Angels' Place
Nurturing Two Generations

CRIB NOTES

Fall 2022 ❄ Issue #148

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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"Who's the Boss?"

Dear Friends:

The days of summer have passed by and given way to a new school year and the autumn months. It is always a time for celebrating great relationships and strong connections.

What does it mean to be the "The Boss"? Recently I engaged with the preschoolers. Entering the classroom, I participated in an activity and referenced a classroom rule. One of the children said to me, "We don't have to listen to you because you're not our teacher. Our teacher is the boss." The teacher intervened and said, "Beth is my boss, Beth is everyone's boss at our school." The child thought about it and responded, "Boss Beth, what do you do all day? Sit in your office and play?" I could see her envisioning me playing with the toys in my office with not a care in the world.

I chuckled and thought if only life were that easy. She continued to study me very closely over the next few weeks with frequent questions about how I got to be the boss, my daily tasks, who I could boss and who bossed me, etc. The potential of being a boss was very attractive in her eyes and she wanted to know the "secret recipe" for becoming a boss. It was quite interesting to see how she perceived me, and I began thinking that we all have preconceived notions of people, ourselves, situations, and experiences, etc. Our notions shape how we view the world.

Preconceived notions are opinions or assumptions we make based on a lack of proof or evidence. We all have them and they can be beneficial or detrimental to ourselves and others. So, I pondered the child's perception of "boss". She knew her teacher's responsibilities because she experienced the tasks daily and she associated those duties with authority. The child had no idea what my job responsibilities were, therefore, she placed me far down on the chain of authority. I began thinking about, what I do as "The Boss"?

My first thought was being the boss is a strenuous job. I have so many irons in the fire, some days I'm not sure where to start. The things I know to be true about being the boss is that leading the organization requires me to be a visionary, mentor, motivator, and communicator. I set high standards for myself, the staff, and our families and see results in the achievements we accomplish. As I drive our vision forward, I delegate, facilitate, and empower, while being supportive, resourceful, and decisive. Aha, let me take that back to my preschool friend, I do earn my own way! However, I digress.

As the boss I wear many hats; however, none of my duties are accomplished singularly. Angels' Place exists because of the incredible organizational relationships and working together as a team. Our staff, Board, partners, volunteers, donors, and families all make my job easier. Among many qualities, they are committed, ambitious, hardworking, passionate, generous, and steadfast. I must say, that as much as they depend on me, I depend more on them for feedback and support.

Being a boss is a multifaceted endeavor. It is a hard job! I have the pleasure of working with a diverse group of people who inspire and motivate me; anything is possible working alongside efficient and effective people. Together we are unstoppable!

I'd like to share one of my favorite quotes that summarizes my position. "None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." ~Mother Teresa

Go forth and experience the peaceful beauty that is autumn.

Gratefully,

Beth E. Banas
Executive Director

FALL 2022

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

"Summertime, summertime,
Let's go out and play.
Time for fun, and lots of sun,
I love these kind of days.

Summertime, summertime,
Swimming to stay cool.
Pillow fights and late night bites.
An awesome break from school."

The joys of summer, so sweetly written by children's poet, Sarah Griffin, remind us of all the wondrous moments we enjoyed when we were young. These are the moments that the children at Angels' Place experienced during the beautiful days of summer as they had plenty of opportunities to explore the outdoors. We are blessed with outdoor green space and gardens for them to learn in their natural environment. The teachers intentionally planned a variety of activities that encouraged skill development which included sand and water play, bike riding, games, dramatic play, music, cooking and art experiences, all while getting fresh air and sunshine!

In June, children and teachers celebrated International Mud Day and had a ball exploring fun and creative ways to play in the mud! The children were able to utilize their mud kitchen and made a delicious meal. The teachers completed spring assessments and our end of year results indicated that 97% of children scored age appropriate or higher and our Pre-K graduates mastered 96% of kindergarten readiness skills. For Independence Day, the Pre-K children at North Side created a group "fireworks" collage and talked about why we observe that day. Our friends from **Community of the Crucified One** kindly donated treat bags for the children to enjoy at Swissvale during their 4th of July celebration. Throughout the summer, the children at North Side learned about the ocean and the many animals and plant life that live there and excitedly shared the animals they learned about such as octopuses and sharks. The **Raising a Reader** program continues with **Gene** making monthly visits to read to the Pre-K friends at Swissvale. During the summer, children received a book each week along with a chance to enter a weekly drawing to win Kennywood and Sandcastle tickets.

In August, the children had a Back-To-School party thanks to the generosity of a longtime community partner and friend. Each child excitedly received a backpack full of supplies to kick off the new school year. While we were overjoyed to welcome new children at each center, we sadly said goodbye to seven children who headed off to kindergarten fully prepared and ready to learn as a result of the programming received at Angels' Place. Our parents also received a purse stuffed with a variety of household supplies thanks to the **Pack A Purse** fundraiser hosted by **Dana Cornelius** and a host of volunteers. The moms were thrilled to be the recipients of this thoughtful donation.

We look forward to a new school filled with hope and possibilities for our clients and children and we would like to thank each person who helps Angels' Place to provide vital services to the families enrolled in our program each day. We are tremendously grateful for your support and dedication to our mission.

(Celebrating 4th of July.)

(Look at me getting so big!)

(Ahoy! There's land ahead!)

(Grrrr! It's a fierce spa day.)

(Cheeeeeeeese!)

Thank You/Special Acknowledgments

Thank you to the following for donating to our program: Allegheny Health Network – Office of Patient Experience; Community of the Crucified One; Pack A Purse; Saint Joseph the Worker – Ladies of Charity; St. Valentine Women's Group; Salvation Army – Bill Hardy, Starbucks.

Our Special Events Committee continues to dedicate their time, efforts, and creativity to plan for our Halo Event.

With deepest appreciation to Walt White and friends at PNC for dedicating a day to beautifying the North Side center by mowing the lawn, cutting down overgrown shrubbery and trees and weeding the front and back yards.

Early Head Start is a faithful partner to our program. We continue to receive their support with diapers, equipment in the classrooms, and monetary funding.

Kris Callender for her donation of office supplies and copier paper.

The support of many faithful friends who supply donations of clothes, toys, snacks, cleaning supplies and a variety of wish list items enables us to provide a variety of services to our families.

Weekly Volunteers

Our weekly volunteers continue to be a beloved part of the Angels' Place family: Bonnie Banas, Eileen Gelet, Lynda MacMurchy, Joan McElhinny, Gene O'Sullivan and Jane Tolley.

We welcome volunteer groups who are looking for opportunities.

(Rain makes for a fun mud pit.)

(Fishing is food for the soul.)

(Gardening is therapeutic.)

(Taking care of my baby.)

TEAM SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE HINES

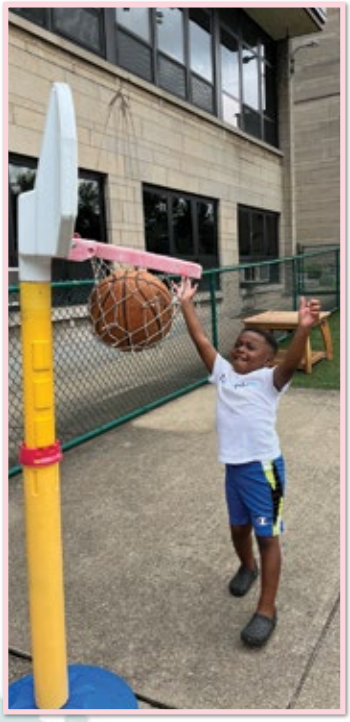
Stephanie joins the Angels' Place team with over 15 years of experience in marketing and advertising. She has worked in retail advertising, marketed a bed and breakfast and taught marketing and advertising at a university. Most recently, Stephanie was the marketing director and DJ of a morning radio station in central Pennsylvania. Stephanie has also worked with nonprofits for many years and loves working to support the mission and philosophies of these companies.

(Welcome Stephanie.)

Stephanie obtained a bachelor's degree from Susquehanna University in communications, with an emphasis in broadcast. She then went on to secure a master's degree in advertising and public relations from Ellis University.

Stephanie reports that she is excited to be able to use her skills in a more specific way to help support the families that Angels' Place serves. She said, "I was adopted, so the mission of Angels' Place is very near and dear to my heart."

Welcome Stephanie, we are all so excited to have you on the Angels' Place team!



(He shoots, he scores!)

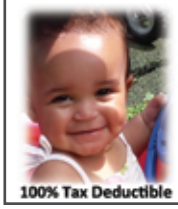
(Making mud pies.)

(Help me count the grains of sand!)

(I like smiling. Smiling is my favorite!)

(Painting my face is fun!)

(Watch out, here we come!)



100% Tax Deductible

DONATE YOUR CAR

Benefiting the babies, moms, and dads of

Angels' Place, Inc.

Call: (855) 500-7433 | www.angelsplacepgh.careasy.org

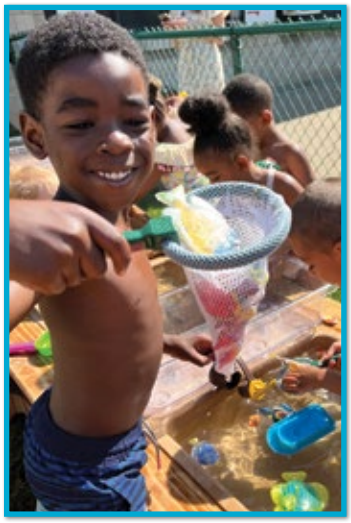
ADOPT AN ANGEL: #GIVEANANGELWINGS

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. Michael Aquilina
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bailey
Ms. Mary Kathryn Banning
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Blohm
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Bonacci
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Burns
Ms. Kristine Callender
The Rev. & Dr. David B. Carver
Ms. Paula M. Cline
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin J. Cordera
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Cummings
Mrs. Jessica Dewit
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence M. Diersen
Ms. Elizabeth DiSalle
Mr. Lawrence F. Domencic
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Duer
Ms. Hodda El-Iskandarani
Ms. Shannon Evans
Mrs. John P. Finke
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Flatz
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Fyda
Mrs. Brittney Galish
Mr. & Mrs. George Gardner
Ms. Laurie L. Garvey
Ms. Eileen Gelet
Mr. & Mrs. Andre R. Giroux
Mr. & Mrs. David K. Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Green
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. David R. Gusmar
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Harshbarger
Ms. Mary Kate Healey
Ms. Amber Hinnebusch
Ms. Kelly Hinnebusch
Alice Hirsch, Ph.D.
Mr. & Mrs. David P. Hoydick
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Jamison
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Janowitz
Ms. Kelly Kellett
Dr. & Mrs. John Kokales
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Kraski
Ms. Laura Penrod Kronk
Rev. Edward J. Kunco
Mr. & Mrs. Eric L. Lackner
Mr. Benedetto A. Lavella
Mr. & Mrs. James Leck
Ms. Gina L. Lison
Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Lydic
Mrs. Lois H. MacDonald
Ms. Christina Machi
Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. MacMurchy
Ms. Michelle Masters
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald J. McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Alan J. McElhinny
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence P. McFadden
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Miller
Ms. Marjorie Mills
Ms. Erin Mooney
Ms. Mary F. Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Martin E. Mueller
Ms. Katie O'Toole
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
Ms. Frankie Peterson-Burch
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Ritchie
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Rodgers
Ms. April Scassera
Mr. & Mrs. Ira J. Schmeltz
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Schmidt
Dr. Mary Sciulli
Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Smallwood
Ms. Kelly Szejko
Ms. Danielle M. Torisky
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas G. Tuchnowski
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce T. Walker
Ms. Tamara Wyatt
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Woshner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wright
Most Reverend David Zubik



(It's THIS big!)

(I'm letting my dreams blossom.)

(Playing in water makes me happy.)

(Popsicles help us get cool on a hot day!)

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.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

DONATION LIST

MONETARY

Bethany Presbyterian Church, *Bridgeville*
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, *Coraopolis*
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Respect Life Committee, *Pittsburgh*

NON-MONETARY

Community of the Crucified One, *Homestead*
Lady of Hope Parish, Ladies of Charity, *Bethel Park*
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Ladies of Charity, *Churchill*

FOUNDATION & GRANTS

Rite Aid Foundation KidCents
The Earl Knudsen Charitable Foundation
Portiuncula Foundation
Washington Financial Charitable Foundation
Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation
The Opportunity Fund
Massey Charitable Trust
Wilson J. & Karen A. Farmerie Charitable Foundation
McSwigan Family Foundation Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Irene C. Shea Charitable Foundation

BUSINESSES

De Fer Coffee & Tea
Duquesne Light Company
Early Head Start
Gateway Health Plan
Marburger Farm Dairy
Fidelity Charitable
Diamond Wire Spring Company
Carnegie Mellon University
City of Pittsburgh
Trying Together
Starbucks
412 Food Rescue
Pack A Purse

(Mud for your thoughts)

DONATED BY:

Mr. Lawrence Domencic
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Fyda
Ms. Eileen Gelet
Mr. & Mrs.Thomas Kanya, Ms. Joanne Boyle
Mrs. Helen Cindrich

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smallwood

IN HONOR OF:

The Arch & McElhinny Families
Mrs. Mary Winter
Mrs. Veronica Anchors
Ginny and Lenny Dilling's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Mary and Norb Winter's 65th Wedding Anniversary
James Dayton McDonough

DONATED BY:

Ms. Amy Maga, Ms. Beth E. Banas
Ms. Andrea Prohaska
Ms. Mary Beth Quinn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Burns
Mr. Norbert Connors
Mrs. Mary Rita Mengato
Mr. & Mrs. John Schmidt
Mr. Robert J. Poydence
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Blohm

Ms. Margaret Darke

IN MEMORY OF:

Mrs. Diane Mazza

Mr. Carl Grefenstette
Ms. Patricia Ann Slapp
Mr. Neil Stepanovich
Mrs. Carole Connors
Mr. Alfred Mengato
Mr. John C. Schmidt
Hatch & Michele Poydence
Ms. Kimberly Blohm & Mr. Michael Graziano
Mrs. Florence Socash

(I can be in the band!)

(Oh the places you'll go!)

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**.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LISA GARDNER

What brought you to Angels' Place?

What brought me to Angels' Place was that I was a student parent many years ago. My experience as a mom and having my son there inspired me to give back and be a part of the organization and serve on the Board. My son is now 32 and just became a dad himself.

(Welcome Lisa Gardner as board Vice President.)

What are some goals you have accomplished and hope to accomplish as a member of the Board?

What I hope to accomplish is the longevity of Angels' Place. The legacy of what Mary Winter started, continues and goes well beyond the years I will be here, so it continues to support the moms and children and break the cycle of poverty. Just recently I have been voted in as the Vice President and I also chair the Governance Committee and serve on the Crisis and Strategic Planning task force.

What do you feel is most unique or special about Angels' Place?

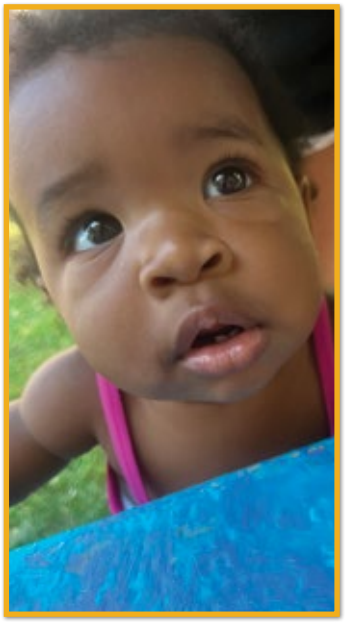
Angels' Place supports multiple generations. I think that a lot of the services help out in the moment or provide temporary support but do not truly help to get at the root of the causes. Angels' Place helps to improve or change a family's circumstances and provide tools and opportunities for long term support, change and care.

Who is Lisa outside of her role at Angels' Place?

My new role is a grandma to this new little grandson of mine. I am and have been a nurse for 30 years. I help an organization provide personalized health care to patients and support the nurses who take care of these patients. But what I enjoy most is spending time with my husband, George, and my family.

(Lisa's son graduates with his MBA from University of Texas.)

(George and Lisa at the Highmark Walk.)



(Oh, what do you have there?)

(Splishin' and a'splashin'!)

(Exploring my creativity through painting.)

(Sunshine is good for the soul.)

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WISH LISTS

North Side

- Sticky Tack (Blue Goo)
- Touchless Garbage Cans 13 Gallon
- Handheld Vacuums
- Vacuums
- Wall Clocks
- Mops and Brooms
- Duct Tape
- Dixie Cups
- Napkins
- Paper Plates (No Styrofoam)
- Paper Bowls (No Styrofoam)
- Facial Tissues
- Hand Soap
- Dawn Dish Liquid
- Children's Toothpaste
- Dishwasher Pods
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Laundry Detergent
- Energy Saving Light Bulbs
- 30 Gallon Trash Bags
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Toddler-Sized Bibs
- Master Locks Assorted Sizes with Keys
- Post-It Notes
- Pens
- Potting Soil
- Washcloths
- New Travel-Size Pillows
- Assorted Cleaning Products
- Assorted Art Materials
- White Copier Paper (8.5" x 11")
- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Fruit Cups
- Ritz Crackers
- Cheese Crackers
- Breakfast Syrup
- Peanut Butter
- Cheerios, Kix, Corn Flakes

Swissvale

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Toilet Cleaner
- 39 Gallon Trash Bags
- Dixie Cups
- Pump Hand Soap
- White Copier Paper (8.5"x11")
- Postage Stamps
- Liquid Dishwasher Soap
- LED Light Bulbs
- Large Paper Plates
- Dessert Size Paper Plates
- Paper Towels
- Paper Napkins
- Mops and Brooms
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags 13 Gallon
- 9 Volt Batteries
- Clorox Wipes
- Command Strips and Hooks
- Sticky Tack
- Children's Toothbrushes (Non-Electric)
- Painters Tape
- Child Safety Latches
- Playground Balls
- Hula Hoops
- Colored Sharpies
- Black Sharpies
- Lawn Rakes
- Clorox Clean Up
- Tide Laundry Soap
- Cascade Liquid Dishwasher
- Finish Dishwasher Aid
- Soft Scrub Cleaner
- Clorox Bleach
- Scrubbing Bubbles
- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Wheat Thins
- Boxed Cakes and Icing
- Pepper/Salt
- Ketchup
- Whole Grain Ritz Crackers
- Sprinkle Parmesan Cheese
- Goldfish
- Salad Dressing (Not Light or Reduced Fat)
- Dried Fruits
- Baby Food- Fruits and Vegetables
- Baby Cereal
- Raisins
- Breakfast Cereal
- Garlic Salt
- Fruit Snacks
- Rice Cakes (Carmel or Cheese)
- Cheez-Its