Angels' Place
Nurturing Two Generations

# CRIB NOTES

Summer 2021 ❄ Issue #143

**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.


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Dear Friends,

The transforming of seasons in Pittsburgh is magical and we are inspired by the natural beauty as our world turns luxuriously green. Waking up to the birds singing every day reminds us the world is wonderous and that we too must search for our own song to sing. The value and respect we place on life itself is mirrored in nature providing the perfect time to celebrate our mission.

With great enthusiasm, I recognize all the amazing people who joyfully partner with Angels' Place. Supporters include people of all backgrounds who place great emphasis on education, ensuring parents and children have a chance to succeed. We are grateful for the creative energy and expertise generated by our friends. Bound together by a commitment to a more just and equitable future for single parents, we help families seek a brighter future. Thank you for all you are doing to build a more inclusive world. You are the heart and soul of the organization.

Throughout the years, I've noticed one very important thing in our work together; Angels' Place is more than just an organization, we are a community. One that includes our families, our generous donors, volunteers, board and staff, who give compassionately. This diverse and committed community is the cornerstone of Angels' Place, and I am certain we will impact many more lives in the future.

The best time of year is the season for singing the praises of our graduates. This is what we work for all year long- the achievement of educational and life goals. We are pleased to continue growing our village of innovators and learners who are shaping the future of our society. Each graduation is a symbol of your dedication to Angels' Place. Because of friends like you, we succeed in advancing the underserved talent in the region.

I took a moment to reflect on the process of cultivating these stories of success. It all starts with vision and a willingness to work towards achieving a dream. The process takes patience, prioritizing and making difficult decisions. We all need a strong support system to succeed. Angels' Place provides the critical assistance to guide our parents through this process. Two generations are learning the value and satisfaction of education and becoming strong members of a community. Angels' Place's holistic approach is strategic, well balanced and thoughtful.

With vaccinations on the rise, we feel confident to safely begin the return of some events. Over the past year, without our volunteer's tender care, our outdoor spaces became untidy. We are welcoming back volunteers interested in restoring these spaces to their former beauty.

Please consider taking action to volunteer a few hours of your time and expertise with a team of friends and family. Not a gardener? Don't worry, there are other opportunities. As a friend of Angels' Place, you know the high-quality services offered to our families are born out of stretching every gift to its fullest potential. Can I count on you, someone who values our mission, to lend a helping hand? Please know we are grateful for all the ways you express your friendship and support!

We wish all of you an exciting, safe and joyful summer. God bless!

Sincerely,

Beth E. Banas
Executive Director

*(Here friend, I'll help you out.)*

# SUMMER 2021

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Spring is a time of awakening and renewed excitement for nature as the children at both centers have been taking full advantage of the warmer weather to explore the outdoors and engage in some much-needed big body play experiences with their friends. Bike riding, blowing bubbles and sand play are some of the daily activities that bring huge smiles to the faces of children each day. Wonderful learning experiences are happening in our playgrounds as the children are planting flowers, observing birds and insects, and seeing the wonder of things growing and blooming.

*(Best buds hard at work.)*

*(Goodbye Danica, we will miss you!)*

*(My egg matches my smock.)*

*(Cinco de Mayo Taco Day!)*

Over the past several months, the children at both centers celebrated Black History Month, Dr. Seuss' birthday, St. Patrick's Day, Mr. Rogers' birthday and Easter. The North Side friends enjoyed an outdoor Easter egg hunt and decorated eggs as part of their holiday traditions. We also observed Month of the Young Child throughout April with activities centered on the theme "Healthy Minds and Bodies." Teachers and children at Swissvale had a great deal of fun making smoothies, exercising outside to music, and planting seeds. To honor all the important people in their lives, the children made gifts for volunteers, parents and Teacher Appreciation and Administrative Professionals Days. They also made special presents to give to their mom or other loved one for Mother's Day. On Earth Day, friends painted rocks which were placed around the community in hopes of bringing a smile to whomever found them.

In May, the children enjoyed Cinco de Mayo activities which included a Piñata and tacos. The children were excited to visit the Swissvale fire station, explore the fire trucks and meet the fire fighters who protect our community. Both centers celebrated the graduate parents and the Pre-K children going to kindergarten with a party and slide show from their time at Angels' Place.

In April, we were sad to say goodbye to Swissvale infant teacher, Danica Halloran. She will be truly missed by all and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. The children and staff commemorated her time at Angels' Place with a special party in her honor. Rosalina Medina will return as a substitute teacher throughout the summer as the teachers will take well-deserved vacation time.

At North Side, we had the joy of welcoming a new member to the teaching team! Breana Noak is a former client who just completed her student teaching experience at Angels' Place and graduated from Carlow University with her degree in Education. She will be working with our young toddlers.

Attack Theatre will implement a weekly eight-month creative movement program for the children, parents, and staff. To kick off the program, Attack Theatre held a workshop at our May organizational in-service meeting to help staff get acquainted with the program and learn how to

*(Amazed by the fire truck.)*

*(Enjoying our annual Swissvale Fire Station trip.)*

*(Wow! Look at his uniform!)*

promote this wonderful opportunity with our families.

Angels' Place is blessed to have the continued support of our generous donors and community friends. Since the beginning of spring, we have been so fortunate to receive many donations that have helped in the day-to-day operations of our program, supported our families, and enhanced our early childhood education program.

## Thank You and Special Acknowledgments

Angels' Place is incredibly thankful to the founder of Comma Girl, Katie Kirkpatrick Regan, for coordinating an amazing collection of wish list items for our centers in honor of Mother's Day. We were overwhelmed with appreciation for this very kind gesture of support.

Thank you to the following for donating to our program: Bethany Presbyterian Church, The Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association, PNC Grow Up Great, Pittsburgh Career Institute, Trying Together, Reading is FUNdamental, Grow Pittsburgh, St. Juan Diego Foodbank, and Global Links.

We are grateful to Saint John Capistran Ladies of Charity and Saint John Fisher Ladies of Charity for donating Easter gifts for the children.

Angela Gaughan and friends of St. Michael the Archangel Parish kindly prepared and delivered lunch for the staff to enjoy at our organizational in-service.

Special thanks to Knepper Press Corporation and Dave Spicuzza for donating the printing services for our Annual Report and to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank for the generous grant of a new dishwasher for our North Side center.

With appreciation of Nancy and John Daller for kindly supporting the landscaping project at Swissvale.

Friends Jim and Brendan Leck for donating their time fixing appliances and keeping our outdoor spaces safe and clean at North Side.

We thank our Special Events Committee for donating time, talents, and efforts to plan for our upcoming Halo Award Dinner.

Gratefully we acknowledge our partnership with Early Head Start and the many ways they support our organization.

We continue to be grateful for all our door donations of clothes, toys, and wish list items.

*(Starting our group mural.)*

*(Look how great our mural turned out!)*

## Celebrating Our Graduates

Graduation season brings immense joy to all of us here at Angels' Place as we celebrate the accomplishments of our parent and Pre-K graduates. Angels' Place is proud to share the success of clients who have worked so diligently to complete their education and move towards achieving their dreams. This year, we are honoring Rachel who graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with a bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics, Daesha who graduated from Pittsburgh Career Institute's dental assistant program and Caia who is graduating from New Academy Charter School. Both Rachel and Daesha have already secured employment in their chosen professions and Caia will be going to Bidwell Training Center to become a Medical Assistant.

Six children are headed to kindergarten this fall after graduating from our Pre-K program. They have been hard at-work learning crucial school-readiness skills that are going to help them as they begin their new adventure-fully prepared to learn, be part of a classroom community and be successful.

As Maya Angelou so beautifully said, "Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." We know our graduates go into the world ready to take on life's challenges with the education, skills, and confidence to obtain the success for which they are striving.

We would also like to acknowledge all our staff members who continue to meet the goal of 24 hours per year of professional development. This year we are proud to announce that we have six staff members who have received their Infant Mental Health Endorsement IMH-E® from the Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health (PA-AIMH)http://www.pa-aimh.org/. Congratulations to the following staff who have received their endorsement: Beth Banas, Cara Halloran, Cassie Lavella, Danica Halloran, Darrah Bird and Jennifer Leck.

*(Bubble blowing fun.)*

*(Happy Parent Appreciation Day!)*

# COMMUNITY PARTNER: GROW PITTSBURGH

We are so excited to launch a new partnership with Grow Pittsburgh! Throughout the spring and summer, Grow Pittsburgh will be helping each center to reimagine, redesign, and build garden space uniquely suited for the environment and area available. An expert Farm to School Coordinator will be teaming up with our teachers to develop new ways to integrate garden and cooking activities into the regular classroom curriculum. The support from Grow Pittsburgh will help to take our gardening programs to a new level in our efforts to teach children to grow, cook, and eat fresh food while honoring our families' unique cultures and values.

Grow Pittsburgh truly lives out their mission to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits gardens bring to our neighborhoods. In addition to supporting gardens in schools, they also provide resources for home gardeners, community gardens, and urban farms as well as advocacy for access to urban agriculture. Our new partnership means so much to Angels' Place and to the children and families we serve. We can't wait to share the bounty of our harvest!

*(Getting the dirty ready for our garden.)*

*(Pre-K friends meeting to plan their garden.)*

*(Pulling out the weeds so we can plant vegetables.)*

# 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 | Supporter | Champion | Advocate | Guardian |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $10 Monthly | $25 Monthly | $50 Monthly | $100 Monthly | $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.

Mr. & Mrs. Gary J. Agate
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bailey
Ms. Mary Kathryn Banning
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Blohm
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Bonacci
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Dr. Mary Sciulli
Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Smallwood
Ms. Kelly Szejko
Ms. Danielle M. Torisky
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce T. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Woshner
Most Reverend David A. Zubik

*(Famous artists in the making.)*

*(We made our own fire trucks.)*

*(Carnival day at Angels' Place.)*

# VIRTUAL HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY: OUTDOOR SCAVENGER HUNT

Once again Angels' Place enjoyed participating in the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. Thank you to everyone who joined our efforts virtually and on Saturday, May 8th. Families at each center competed in Penny Wars to raise funds towards our goal of $10,000. Children decorated special flowers, and everyone contributed in a "Feed the Flower" competition to raise money to support Angels' Place. The center that raised the most money earned a pizza party!

This year's winner was the Swissvale center. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard to raise money in support of our program. This year we added a new twist to the traditional event. Thirteen teams signed up to be a part of the first ever Angels' Place Photo Outdoor Scavenger Hunt. It was a great morning full of friendly competition as families and friends got together in their own neighborhoods and community spaces to hunt and find items hidden in nature.

We are grateful to all the families, volunteers, board members, staff and faithful friends who contributed to our success! Together we are helping educational dreams and career goals become a reality for single parents while their children learn and grow in a warm and welcoming environment.

*(A NS mom and her kids found a street sign.)*

*(A NS student showing off the tree stump she found.)*

*(The girls say they ordered summer weather.)*

*(A winning SW family group participant excited to find a dandelion.)*

*(Post event group photo from the Hinnebusch clan after taking first place in their category!)*

## SHOPPING THAT GIVES BACK

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

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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.

*(Our school has hats galore.)*

# DONATION LIST

## MONETARY

McMurray Rotary Club
St. Vincent De Paul Society, St. Gregory Conference, *Zelienople*
Bethany Presbyterian Church, *Bridgeville*
Rotary Club of Bethel Park
Episcopal Church Women, *Diocese of Pittsburgh*
Center Presbyterian Church, Anthony Fund, *McMurray*
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, *Coraopolis*

## NON-MONETARY

St. John Capistran Parish, Ladies of Charity, *Upper St. Clair*
St. John Fisher, Ladies of Charity, *Churchill*
Trying Together, *Squirrel Hill*
Pittsburgh Career Institute, *Downtown Pittsburgh*

## FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS

Jacob A. and Frieda M. Hunkele Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Wolf Family Charitable Foundation
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W. I. Patterson Charitable Fund
G.C. Murphy Company Foundation
Child Health Association of Sewickley, Inc.
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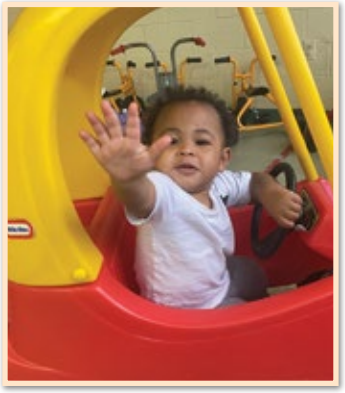
## IN HONOR OF:

Mrs. Mary Winter

The McElhinny and Arch Families
Mr. Thomas Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Hinnebusch
Mr. Michael DiSalle

*(I'm gonna take a break for a minute.)*



*(See ya later alligator!)*

*(Painting with fire trucks is so fun.)*

*(Cutting with scissors takes patience.)*

## DONATED BY:

Knights of Columbus Council 13959, Sisters Irene and Corinne Moeller
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Duer
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Ms. Beth E. Banas

Auntie

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Mr. Michael DeStefano
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Ms. Sylvia M. Fragomeni and Mrs. Donna Winter
Greyson Fullgraf's 17th Birthday

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Mrs. Frances Lynch, Mrs. Antoinette Kunco and Mrs. Linda Lynch
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Mrs. Donna Winter

Mrs. Margaret Banas, Mr. Leonard Banas
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Mrs. Evelyn McLaughlin
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Mrs. Mary Banyas
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Constantine
Ms. Laura Paltan

# STUDENT PARENT SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL C. RADKE

Our student parents at Angels' Place have been studying and working hard to accomplish their educational goals. Read about one our recently graduated parents, Rachel, who earned her B.A. in Mathematics and will be pursuing a Masters in Math Education at Duquesne University this summer.

*(Enjoying a beautiful day together.)*

*(I'm watching my big brother do his homework.)*

### What brought you to Angels' Place, Inc.?

In the Spring of 2019, a few months after the birth of my youngest son, I had to leave my whole life behind in order to escape domestic violence. My three sons and I packed a few bags and moved into the Women's Center and Shelter. Since I was now the sole provider for my family, I decided to work on finishing my bachelor's degree. My two younger boys started at Angels' Place that summer, and I started my classes.

### Tell us about your experience at Angels' Place.

Angels' Place gave us a sense of dignity, hope, and belonging at a time when we often felt none of those things. The child care and overall family support Angels' Place provided during my time at school was integral to my ability to perform well and complete my degree. Ari has now been at Angels' Place for almost 2 years, since he was only 5 months old. Sometimes, when we turn into the driveway in the morning, he says "yay, home!" As a mom, it is so comforting to hear that your child feels so safe and welcome at his child care that he considers it to be a second home.

### How has Angels' Place supported you in achieving your educational goals?

The child care provided by Angels' Place gave me the ability to attend school full-time, and in October 2020, I graduated with my B. A. in Mathematics from Southern New Hampshire University.

*(Working together we can do anything.)*

### Tell us about your goals now that you have graduated.

I was recently awarded a teaching fellowship. I will attend Duquesne University for a year beginning this June to earn a Master's degree in Secondary Math Education. The fellowship will cover my living expenses throughout the year so I can be free to focus on the program.

### What would you like others to know about Angels' Place?

I truly would not have been able to finish my bachelor's degree last year without the ongoing support of Angels' Place, let alone pursue my master's. I am so grateful for them every day!!

*(Engaged in a story.)*

*(Taking my baby for a ride.)*

*(I'm not up to anything.)*

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# WISH LISTS

## North Side

- Ink Pens
- Disposable Face Mask
- Bleach
- Liquid Fabric Softener
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Hand Soap
- Paper Towels
- Paper Plates- Bowls- Cups
- Dixie Cups
- Plastic Spoons
- Plastic Forks
- Facial Tissue
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- 30 Gallon Trash Bags
- Washcloths
- Mops- Brooms- Buckets
- All Purpose Cleaners
- Dishwasher Pods
- Dishwasher Liquid Soap
- Toilet Cleaner
- Masking Tape
- Outlet Covers
- White Copier Paper (8.5"x11")
- Colored Copier Paper ( 8.5"x11")
- Greeting Cards All Occasions
- Post-It Notes
- Push Pins
- Hand Lotion
- Highlighters
- Crackers
- Pretzels
- Goldfish Crackers
- Cereal Bars
- Granola Bars
- Wheat Thins
- Raisins
- Boxed Cakes and Icings
- Garden Gloves
- Disposable Vinyl Gloves
- Assorted Gardening Tools-Supplies

## Swissvale

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Toilet Cleaner
- 39 Gallon Trash Bags
- Dixie Cups
- Pump Hand Soap
- Lysol Spray
- White Copier Paper (8.5"x11")
- Postage Stamps
- Liquid Dishwasher Soap
- LED Light Bulbs
- Large Paper Plates
- Dessert Size Paper Plates
- Paper Napkins
- Latex Gloves
- Children's Water Shoes
- Sand Toys
- One Gallon Insulated Water Jug
- Mops and Brooms
- Crayola Broadline Markers
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Gallon Zip Loc Freezer Bags
- Birthday Candles
- Greeting Cards
- Candelabra Light Bulbs
- Clorox Wipes
- Children's Swim Suits
- Disposable Children's Masks
- Big Plastic Pools
- Command Strips and Hooks
- Little Swimmers- Size 5-6
- Sticky Tack
- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Wheat Thins
- Boxed Cakes and Icing
- Pepper/Salt
- Ketchup
- Whole Grain Ritz Crackers
- Parmesan Cheese
- Craisins
- Goldfish
- Flavored Rice Cakes
- Dried Fruits
- Freeze Pops
- Fruit Cereal Bars

## WORKPLACE GIVING

LIVE UNITED United Way

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**.

*(Laying in my outline.)*