



DECEMBER/JANUARY

Blessings This Holiday Season

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

— John F. Kennedy

It is with gratitude in our hearts that we thank the many individuals, foundations and organizations that donated food, clothing, and toys to the children and adults served by St. Vincent's Special Needs. Listed below are just a few of the many blessings we received this holiday season.



This group of families came together to cook and serve a holiday luncheon for staff at the FEROLETO Center as a way to show their gratitude for the wonderful care their children receive all year long.

For the 22nd consecutive year, the parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Church in Shelton "adopted" all the children enrolled in the School and Birth-to-3 programs, bringing Christmas gifts for each child, each individually selected to match a wish list prepared by teachers and assistants.



The Pastoral Care Department at St. Vincent's Medical Center provided gift cards which staff used to purchase presents for each of our 150 adults in the Stratford and Norwalk adult day programs.



Walter Camp Football Players Take Time to Visit Our Students

We have been extremely fortunate to have the Walter Camp All Americans visit our school each year. The tradition began 18 years ago and still continues to delight students as these gentle giants enter each classroom to autograph footballs and pose for photos.



Students and staff prepare for the visit early in January by creating welcome posters that hang at the entrance to each classroom. This year, everyone showed their spirit by wearing their favorite football team jerseys.

The visits are planned each year by the Walter Camp Foundation to ground the young athletes, a few of whom may be destined to become big name professional players, and bring into focus the needs of others less fortunate.

New Adult Initiative Brings Participants Together

At the Changing Images Adult Day program in Stratford, Chaplain April is facilitating a new support group that encourages participants to communicate freely about topics that are of interest to them.

The group, affectionately named, The Rap Group, will gather once a week to discuss their fears, concerns for family members, and concerns for self in a safe setting which promotes mutual support.

Blessings Continued



Patricia Dressler and her helper, Dee, arrived just before Christmas with gifts for all 85 students in the school program. The younger students received an electronic dog that walks and wags its tail while the older students all received a pair of headphones.



Members of the Monroe Police Department collected toys at police headquarters and brought several deliveries throughout December for the residents in our children's residential group homes.

Officials from the State Department of Education visit our School



In January, we welcomed Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, Ellen Cohn, Deputy Commissioner, and Isabelina Rodriguez, Bureau Chief to the Feroletto School.

As Dr. Wentzell visited classrooms, she was impressed with the teachers and assistants and their ability to create individualized programs for each of the students. She stated, "The joy I felt upon entering is truly inspiring." Dr. Wentzell went on to comment that "the number of smiles I witnessed on your students faces is a testament to your staff and management."

These heartfelt words of validation align perfectly with our guiding principal to make every day a good day for the people we serve.



Sikorsky Golf Tournament ... Supporting SVSNS for Ten Years!

Representatives from Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation visited the CHANGING IMAGES Adult Services program at 975 Oronoque Lane to present a check for \$50,000 which will be used to purchase new room furniture at both the school and adult services programs. Over the past ten years, Sikorsky has donated over \$250,000 from the proceeds of their tournament. The generous donation was made in memory of Susan Piatak, a former adult program participant. Presenters included Sikorsky employee, John Piatak, Susie's brother. The presentation took place in the Oceanview room under the Christmas tree.



Making a Difference in 2015

The individuals, foundations and businesses listed below made a huge impact in the quality of care we are able to provide by making a significant donation in 2015. On behalf of all of us at St. Vincent's Special Needs, and the wonderful people we serve, THANK YOU for your generosity and your support.

Up to \$500

Felix Addeo
Robert Andel
Stephanie Asher
William J. Baccash
Lisa M. Ballas
Robert Bednarcik
W. Bradford Beetham
James T. Bindner
Raymond C. Bragano
Leila Burke
Patricia Carton
Lyndsey Clericuzio
Richard Connell
Colleen H. Connor
John T. D'Angelo
Richard David
Mary Jayne D'Eugenio
Vincent DiPalermo
Erica Donofrio
Lindsay Dougherty
Carolyn Dudeck
Lawrence R. Duff
Louis V. Elmo
William Evans
Edward A. Faruolo
Peter Fazekas
Sheila A. Flanagan
Alberta T. Flynn
Lisa M. Framularo
Mark Galazka
Marjorie Gallagher
James F. Giammattri
Ashley Grier
Timothy T. Halacy
Brian W. Harris
Marianne Henry
Sarah L. Henry
James J. Hodska

Tara Hoffman
Carol E. Howard
Pamela Howard
Richard Huey
Frederic D. Hyatt
Michael A. Imbro
Patricia Indelicato
Kerin Jacob
Therese M. Jositas
Kenneth M. Kantor
Matthew Kearney
Thomas E. Kelly
David R. Kennedy
John Kirmayer
Matthew Kuznitz
Rita R. Lazar
Sandra L. Leone
Helen Lieto
Debra Lin
Stephanie Lundblad
Vincent Lupone
Robert J. Maffei
Jerry Maher
Sharon A. Mair
Anthony Masciarelli
Felicity Melillo
Michael V. Merchant
Dolores M. Miele
James T. Morley
Marylyn Mulvey
Paul Nagowski
Mary E. O'Connor
John T. O'Leary
Christopher O'Sullivan
Leonard A. Pellegrino
Jeffrey Peterson
Pasquale J. Petrino
Dana Pettaway
Daniel Ponte

Phyllis Pruzinsky
Kevin Ramirez
Lindsey Rasie
Faith E. Reardon
Stephanie Rinne
Frank Rizio
David Rooney
Melissa Rosenblum
John J. Shea
Craig D. Sherwonit
Michael Shypski
Adam Siegel
Louise Sierpina
Candace Y. Simon
Richard Steele
Clay A. Sulik
Frank Targowski
Kaitlin Tereskiewicz
Andrew C. Toner
Alfonso J. Valecillos
Gerard G. Villanueva
Eric Vogel
Carl E. Watt
Benjamin Weisman
Alan M. West
Jenna Wiegand
Richard S. Wilhelm
Ashley Zennis
Nadia C. Ziko
American Express
Connecticut Distributors
General Mills Box Tops
for Education
IBM
MASA
Milestone, Inc.
PEZ Candy Inc.
Pfizer Foundation
Valley United Way, Inc.

\$500 – \$1,000

Ellen Reilly
Philip Ross
MassMutual

\$1,000 – \$5,000

Gary F. Dornbush
Alexander Schillaci
Keith J. Setter
Delaney Memorial
Foundation, Inc.
Epsilon
Ethel and Jennie Mallet
Charitable Trust
General Electric
R. C. Bigelow, Inc.
Toys for Hospital Tots
Unilever

\$5,000 – \$20,000

Elizabeth Pfriem
Mr. & Mrs. David Weiss
Constance O. Putnam
Foundation
The Maximilian and
Marion O. Hoffman
Foundation

\$20,000 – \$50,000

Dressler Foundation
Sikorsky Golf
Tournament

Although not listed here, we acknowledge and thank the sponsors and individuals who supported our Golf Tournament and Last Bash fundraisers.