Dear Friends,

The sun is setting earlier, the nights are getting cooler, and our summer has come to an end. Another season has passed as we transition to the school year. Each year the final days of summer come with sadness as it seems like it went by in the blink of an eye.

Warm, sunny days allow our cares to drift away. We worry less, have fun and live in the moment. Immersing ourselves in nature, exploring new places and trying new things are part of the magic.

**Entering our 36th year**, Angels’ Place memories abound. It has been quite a journey and I’m honored to have worked alongside many people who have provided inspiration. As I pause to reflect, my heart is filled with gratitude for our staff, our families and particularly you, our faithful friends. Everyone has placed so much trust and faith in our work. I recognize the grace of God in surviving both the ups and downs.

This summer our tranquil environment was disturbed by unsettling events. First, at our North Side location I received a frantic call; active shooters were on our front street. Our team quickly went into lockdown and kept the children safe until the police provided an all clear and parents reunited with their children.

Next at the Swissvale location, as children played, the first floor flooded and within minutes we were six inches deep in water. Rapidly our team put a plan in action holding back flood waters and protecting infant and toddler classrooms. A convenient diaper supply helped staunch floodwater, but not before we experienced serious loss.

The day following each event, I was amazed and relieved to see our staff reporting with smiles on their faces and ready to serve our families. No hesitation, just commitment and dedication to our mission and each other.

**To our dynamic staff** who worked tirelessly providing children with an incredible experience – thank you! Staff gave their best as each day brought new challenges and victories. The traumatic experiences didn’t prevent our crew from working to connect in meaningful ways with our families. They are a terrific group and I’m grateful for each one’s dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm.

**Our parents’ trust is a blessing.** Continuing to bring their children after such events is a testimony to the connections we have built. The bonds of relationships are forged and strong as we all become part of a tight knit community.

**The wonderful thing about Angels’ Place** is it’s more than just a place to spend a day. It’s an experience that becomes a part of who each child and parent is – learning, growing, having the strength and courage to trust and investigate the world. Our families are understanding the value of community.

As the leaves change, my hope for all is joy in memorable moments. We revel in the glory of the past season and the potential of a magnificent autumn! Thank you for being an important part of our world. I’ll smile every time I think about summer, the delight, the challenges and our resiliency in overcoming obstacles, it’s all because of you. You fortify us and we’re blessed to be part of a dynamic group of folks. Our collective energy propels us forward allowing us to achieve milestones.

**Continue to partner with us and witness great change!**

Gratefully,

Beth E. Banas
Executive Director

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Mission: Angels’ Place, Inc. provides exceptional family support and quality early childhood education to help parents in need and their children become lifelong learners and create a brighter future.

**NORTH SIDE**
2615 Norwood Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15214
412.321.4447

**SWISSVALE**
2538 Woodstock Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218
412.271.2229

info@angelsplacepgh.org
www.angelsplacepgh.org

Angels’ Place, Inc. is an approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. 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.
SUMMER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

There was so much fun to be had in the sun this summer! Children got to get down in the dirt and plant our new garden for the season. A former teacher, Darla, worked with the children to plant tomatoes, peppers, onions, celery, broccoli, cucumbers, strawberries and many different herbs. As produce started to bloom, children have enjoyed being able to graze through the garden and sample a tasty and healthy treat while outside playing.

The dirt didn’t stop at the garden! Children and teachers got dirty while celebrating National Mud Day with a day of fun in the mud!

Cleaner and gentler times have been experienced this season as well. Since being trained in “Baby Doll Circle Time” teachers have been implementing this new technique into their monthly lesson plans as a way to work on and improve social-emotional skills like gentleness, compassion, and self-regulation.

The children enjoyed exploring their creative side with science and art during visits with ALCOSAN and the Mattress Factory. Experiences included getting water clean, creating chalk murals while reading Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings by Edward McLachlan, and making t-shirts.

Other fun summer activities have included chalk paint on the sidewalk, sprinkler play, bubbles, bike riding, and hopscotch. In celebration of 4th of July, we painted (Helping to prepare the garden.)

WELCOME ABOARD!

New beginnings for the Angels’ Place team brings excitement as we announce the addition of new staff members.

In June, Amanda Norris joined our team as the Education Director and Kara Sorenson came on board as Special Events Coordinator. Darrah Bird began as the Family Support Director in July. New teachers to join our team include Cara Halloran, Melissa Ecker and Jenna Martin.

Angels’ Place is also excited to have hired Nutritional Coordinators. Fatima Trimble is at our North Side center and Linda Mellinger is joining the Swissvale team.

We extend a huge welcome to all the new staff members and are truly grateful for a team devoted to advancing the mission of Angels’ Place.

(Cool shades thanks to the Belcher’s.)
We invite you to participate in our Adopt an Angel monthly giving program. In becoming a monthly donor you are symbolically empowering our little angels and their parents to reach their full potential. Go to angelsplacepgh.org/donate/other-ways-to-give/ to sign up. Commit today and give an angel wings! Following your first donation, you’ll receive a Welcome Package, monthly acknowledgments and updates. Giving levels include:

- **Friend**
  - $10 Monthly

- **Supporter**
  - $25 Monthly

- **Champion**
  - $50 Monthly

- **Advocate**
  - $100 Monthly

- **Guardian**
  - $250 Monthly

Our monthly giving program, Adopt an Angel, continues to grow! We are so thankful for the following people who have committed to giving our families the resources and education to reach their full potential.

- Mr. & Mrs. Enrico D. Arzenti
- Ms. Mary Kathryn Banning
- Bethany Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. & Dr. David B. Carver
- Ms. Paula M. Cline
- Mr. & Mrs. Kevin J. Cordera
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Cummings
- Ms. Elizabeth DiSalle
- Mr. Lawrence F. Domenic
- Ms. Hodda El-Ikandarani
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- Mrs. K. McLaughlin
- Mr. & Mrs. John H. Mentzer
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Miller
- Ms. Marjorie Mills
- Ms. Mary F. Morgan
- Mr. & Mrs. James J. Rodgers
- Ms. April Scassera
- Dr. Mary Sculli
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Szejko
- Ms. Danielle M. Tomisky
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Woshner
- Most Reverend David A. Zubik

Learning doesn’t stop with our families! We are proud that all staff completed at least 24 hours of professional development for the year. Our Executive Director attended Mindfulness Training in partnership with Awaken Pittsburgh. Our preschool teacher, Cassie, has received the Supporting Early Social and Emotional Development Credential from the University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and Development (UMN-CEED). Older toddler teacher, Cara attended Implementing Creative Curriculum training hosted by our partner, Early Head Start.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Announcing the graduation of Avionna L. Baldwin, MD
Alpha Omega Alpha inductee
Graduating from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
May 17, 2010

She will begin her Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

Avionna L. Baldwin, MD

Jessie Nordeen

Baron McDonough

Rosalina Medina
It seems like only yesterday we were watching these children play and begin to explore the opportunities of their world. They came to Angels’ Place as precious infants ready to learn and connect... now they are all grown up and doing amazing things. This issue offers a rare look at a collection of our children all blazing a successful trail in life.

Child Graduates from Angels’ Place

Rosalina Medina happily joined the Swissvale team this summer as a substitute teacher. After the wonderful experience she had at Angels’ Place, her love for teaching and children grew strong. Today, Rosalina is a full-time student attending Washington and Jefferson College on academic scholarship. She is studying Early Childhood Education. Among her many awards are the Good Neighbor Award, Scholars Award and she is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Avionna L. Baldwin, MD is an Orthopedic Surgery Resident at UCSF. She and her mom graciously spoke at a Halo Award Dinner about their success after Angels’ Place, and how it prepared her to pursue a career in the medical field. Avionna graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in May 2019, and was an Alpha Omega Alpha Inductee.

Baron McDonough is the son of Angels’ Place Board Member, Lisa Gardner, who both attended our Brookline center. Baron graduated from Penn State in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in Finance. Today, Baron is in Texas and a recent graduate with his MBA from the McCombs School of Business. He is Senior Management Consultant at Deloitte Consulting LLP.

Jessie Nordeen walked the stage in May and was handed a diploma by a former Angels’ Place parent, Dr. Kalani Palmer. It was an amazing experience for them to see how Angels’ Place continues to impact every generation of students. Jessie graduated from Indiana University in 2019 with a bachelor’s degree in Interior Design. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from IUP’s Robert E. Cook Honors College.

Parent Graduate from Angels’ Place

Dr. Kalani Palmer came to Angels’ Place as a student parent and graduated with a Bachelor of Art from Carlow University. Her education aspirations continued after she left, and today she is an Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Science Program Coordinator, and Family and Consumer Sciences Education Project Director at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Palmer is the former student parent that had the privilege of handing a diploma to Jessie Nordeen in May. Kalani’s son, Marcos, is a Physics/Pre-Engineering major at IUP for 3 years and will then attend Pitt for engineering for 2 years. He was also accepted in the IUP honors college.

Are you one of our alumni? Would you like to share your story? Contact Kara Sorenson at ksorenson@angelsplacepgh.org if you are interested in sharing the success you found at Angels’ Place.

HALO AWARD DINNER

One Enchanted Evening, Dreams Can Come True!
Please join us for our Halo Award Dinner on Thursday, October 24, 2019 for a night of enchantment and celebration at the beautiful LeMont restaurant.

Angels’ Place is grateful to honor the Farmeries, Wilson and Karen, as the 2019 Halo Award recipients. Supporters of Angels’ Place for over 25 years, they were instrumental in the start-up of the organization. We are excited to celebrate 35 years of serving the community, as well as, those who have helped to continue the success of Angels’ Place.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, or donating a silent auction item, please contact Kara Sorenson at 412.271.2229 or ksorenson@angelsplacepgh.org.
DONATION LIST

MONETARY
Knights of Columbus, Pittsburgh Chapter
Holy Apostles Christian Mothers, Carrick, Mt. Oliver, Baldwin Boro
Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Pittsburgh
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, Coraopolis
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bridgeville
Women of Southwestern PA, Inc., McMurray
St. Benedict’s Men’s Club, McMurray
Bridgeville-Cecil Catholic Church Grouping
Rotary Club of Bethel Park
Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Olives Council #3907, Wexford
Presbyterian Women of Westminster, Upper St. Clair

NON-MONETARY
St. Juan Diego Church, St. Vincent De Paul, Sharpsburg
St. Paul Seminary, Green Tree
St. Philip Quilters, Crafton
Sanad Volunteer Group, Greenfield
412 Food Rescue
Pack A Purse
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Linda Christen Family Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
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Allegheny County Medical Society
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Dewitt
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bober’s 65th
Wedding Anniversary

IN MEMORY OF:  IN MEMORY OF:
Mr. Lawrence F. Domencic
Mr. and Mrs. Alan McElhinny
& Family

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Dyda
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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.
We are extremely grateful for everyone who volunteers their time to Angels’ Place.

**PNC Grow UP Great**

We were so appreciative for the large group of PNC Grow UP Great volunteers that helped to weed our gardens, clean, organize and make our centers look exceptional for the beginning of a new school year. Special thanks to Rob and his team for shoring up our Swissvale location against heavy rains.

**Reading is Powerful!**

Parents and children continue to enjoy the “Raising a Reader” program, hosted by our volunteer Mary. Ms. Julie from the Carnegie Library stopped by to read to all the children at the North Side center and Gene, our monthly reader, continues to bring new books to share with the children at our Swissvale center.

**Supplies for all!**

Parents were so excited to receive beautiful purses filled to the brim with supplies from Pack A Purse 2019. Thank you to coordinator, Dana Cornelius, and all of her friends for providing this wonderful gift to our parents, causing at least a couple moms to tear up with joy and appreciation.

Kretschmann Organic Farms kindly provides a weekly donation of organic fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the summer and into the fall. This donation along with our gardens, provides children the opportunity to experience fresh fruits and vegetables on a daily basis. Our food program was also strengthened with a donation from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank who most recently donated a microwave to our Swissvale center.

Joy and gratitude for our champion in the community who provides yearly backpacks with supplies for the children and teachers to kick off the start of another school year. We appreciate new friends, the Sanad Volunteer Group and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, for multiple donations of children’s toys and wish list items.

Thank you to all the donors who provided items that make every day outstanding. An extra special thanks to the Belcher and Perkins families who provided an amazing donation of children’s clothing, bathing suits, shoes, and school supplies.

**Special Events**

We celebrate and value our Special Events Committee for donating time, talents and efforts to plan for our upcoming Halo Award Dinner. If you’re interested in joining our Special Events Committee call Kara Sorenson at 412.271.2229.

**Everyday Magic**


**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](http://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.
WISH LISTS

North Side
2615 Norwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
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Paper Towels
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Sandwich Size Ziploc Storage Bags
Gallon Ziploc Freezer Bags
Sharpees-Black Crayola Broadline Markers

Elmer’s Glue
Scotch Tape
Masking Tape
Postage Stamps
Greeting Cards
White Copy Paper (Letter)
Card Stock-Color (Letter)
Candelabra Light Bulbs
LED Light Bulbs
Fan Without Blades
Hand Held Can Openers
Children’s Bike Helmets
Playground Balls
Baby Food-Fruit
Graham Crackers
Animal Crackers
Wheat Thins
Salad Dressing (Not Light or Reduced Fat)
Boxed Pudding
Boxed Cakes and Icing
Cheez-Its
Ketchup
Whole Grain Ritz Crackers
Craisins
Salt/Pepper
Canola Oil
Garlic Salt
Whole Grain Pretzels
Dried Fruits
Gerber Graduates Lil’ Snacks
English Muffins
Triscuits
Snap Pea Crisps
Flavored Rice Cakes
Cheese Crackers
Breakfast Syrup
Peanut Butter
Baby Food (Fruits and Vegetables)
Infant Cereal
Cheerios, Kix, Corn Flakes

(Cheese for the camera!)