



NOVEMBER 2016

Giving and Receiving Thanks

"Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it."

-Ralph Marston

There are many ways we can thank those around us. At the Changing Images adult day program, serving a Thanksgiving breakfast to all associates has become a tradition. For the past nine years, supervisors Sarah O'Brien and Frances Hernandez have cooked and served breakfast the day before Thanksgiving to more than 50 associates. It's their way of saying thank you for all the special care our associates provide every day to the participants we serve. What a wonderful way to kick off the holiday!

Another beautiful tradition at St. Vincent's Special Needs



Services is our Thanksgiving Basket drive which has been coordinated through our Family Center for the past several years. Associates pull together to create unique gift baskets filled to the brim with holiday favorites that are then distributed

to our families and fellow staff members in need. This year, we were grateful to have Chaplain April-Alford Harkey on board to bless the giving hearts of those who contributed and bless the families who received a basket this Thanksgiving.



Congratulations Value Recipients

Congratulations to Special Needs rockstars Joan, James and Edward. Pictured below at the values award ceremony where they each received an award for going above and beyond their regular work duties and living the mission of St. Vincent's every day.



Helping Others in Need

Changing Images adult participants volunteered their time to gather non-perishable goods for the House of Hope campaign. Thank you all for giving your time and helping out others in need!

Marc Maignan Named 2016 Employee of the Year

Marc works very hard each day to ensure that everyone he serves and works with has a good day every day. He is always professional, polite, respectful, courteous and smiling. His interaction with students is excellent and he gets along well with peers. While all Special Needs programs are blessed with staff who are caring, competent and passionate about their work, Marc stands out as always willing to go above and beyond what is expected. Even during challenging times, Marc always

maintains an upbeat and supportive disposition.

Special Need's staff work very hard to celebrate special events by making these activities unique celebrations for persons served. Marc is consistently taking the lead in bringing enthusiasm and creativity to events such as Halloween, Feroletto Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, School Prom and Graduation. On these occasions Marc dresses in a theme specific costume and his energy, creativity, enthusiasm and passion help make the school program special events even more special.

During the past year Marc also put his creative and artistic talents to great use by creating video productions for use at events including Blessing of the Hands, Golf Tournament, Mother's Day Luncheon and the Last Bash fundraiser. When approached about these projects Marc was, as he always is, enthusiastic and excited. He planned and produced videos that showcased the heart of the school program. Marc's talent in creating the videos is only surpassed by the love that he puts into each production. The videos promote a positive and loving image of the school program, its students and staff.



Sharing his talent and the time necessary to produce these videos went far beyond the responsibilities of his position.

Marc was nominated for this award because he stands out as a role model for school spirit. He goes above and beyond in demonstrating enthusiasm and provides joy and fun for each student.

Celebration to Honor Marc December 16th

All are welcome to attend a small celebration to honor Marc Maignan and his accomplishments this past year.

There will be cake at the FEROLETO Center in the cafe from 12:45-1pm on December 16th. Please stop by and congratulate Marc on receiving this prestigious award!



Grateful for Support from Community Organizations



SafekKids of Greater Naugatuck Valley helps to prevent unintentional bicycle injuries by donating helmets for the safety of all children. Cathy and Lynda of SafeKids spent an entire day personally fitting each student in our school program with their very own helmet. We are grateful for this much needed community service and the gentle touch and support we received.



When we reached out to the Foundation For Life for a contribution to support our adaptive equipment needs, their answer was a resounding YES! With the support we receive from them, along with other foundations, individuals and businesses, we are able to purchase much needed adaptive bicycles, walkers, sensory inspired toys and changing tables to help improve the quality of services we are able to offer the children and adults in our care.



The caring members of The Umbrella Club have taken Special Needs under their mighty umbrella by supporting our families over the past several years. Recently, members of the Umbrella Club and the CT Chapter of the NFL Alumni visited the Feroleto Center and presented checks to four of our school program families who were in need of specialized equipment for their children. The Stamford based Umbrella Club is a volunteer organization dedicated to assisting children who are in need of a quiet helping hand. Over the past 36 years, the Umbrella Club has raised and donated more than \$2,500,000 to families and

children. They are often the last hope for families when all other resources have been exhausted.

Recipients this year included four families who received funding for adaptive strollers. The club has been extremely generous to SVSNS families in past years, helping to fund adaptive equipment and specialized orthotics, as well as assisting with rent or mortgage payments. According to members, their mission is "to just help" especially children in need. We are so grateful for the generosity of spirit within the Umbrella Club. In the words of our own Family Center Coordinator, Donna Kennedy, "Sometimes it takes a village to raise a child. Thank you for being a part of our village. You are amazing and we are so grateful for your friendship and support of our families."

BE MERRY

*All staff invited to celebrate the holidays with food and fun
at either location listed below*

December 16th

Schedule @ 95

Continental Breakfast
beginning @ 8am

Hot Lunch Buffet
11:45 — 12:45pm

Celebrate Milestone
Anniversaries and
EOY Marc Maignan
12:45 — 1pm

Chair Yoga
1 — 3 pm
sign up with Pat

Dessert and
mannequin challenge
3 — 3:30pm

Schedule @ 975

Continental Breakfast
beginning @ 8am

Chair Yoga
10am — 12 pm
sign up with Eve

Hot Lunch Buffet
12 — 1pm

Dessert and
Celebrate Milestone
Anniversaries
2:45 — 3:30pm

Don't forget to wear your ugly sweater
... there may be contests and prizes