Angels' Place
Nurturing Two Generations

CRIB NOTES

Summer 2023 ❄ Issue #151

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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IS THERE HOPE FOR OUR NATION'S CHILDREN?

Dear Friends,

The answer is yes! There are many kind and compassionate individuals who are investing in the future of children. You are one of them. The very fact that you are reading this letter demonstrates that you care and want to make a difference. Your partnership with Angels' Place is valued and appreciated.

Social and emotional development is such a critical part of learning to navigate the world successfully. At Angels' Place we focus on developing the skills needed for emotional well-being. Recently, I had the chance to witness two beautiful acts of kindness demonstrated by our Pre-K children at both sites.

We started the annual campaign for the Highmark Walk and engaged in a healthy competition between the centers to collect change to support our school. The children on the North Side used flower pots to collect their change. After sending cards to a friend, the friend sent back a $1.00 for each Pre-K child. They were so excited to receive their card in the mail and their very own dollar. Steven was the first child to declare "that he was putting his dollar in his flower pot" to help his school. All the other children followed suit, deciding to give up their cash for a good cause.

Shortly after at our Swissvale location, a little boy in the Pre-K class observed several friends losing baby teeth. An important part of growing up, it is a developmental milestone that includes a visit from the tooth fairy. He excitedly inspected his teeth daily waiting for a tooth to become loose. Finally, the moment arrived to place his tooth under his pillow. Alas, the tooth fairy couldn't find him because he wasn't sleeping in his own bed. Albeit excruciating, he made the decision to transition into his bed. The decision was laced with heavy contemplation, but he wanted to close the circle of the experience. After a night in his own bed, he was rewarded with a bounty of cash.

He proudly came to school and shared the news with friends. A tender moment, they were all so happy for him and celebrated this rite of passage. Surprisingly, he placed his money in his Highmark change canister, also wanting to share with his school. It became his personal quest, and he went on to collect the most change and win the penny wars contest. Micah's efforts didn't stop with his own collection, he also championed his friends, staff, and volunteers to participate as well.

I was so touched by these combined acts of generosity and kindness in children so young. Surely if it happened at both locations, there could be a common factor at play. These children reached an advanced level of sharing, putting others needs before their own desires. A unique attribute for Pre-K children, we were all very proud of their selfless acts. Imagine a world where children put others first. A small step for a big world, but significant, nonetheless. These skills will blossom into expanding other areas of social and emotional development and the ripple effects will benefit our society.

Applauding our teachers for their commitment to offering quality early childhood education, we rejoice in the positive results. The team goes above and beyond to help children focus on why it is important to be your best self. We continue to partner with parents and ensure that children have enrichment experiences. In a climate where so many are leaving the field of education, we want to celebrate and acknowledge those who decide to stay and make a difference. What a priceless gift to the world. Together with you, our faithful supporters, we are imagining a brighter future where hope and belief in endless possibilities abound.

I look forward with great anticipation to the summer months, enjoying all the activities that our beautiful city has to offer. I pray that you will have a chance to do the same while spending time with family and friends.

Gratefully,

Beth E. Banas
Executive Director

(Pulling my friends in the wagon.)

SUMMER 2023

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Woo-hoo! Summer is almost here, and the warm sun is shining upon us as we finish another school year at Angels' Place. The last few months have been busy and full of wonderful learning opportunities for the children at both centers. During Black History Month in February, the children learned about the many important contributions made by African Americans in our society and were able to try out different roles throughout the month such as race car driver, inventor, doctor, and teacher. In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday at both centers and enjoyed green eggs and turkey sausage, read stories and had a birthday cake at lunch. On St. Patrick's Day, the children created rainbow collages, danced to Irish music, and found gold coins followed by a yummy snack that was green and rainbow colored. The North Side center celebrated Mr. Rogers' birthday by wearing cardigan sweaters while playing outside and enjoying the first day of spring and the wonders of a new season approaching.

During Month of the Young Child (MOYC), in April, we were honored to participate in Family Engagement Night at **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens** and our families were invited to join in the festivities and delight in the beauty of the spring flowers in bloom. Other activities for MOYC included a Special Nutrition Class with Phipps Conservatory, sensory play, music and movement activities, Earth Day, and a field trip to the zoo. For Earth Day, the North Side Pre-K children created beautiful fruit and vegetable paintings. At the zoo, everyone had a great time seeing all the animals, particularly the monkeys and elephants. Children took part in weekly yoga classes

(Looking at the colorful flamingos.)

(Easter egg hunt.)

(Race car driver.)

(Pine Richland's Varsity Lacrosse Team.)

Thank You/Special Acknowledgments

Thank you to **PNC Grow Up Great** for donating tricycles, helmets, and wagons for all the children and staff gifts in honor of Month of The Young Child and Teacher Appreciation Day.

We are so thankful for the volunteer groups who shared their time helping with many needed projects at both centers: **Target ADP** team who unloaded our food truck at Swissvale; **PNC Grow Up Great** who repotted plants and did spring cleaning at the Swissvale center; the **Pine-Richland Lacrosse Team** who cleaned and did yard work at both centers.

We are truly grateful for the ongoing support of our friends from **PNC** who came to our North Side center to do some much needed painting in our Young Toddler Classroom along with yard work.

With deepest appreciation to **Community of the Crucified One** who kindly donated gifts to the children for Valentine's Day and Easter; **Resurrection Parish Ladies of Charity** and **Saint Joseph the Worker Ladies of Charity** for donating Easter gifts and wish list items.

Thank you to the **Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh** for visiting both centers and conducting annual vision screenings with the children.

With gratitude for the **Knights of Columbus 3907** and the **Swissvale Rotary** for their donations of wish list items. The Swissvale Rotary also provided the funding for the bus for our field trip to the zoo.

Thank you to our good friends from **Carlow University** nursing program who did virtual presentations for our families at both centers on healthy living.

The Special Events Committee has started planning for our annual Halo Award Dinner and we are thankful to all the volunteers who are a part of that committee.

We are appreciative of our weekly volunteers who 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**.

A special thank you to our good friend and volunteer, **Kara Smith**, who created this year's Annual Report for us.

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 continue to be grateful for all our door donations of clothes, toys, and wish list items that help us to provide quality services to the children in our care.

with the **E.S.T.E.E.M.** group thanks to a generous funder. Children focused on learning various yoga poses, and practiced self-regulation, social emotional skills, and mindful techniques. The Swissvale center staff, parents and children enjoyed a Family Fun Night together doing yoga led by the E.S.T.E.E.M. group and the evening was topped off with a pizza party. Community Reader, **Cynthia Battle**, visited the North Side center, read fun stories, and donated brand new books to the children. Parents and children continue to enjoy the "Raising a Reader" program, hosted by Mary Denison. Thank you to Gene O'Sullivan, our volunteer reader, for visiting and reading to the Swissvale children who always look forward to seeing him.

The Pre-K classrooms continued their participation in the MindfulNest Study through **Carnegie Mellon University**. For Easter, the children were so excited for an outdoor Easter egg hunt, dying eggs and for the many wonderful surprises donated by several generous groups. Mrs. Stephanie, our Pre-K teacher at the North Side, had a special visitor, Emma, a former Angels' Place student, who came and spent time with the children and her former teacher for her senior capstone project.

As April came to an end, the celebrations continued into May as we shared our admiration for our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. We honored the teachers, parents and volunteers for the crucial role they play in the lives of the little ones in our care. On Cinco De Mayo, children had a Fiesta, with a Pinata, and tacos for lunch that day. For Mother's Day, our children showed their moms how much they love them with special handmade gifts.

For the Highmark Walk fundraiser, children collected money as part of our annual Penny Wars between the North Side and Swissvale centers. This year, the Swissvale center won a pizza and ice cream party for raising the most money. We thank everyone who participated in our spring fundraiser. We also express our gratitude to all the wonderful groups and individuals whose support and dedication allow us to provide programs and opportunities for children and families. We are truly grateful to each of you.

(Welcome back, Emma!)

(Practicing gross-motor skills.)

(Looking for the sea lions.)

(Swissvale Pre-K graduates.)

(Congratulations graduate!)

(Onward to kindergarten.)

Graduates

This year, we have the honor of celebrating the graduation of two parents and six Pre-K children. Both of this year's graduates are fathers in our program. North Side parent, Seth, graduated from his second program, at Rosedale Technical College, after having completed the welding program. Swissvale parent, Dametrius, will graduate from All State Career School from the HVAC program. We are proud of the hard work and accomplishments of our clients and wish them great success as they move forward in their careers. North Side toddler teacher, Domenica, graduated from Carlow University with her bachelor's degree.

We have six Pre-K graduates who will go off to kindergarten in the fall – Demi, Dru, Kaleb, Michael, Rhauri-Lee, and Rhy'nn. These children are leaving Angels' Place ready for kindergarten! It has been our great pleasure to have had the opportunity to be part of their journey and to see all they have learned and accomplished in their time with us.

We celebrate all the graduates of the class of 2023!

Steve Hartman said,

"Caring for other children as your own is the defining note of humanity."

(Policing the playground.)

(Observing the ostrich.)

(Exploring with chalk.)

(Crawling through the tunnel.)

DONATION SPOTLIGHT: Kirkpatrick GROUP

We are grateful to the Kirkpatrick Group for their 3rd annual Mother's Day campaign for the families at Angels' Place. The following donated to help build a brighter future for two generations.

Amy Cline
Amy Mercante
Archie Leonard
Beatrice Newberry
Brandee Fantini
Bryan Iams
Cara Wetzel
Danielle Shinsky
Elizabeth Kelly
Gregory DeKunder
Greta Edgar
Gretchen Woodside
Heather Duffin
Heather Pinson
Heidi Paniaha
Ian Nash
Jackie Kallis
James Bouchard
Jamie Altman
Jennifer Dodson
Jill Crowe
Jill Regan
John & Mindy Miesner
John Charlton
Jolene Rowan
Juliane Hefel
Katie Regan
Katrina Buchanan
Keith Rigby
Kelsey Spangenberg
Kim Charlton
Kirkpatrick Group
Laura Porter
Liz Gage
Lora Rutkowski
Mark Leyennaar
Mark Silvey
Maureen McLaughlin
Naida Reed
Regina Kirkpatrick
Rikki Regan
Sarah Koegler
Suzanne Basista
Tayler Vranicar
Tom Maziarz
Zachary Madden

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
Ms. Sarah DiTommaso
Mr. Lawrence F. Domencic
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Ms. Hodda El-Iskandarani
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Ms. Laurie L. Garvey
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Ms. Amber Hinnebusch
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Mr. & Mrs. Matthew P. Hinnebusch
Alice Hirsch, Ph.D.
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Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Jamison
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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. Morgan Ruffing
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
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Wingertsahn
Ms. Tamara Wyatt
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Woshner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wright
Most Reverend David Zubik

ANNUAL HIGHMARK WALK

Thank you to everyone who supported Angels' Place by participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! Although it was a cloudy, rainy morning, supporters came out to walk for a worthy cause. Prior to the walk, staff, parents, children and volunteers raised funds through a "Penny War" at each center, helping everyone to reach their fundraising goals. We are honored that so many care about our program and greatly appreciate our faithful friends that registered, walked, and donated to make the Highmark Walk a success.

(Geared up to start walking!)

(Angels' Place staff and good friend, Kara.)

(Board member, Lisa, and husband, George, join the walk.)

(Pittsburgh weather didn't dampen our spirits.)

(Former parent graduates attend the walk.)

(Former and current teachers come out to support.)

(Beth and Sarah at the registration table.)

(I am the champion.)

(Excited to see yearly walkers, Mary and Jane.)

(We made it to the finish line!)

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Angels' Place, Inc.

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COMMUNITY PARTNER: ESTEEM GROUP INC.

(Gena Melago, Executive Director)

What is your organization's mission?
To empower students through education, engagement, and motion, while instilling important social emotional learning skills to help students thrive physically, mentally, socially and emotionally throughout their lifetime.

What services do you provide for the community? We have been serving the Pittsburgh Community since 2012. We partner with schools and childcare facilities to provide social emotional learning skills through yoga, dance, team building, and fitness activities. We meet the youth where they are and challenge them to grow and develop skills necessary to thrive in life.

How has your organization partnered with Angels' Place to serve the community? We have been doing yoga and dance activities to help the students learn self-control, how to calm their bodies, make good choices, become a better friend, how to express feelings in a positive way, gain self-esteem, and how to keep your body healthy through movement.

What is your proudest accomplishment this year so far? We have worked with over 2,000 students in the Pittsburgh Area.

What do you think the community benefits are of Angels' Place and E.S.T.E.E.M Group Inc. working together? When little ones learn how to show respect, make good choices, create a strong support system, and feel good about themselves physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally, that carries over to the communities that surround the youth. It is a ripple effect as it only takes one little human to make a difference throughout their world. Recently we did a family fun night with all of the parents and children and it was a wonderful opportunity for the parents to become engaged and participate with their children.

How do you think Angels' Place and E.S.T.E.E.M Organization complement each other? Both of our organizations are working to help each child as a whole. Looking at providing different opportunities for them to grow and develop into the best version of themselves and allowing them to thrive in life.

(Enjoying weekly yoga classes.)

Anything else you want to share?
We have been so excited about this partnership, and we hope to continue it in the future.

https://theesteemgroup.org

(Enjoying Yoga Family Fun Night.)

(Partner yoga.)

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

(Congratulations Dametrius!)

Dametrius will be graduating this summer after completing the HVAC program at All-State Career school. Dametrius and his daughter, Sophia, have been attending Angels' Place since last fall when they enrolled in our Swissvale center. Determined to succeed, Dametrius has worked very hard throughout the course of time in his school program, persevering and achieving the goals he established for himself. We celebrate with Dametrius and applaud his accomplishments. Angels' Place wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

What brought you to Angels' Place? I was debating on different types of daycares in the area and found Angels' Place online. The location and the reviews about Angels' Place are what brought me here.

Tell us about your experience at Angels' Place for both you and your child. Sophia's learned lots of things at Angels' Place. She is learning communication, picking up new things and making new friends. I like the staffing and the schedule they have established for her.

How has Angels' Place supported you in achieving your educational goals? Knowing Sophia was in good hands that she is [safe] in care, allowed me to go to school. My school program flew by while taking care of what I needed to do, and Angels' Place took care of Sophia. They provided everything Sophia needed while in care from diapers, wipes and hot meals so I could focus on school.

Tell us about your goals now that you have graduated. My goal is to become employed with a commercial HVAC business and take care of my family. I want to put to use what I learned in school to use in my future career.

What would you like others to know about Angels' Place? They are very caring; you can contact anyone in the program, and they know what's going on with my daughter. The family events held by Angels' Place are great; the outdoor activities for kids are good. I liked the [Family Support] program that helped parents. Everything at Angels' Place was perfect.

DONATION LIST

MONETARY

Bethany Presbyterian Church, *Bridgeville*
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, *Coraopolis*
Knights of Columbus #3907, *Wexford*
Swissvale Rotary, *Swissvale*

NON-MONETARY

City Squeakers Play Group
Community of the Crucified One
Knights of Columbus #3907
Light of Life Rescue Mission
Pine Richland High School
PNC Grow Up Great
Resurrection Parish Ladies of Charity
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish Ladies of Charity
Saint Kilian Youth Ministry
Swissvale Rotary

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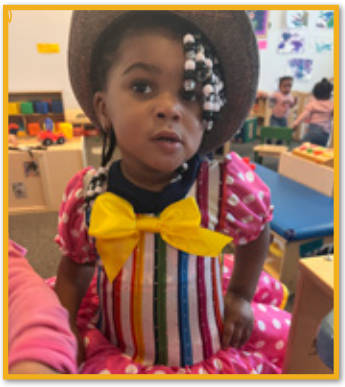
Center Presbyterian Church
Jacob A. and Frieda M. Hunkele Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation/Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
Child Health Association of Sewickley, Inc.
G. C. Murphy Company Foundation
Howmet Aerospace Foundation
IBEW, Local Union #5
J.M. Hopwood Charitable Trust
The Earl Knudsen Charitable Foundation
The W. I. Patterson Charitable Fund

BUSINESSES

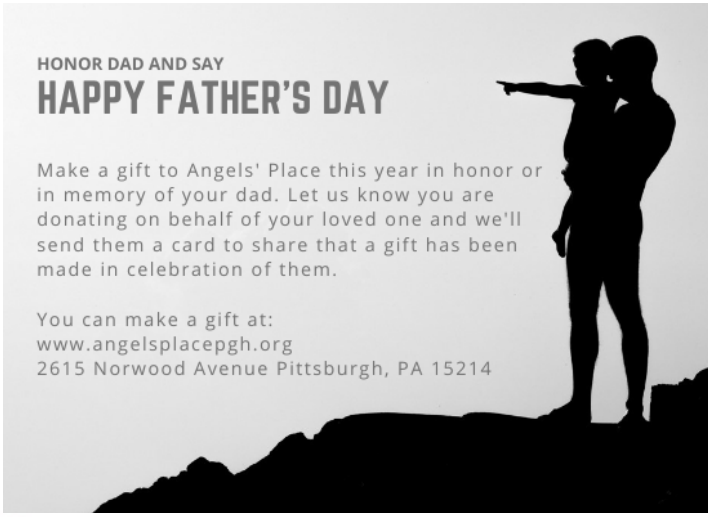
De Fer Coffee & Tea
Duquesne Light Company
Early Head Start
Kirkpatrick Group
PA Key – OCDEL
PNC Grow Up Great
Trying Together



(Dressing up.)

(Looking at the tiger up close.)

(Relaxing on the swing.)



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Mr. Lawrence Domencic
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Woshner

IN HONOR OF:

The Arch & McElhinny Families
Mrs. Mary Winter
Angels' Place Graduates

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Mr. & Mrs. John A. Blohm

Mrs. Donna Martin
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IN MEMORY OF:

Ms. Sharon Connelly

Mr. Michael Graziano & Ms. Kimberly Brown
Dr. Norbert Winter
Mr. Richard E. Ruszkiewicz
Mike and Carol Shaughnessy
Ms. Lillian Tate
Mr. John F. Weldon, M.D.

MOTHER'S DAY

DONATED BY:

Ms. Cassie Lavella

Ms. Beth E. Banas

IN HONOR OF:

Ms. Beth E. Banas, Ms. Bonnie Banas & Mrs. Natalie Cichoski
Mrs. Joan McElhinny, Mrs. Lynda MacMurchy, Mrs. Rita Lavella, Ms. Eileen Gelet, Mrs. Mary Winter, Mrs. Michelle Tipton, Mrs. Megan Grefenstette, Ms. Bonnie Banas, & Mrs. Jane Tolley

(Playing hide and seek.)

(Rain, rain go away...)

DONATED BY:

Ms. Cassie Lavella

Mrs. Carole Popchock
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IN MEMORY OF:

Ms. Sylvia Fragomeni, Mrs. Santa Fragomeni & Mrs. Margaret Banas
Mrs. Ann J. Korenich
Ms. Sylvia Fragomeni & Mrs. Margaret Banas
Dorothey Mueller & Dolores Arch

FATHER'S DAY

DONATED BY:

Ms. Beth E. Banas

IN HONOR OF:

Mr. Gene O'Sullivan

DONATED BY:

Ms. Beth E. Banas

IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. Leonard Banas

(North Side and Swissvale centers take a field trip to the zoo.)

Angels' Place
Nurturing Two Generations

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WISH LISTS

North Side

- Tupperware Food Storage Containers
- Clear Food Bins
- Child-sized Water Bottles
- Mops and Brooms
- Buckets
- Assorted Cleaning Supplies
- Dish Cloths
- Dishwasher Liquid
- Dishwasher Pods
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Assorted Paper Products (Bowls, Plates, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Forks, and Spoons non – Styrofoam)
- Brown Lunch Bags
- Key Lanyards
- Chalkboard Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Large Trash Bags
- Batteries (AA, AAA, D, 9-volt)
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Ziploc Food Storage Bags (Gallon Size, Quart Size)
- Hand Soap (Pump Bottles)
- 100% Fruit Juice
- Crackers
- Dried Fruit
- Granola Bars

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
- Dessert Size Paper Plates
- Paper Towels
- Paper Napkins
- Mops and Brooms
- Black Sharpies
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags (13 Gallon)
- Command Strips and Hooks
- Sticky Tack
- Lawn Rakes
- Cascade Liquid Dishwasher
- Clorox Bleach
- Scrubbing Bubbles
- Playground Balls
- Bubbles
- Love Seat and Sofa- Gently Used
- Graham Crackers
- Wheat Thins
- Boxed Cakes and Icing
- Pepper
- Ketchup
- Whole Grain Ritz Crackers
- Sprinkle Parmesan Cheese
- Dried Fruits
- Fruit Snacks
- Rice Cakes (Carmel or Cheese)
- Vanilla Wafers
- Kix Cereal
- Honey Nut Cheerios
- Life Cereal

WORKPLACE GIVING

LIVE UNITED

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**.

(Daily circle time.)