



ANGELS' PLACE INC.
A PLACE TO GROW

Crib Notes

Summer 2011

Issue Number 103

Graduations and Good Times!

Dear friends,

Happy summertime! I hope this edition of *Crib Notes* finds you doing well and enjoying the lovely warm weather and beautiful flowers. We're certainly in summer mode around here at our three centers with children planting herb and vegetable gardens and flowers, taking walks to the park and gearing up for lots of outdoor water play!

It's my pleasure to tell you that seven parents enrolled at our Swissvale Center have graduated from their respective schools; three parents from our North Side Center have graduated from their schools and collectively five children will be transitioning to kindergarten this fall! We feel very proud of their hard work and accomplishments. One of my favorite moments was at the graduation party when a child said to me, "Lookie, I'm wearing a *grad-u-ation* hat like my mommy!" Priceless.



Another recent favorite moment of mine happened when Angels' Place set aside an afternoon to honor eight outstanding student parents in our program. The ceremony, at our Generations of Love Luncheon, featured video clips of each of the Showcase of Scholars participants who were being recognized. One honoree came up to me afterward to let me know that never before had she felt so appreciated.

Thank you for helping all of us at Angels' Place show that appreciation, care and kindness to the families who walk through our doors. Please know that these milestones we've celebrated this past month simply would not exist without your support.

Gratefully,

Michelle Smith Tipton

Michelle Smith Tipton
Executive Director

Yes! I want to support Angels' Place, Inc.

I'm enclosing a gift of \$ _____ to help cover the cost of childcare expenses.

(Please make checks payable to Angels' Place)

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The official registration and financial information of Angels' Place, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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
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FUN AT THE CENTERS



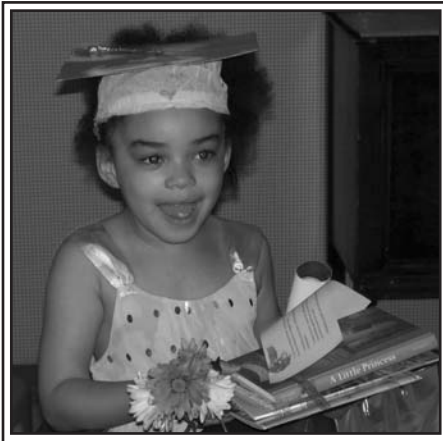
Many of our April Month of the Young Child observances revolved around the themes of *Celebrating Diversity* and *Promoting Health and Fitness*. North Side children learned about music and dance from around the world. Field trips in Brookline included making their own meatballs and learning about pizza preparation at Antonio's Pizzeria; buying a piñata and special cookies and investigating spices and chili peppers at Las Palmas Carniceria y Super Mercado; and touring Pitaland to watch pita bread being made and then eating it fresh off the conveyor belt. Back at the Center they created Mexican serapes, Roman mosaics, and

Greek koulourakia cookies, and learned the Greek myth about Arachne and made spider webs.

In pursuing their Month of the Young Child theme, *Community Helpers*, Swissvale friends found out about the jobs of firefighters, gardeners, veterinarians, chefs, librarians, doctors, jewelers, musicians, postal workers, police officers, and grocers, and tried out some of their tools! Most of our families signed a pledge to observe National TV Turnoff Week, and Swissvale also had lots of participation for Earth Day. As "litter gitters," they helped to clean up the neighborhood.



Easter eggs were hunted on the North Side, while Marissa and Mia from North Allegheny High School created another fun Easter activity for Swissvale children. Brookline children used wax and dye for traditional Ukrainian egg decorating, and were introduced to the food and traditions of a Passover Seder and then searched for the Afikomen – hidden matzah.



The graduations of three parents were celebrated with a heartwarming Dinner ceremony at the North Side and six parent graduations at an equally lovely Dinner ceremony at Swissvale. At each, two pre-k children who will be moving on to kindergarten this fall were also recognized for their accomplishments at Angels' Place. Swissvale families admired the display of salt dough shoe prints cast and painted by staff, children, and volunteers as they participated in the Pennsylvania One Book Every Young Child selection, which was *Whose Shoes*. Some of their other learning activities around the specially selected book were playing a shoe match game and putting up a tennis shoe tree.

Also in May, all of our children visited Round Hill Farm, where they were able to see farm newborns and to learn about (and even touch) various animals. A Swissvale child excitedly pointed out to us that lambs really do have "fleece as white as snow!" And each week the children look forward to seeing our special University of Pittsburgh intern, Elisa. She travels to all three centers to lead literacy, art and movement activities. For National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in May North Side children painted pictures, and as they worked explained how they felt when they were happy, sad, or angry.



Swissvale held special appreciation days for parents, staff, and volunteers. What would we do without our volunteers? Board member Rev. Dave Carver helped staff by leading a May in-service presentation about acceptance, inclusion, and respect. A PNC team visited Swissvale three times in the spring to tackle indoor and outdoor



continued on page 3

FUN AT THE CENTERS

continued



projects. Parishioners of Sts. John and Paul Church worked hard on beautifying the North Side grounds, and the Kohl's Department Store - South Hills volunteers weeded and prepared beds for vegetables, flowers, and herbs at Brookline, and planted beans along the back fence. Regular weekly helpers ensure a smooth and loving operation at Brookline: Barbara Boden, Dolores Casali, Judy Demma, Pat Foley, Bernie Leard, Grace Shelman, Eleanor Szuch, and Isabelle Wieczorak. Thanks also go out to Inner Beat Drum School, The Devonshire's Women's Group, Chuck Foley, and St. John Capistran Ladies of Charity and CCD.

Last, but certainly not least, we were pleased to learn that after a year-long Self Study and a recent full-day site visit, our Swissvale Center has achieved re-accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children! We feel very proud of this accomplishment, achieved by fewer than 10% of U.S. schools.

A GIFT TO US FROM YOUR COMPANY THAT ERASES COMPANY-OWED STATE TAXES!

If your company pays Pennsylvania taxes, there's an easy way to give your state tax money to Angels' Place instead, to be used for children's scholarships.

It actually costs your company nothing to provide children's scholarships in lieu of paying taxes – and the application is only one page long!

Please call our development staff (412-321-4447) or access www.newpa.com/eitc at your earliest convenience to learn about the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Tax Credit Program – because this opportunity, which begins July 1st, is very limited. Tax credits are soon snapped up, beginning July 1st.

Contributions up to \$10,000 to Angels' Place result in a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the donor's Pennsylvania taxes. Businesses of any size can make EITC contributions of almost any size – large or small – all are very welcome.

In the school year ending this month more than \$50,000 in company scholarships were awarded to support Angels' Place preschoolers. This is money that would have otherwise been paid the state in the form of a variety of taxes by Equitable Gas Company, First Commonwealth Bank, Highmark Keystone Health Plan West, Northwest Savings Bank, Oregon Metallurgical Corporation, UPMC Diversified Services, and Weavertown Transport Leasing. Thanks so very much, Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Tax Credit donors!

The proposed state budget will continue future tax credit funding under this EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) program. As long as the supply of new tax credits has not been exhausted, your company can join in supporting education in Pennsylvania through EITC.

Starting July 1st, tax credits are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please decide now to help the children of low-income single parent families be nurtured at Angels' Place, by faxing your one-page application to Harrisburg at 717-772-3581 on Friday, July 1st. Thank you!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AL MARSCHKE



Al Marschke, owner of BluMars Media

1. What brought you to Angels' Place?

I was hired to produce a video about Angels' Place a few years back. During the process of making the video I learned a great deal about how wonderful an organization Angels' Place really is. They were practically in my back yard and I had no idea.

2. How long have you been an Angels' Place volunteer?

I believe since 2007

3. What do you do as a volunteer at/for Angels' Place? *I continue to produce videos and public service announcements for Angels' Place to help raise awareness for services and fund raisers.*

4. What do you like best about Angels' Place? *Their mission statement is what I like best about Angels' Place. They hold true to that mission and it has a rippling affect on the community and future generations.*

5. Anything you'd like to tell us about your family, pets, etc? *I am happily married to Alison and was blessed with a wonderful daughter, Caroline, who will be 7 this June, and two cats, Frankie and Jewels.*

6. What are your hobbies? *Photography and long motorcycle rides.*

7. What might people be surprised to know about you? *My first full-time job was my last. 14 years at WTAE-TV. I was the Technical Director for the evening news through the 90s.*

8. Please answer as many of the questions below as you'd like, regarding your favorite:

a. **Book:** "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell

b. **Movie:** "Bridges of Madison County"

c. **Music:** Alternative/ Rock

d. **Food:** Italian

e. **Vacation Spot:** Grand Cayman

f. **Thing to do on a Saturday afternoon:** Cutting grass. Assuming its warm enough.

g. **Best advice anyone ever gave you:** How you handle mistakes can be remembered more than the mistake itself.

h. **Quote:** "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free." Michelangelo

9. What has it meant to you personally to be involved with the mission? *I guess just knowing that even if I can only help a few just a little, it can affect millions for generations. The thought of that potential just amazes me.*

SUN SHINES ON HIGHMARK WALKERS

All of us at Angels' Place would like to thank our friends and supporters who participated in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, May 21st at Heinz Field. Angels' Place deeply appreciates the time each of you took to collect pledges and the time you spent in walking. Over 80 Angels' Place supporters took part in the walk on a gorgeous Saturday morning.

As the person who raised the most money in Walk pledges, Swissvale volunteer Eileen won a "Taste of Italy" basket donated by Dr. and Mrs. Yost.

We feel so grateful to have your support and we look forward to another wonderful walk next spring!



2011 LUNCHEON CELEBRATES GENERATIONS OF LOVE

The day before Mother's Day this year brought fun and fellowship to Angels' Place friends as we gathered at the charming 100-year-old Pittsburgh Athletic Association, filled with grace and elegance. The lovely Jennifer Abney, WPXI-TV Anchor, served as our emcee for the day.

Highlights from the afternoon included accolades for the Showcase of Scholars, which recognizes our exemplary student parents. We also enjoyed musical entertainment (provided by Emma Harger and Christianna Bernard), a delectable lunch, and the popular Angels' Place Lucky Purses and auctions!

All of us appreciate those who joined in this fun event, which helps us raise much needed funds to continue providing our services. Thank you!



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 PNC Grow Up Great Volunteers
 Trader Jack's
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Yost

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

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 St. Basil Church, Christian Mothers, *Carrick*
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 Center Presbyterian Church, *McMurray*
 First United Presbyterian Church of *Crafton Heights*,
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 St. Barbara Church, Christian Mothers & Guild, *Bridgeville*
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 St. Bernadette School, *Monroeville*
 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, *Coraopolis*
 St. Catherine of Siena Church, *Beechview*

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 PNC – Grow Up Great

SCHOLAR MOMS STAND OUT

The Showcase of Scholars Program recognizes high-achieving student parents – those who manage to balance work, school, and parenting and still find time to go above and beyond program requirements. Selection to the program means that student parents have consistently demonstrated these traits:

- ✓ Successfully completed service time requirements on a consistent basis.
- ✓ Assisted Angels' Place by participating in fundraising activities.
- ✓ Interacted with other parents and teachers to help create a positive sense of community.

- ✓ Gone above and beyond Angels' Place program requirements and expectations regarding service hours, grades, and other forms of participation.
- ✓ Been a mentor to new or young parents enrolled in the program.

Efforts by the parents selected for the Showcase of Scholars have made them stand out. They are noticed by all of us here at Angels' Place, and deserve to be proud of their achievements! Individuals and foundations in our area can recognize excellence by contributing to Angels' Place in honor of an exemplary student. Please contact Meliza at (412) 321.4447 for more information.

Wish Lists

North Side

bubbles for outdoor play
 infant cereals and infant snacks
 healthy snacks for children
 cereal
 cake mixes and icing
 100% fruit juice
 dishwasher soap
 household cleaners
 13-gallon kitchen trash bags
 30-gallon trash bags

Lysol spray
 hand soap
 scotch tape
 masking tape
 napkins
 aluminum foil
 plastic wrap
 paper towels
 paper plates
 small Dixie cups

children's toothbrushes
 Crayola markers
 blue or black pens
 sizes 3, 4 and 5 diapers
 baby wipes
 large size bibs
 Pur water pitchers/filters
 pine bedding for small animals

Brookline

dried fruit
 (raisins, cranberries,
 apples, apricots, etc)
 100% Juice
 Goldfish / crackers / cookies
 Pop Tarts
 Nutragrain Bars
 gardening tools - large & small
 Wipes
 paper towels

bleach
 hand soap & hand soap refills
 garbage and kitchen bags
 freezer bags
 soft shape blocks
 vests
 scarves
 large clear plastic storage bins
 children's waterproof smocks

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 39 gal garbage bags
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 tall kitchen garbage bags
 paper napkins
 wax Paper
 aluminum foil
 dish soap
 mops
 playground balls
 jar spaghetti sauce
 oatmeal
 cream of wheat
 cold cereal
 children's snack items
 cocoa wheats
 pasta or rice side dishes
 sprinkle parm. cheese
 salad dressing
 freeze pops

