COMFORT AND JOY

"...I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ~ Luke 2:10

Dear Friends,

Brighter Futures. Infinite opportunities. Strong Families. These are the gifts you give! Season’s Greetings to you. Our Halo Dinner was One Enchanted Evening and I bear witness to the fact that dreams do come true thanks to you our faithful friends and champions.

Our parent speaker Jameeta Lewis and her daughter are testimony to your thoughtful support. Sharing their successful achievements at our dinner, she reminded us of the changes in our world. You remain our constant and ensure that families continue to have access to quality education.

I celebrated my 30th anniversary with Angels’ Place and also reminisced on all of the changes that have occurred in 30 years. When I started, I was a young Mother myself with a 2-year-old, I couldn’t have imagined the enormous changes that were to come.

We are often visited by parent clients who are now grandparents and our child clients have grown into prosperous adults some with children of their own. The typewriters are gone (except Diane’s 😊), cameras don’t have film, everyone has a phone that can fit in their pockets and texting is the preferred method of communication.

Here at Angels’ Place we are keeping up with the times, but parents and children still find security and support in all that remains unchanged. We still provide a close-knit environment, with family-style meals and holiday dinners, a network of support, quality education for children and strong relationships with people who care.

Blessed to know our families intimately, we have learned the true meaning of being a good neighbor. With your help we can continue to share the message with them that they are precious and valued. We hope you will again open your hearts and remind people that they are loved.

A gift from you shows our families that they are not alone and there are people who care. It’s a simple gesture that makes a big difference. For many this is their favorite time of year, as friends and loved ones gather for a holiday meal. However, we want to remember those who do not have a warm home to call their own, a safe environment, or the company of family, trusted friends and food to celebrate.

Listening to our families today, we are reminded of and deeply moved by the challenges that haven’t changed, in fact they are worsening. For instance, poverty, infant mortality, student loans that make school prohibitive and overwhelming violence, are just a few. Angels’ Place is committed to ensuring that continued opportunities exist for other children and parents in need. These families have nowhere else to turn for help.

Together, you and all of us at Angels’ Place can make this yuletide a bit brighter with love and hope, offering peace and goodwill to all. Reflect on your blessings and please consider a gift to support our work. Can I count on you to further the vision for a brighter future for two generations? Help us create more family success stories.

Thank you for your consideration and support. You make a difference! Thinking warmly of each of you and wishing your family comfort, joy and hope this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Brightest blessings,

Beth E. Banas
Executive Director
FALL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The beauty of autumn is a wonder to behold and, here at Angels’ Place, we are blessed to share the magnificence of fall with our families. Halloween is a time of fun and excitement as the children dressed up and enjoyed a party that included yummy food, fun and, of course, trick-or-treating and no party would have been complete without decorating pumpkins. Thanks to Hayley Baranowski for donating Halloween costumes for the children at both centers. The party at Swissvale continued during lunch as good friend, Rita Barlow, bought pizza for everyone to enjoy. Autumn is a time of tradition at each of our centers as we celebrated the joy of togetherness at our annual Family Luncheons and Thanksgiving Dinners. With deepest gratitude, we thank Angela Gaughan and the ladies from Martha’s Ministry at St. Bernard’s Parish, for cooking and serving a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner for the families at the North Side.

The children at Swissvale made delicious pumpkin bread to share with their family, while the Pre-K friends at North Side made homemade vegetable soup to warm up on a chilly day. It is also a time of great learning for the children as they observed the changing leaves and collected them for beautiful collages, explored the inside of pumpkins and tasted different varieties of apples.

The children have been excited to take part in their weekly yoga class with Krystle Fitzpatrick thanks to a generous grant from Let’s Move Pittsburgh, as well as, lots of opportunities to experience books and story time with our monthly readers from Raising A Reader – Gene and Claudia. The children at North Side look forward to visits from the Storymobile and with Miss Julie from the Carnegie Library.

Monthly In-Service meetings continue to be a time for staff development and training with a focus on Early Childhood Mental Health. In September, we continued our study of Nonviolent Communication with Compassionate Pittsburgh. Parent Education classes resumed in September with our Family Support Director, Darrah, who led the groups in discussions about child development, the importance of play and financial literacy. Our parents also continue their participation in the Family Engagement Program.

At Angels’ Place, amazing things are happening each day. Children are learning and parents are receiving the support needed to achieve their goals. As we look forward to the holiday season, we are filled with love and gratitude for all who support our Mission each day. Together, we are changing lives.
ADOPT AN ANGEL: #GIVEANANGELWINGS

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 (listed in alphabetical order) who have committed to giving our families the resources and education to reach their full potential.

Ms. Mary Kathryn Banning
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Ms. Shannon Evans
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Finke
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Szejko
Ms. Danielle M. Torisky
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Woshner
Most Reverend David A. Zubik

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.
HALO AWARD DINNER

Everyone enjoyed an enchanted evening at our 2019 Halo Award Dinner located at the beautiful LeMont Restaurant. We celebrated the Farmeries, Wilson and Karen, for their decades long support of Angels’ Place. A special thanks goes out to our honorary chair couple Lisa and George Gardner, Jason Togyer, radio celebrity who emceed, and Reverend Pastor Andrae for providing the invocation. Wilson and Karen gave a beautiful acceptance speech where Karen said “As I look out on all of you, I know that all the horrible news I hear can’t compare to all the beautiful people in this room. I see halos everywhere”. It was a powerful statement that touched all of our hearts and reminded us why we work hard to provide accredited high quality early childhood education, child care and family support for our parents and children.

We were accompanied by parent and daughter graduate guest speakers, Jameeta Lewis Davis and Alieyyah Lewis. Jameeta’s husband, Lee, joined us for the evening, along with our student speaker from last year, Zena Ruiz and her daughter Sawyer. It was a blessing to have several of our graduates in attendance that night.

The Halo Award Dinner was sponsored by Steel Dynamics: Flat Roll Group, The Techs Division, Swanson School of Engineering University of Pittsburgh, PNC Bank, WesBanco Bank, Inc., and Federated Investors Foundation, Inc.

Halo Dinner Photo Credit: Paige Newcomb Photography and Videography
(Happy to see each other.) (Generous Corporate Sponsors.) (Great friends and supporters of Angels’ Place.) (Enjoying the venue.) (Past honorees Megan and Ed.) (Honorees, Wilson and Karen Farmerie and family.) (Kara smiles for a successful night.) (Yearly guests, the Gusmar table.) (Karen shares a touching acceptance speech.) (Pastor Andrae gives the invocation.) (Mary and Beth welcome new friends.) (Staff, alumni and close friends have a great time.) (Honorary chair couple Lisa and George Gardner and friends.) (Zena, Jameeta, Aliyyah and Sawyer- alumni parents and children.) (The dynamic duo!)
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Ms. Marilyn Messina
Ms. Lee Davis, Mrs. James Lewis Davis,
and Ms. Alieyyah Lewis

IN MEMORY OF:
Ms. Mary Winter
Josef Hart
Ms. Virginia Lewis

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Rev. Eric R. Andrae-Invocation
Jason Togyer- Emcee
Janeeta Lewis Davis-Parent Speaker
Alleiyah Lewis- Student Speaker
Dan Parasky- Flute
Matt Klump- Piano
Paige Newcomb-Photographer
Nothing Bundt Cakes-Dessert
Robert Santucci- Door Prize
Carrie Wall- Background Music
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PCU Grow Up Great Volunteers
Renee Ivers
Stephanie Cullen
PARENT AND DAUGHTER SPOTLIGHT: JAMEETA LEWIS DAVIS AND ALIEYYAH LEWIS

Jameeta Lewis Davis came to Angels’ Place as a student parent in the 90’s with her daughter Alieyyah. While at Angels’ Place Jameeta was a student at Carlow University. Her education and degree in Business Communications helped her achieve a successful career in sales and customer service, and today she is the Director of Customer Service at West Virginia University. This year we had the privilege of having Jameeta and Alieyyah speak at our Halo Award Dinner. Jameeta shared that Angels’ Place provided her with the help and support that she needed to balance being a good parent and a good student. A special tribute was made to Virginia Lewis (Grandma Orange), the matriarch of the family who inspired many and volunteered her time at Angels’ Place.

After leaving Angels’ Place as a child graduate, Alieyyah Lewis grew up to become a graduate of Shady Side Academy High School and Hampton University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law. Alieyyah taught history in the Cleveland area schools for three years through the Teach for America program. Today, she is working for her Master of Science in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. Alieyyah dreams of having a career in Educational Policy to ensure students are receiving an equitable education.

WITH ENDLESS GRATITUDE

Grow UP Great Volunteers
We are continuously grateful for the ongoing support of PNC Grow Up Great Volunteers. At Swissvale, volunteers organized and hosted the children’s Halloween Party with candy for trick-or-treating, crafts and games and a special Halloween snack. They also helped clean the center and rake leaves outside. Friends from PNC also decorated the North Side center for Christmas.

Weekly volunteers: Special thanks to Bonnie Banas, Jessica Dewit, Russ Fry, Eileen Gelet, Megan Greifenstette, Jennifer Guinee, Kim Lamonde, Mary Ann Lyle, Joan McElhinny, Debbie Retenauer and Kathy Slaby.

Thanks to Evereve for the donation of women’s clothing.

We were excited to receive beautiful homemade quilts from Three Rivers Quilters who so generously donates to us every year.

Once again, we are blessed to be part of the Christ Child Society Coat Program so all the children could receive a winter coat.

Special thanks to the groups who reached out to create a special holiday for parents and children: St. Maurice Parish, St. Thomas More, Christ Light of the World Parish, Christ our Savior Parish, St. John Neumann, St. James in Sewickley, Evans family and friends, and Woodland Hills High School.

Thanks to Ben Lavella for helping with Swissvale’s fall fundraiser by picking up their popcorn order and to Kretschmann Farms for the weekly donation of organic produce.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank continues to partner with our program and has provided a grant for food and supplies for our Swissvale center and the North Side center has so gratefully been granted a new microwave and stove.

We thank our Special Events Committee for donating their time, talents and efforts to helping with the success of the Halo Award Dinner.

Early Head Start continues to partner with our program and we appreciate the many ways they support our organization. They also continue to help with diapers, equipment in the classrooms, and monetary funding.

We are grateful for all our door donations of clothes, toys and wish list items.
NORTH SIDE
2615 Norwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
412.321.4447

SWISSVALE
2538 Woodstock Avenue
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412.271.2229

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- Fan Without Blades
- Hand Held Can Openers
- Salt (Calcium Chloride)
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Children’s Bike Helmets
- Gerber Puffs
- Baby Food-Fruit Pasta
- Wheat Thins
- Salad Dressing (Not Light or Reduced Fat)
- Boxed Pudding
- Boxed Cakes and Icing
- Ketchup
- Whole Grain Ritz Crackers
- Salt/Pepper
- Canola Oil
- Garlic Salt
- Whole Grain Pretzels
- Gerber Graduates Lil’ Snacks
- Triscuits
- Snap Pea Crisps
- Flavored Rice Cakes
- Chicken Broth
- Veggie Straws
- Sprinkle Parmesan Cheese

North Side
- Toddler/Preschool Size New Underwear
- Snowsuits Toddler/Preschool Sizes
- Instant Pot
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Sharpie Markers
- Masking Tape
- Post-It Notes
- Outlet Covers
- Greeting Cards – All Occasions
- All Purpose Cleaners
- Clorox Wipes
- Toilet Cleaner
- 39 Gallon Trash Bags
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Latex Gloves
- Large Plastic Bibs
- Paper Napkins
- Large Paper Plates
- Dessert Size Paper Plates
- Pump Hand Soap
- Liquid Dishwasher Soap
- Mops and Brooms
- Paper Towels
- Dixie Cups
- Sandwich Size Ziploc Storage Bags
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- Sharpies-Black
- Crayola Broadline Markers

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