

**Catholic Charities
Disability Services
Diocese of Cleveland
1027 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114**

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January 2003

Happy New Year!!!

Join us for our Monthly Dance



*Enjoy friends, dancing,
snacks, prizes and great music!*

OLA/St. Joseph Center
2346 West 14th St., Cleveland
Friday, February 14th
Friday, March 14th
Friday, April 11th
Friday, May 9th

Rose-Mary Center
19350 Euclid Ave., Euclid
Friday, January 24th
Friday, February 21st
Friday, March 28th
Friday, April 25th
Friday, May 23rd

Weekend Retreats!!!

*Call NOW to register for the
February 14, 15 & 16 Retreat!*

*Register early! There are limited spaces & they fill up quickly!
Retreats held at 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 \$90.00

Send your checks to:
Disability Services, 1027 Superior Ave. Cleveland, OH 44114

~ 2003 Retreat Dates ~
Mar. 14-16; Apr. 17-19; May 16-18;
Sept. 19-21; Oct. 24-26; Nov. 14-16; Dec. 12-14

Camp Happiness ~ June 16 - July 25
Rainbow Camp ~ To Be Decided
RoseMary Center ~ June 16 - July 25

Call for a camper registration and attend one of our many day camp sites throughout Greater Cleveland.

Camp Agape ~ June 29 - July 25 (Tentative)
Call if you are over 18 and would like to attend one of four 1-week sessions of resident camp!

**Summer Camp is just around
the corner!**

Call now for information

**For campers
or for staff!**

216-696-6525 x2700

**Are you interested in working for
Camp Happiness or Camp Agape?**

- Staff are needed Monday thru Friday, 9:30 – 3:00 at our 4 day camp sites ~ in Lakewood, Parma, Wickliffe and Cleveland (west side)
- Staff are needed for 4 weeks overnight (Sunday thru Thursday ~ **Weekends Off!!!**) at our resident camp site ~ on the east side of Cleveland

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

Dennis C. McNulty, Director dcmcnulty@dioceseofcleveland.org; Pam Delly, Principal, OLA/St. Joseph Center olastjoe@dioceseofcleveland.org; Molly Worthington, Director Social/Recreation Svcs. maworthington@dioceseofcleveland.org; Marilyn Scott, Program Coordinator mjscott@dioceseofcleveland.org; Flexible Community Response ~ Bob Hurdle, Director (440) 843-5526 rhurdle@dioceseofcleveland.org; Joe Ungarsky, Director, Support Services (216) 631-3499 x2146 jmungarsky@dioceseofcleveland.org; Supported Employment, Lake & Geauga Co. ~ Pat Price, Employment & Training Coordinator (440) 946-7264 paprice@dioceseofcleveland.org; Lorain Family Center ~ Jim Gepperth, Director (440) 244-9915 w8thst@dioceseofcleveland.org

Disability Ministries ~ 2486 West 14th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 781-5530 Voice/TTY
Fr. Joseph McNulty, Director; Sr. Corita Ambro, CSJ, Program Director staugch@erielink.com

Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries System Bulletin

Keep in your Prayers Sr. Mary Leonard Kelly, SIW, our good friend, "Nun" as we all knew her, passed away on December 5, 2002. Nun started the religious outreach services to children and adults with mr/dd. Long before it was popular she was, as she often said, "bringing them to Church or Church to them." When Nun is greeted by Jesus in the Kingdom I can only imagine that He will be surrounded by all children and adults whose lives she touched. Thank you Nun for the blessings you brought to our Diocese by making us aware of the needs and the talents of persons with disabilities.

Congratulations ...to Molly Worthington and her husband Brian on the birth of their twins ~ Maggie & Liam Worthington were born on Saturday, December 7th and all are doing well!!!

...to **Pam Delly**, Principal of OLA/St. Joseph Center, on being recognized at the Principal Leadership Conference for her 34 years of service to the field of education!!!

Welcome to Erika Millerbernd! Erika is the Coordinator for Catholic Charities Cuyahoga County Employment and Training Program. Her specific expertise is working with people with disabilities and assisting them in finding employment!

Kathy Hudak ~ Catholic Charities Head Start FREE pre-school for age and income eligible children in Cuyahoga County. Catholic Charities Head Start is for children with special needs too. The program offers individualization, medical and developmental screenings, assistance with referrals, and an education curriculum designed to get your child ready for Kindergarten. Head Start also works with the whole family encouraging their involvement and assisting them with their needs and goals as well. All interested please call Kathy Hudak, Disabilities Coordinator ~ 216-696-6525 X 2370.

Pat Price ~ Lake County Supported Employment 2003 begins with the intake of the 67th client in the Supported Employment Program. Placement rate in 2002 went to 40% ~ up from 10% in 2001, the inception year of the program.

The following is a heartwarming story about one of the Supported Employment clients: **Starr's Cars** in Perry called Pat before Christmas, asking if she knew a family in need who could benefit from \$550 to stuff, address, and stamp their Christmas cards. She called a client who had just been laid off from his job at a community college for winter break to see if he, his wife and daughters could do the work. He said, with tears in his voice, that his wife had just told him that they would not have enough money to pay their bills in December, and this money would get them through. They picked up the Christmas cards from the dealership the next day and completed them and returned them in another day, much to the dealership's astonishment! Isn't it amazing how Providence works?

Molly Worthington ~ Social & Recreational Activities The Thanksgiving Feast was once again a great success! We had wonderful food and enjoyed the time spent with friends and family. The group from the Weekend Retreats joined us for the feast ~ it was great to have them there. **And a BIG Thank You to the Associate Board from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Foundation.** They spent the morning working with the students on preparing the meal, creating decorations and just spending time with the students! We couldn't do it without them ~ Thank You Associate Board!!! Now it is back to work after the Holiday break!

The Summer Camp program will be beginning before we know it! Which means **SUMMER is right around the corner!!!** Returning campers and staff will be receiving your packet in the mail soon! Please call Marilyn at 216-696-6525 x2700 if:

- o You have never attended one of our camping programs and are interested in attending
- o You are interested in working at one of our camp programs

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming monthly dances at both OLA/St. Joseph Center and Rosemary Center ~ please see the front of this flyer for upcoming dates!

Jim Gepperth ~ Catholic Charities Family Center in Lorain The Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain has completed its count on the number of families and individuals (mostly children) who received a toy and/or an item of clothing as a result of the annual holiday distribution.

129 families were served, 408 individuals benefited from the efforts of staff and volunteers at the center. A special thanks goes to all (individuals, businesses and organizations) who donated items! Thanks and gratitude goes to staff member Adrienne Norman, who coordinated this effort!

Pam Delly ~ OLA/St. Joseph Center December 17 the Cleveland Browns Touchdown Club sponsored a visit of Doug Dieken and Bob Gain for the students at OLA/St. Joseph Center. In addition the students received some Browns memorabilia and some food. Mr. Twister also came and entertained the students with a magic show. We are grateful to the Touchdown Club for the yearly visits to OLA/St. Joseph Center! The students look forward to their coming each year.

We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week at the end of January! And we recently received a FREE hook-up for cable TV. This will allow the teachers to provide learning shows from PBS and the Learning Channel to the students!!

Students at OLA/St. Joseph Center are involved in Friday afternoon Activities Clubs courtesy of a grant from MBNA. Students may choose from 9 clubs some of which explore building designs, study of birds, photography, stamping, cooking, designing crafty creations and learning magic.

Joe Ungarsky ~ Supported Living / Youth Respite Catholic Charities/Parmadale hosted its annual Supported Living Christmas Party at Camp Corde on Friday, December 20, 2002. A light Christmas snow fell throughout the evening, which helped add to the festive atmosphere. All in attendance were treated to a wonderful Rigatoni, Chicken, and Pizza smorgasbord. After dinner guests participated in an assortment of games and danced the night away while listening to the mellow sounds of Jim At Night DJ/Karaoke. A special appearance by that jolly old man St Nick brought the evening to a close.

From Disability Ministries: The Circle ~ Everyone Belongs a religious social gathering will be held in the Spring at Warrensville Developmental Center ~ please watch the newsletter for the date or call St. Augustine's.

Ministries available at St. Augustine Church ~ 2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland. The **Beatitudes Faith Formation Program** is a Catechetical program providing religious instruction and community for youth ages 3-19 with disabilities. They meet monthly at St. Augustine's Walsh Hall on Jan. 18, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, April 26 & May 3 from 11:00 am to 12 noon. St. Augustine's **Faith & Light** group is called "**New Hope**". They will meet in St. Augustine's Walsh Hall from 6:30pm ~ 8:30pm on February 14, March 14 and May 16. All are Welcome! **New Sign Language Class** ~ The next round of *Basic Conversational Sign Classes* will begin Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m. in Walsh Hall at St. Augustine Church in Cleveland. No registration necessary. Classes are one hour long for 10 weeks @ \$25 per person. **Tremont's Youth Group**, which includes youth ages 13 to 19 from St. Augustine, St. Andrew Kim and nearby Churches and Schools, meets for fun, service/justice and spirituality. They will meet Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16 and May 4. Call for more detailed information.

Call 216-781-5530 for information on Disability Ministries.

People First of Cuyahoga County ~ A Local Support and Self-Advocacy Group will next meet on Monday, January 27, 2003 from 6:30 ~ 8:30 pm at the Independence Civic Center (6363 Selig Blvd.) They will discuss working on community awareness, community supports and getting health insurance for people with disabilities. **Registration is required.** Please call 216-621-4504 x18 to register.

Future People First of Cuyahoga County meeting dates are the 3rd Monday of the month.

Unlocking Autism was formed four years ago for the primary purpose of raising awareness to the general public regarding autism spectrum disorders.

They then began the Open Your Eyes picture project, designed to collect photographs of people with autism to help put a face on the disorder. The pictures were arranged by state on three foot by six foot display boards. The boards have appeared at all 3 national awareness rallies in Washington, DC and around the country at many events.

Unlocking Autism has collected over 9500 pictures of people with autism ranging in age from 2 to 54. They have over 225 boards and still represent less than 1/2 OF ONE PERCENT of the estimated 1.5 million people diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in the United States alone.

If you are interested in being a part of this project, contact the Open Your Eyes Picture Project by visiting the Unlocking Autism website at www.unlockingautism.org today! Release forms can be found at the website. Participation does not cost anything, but they do ask for a donation of \$5-\$10 per picture to help defray the cost of printing the colorful banners.

You can send the picture of the person you love to: Unlocking Autism, Open Your Eyes Project PO Box 237 Walker, LA 70785.