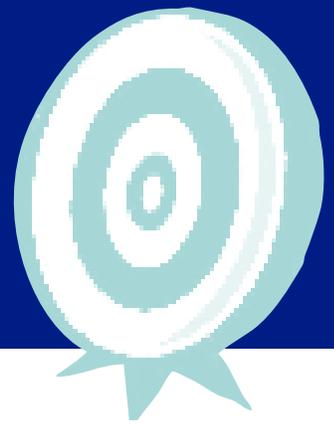


on target

THE NEWS OF
ST. VINCENT'S
SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES



SUMMER 2016

Welcome to the Fair-O-Leto State Fair

"Come one, come all" was the cry from the announcer as the annual parade of staff and students entered this year's Fair-O-Leto Country Fair. True to its theme, this year's fun filled FEROLETO Day centered on all the favorite activities and games you would find at a country fair. Students and their families had a chance to visit the petting zoo filled with goats, bunnies and sheep. They also took a turn at ringing the bell on the high striker game, participated in pig relays, wheeled through an enormous corn maze and took a turn in corralling the sheep balloons in their pen. The children, teachers, assistants and volunteers all got into the spirit by wearing hand-made t-shirts depicting the state they represented. Of course, the students spent the months that led up to this day of

fun learning about the state they were representing and what makes each unique.

Therapy staff and volunteers played a major role in bringing about the decorations, crafts and games unique to the theme. Planning sessions began in early summer to determine a theme and then small groups took on the challenge of creating a theme-inspired games or arts and crafts activities.

Even though we had to battle the extreme heat wave that hit, we felt blessed that parents and siblings came out to share in an udderly fun filled day with us.

We thank all who helped create a special day for our students and would especially like to thank Mrs. Feroletto for sponsoring this event each year.



Edward Andrejko Receives ServSafe® Certification

Edward, a participant in the CHANGING IMAGES Adult Day Program at SVSNS, was one of nine graduates who received his ServSafe® Certification from the ACES Culinary Arts Program. This six month long program, which ended in May, provided students with food safety, handling and sanitation education. In addition, students gained hands-on experience in food production, cooking, serving, purchasing, operations and customer service. Edward also had the opportunity to work as a paid intern with Chef Lance in the Daily Bread Café at St. Vincent's Medical Center where he continued his hands-on training.

Nugent Receives State Commendation



Debbie Nugent, Physical Therapist at St. Vincent's Special Needs Services, receives a commendation from Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congressman Jim Himes for the exceptional care she provided to a family in the State of Connecticut's Birth-to-Three (B-3) system.

Ms. Nugent had provided early intervention services to Matthew in the family home from the time he was an infant until he turned three

years old. As Matthew was aging out of the system, his mother, Kislene, felt that instead of calling the "higher ups" to complain as people often do she called the Connecticut B-3 System's Infoline to let them know about the positive experience and exceptional care her son

received from Debbie.

At the most recent B-3 providers meeting, Kislene presented Debbie with two certificates signed by Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Himes. In addition, Kislene presented her with a rose bush stating, "This rose bush is for you to nurture and care for now that you have finished caring for and nurturing my family and son."

Salute to Nurses Award

Peter Donato, Nurse Manager for Children's Residential Services, was one of five St. Vincent's



nurses to receive a Salute to Nurses award this past May.

The award, presented by the CT Post/Hearst Media Group, was given to the Top 10 Nurses in Southwestern Connecticut who were nominated by their peers and patients.

A dinner and award ceremony for the celebrated nurses and their families was held at the Norwalk Inn. Congratulations Peter!

Golf Tournament Raises Money and Awareness

Once again, St. Vincent's Special Needs Services partnered with the Appelberg family to hold its 7th annual golf tournament in memory of Kristin Nicole Appelberg.

In keeping with Kristin's dream of improving the quality of life for children and adults in our community, this year's proceeds will be used to purchase specialized adaptive furniture and equipment and will also be used to support families experiencing financial difficulties in our community. This year's event, which was held on June 20th raised \$90,000.

Grant From The Putnam Foundation to Fund New Communication Devices

SVSNS has received a grant from the Constance O. Putnam Foundation for the purchase of two state-of-the-art communication devices to be used with students at the FEROLETO Center. Initially, these devices will be used to evaluate all students and help determine the level of communication

need for each child. After the initial evaluation, we hope to purchase additional devices for students' individual use. These new communication tools will be useful for all students since they can be programmed to work at whatever level needed to support each individual.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Bash of Summer
August 27th | 6:00 – 11:30 pm
The FEROLETO Center

\$100 per person which includes dinner and dancing. This is a BYOB event. For tickets, call Chris Howard at 203-386-2715 or visit: <https://give.stvincents.org/bash2016>

Medical Mission at Home
October 15th | 9 – 3:00 pm
Geraldine Johnson School, Bpt

Designed to deliver healthcare, social and support services to our neighbors in need right here in our community. To register as a volunteer, please visit www.medicalmissionathome.org