburgh Foundation's new site about non-profits will be matched at a rate of 50 cents on the dollar! Hundreds of nonprofits will receive donations that morning through this new site, which is called PittsburghGives. We anticipate that the \$200,000 in matching funds available from The Pittsburgh Foundation will go very quickly, and hope that if you would like to make a donation to Angels' Place you will go online as soon as possible after 10 am on October 28. Only contributions to the PittsburghGives.org site will be matched. Select Angels' Place's profile to make your donation too.

The annual Angels' Place Generations of Love fashion show and luncheon will take place on **Sunday, March 21** at LeMont. Please save the date!

At its annual special event in **early 2010**, the **Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club** plans to show participants a good time while raising funds for a playground at our Brookline center. More details will be included in our Winter newsletter issue.

2009 HALO AWARD DINNER & 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please join us at our annual Halo Award Dinner on September 23rd at the Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn in Canonsburg. We are delighted to honor **Dennis Sipe**, CEO of All-Pak, Inc. Lanny Frattare will emcee the event. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are \$85 per person or a table of ten for \$800. Please call 412.321.4447 for more information.

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! We will commemorate this important milestone in style at this year's Halo Award Dinner.

Attendees can bid on many wonderful items donated by our supporters to the silent auction at our Halo Award Dinner and 25th Birthday Celebration. Some of the items are: An Autographed #43 Steelers football, Golf foursome at Nevillewood, California wine tour and a couples retreat at Pocono Palace. More auction details are at www.angelsplacepg.org.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US IN THE HIGHMARK WALK

We appreciate all who participated in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on May 30th. Thanks to the efforts of each of the participants and supporters, Angels' Place was able to raise over \$7,500 to help cover the cost of our childcare expenses. This would have been impossible without the energy and help provided. We would like to congratulate **All-Pak, Inc.** for registering the largest walking team. We would also like to congratulate **April Scassera** for raising the most donations/sponsorships among staff, and **Eileen Gelet** for raising the most donations/sponsorships as a



volunteer. Thank you to everyone who walked and raised money on our behalf. We look forward to another exciting walk next year!

HERE'S AN IDEA



Are you someone who has everything? If so, please encourage your friends, family and co-workers to make donations to Angels' Place on your behalf in lieu of buying you a birthday gift, a shower gift or a holiday gift!

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.

Monetary

St. Stephen Church, *Wilksburg*
 Knights of Columbus, Pius XII Council #4925, *Monroeville*
 St. Benedict Men's Club, *McMurray*
 Incarnation of the Lord Parish, Ladies of Charity, *North Side*
 St. Catherine of Siena Parish, *Beechview*
 St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ladies Guild/Christian Mothers, *Finleyville*
 Brookline Regional Catholic School, *Brookline*
 St. Thomas More Church, *Upper St. Clair*
 St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, *Whitehall*
 WOMEN of Southwestern PA, Inc., *McMurray*
 St. Bernadette School, *Monroeville*
 St. Basil Parish, Christian Mothers, *Carrick*
 SRI Venkateswara Temple, *Penn Hills*
 Perry Hilltop Citizen's Council, *North Side*
 Holy Child Parish, *Bridgeville*
 Holy Child Parish, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, *Bridgeville*
 Women's Business Network, Allegheny Valley Chapter. *Tarentum*
 The Sew & Sews of the Devonshire, *Mt. Lebanon*
Swissvale United Methodist Church
 St. Athanasius Church, Respect Life Committee, *West View*

Non-Monetary

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Christian Mothers/Ladies Guild, *Finleyville*
 Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club
 Boy Scout Troop #262, *Scott Township*
 Boy Scout Troop #284, *Mt. Lebanon*
 Seton Center, *Brookline*
 Church of the Atonement, *Carnegie*
 Brookline Regional Catholic School, 7th Grade
 St. John Capistran, Ladies of Charity, *Upper St. Clair*
 Brookline Regional Catholic School, *Brookline*
 St. Margaret of Scotland Church, *Greentree*
 Carlow University Campus School, *Oakland*
 Girl Scout Troop #50488, *Wexford*
 St. Bernadette Parish, Ladies of Charity, *Monroeville*
 Dickson Intermediate School, 6th Grade, *Swissvale*
 Brookline Christian Food Pantry
 St. Bonaventure School, Kindergarden Class, *Glenshaw*
 Girl Scout Troop #532, *North Hills*
 Golden Triangle Church, *Sewickley*
 Women's Business Network, Allegheny Valley Chapter. *Tarentum*

Donated By:

Dr. & Mrs. Michael J. Shaughnessy
 Norma & Bill Frey
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Duer
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Steele
 Mr. Frank Moser
 Eileen Gelet

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Funtal; Mr. & Mrs. David Rembisz; Jubelirer, Pass, Intrieri, P.C.; Mr. & Mrs. Michael L. Houy; Ms. Barbara A. O'Neill; Choicecare Physicians, PC; Mr. & Mrs. Theo Petrakis; Sylvia J. Diez; Road Runners Golf League; Anita M. Donovan; The Chernicky Family; The Hon. Bernard J. McGowan; Stitching Angels; Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Harrill; Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Hestin; Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Bonetti; Mr. & Mrs. Albert C. Aston; Mim & Evelyn Lehan; Janet A. Welch; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest D. Williams; Mr. & Mrs. E. Richard Williams; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Frydrych; Mr. & Mrs. John L. Gibson; Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Tischler; Mrs. Italia Biondo & Family

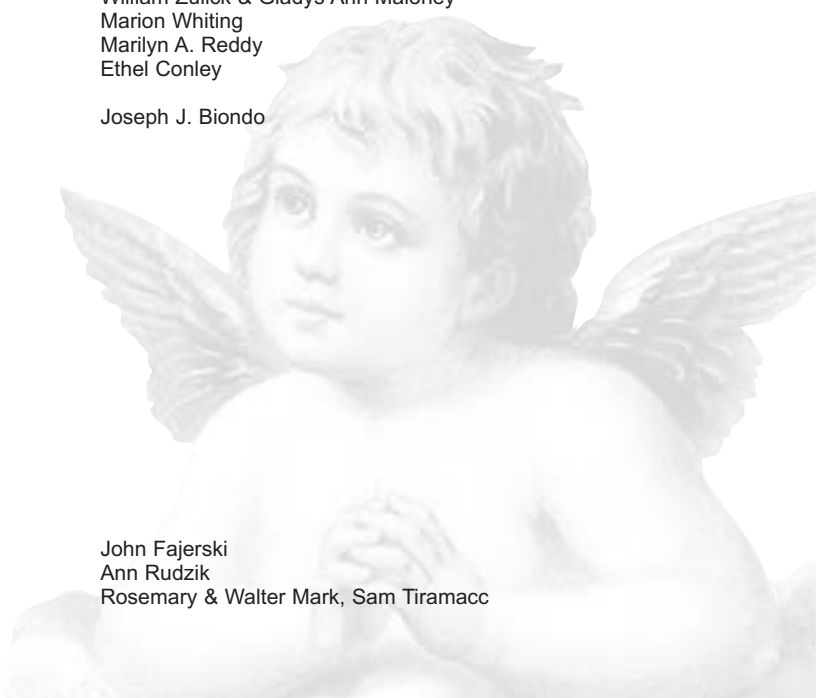
Mr. Bruce Connelly & Ms. Mary Kay Frey
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Steele
 Elizabeth DiSalle

In Memory Of:

Howard McGovern, Raymond Doblick
 Jim McCann
 William Zulick & Gladys Ann Maloney
 Marion Whiting
 Marilyn A. Reddy
 Ethel Conley

Joseph J. Biondo

John Fajerski
 Ann Rudzik
 Rosemary & Walter Mark, Sam Tiramacc



Donated By:

Sharon M. Connelly
Jennifer Milcarek

Elizabeth B. DiSalle

Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Stevens, Jr.
Mrs. Mariangela Peters
Woodland Hills Senior High School
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Stiglich, Jr.

In Honor Of:

Grayce Connelly
Brookline Regional Catholic Staff & Teachers; Mrs. Iovino,
Sr. Kathleen McGrady, Mrs. Shaefer & Mr. Galuska
Richard DiSalle, Leonard Malinowski, Conrad Malinowski,
Daniel Malinowski, Jack Malinowski, Gilbert DiSalle,
Francis X. Malowski
Father Joseph Beck's 25th Anniversary of Ordination
Douglas Marvin
Fallen Heroes of the Pittsburgh Police Department
Carolyn Sopher

Foundations & Grants

Aegon Transamerica Foundation
The Ging Foundation
Massey Charitable Trust
The Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation
The Jacob A. and Frieda M. Hunkele Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Feinstein Foundation
Donahue Family Foundation, Inc.

Businesses

Starbucks Coffee Company, Dormont
Pittsburgh Cares
Swissvale Economic Development Corp
Bella Vacations
Allegheny County District Attorneys Office

Mother's Day/Father's Day Donations**Donated By:**

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Stephanie Waruszewski
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin J. Cordera
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Eric & Mary Ruth Lackner
Dorothy Flaherty Weldon
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In Honor Of:

Patricia & James Ellsworth
Angels' Place – Brookline Staff
Helen Stofka
Mary V. Hofmeister
Jean Rodgers
Dolores Fiorentino, Joan DiSalle, Eleanor Tiramacco & Rose Mark
Michael & Angela Reese, Matthew & Stephanie Lackner
Mary Flaherty
Gina & Anthony Arzenti
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In Memory Of:

Mary Banyas
Mary F. Cevetic
Eleanor Codispoti
Eleanor Alice Uischler, Mary Helen Herson & Jack Herson
Joyce Wildauer, Pegi Rodgers & Vince DeFalice
Mary Grace & Angelo Cicero
Geraldine & Joseph Whelan
Rose Deltainaut
Helen & Francis Abel, Joseph Funtal
Louise & Joseph Niro
Gertrude Duncan
Martin J. Flaherty
William "Butch" Farrell
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Harry K. Price
Frances & Dick Nolan, Nan & Art Green Sr.
Catherine Pfeifer
Helen Palovcak Maleski
Sadie & Arthur Creehan
Madeline Romell
Robert C. Taylor, Sr.

Family Support Activities

This past year, Angels' Place was the recipient of a grant from the United Way for being one of the first agencies in Allegheny County to implement the **ACT (Adults and Children Together) Against Violence, Parents Raising Safe Kids Parenting Program**. The program was developed by the American Psychological Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, with support from the MetLife Foundation. The goal of the program is to educate families, other caregivers and communities in general to create environments that protect children from violence and teach them to control anger and resolve conflicts in positive ways. The curriculum was used in one of our weekly parenting classes at each center. Judging by evaluations completed by our parent participants, it was a huge success. 100% of participants believe they will be a better parent with what they learned in the program, and would recommend it to others.

Tax Deductible Donations

Donations to Angels' Place are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Many workplaces provide forms for employee participation in fall giving campaigns:

Direct your **United Way Contributor's Choice** contribution to Angels' Place by...

1. Completing the Contributor Information and Payment Method sections as usual
2. Filling in "Angels' Place" in the agency designation section, along with the code for Northside (#1200) or for Brookline (#7193) or for Swissvale (#3977)
3. Allowing us to acknowledge your gift - please do NOT check the box at the bottom of the form telling the United Way not to release this good news to Angels' Place.

Many other businesses encourage giving through **America's Charities** (EIN #: 25-1450489).

Federal employees can give through the **Combined Federal Campaign**, for which the Angels' Place code is #44139. The code for the **State Employees' Combined Appeal** is #5000-0017.

Wish Lists

Swissvale

large diapers (size 5,6)
Kleenex
baby food
all purpose cleaners
brooms
Windex
paper towels
fabric softener sheets
39 gallon trash bags
Clorox
Saran wrap
wax paper
hamster cage
20 gallon aquarium
Duracell double AA
rechargeable batteries

macaroni and cheese
Rice a Roni
box stuffing
rice
pasta side dish
jar spaghetti sauce
cheese doodles
cold cereal
dried beans
baby wipes
large bibs
toilet brushes
mops
Electrosal

buckets with wringers
push broom
Lysol spray
tall kitchen garbage bags
aluminum foil
oatmeal
Cream of Wheat
Cocoa Wafers
Vanilla Wafers
Sugar Wafers
grated Parmesan cheese
salad dressings
Brita Faucet System

North Side

size 5 and 6 diapers
baby wipes
oven mitts
electric can opener
aluminum foil
Ziploc sandwich bags
gallon storage bags
5x8 carpet (solid color)
energy saver light bulbs
AA batteries
9-volt batteries
bag-less vacuum cleaner
trash bags (30 gallon)
trash bags (13 gallon)
Crayola markers
pine bedding for hamsters
guinea pig food
hamster food
Dixie cups
paper plates
children's toothbrushes
child friendly Halloween decorations
birthday candles
cake mixes/icing
Brita Faucet System

Brookline

new high chairs
Jet Dry
paper towels
cereal: Cheerios,
Kix, Chex, oatmeal
floor cleaner
bleach
crackers
healthy snacks
arts and crafts supplies
fresh and dried fruit

100% juice
trash and large kitchen bags
dishwasher soap
child toothbrushes and toothpaste
lawn and leaf bags
heavy duty oven mitts
Huggies Pull-Ups sizes 2T - 3T
brooms
mops
Swiffer Wet Jet supplies
Brita Faucet System

