

# On target

THE NEWS OF  
ST. VINCENT'S  
SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES



SPRING 2017

## Family Center Celebrations

In May, staff in our Family Center held its annual Mother's Day luncheon and also coordinated the first annual Father's Day event. The mothers were treated to wheelchair dances and poetry readings performed by their children. It was, as it always is, a great day to relax, enjoy a catered lunch and share stories about their children. The father's day inaugural event brought 33 dads for breakfast and a lively discussion with Ray Baldwin, President/CEO. They voiced concerns about budget cuts in CT and how those cuts will affect their children. Many expressed interest in planning a group visit to Hartford in the future. After breakfast, they each spent an hour or more with their child in his or her classroom. The children were so proud to show off their dad at school!



## "All Aboard the Orient Express"

Teachers, Instructors, and Education Assistants who organized the prom for students in the school program did an extraordinary job recreating a trip aboard the Orient Express. Even though the students and staff were too young to have experienced this train first hand, the theme offered many activities for enjoyment ... from great music for dancing and

movement in the rec room, to a catered luncheon for their families. As always, there was a great deal of thought and care put into the day's festivities that were enjoyed and appreciated by all. To view more photos, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stvincents.special-needsservices](http://www.facebook.com/stvincents.special-needsservices). Don't forget to Like us and become a fan!

## Fun and Games at CHANGING IMAGES Las Vegas Day

When it comes to creativity, our associates are aces. Working together with participants, they put together a casino style day of play including roulette, roll the dice, spin a prize, black jack, and a giant bean bag toss poker game.

Participants received chips for winning at each game table that they were able to exchange for a prize of their choice. There were non-alcoholic adult beverages and refreshments served. Kudos to all who helped to plan and work at the 2017 Las Vegas Day!



## SmartHealth Webinars Scheduled For June – Sign-Up Today!

SmartHealth has developed a presentation, specifically built upon concerns you voiced in our recent survey, and is offering several webinars for you to attend. This is not mandatory but if you would like to learn more about your benefits, how co-insurance, co-payments and deductibles work, you will certainly want to attend. They will also cover information about navigating the MySmartHealth.org website and provide an overview on the Tier One, Two and Three benefit levels.

In order to allow for a more personalized experience, we will limit each session to 30 people. Please sign up with Pat Stockage (203-375-6400) or Eve Garcia (203-380-9077). Sessions are designated to specific departments and can be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

### 95 Merritt Boulevard – School, Admin., Adult & Children's Residential associates:

- Session 1 – June 8th from 2:45 – 3:45 pm
- Session 2 – June 9th from 2:45 – 3:45 pm
- Session 3 – June 13th from 10am – 11am

### 975 Oronoque Lane – Adult Day, Admin., Adult & Children's Residential associates:

- Session 4 – June 12th from 7:15 – 8:15 am
- Session 5 – June 13th from 3:45 – 4:45 pm
- Session 6 – June 15th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm

If you have a general question that you believe all associates could benefit from the answer, please submit your question to [choward@ascension.org](mailto:choward@ascension.org) by June 6th. These will be shared with the SmartHealth presenter prior to the webinars.

*All sessions will be held in the board room at 101 Merritt Boulevard. If you are unable to attend a group session, please call Chris at 203-386-2715 for alternate presentation options.*

# SVSNS Award Recipients

Listed below are two of the outstanding St. Vincent's Special Needs associates who received an award for going above and beyond their day-to-day job responsibilities.



Congratulations to **Nicole Torony Ferraz, RN**, in our Children's Residential Program for receiving the Greater Bridgeport Medical Association's Nurse Recognition Award. Nicole was nominated by two co-workers for her compassion toward our residents as well as the volunteer work she does with Helping Hands Medical Missions. In addition, Nicole is a foster parent for her own sister, is an approved DCF foster home provider for respite care to families with special needs children, is currently completing her BSN, and still finds time to volunteer at her church. Nicole, you are a true professional with a positive attitude and are certainly deserving of this prestigious award. Congratulations!!



**Courtney Ryan**, Supervisor of Operations for Children's Residential Pfriem Home in Trumbull, receives a St. Vincent's Health Services Values Recognition Award. Courtney's job requires a lot of effort but is naturally executed with humility and grace. She is one of those people who gravitates toward fulfilling the needs of our residents each and every day. Her creativity and open mindedness combined with her strong work ethic are qualities that make her so successful in her role and so deserving of the Values Recognition Award. Way to go Courtney!

## Autism Awareness

During Autism Awareness month in April, students and staff in classroom 121 planned several activities in an effort to help create change and bring greater respect and acceptance of persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

They read autism inspired books and created a photo booth for the students at the FEROLETO Center, they spent a day at St. Vincent's Medical Center sharing information about autism with visitors and associates, and they ended the month with an Autism Awareness Walk.



### FEROLETO Center Events:

- June 16th – Graduation
- June 19th – Award Ceremony
- June 23rd – Last Day School
- August 3rd – FEROLETO Day

### CHANGING IMAGES Events:

- June 7 – Chair Yoga
- June – Baseball
- July – Luau

## Golf Tournament To Be Held June 26<sup>th</sup>

St. Vincent's Special Needs 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Kristin Nicole Appelberg golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at Tashua Knolls Golf Course. Employees may learn more by visiting our website at <https://give.stvincents.org/SpecialNeedsGolf>. Please feel free to share our link with family and friends who may wish to participate as a donor, sponsor, player or even just to attend the dinner. For more information, call Chris at 203-386-2715.