

Catholic Charities  
1027 Superior Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

# Disability Services & Ministries System Bulletin

Services and Ministries for Persons with Disabilities from 1966-Present  
August & September 2002  
Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

**Please Remember in Your Prayers** Heather Ciatko, a 10-year-old student at OLA/St. Joseph Center who passed away on Tuesday, July 2nd. Please keep Heather, her family and the OLA/St. Joseph Center Community in your prayers.

**Jim Gepperth ~ Family Center of Lorain County** The Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain is pleased to share the exciting news that we have recently installed a sound system in the main hall of our center! Thanks to the advice and direction of the Office of Disability Services we included in the design of the sound system equipment that will provide hearing assistance to persons who are hard of hearing.

More good news comes in the way of a remodeling project to begin very soon which will provide our building with a wheelchair accessible restroom! This project will be paid for and coordinated by the Catholic Charities Facilities Corporation. A big thanks goes to the whole team at Facilities Corp.

**Pam Delly ~ OLA/St. Joseph Center** Congratulations to the ten graduates of OLA/St. Joseph Center. These students graduated Monday, June 3 at a ceremony held at St. Augustine Church. Father Joseph McNulty, Pastor of St. Augustine Church, presided at the graduation. Mr. Dennis McNulty served as Master of Ceremonies, musician and music coordinator for the evening. Best of luck into high school to: Elijah Chapman; Michael Garrett; Juan Gonzalez; Anthony Loudermill; Gwendolyn Nims; Jason Reed; Ernest Smith; Bryant Taylor; Douglas Taylor; and Wendy Teel.

The collaboration between OLA/St. Joseph Center and Metro Catholic Parish School, through the operation of an OLA/St. Joseph Center Resource Room at Metro Catholic Parish School, was one of the feature articles in spring issue of "Faith and Values" from the Office of Catholic Education. We have completed the first year of serving students with developmental handicaps in a parish school in the diocese as well as operating the self-contained day school at OLA/St. Joseph Center.

**Joe Ungarsky ~ Supported Living / Youth Respite** Catholic Charities Supported Living Program and Parmadale held a Fishing Derby, Picnic, and Putt Putt Outing on Friday June 14, 2002. This fun event for children and adults with disabilities and for the children living at Parmadale, was held at the Hinckley Reservation. They also played Putt Putt at the Buzzard Cove.

A fishing and picnic outing at a Farm in Wellington is planned for Saturday August 3, 2002. Fishing, barbecuing, and games will be offered to all participants.

**Molly Worthington ~ Social & Recreational Activities** We have completed two weeks of our six-week Summer Day Camping Program. And we are about to begin our Summer Resident Camping Program. The campers and staff are excited about the activities that are happening at camp, the field trips and all the fun they are having!

The Continuing Adult Education Program is on Summer Break. We will begin classes again in September. If you would like more information on this program, please call our office.

The monthly dances at OLA/St. Joseph Center and at Rosemary Center continue to be very successful! Please look at the front of this newsletter for upcoming dates!

There has been a way for people in wheelchairs to get into **St. Augustine's Church** in Cleveland, but not a way to get up to the Altar. St. Augustine's has installed a ramp in the Church leading to the altar so that those who use wheelchairs can share their ministerial gifts!

The **Beatitudes Faith Formation Program** wrapped up the first year on June 8<sup>th</sup> with a celebration of the Holy Spirit. Eleven children with disabilities made their First Communion this year and another was baptized. The new year begins Saturday, September 28 from 11:00 am to 12 noon. Teachers are needed ~ there will be a teacher's meeting on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:30pm.

**The Circle ~ Everyone Belongs** will next be held Friday, October 18, 2002 at OLA/St. Joseph Center (2346 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St.) from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The St. Augustine Puppet and Drama Troupe will be there also. Transportation may be available. Please call 216-781-5530.

**Sign Language Classes** are held at St. Augustine's Walsh Hall. The cost is \$25 per person ~ Call Tracy Gretick for more information ~ 216-781-5530 x46.

**Catholic Blind Community Prayer Line** ~ The Catholic Blind Community has set up a Prayer Line ~ this number is **440-349-1050**. For more information on any of the above, please call Sr. Miriam at 216-781-5530.

### Ohio H.B. 94/405 -- Level 1 Waiver began July 1, 2002 (from the Cuyahoga County BMR/DD "Breaking Waves" newsletter)

Under Ohio HB 94/405 3 levels of waivers are being designed to assist people with disabilities access the supports they need.

The Ohio Dept. of MR/DD has announced that it began to enroll people on the Level 1 Waiver on July 1, 2002. Although not yet approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS), the state hopes to enroll 6,000 new people on the Level 1 Waiver during the next three years.

A \$5,000.00 per year cap will exist for services available, with certain exceptions, for a Level 1 Waiver recipient. Available services will include respite, habilitation--supported employment, homemaker/personal care, environmental accessibility adaptations, medical equipment and supplies, emergency response systems, transportation and emergency assistance.

The Level 2 and Level 3 Waivers will be written as amendments to the current individual options waiver.

### Supreme Court Bars Executing Persons with MRDD

On June 20, 2002, A divided Supreme Court reversed course and ruled that executing people with mr/dd is unconstitutionally cruel, giving scores of inmates on death row the possibility of a reprieve.

As we may applaud this step toward the elimination of capital punishment for all, what does this ruling say about the abilities of persons with mr/dd to make decisions and to live moral lives?

**Youth Ability Volunteers** is a group that refers young people between the ages of 17 and 24 with disabilities to volunteer at different summer opportunities. You can gain valuable experience, meet new people and stay involved! For more information, please call Carol Kwit, YouthAbility Counselor, at 216-378-3434.

**Ohio S.A.F.E. (Schools Are For Everyone)** - This is an on-going grassroots effort envisioning inclusive schools and communities where each person's gifts are discovered and celebrated! For more information, visit their website at [www.ohiosafe.org](http://www.ohiosafe.org) - if you are interested in becoming involved, e-mail Barb McKenzie at [bmckenzie@columbus.rr.com](mailto:bmckenzie@columbus.rr.com)

## **Come Celebrate With Us!!**

### **25 Years of Our Annual Walk-A-Thon**

**Saturday, October 12, 2002**

*Plan on joining us this year in celebrating 25 years  
of supporting persons with disabilities!!!*

For pledge forms and more information, call 216-696-6525 x2700

More  
info  
coming  
soon...

### **Join us for our Monthly Dances!**

*Enjoy friends dancing*  
**OLA/St. Joseph Center**  
2346 West 14<sup>th</sup> St., Cleveland  
Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

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**Rose-Mary Center**  
19350 Euclid Ave., Euclid  
Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

### *Weekend Retreats!!!*

*The Weekend Retreats are on Summer Break...but you  
can still Call NOW to register for the  
**September 27, 28 & 29<sup>th</sup> Retreat!***

*Register early! There are limited spaces & they fill up quickly!  
Retreats held at the beautiful St. Joseph Christian Life Center  
Located along Lake Erie, 18485 Lake Shore Blvd.*

**Call (216) 696-6525 ext. 2700 to register**  
**The fee for the Retreat is now \$90.00**

Send your checks to:  
**Disability Services, 1027 Superior Ave. Cleveland, OH 44114**  
**Remaining 2002 Retreat Dates!!!!**

Oct. 25-27; Nov. 15-17; Dec. 20-22

**Catholic Charities, Disability Services** ~ (216) 696-6525, ext. 2700 Fax (216) 861-9795 Ohio Relay Number (TTY) ~ 711

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Flexible Community Response ~ Bob Hurdle, Director (440) 843-5526 [rhurdle@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:rhurdle@dioceseofcleveland.org); Joe Ungarsky, Director, Support Services (216) 631-3499 x2146 [jmungarsky@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:jmungarsky@dioceseofcleveland.org) Supported Employment, Lake & Geauga Co. ~ Pat Price, Employment & Training Coordinator (440) 946-7264 [paprice@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:paprice@dioceseofcleveland.org) Lorain Family Center ~ Jim Gepperth, Director (440) 244-9915 [w8thst@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:w8thst@dioceseofcleveland.org)

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