Dear Friends,

Season’s Blessings! Entering the holidays, I am reminded of tradition and the joy of celebrations steeped in customs and rituals. Some feel tradition limits progress, however, from my work with children and families, I know it offers comfort and stability which ultimately provides a safe and nurturing environment for everyone to thrive. Tradition is important at Angels’ Place because it offers an opportunity to connect people, developing a sense of belonging while celebrating diversity.

Traditions represent a critical piece of our culture and help structure and form the foundation of our families and our society. Research shows routines and traditions are part of healthy families and instill values. This is how we learn about life, where we came from and who we are as people.

Zena Ruiz, the parent speaker at our Halo Dinner, reminded us of an essential tradition at Angels’ Place. Looking beyond ourselves, serving and giving back to others - this is the cornerstone of our mission. Zena shared:

“But with Angels’ Place’s support, I was able to enroll full-time knowing that Sawyer was being taken care of by Pittsburgh’s finest. ... I learned the importance of being part of a community - being held accountable within a community, and the importance of the environment we surround ourselves with.”

She explained her weekly chore at Angels’ Place was tending to the plants, a laborious task taking close to 2 hours. At the time she didn’t see the importance of the task, but later realized it influenced her future. It helped her develop a green thumb and start a neighborhood garden that benefitted the community of North Braddock. Families received a share of the harvest by helping care for the gardens.

The simple act of parents volunteering weekly to give back to the program has become one of our many traditions at Angels’ Place binding us together and creating our community. Completing service hours, combined with holiday parties, graduation dinners, and parenting classes, has helped families feel proud to belong. They have become part of our history, passing these traditions onto their children and society.

Throughout the holiday season, and as you begin the New Year take time to remember. Remember and celebrate who you are, where you came from and the significant experiences that make life meaningful. Take time as a family to share memories, passing on your traditions, your values. Collectively we will strengthen our world and make it a better place to belong.

Zena ended by saying “I would never have found my home in Pittsburgh without Angels’ Place and the generous support of the board, donors, and everyone in this room.” Know that you are part of a wonderful tradition! Helping student parents and their children turn dreams into reality is a powerful way to teach the value of strengthening families. We remain motivated - with your continued support and friendship - you are our champions. May your holidays be filled with wonder and heartened with peace. God Bless.

With gratitude,

Beth E. Banas, Executive Director
WINTER 2018

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Autumn is a time filled with both celebration and traditions at Angels’ Place. As the days turned cooler and the leaves turned many beautiful shades of red, orange, brown and yellow, we dove into the many traditions that are a hallmark of our organization.

In September, we celebrated International Day of Peace by creating pinwheels which were proudly displayed in our yard as a symbol of our commitment to peace. Halloween is always a festive time as the children and staff dress up in fun costumes and trick-or-treat. The children also enjoyed decorating pumpkins, spooky crafts and games and yummy treats. Special thanks to Dave and Rita Barlow for providing pizza and special treat bags for the children.

The children have been enjoying lots of outdoor activities and observing the natural beauty of autumn while also learning skills important for kindergarten. In November, the Pre-K children attended a concert at Heinz Hall with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. We hosted our annual Grandparents’ Luncheons to celebrate the people who are instrumental in the lives of the children and parents in our program. Thanksgiving dinners brought us many opportunities to share thanks for the abundant blessings in our lives.

We are filled with gratitude for all the caring individuals and groups that help Angels’ Place continue providing highly-accredited early childhood education and care for the families in our program.

- Raising A Reader” gives children books to take home.
- The Storymobile continues visits at North Side to lend books.
- Krystle Fitzpatrick has been teaching yoga to the children thanks to the generous support of a grant.
- The Pittsburgh Fire Department visited North Side and talked to the children about fire safety and afterwards gave the children the opportunity to climb on board the fire truck.

Learning is just as important for our teachers and staff as we are blessed with the opportunity to advance the mission of Angels’ Place. Staff continue to focus on crucial topics such as infant and toddler mental health and trauma-informed care. During September’s Organizational In-Service, the staff watched the movie, “The Mask You Live In” with discussions supporting younger boys’ development and trauma-informed care. In the afternoon, the staff enjoyed a painting activity led by Lara Davis. We would like to welcome Rona the North Side Nutritional Coordinator. We are excited she has become part of the team!
ADOPT AN ANGEL: #GIVEANANGELWINGS

Did you know that for years we have had a monthly giving program supported by a dedicated group of donors. We are pleased to share our newly updated Adopt an Angel monthly giving program and cordially invite you to participate. By graciously becoming a monthly donor you are symbolically empowering our little angels and their parents to reach their full potential. Following your first donation, you will receive a Welcome Package and additional monthly acknowledgment and updates. Giving levels include:

- **Friend**: $10 Monthly
- **Supporter**: $25 Monthly
- **Champion**: $50 Monthly
- **Advocate**: $100 Monthly
- **Guardian**: $250 Monthly

This opportunity is open to both individuals and businesses. All Adopt an Angel donors will be mentioned in our Halo Award Dinner program, added to our website as well as our digital and physical mailing list. You will be the first to know what is happening at Angels’ Place. **Join the ranks of our noble supporters and begin sponsoring our littlest Angels today!** Go to our new website at angelsplacepgh.org or complete and return the coupon below. **After you pledge, use our hashtag #GIVEANANGELWINGS and spread the word!** Need more information call Cari Goss Quinn at 412.321.4447.

**ADOPT AN ANGEL**

I PLEDGE TO HELP CHILDREN & PARENTS GROW

Name: _____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________

I / WE WANT TO BE A:

- [ ] Friend
- [ ] Supporter
- [ ] Champion
- [ ] Advocate
- [ ] Guardian

$10/mo $25/mo $50/mo $100/mo $250/mo

Visa / MasterCard / AMEX #: ______________________________________ Exp. Date: _______

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
HALO AWARD DINNER

Enjoying a spectacular view at the LeMont Restaurant, we celebrated 35 years of serving the Pittsburgh Community at our annual Halo Award Dinner. On a crisp autumn evening, Bill Isler, former CEO of the Fred Rogers Company received the 2018 Halo Award on October 25. Special thanks to Chip Burke and Carole King who acted as honorary chairs, Jim Cunningham from WQED who emceed and Bishop Zubick for providing the invocation. Bill gave an amazing acceptance speech congratulating Angels’ Place on continuing to provide accredited and high quality early childhood education, child care and family support. He made a call to action - we need everyone to support children’s futures!

Zena Ruiz, an alumni parent was a guest speaker. Zena shared that after having her daughter Sawyer, with the support of Angels’ Place, in 2011 she graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon University. Today, Zena is Arts in Context Manager at the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and Sawyer is 11 years old and attending the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, both are happy and successful!

The Halo Dinner was supported by The Burke Family, PNC Bank, PPG, Wesbanco, and Federated Investors. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the 2018 Halo Award Dinner a success.

Thank you and Halo Dinner Photo Credit: Noah Strackbein from Point Park University
HOLIDAY SHOPPING THAT GIVES BACK

AMAZON SMILE allows you to 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! Remember you must see the Amazon smile logo for Angels’ Place to benefit.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: LESLIE SPARKS

Leslie was the Administrative Assistant at North Side before retiring in July. During her 12 years with Angels’ Place, she filled the center and our hearts with joy and laughter. Leslie loved the babies and could often be found snuggling with them in a rocking chair as they drifted off to sleep. Many of the parents saw her as a grandma, loving and trusting her with their precious children. Leslie’s sense of humor always made everyone’s day a little happier as she made jokes to make even the most challenging of tasks go more smoothly.

Leslie’s devotion to her team and Angels’ Place is truly heartfelt. She loved her job, her coworkers and the many families that she got to know during her years with the organization.

Since her retirement, Leslie has been spending lots of time with her family including her two children, Bill and Erin, their spouses, her granddaughter, Leah, and grand-dogs, Dempsey and Lola. Leslie is a truly beloved member of the Angels’ Place family and we are proud to honor her for her years of dedication to Angels’ Place. On behalf of the Angels’ Place community we thank Leslie for her commitment and service to our organization.

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.

WITH ENDLESS GRATITUDE

We are so thankful for the many friends throughout the community who volunteer their time, talent and resources. Their loving efforts help to ensure that our families have the brighter future they deserve!

A huge thank you to weekly volunteers - Bonnie Banas, Mary Denison, Russ Fry, Eileen Gelet, Megan Grefenstette, Kim Lamonde, Mary Ann Lyle, Rick and Lynda McMurchy, Joan McElhinny, Debbie Retenauer and Kathy Slaby.

The success of the Halo Award Dinner was due to the dedication, time and energy of the Special Events Committee, we couldn’t have done it without you. We appreciate the PNC Grow Up Great volunteers who assisted with the Halo Award Dinner invitation mailing and set up the day of the event.

Special Thanks

• Hayley Baranowski for collecting and donating Halloween costumes.
• Emma Van Horn for helping to make Leslie’s Thank You Luncheon memorable.
• Ben Lavella for helping to move and transport items at our North Side center.
• Kretschmann Organic Farms for weekly vegetables.
• Christ Light of the World Parish for the large donation of household supplies.
• Three Rivers Quilters Guild for the lovely quilts for the children.
• Christ Child Society for hosting the Coat Program again this year.
• Interplay Child Care Center for their donation of toys and equipment.
• Early Head Start for providing equipment and classroom supplies.
• Target in the Waterfront for a large donation of party supplies.
• St. Bernard’s volunteers for helping with Holiday dinners.
• To the many groups that reached out to create a special holiday season for the parents and children: John and Jeanne Belcher, Evans Family and Friends, Rotork, St. Barbara Parish, St. Germaine Parish, St. James Sewickley, St. John Capistran, St. John Fisher Ladies of Charity, St. John Neumann Parish, St. Maurice Parish, St. Paul’s Cathedral, St. Thomas More, Sts. Simon and Jude, and The Nevillewood Women’s Golf Association.

We are continually grateful for door donations of clothes, toys and wish list items.
HALO AWARD DINNER DONORS

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS
Ailda’s Woodfired Cucina
Allante Hair Designs & Spa
American Eagle Outfitters
Anthony’s Barber Shop
Applebee’s
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Arch
Audubon Society of Western PA
Ms. Beth Banas
Ms. Bonnie Banas
Barbecue Smoke Taqueria
John Schneider Loresh
Foundation/Bayernhof Museum
Mr. Ryan Bianco
big Burrito Restaurant Group
Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Foley
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Bashaw
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Ms. Gyndolyn Bradford
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Mr. George J. C’Miel
Mr. John M. Burdette
Dr. and Mrs. David Buck
Mr. John M. Burdette
Mr. George J. C’Miel
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Arch
Ms. Sylvia M. Fragomeni
Mr. & Mrs. Santa Fragomeni
Mr. Carlo & Mrs. Santa Fragomeni
Ms. Sylvia M. Fragomeni

DONATION LIST

MONETARY
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bridgeville
Knights of Columbus, Council No. 491, Brookline
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, Coraopolis

NON-MONETARY
Ms. Hayley Baranowski
Jennuine Bakes and Café, Murrysville
Mr. and Mrs. John Belcher

FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS
William B. McLaughlin Charitable Trust

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City of Pittsburgh

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Ms. Sylvia M. Fragomeni

IN HONOR OF:
Mr. Jack Ellsworth
Mr. William & Ms. Mary Rasle’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Ms. Mary Winter
The McElhinny Family

IN MEMORY OF:
Mr. Ryan Chiappetta
Ms. Vera Lagnese &
Ms. Helen Hawrylak
Mrs. Carole M. Connors
Ms. Geraldine Morris
Mr. Mark Livolsi
Mr. Bill Menold
Mr. Carlo & Mrs. Santa Fragomeni
**WISH LISTS**

**Swissvale**
- All Purpose Cleaners
- Toilet Cleaner
- 39 gal Trash Bags
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Paper Napkins
- Pump Hand Soap
- Liquid Dishwasher Soap
- Mops and Brooms
- Scrub Brushes
- Paper Towels
- Small Paper Dessert Plates
- Large Disposable Cups
- Dixie Cups
- Small Ziploc Sandwich Bags
- Gallon Ziploc Freezer Bags
- Calcium Chloride
- Elmer’s Glue
- Scotch Tape
- Duct Tape
- White and Colored Copy Paper (Letter)
- Candelabra Light Bulbs
- Postage Stamps
- LED Light Bulbs
- Hamster Food
- Betta Fish and Food
- Kaytee Clean and Cozy Bedding
- Lavender Scented Small Pet Bedding
- Hamster Food
- Timothy Hay for Small Animals
- Charlie Chinchilla Food
- Fruit Snacks
- Cereal
- Baby Food
- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Salad Dressing (Not Light or Reduced Fat)
- Wheat Thins
- Boxed Pudding
- Boxed Cakes and Icing
- Cheez-Its
- Ketchup
- Ritz Crackers
- Craisins
- Salt/Pepper
- Honey Nut Cheerios Snack Mix
- Whole Grain Pretzels
- Dried Fruits
- Gerber Graduates Lil’ Snacks

**North Side**
- All Purpose Cleaners (Non Toxic)
- Toilet Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- 30 gal Trash Bags
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Paper Napkins
- Paper Plates (Not Foam)
- Paper Towels
- Small Paper Dessert Plates
- Small Disposable Plastic Cups
- Dixie Cups
- Liquid Hand Soap (Refills)
- Play Dough (Dough Only)
- Natural Storage Baskets (Wicker)
- Elmer’s Glue
- Finger Paint
- Washable Children’s Paint
- Children’s Construction Paper (All Colors/Sizes)
- White and Colored Copy Paper (Letter Size)
- Manilla Envelopes
- Mailing Labels Avery 1562
- Regular Light Bulbs
- Pocket Folders
- Postage Stamps
- Flannel Backed Table Cloths (5 Long Tables)
- Cordless Carpet/Floor Sweepers
- Snow Pants 18 mth-5t
- Girls/Boys Underwear Size 2-5
- Cookie Baking Trays
- Ind. Applesauce or Fruit Cups
- Fruit Snacks
- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers (No Icing)
- Ritz Crackers
- Saltines
- Goldfish
- Dried Fruit
- Cheez-Its
- Teddy Grahams
- Vanilla Wafers
- Whole Grain Cereals
- Baby Food
- BBQ Sauce
- Birthday Candles
- Boxed Cake Mix and Icing
- Granola Bars
- Ketchup
- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Sprinkle Parmesan Cheese
- Salad Dressings
- Salt/Pepper
- Sugar/Flour