



Catholic Diocese of Cleveland
 Catholic Charities Disability Services
 7911 Detroit Ave.
 Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Non-Profit Org.
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November 2007

www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/disability

You are Invited to the
23rd Annual Journey to Bethlehem
A Celebration Mass

Celebrated by Bishop Roger Gries

Prayer, song, celebration and friendship for persons with developmental disabilities
 along with their families, friends, catechists, and advocates

Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.

at

OLA/St. Joseph Center - 2346 West 14th Street, Cleveland, Ohio

Liturgy followed by a light luncheon

Sponsored by
 Disability Services and Ministries, Catholic Charities Health & Human Services

Ample parking is available
 OLA/St. Joseph Center is wheelchair accessible
 Sign language interpreters, Audio Description and Enhancement will be available

For more information please call 216-334-2963



~ Monthly Dances ~



Cost...\$3.00 for dancers (Staff are Free) **Ages...**16 and over
ID...All dancers must carry their ID with them or wear a nametag with their first name and phone number on it.

Helpful Hint...Come with a nametag already on ~ it will help keep the line shorter!!!

The group home or family must provide supervision if needed

Mark your Calendars...2007 Dance Dates

OLA/St. Joseph Center 7 - 9:30 pm

2346 West 14th St., Cleveland ~ 216-334-2963

2nd Friday of the month (unless noted by *) **2007 Dates:** December 7

Rose-Mary Center 7:30 – 10:00 pm

19350 Euclid Ave., Euclid ~ 216-481-4823

4th Friday of the month (unless noted by *) **2007 Dates:** Oct 26; *Nov 30; **No Dance in December**

Please note change
 of date...
 Rose-Mary Center's
 next dance will be
 November 30
 not Nov. 16

Catholic Charities Family Center Lorain ~ 7 – 9:30 pm

203 W. 8th St., Lorain, OH 44052 ~ 440-244-9915

2007 Dates: November 16

Catholic Charities, Disability Services ~ (216) 334-2963 Fax (216) 334-2905 Ohio Relay Number (TTY) ~ 711

Dennis C. McNulty, Director dmcnulty@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Marilyn Scott, Program Administrator** mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Flexible Community Response** ~ **Mike Haggerty**, mjhaggerty@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Joe Ungarsky, Director, Support Services** (440)-843-5549 jmungarsky@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Employment & Training** (216) 426-9870 ~ **Vanessa Lee, Director** vxlee@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Lorain Family Center** ~ **Jim Gepperth, Program Director** (440) 244-9915 jggepperth@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Tess Flannery, Summit County** (330) 762-2961 x224 TFlannery@AkronCYO.org; **Headstart** ~ **Mary Baran** mxbaran@clevelandcatholiccharities.org; **Tammi Seifert** 216-334-2944 tseifert@clevelandcatholiccharities.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@earthlink.net

Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries Newsletter
Celebrating 41 years...1966 to 2007

We are always receiving news and information from the community. An updated list of these opportunities can be found at our website www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/disability

For Catholic Disability Teachings and suggestions, check us out at www.catholicdisabilityteachings.com

The 23rd Annual Journey to Bethlehem Mass is Saturday, December 15 at 10:30 am at OLA/St. Joseph Center. Our celebrant will be Bishop Roger Gries. If you have never been to this celebration, please join us. For 22 years, this liturgy has become a wonderful example of hope. All the roles in the liturgy are filled by persons with disabilities. It is an outstanding illustration of the talents and blessings God has bestowed on all of us. So, please join us as we celebrate Christmas and the promise Jesus gives us as people called to one church.

The 30th Annual Walk of Hope was a great success! The day was beautiful with temperatures in the upper 80's! It was wonderful to see so many people come out to support persons with disabilities! We are especially thankful to the Beers Family and their friends who walked in memory of Jim Beers with their group "Thumbs Up to Hope". Visit our website for pictures. The following is an excerpt of an article that was in the Universe Bulletin. You can see the full article on our website.

500 walkers raise awareness of people with special needs By Margot Klima (Reprinted courtesy of the Catholic Universe Bulletin)

"It was just like a family reunion. Friends and family members, caretakers and neighbors all joining in the fun.

'This is a wonderful way to represent people who can't walk,' said Julie Ryan, a member of the core group who founded the walk in the 1978. 'It's a real celebration of life and the ability to walk. We take pride and are grateful for what they're able to do. It proves they are very special people.'

This year's walk was dedicated to the memory of Jim Beers, who died last December 27, 36 years after a debilitating stroke left him in a wheel chair and able to communicate only by using a computerized voice simulator or responding to an alphabet system, using a thumb up or down to indicate yes or no.

Beers and his wife, Mary Lou, spoke often at retreats, graduations and parish events throughout the diocese about their commitment to God, their faith, and each other, inspiring others to keep the faith as well.

'We began supporting the walk at Jim's urging because he, and we, felt that the walk is a walk of hope for every child with a special need. We hope it is a way of thanking God for Jim and for the gift of hope,' Mary Lou Beers said.

'Jim and Mary Lou have always been people who carry the gift of hope wherever they went,' said Dennis McNulty, director of Catholic Charities' Disability Services program. 'They inspired many with their love for each other and their dedication to encourage others to live lives of love.'"



"Mary Lou Beers, top, gathered with family and friends for a group photo prior to the 30th annual Catholic Charities Disabilities Services Walk for Hope..." (Photo by Thomas Cramer)

The Continuing Adult Education Program, Marilyn Scott The Continuing Adult Education Program (CAEP) has had a great start to the new year. In addition to reading, math and computer class, the students are learning about the 50 states this year. They are looking forward to the annual Thanksgiving meal and before we know it, it will be Christmas break!

The CAEP is dedicated to meeting the continuing educational needs of adults with developmental disabilities ages 21 and over, who have graduated from a high school D.H./M.H.

or a County Board of MR/DD program. Students must provide their own transportation and tuition is \$88 a month with an additional one time material fee of \$60. Classes meet on Saturdays from September 15 through May 18. For more info, call or email Marilyn – 216-334-2963 or mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

Monthly Dances Mark you Calendars!!! Please note that the Rose-Mary Center has changed the November monthly dance from the 16th to the 30th. This will be the last Friday of November. There will not be a dance during the month of December at Rose-Mary Center. There will however be a dance on Friday, December 7 at OLA/St. Joseph Center.

Catholic Charities Family Center in Lorain, Jim Gepperth Our next "Friendship Connections" dance happens on Friday, November 16. The theme for the dance is "Wear your favorite team colors" – in anticipation of the Ohio State-Michigan Game on Saturday, Nov. 17. The dance starts at 7:00 PM and ends at 9:30 PM. The cost is only \$3.00 per dancer at the door. Group home staff members and family caregivers get in free. Enjoy great music, snacks, and maybe even win a prize!

167 dancers have attended the five dances held in Lorain so far this year. Adding to the attendance of dancers are group home caregivers, family members and volunteers. Well over 200 people have benefitted from and enjoyed the Friendship Connections program in 2007.

Dances are planned with the Lorain County Board of MR/DD (LCBMR/DD) to coordinate community events. The LCBMR/DD helps promote the dances at their adult day programs and through their newsletters.

A volunteer group from St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Amherst sends a volunteer team of approx. 6 to 10 people for each dance. They decorate the room, assist with food, snacks and prizes. They clean-up after. They are very involved and committed to this client population!

From Disability Ministries

The *Beatitudes Faith Formation Program* is designed to provide a nurturing and prayerful environment for special needs children to be introduced to Jesus and His love. In addition, instructors attend to and assist with the preparation of the children for the Sacraments. The program is held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 11am to 1pm. Next meeting is November 10, 2007. Lunch and refreshments are provided. This program is held at St. Augustine Church's Walsh Hall (2486 W. 14th St. in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood). If you would like to register or need transportation, please call the rectory at 216-781-5530.

The *New Faith & Light Community* meets the first Friday of each month at 6pm at St Augustine Church. The next meeting will be Dec. 7, 2007. Please join us. Call 216-781-5530.

Community Information

October 25 was the 40th anniversary of Senate Bill 169, which established County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in each county in Ohio. In 1967, SB 169 spelled out the formation of 88 County Boards of MRDD, and thus, the Boards were for years known as '169 Boards'.

The **Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD's** Maple Heights Adult Activities Center is producing holiday cards, featuring the artwork of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The artists who have created the cards are Maple Heights AAC consumers. All proceeds from the sale of these greeting cards go directly to the artists.

Each package of holiday greeting cards contains ten cards. If you are interested in ordering the holiday greeting cards, you can go to our website's additional news page and download the order form or you can call (216) 475-7066.

For a listing of upcoming activities from **Keene Promotions**, go to the Additional News page on our website or call or email Judi Greenspan at 216-932-1989 or jgreenspan@keenepromotions.com