Dear Friends of Angels’ Place,

Rejoice! After a winter that displayed a kaleidoscope of weather we are finally enjoying consistent warmer temperatures and lush green surroundings. We are reminded of the supreme beauty of our Creator’s work and the endless gifts of our natural world.

All of us at Angels’ Place believe in the transformative power of nature and ensure that our children get a healthy dose daily. Recognizing parent schedules are hectic, we intentionally plan opportunities for children to experience the great outdoors which reap positive benefits. Countless research has proven that children’s development excels academically, emotionally, socially and physically when they have daily contact with nature.

Annually we take the children to Frick Park to hike the trails and explore the simple pleasures of creeks, rocks, trees and hills. As we encourage the children to “let go of hands,” and run, I am reminded of my own childhood joy of discovering the natural world. I watch eager faces, first tentative and cautious, but then trusting and happy, as they begin to experiment. Tossing rocks into water, charging up hillsides and crossing a log, provides a delightful, wondrous encounter with Mother Nature. The trip is strenuous but well worth the outcomes. While we wish more trips were possible, we are blessed that both our centers offer beautiful, green outdoor spaces that promote healthy development.

It has been a great year! As the school year ends, our minds and hearts are filled with hope for the future. Similar to our experience with nature, we support our families’ exploration of the world, while celebrating their growth and achievements. Eight student parents graduated from educational programs, four child Pre-K graduates are ready for kindergarten, and working parents are persevering to sustain their families. Life is good, and we are thankful.

Friends like you have promoted and advanced our mission by sharing your love and respect for life. By placing an emphasis on supporting two generations, you help create change. Together we are strengthening the community and making Angels’ Place a truly special place to grow.

We close our year requesting that you continue our partnership, helping Angels’ Place to thrive and flourish. Special thanks to all of you who have contributed in ways small, large and unimaginable! Your support provides the resources to bring our dreams to reality; backing our belief that education is about joy, wonder, curiosity, and empowerment, which all lead to success. For these, and a million other things, we applaud you.

Enjoy a restful summer with your families, take time to get outside and renew your spirit!

Gratefully,

Beth E. Banas
Executive Director
SUMMER 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The snow has finally melted, and spring has blossomed into summer! The warmer weather makes all of us at Angels’ Place eager to experience the new season. Over the spring, teachers and children enjoyed field trips to Tiny Tots Symphony, Swissvale Fire Station, as well as Frick Park, and celebrated Mardi Gras, St. Patrick’s Day, and Easter.

During the month of April, we celebrated Month of the Young Child. The purpose of this national celebration is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize early childhood programs. We were excited to host guest readers from the PA One Book: Every Young Child Program featuring the book, *My Cousin Momo*. The teachers scheduled enjoyable events throughout the month for children and parents. We celebrated teachers, parents and volunteers with Appreciation Day parties. Let’s Move Pittsburgh and Mattress Factory were welcomed at our centers to do fun activities with the children.

We held Parent-Teacher Conferences in May. To end the school year, teachers shared results of our Brigance assessments, highlighting developmental achievements. May also featured Mental Health Awareness Day celebrated by our families with the creation of an outside mural. Children continue to enjoy the “Raising a Reader” program, hosted by our volunteer Mary.

Our families continue their participation in the Family Engagement program sponsored by Early Head Start, with our parents tracking the activities they do with their children outside of school. Parents at both centers earned a Pizza Party, held on Parent Appreciation Day, for all their efforts.

Parent meetings continued this semester. Special thanks to guest speakers: Mary Denison from Raising a Reader, Gina Omeje from Community Ambassador Program, Chris McAneny from 3E Now, Ray Garofalo from Dollar Bank, Carlow Nursing Students, and Ryan Gleason of the Crisis Center North.

Staff continue to learn and grow alongside children and parents. In May, we had our organizational in-service at Swissvale. Wendy McSparren presented on Trauma-Informed Care and has been conducting mini site trainings with staff thanks to the generosity of The Fine Foundation. Leadership Team members attended Confronting Sexual Harassment: A Workshop with Dr. Jackson Katz thanks to scholarships provided by the FISA Foundation.

All in all it was an action packed few months and a great way to end another wonderful year.
WAY TO WALK!

Thank you to everyone who supported Angels’ Place, Inc. by participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! Staff, parents, children and volunteers attended the walk and raised funds through a “Penny War” at each center, helping everyone to reach their fundraising goals. All of our friends worked together to make the event successful and we are grateful that so many care about our program.
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to all of the children and parents who graduated this spring! Our parents graduated from Career Training Academy, the University of Pittsburgh, The Art Institute of Pittsburgh, CCAC, Brightwood Career Institute and The Community Kitchen. We are so proud of them!
PARENT SPOTLIGHT: BRIANA WOODS

The parents and children that we have the privilege of serving are accomplishing their goals and doing amazing things every day. We are honored to share their success with the community! Here is the story of Briana who just recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with her Bachelor’s Degree in Media and Professional Communications.

What brought you to Angels’ Place, Inc.? I was always a very ambitious person whose goal was to finish school and follow my dreams. Having a child was truly a shock but I knew that it couldn’t stop me from following my dreams. I began researching child care centers that I could afford to send my son to while I go to school, and I came across Angels’ Place. It sounded too good to be true, so I set up a tour and immediately knew it was the place for my son, Dontae, and me.

Tell us about your experience at Angels’ Place for both you and Dontae? Our experience has truly been amazing. We are so fortunate to have found a child care center like Angels’ Place that truly puts your child first. They teach my son so much, cater to his personal needs with his speech issues, and genuinely love him and care about us. It truly feels like a family atmosphere.

How has Angels’ Place supported you in achieving your educational goals? I don’t think I would be where I am today (as a new graduate chasing her dreams) without the help of Angels’ Place. They always ask me how I am doing, offer resources, and cared for my son even when I had to go on interviews or events for my internships and field work. They have helped me in substantial ways for which I am so thankful.

Tell us about your goals now that you have graduated. I plan to move to New York City to work in television and live-event production. I want to eventually become a television host, but I know the importance of starting in a position to gain experience and working towards my goal.

What would you like others to know about Angels’ Place? If you want a child care center that you can trust with your child, know that they will love and teach them, allow them to be creative and display their personalities while caring about you as a parent and individual, as well as, your personal goals, Angels’ Place is for you. There is no other place that can compare to Angels’ Place. An angel truly touched this organization and the staff, because they are all blessings!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are extremely grateful for everyone who volunteers their time to Angels’ Place.

Seton LaSalle
A big thanks to Seton LaSalle National Honor Society students for planning and hosting a Carnival Day at our North Side center. With the support of Early Head Start providing bus transportation, children from the Swissvale center were able to attend as well!

PNC Grow UP Great
PNC Grow Up Great volunteers continue to help both centers in a variety of ways! Volunteers have helped with spring cleaning, organizing, taking down decorations, and getting gardens ready for planting. Volunteers also replaced the washing machine on the North Side with one from the Brookline center, along with cleaning windows and organizing the third floor at the North Side center following the repointing project.

Target volunteers helped pick up a food bank order.

Change A Heart volunteers from Niagara University cleaned and organized the centers.

Carlow University nursing students volunteered their time to do a parent/child yoga interaction activity.

A special thanks to volunteers who give their time each week: Bonnie Banas, Mary Denison, Russ Fry, Eileen Gelet, Megan Greifenstette, Kim Lamonde, Mary Ann Lyle, Rick and Lynda MacMurchy, Joan McElhinny, Debbie Retenauer, Kathy Slaby and Cecelia Stack.

You can make a difference! Volunteers are needed everyday in our classrooms and for special events. Call 412.321.4447 to learn about how you can volunteer.
DONATION LIST

MONETARY
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bridgeville
Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Olives Council No. 3907, Wexford

NON-MONETARY
St. John Capistran Church, Upper St. Clair
Quigley Catholic High School, Baden
St. Diego Parish, St. Vincent DePaul Pantry, Sharpsburg
St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland
Crafts for a Cause, Pittsburgh
The Buncher Company, Pittsburgh
Holy Apostles Parish, Brentwood

DONATED BY:  IN MEMORY OF:
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Priganc  Mrs. Carol Sipe
Mr. Gerard Grefenstette  Mrs. Megan Grefenstette’s Birthday
Ms. Eileen Gelet  Ms. Ruth English’s 100th Birthday

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Duer  Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Duer
Mrs. A. Natalie Cichoski  Ms. Anne Bezilla

MOTHER’S DAY DONATIONS:
DONATED BY:  IN MEMORY OF:
Mrs. Margaret Banas  Mrs. Margaret Banas
Ms. Beth E. Banas  Ms. Genevieve Napierkowski
Mr. & Mrs. Alan J. McElhinny  and Mrs. Amelia Bedini

DONATED BY:  IN HONOR OF:
Mrs. Geraldine Poydence  Mrs. Rita Lavella and
Mrs. Rita Lavella and  Mrs. Michelle Tipton
Ms. Bridget Murray,  Ms. Stephanie Lackson and
Ms. Angela Reese  Daughters and Daughter-In-Law

DONATED BY:  IN MEMORY OF:
Mr. Richard Anton  Ms. Sharon Connelly
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Cummings  Ms. Grace Connelly

FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS
PNC Foundation, Grow Up Great
Jacob A. and Frieda M. Hunkele Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Ging Foundation
The Heinz Endowments

Buckhanna, Inc.
Northwest Bank
Diamond Wire Spring Company
Catholic Books Direct
Farmers National Bank
County of Allegheny County Community Development
Keystone Mountain Lakes, Regional Council of Carpenters
Franktuary Lawrenceville LLC
Hooks and Needles
Evereve

Special thanks to Dave Spicuzza from Knepper Press who once again underwrote the printing costs for our Annual Report.

Special thanks to Rita Barlow, a grandparent who lives in another state, who sent gifts for each child, and ordered us pizza for our St. Patrick’s Day party. The children had a great time!

Thank you to Carole Aiello and St. John Bosco Academy for writing letters of curriculum alignment which allow Angels’ Place to participate in EITC and receive additional funding.

We were amazed to receive several large donations of wish list items from The Buncher Company, Holy Apostles Parish, and the Quigley Catholic High School National Honor Society. The Belcher family blessed us with more clothing for the children.

Crafts for A Cause donated beautiful Mother’s Day Crafts for our children to assemble. Pack-A-Purse Project donated gently used purses filled with a variety of supplies to our mother’s for Mother’s Day.

Thank you to St. John Capistran Ladies of Charity for providing Easter gifts for the children at both centers. Thanks to Derek Watson, from Wood Street Communications through Point Park University, for taking professional pictures of parents, children, staff and volunteers.
SAYING GOODBYE

Mary Kate Healey worked with us as a Marketing and Communications Fellow during the 2017-18 academic year. She worked with photography, emails, website, writing, social media, and other platforms to make sure everyone knew about Angels’ Place. Mary Kate was instrumental in increasing our social media following as well as designing our new brochures. During her time with us she got engaged and will be married in December. Although she worked primarily in the office, her favorite part was seeing the children, she especially enjoyed making art with them. Mary Kate is moving back to her hometown, Cleveland, to pursue a career in design. We will miss Mary Kate and wish her all the best in the next part of her journey.

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Angels’ Place, Inc.

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AMAZON SMILE
Shop for all of your favorite products and Amazon will send a portion of the purchase price to Angels’ Place.

Visit www.smile.amazon.com, search and add Angels’ Place as the benefiting nonprofit, and... that’s it! You will only need to do this once as Amazon will save your selected nonprofit.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Support Angels’ Place through United Way’s Contributor Choice program. Designate your contribution to Angels’ Place by using code #1200 North Side or #3977 Swissvale.

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.

HONOR DAD AND SAY
HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

Make a gift to Angels’ Place this year in honor or in memory of your dad. The impact you’ll have on families will last longer than any gift from the store.

You can make a gift at www.angelsplacepgh.org or by mail to: 2615 Northwood Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15216

SAVE THE DATE

October 25, 2018 5:30-9:30
FOR OUR ANNUAL
Halo Award Dinner
HONORING WILLIAM ISLER
Le Mort

JOIN US
## Wish Lists

### Swissvale
- All Purpose Cleaners
- Charlie Chinchilla Food and Treats
- Toilet Cleaner
- Hand Can Openers/Electric Can Openers
- Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Pump Hand Soap
- Small Bibs
- Paper Napkins, Cups and Plates
- White and Colored Copy Paper (Letter)
- Office Supplies
- Postage Stamps
- Light Bulbs
- Mounting Putty/Sticky Tac
- Playground Balls
- BBQ Sauce
- Cheese, Graham, or Icing-Free Animal Crackers
- Vanilla Wafers
- Salad Dressing
- Cheese, Graham, or Icing-Free Animal Crackers
- English Muffins
- Baby Food - Meats
- Baby Cereal - Rice or Oatmeal
- Freeze Pops

### North Side
- All Purpose Cleaners
- Toilet Cleaner
- Hand Can Openers/Electric Can Openers
- Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Pump Hand Soap
- Small Bibs
- Paper Napkins, Cups and Plates
- White and Colored Copy Paper (Letter)
- Office Supplies
- Postage Stamps
- Light Bulbs
- Mounting Putty/Sticky Tac
- Playground Balls
- Mops
- New Children's Bathing Suits and Water Shoes
- Reusable Rubber Gloves
- Cheese, Graham, or Icing-Free Animal Crackers
- Vanilla Wafers
- Battery Operated Vacuums
- Cordless Carpet/Floor Sweepers
- Flannel Backed Table Cloths (5 long tables)

(Climbing up the hillside.)