



## *Bringing Stories to Life*

Who *is* that little old lady with the floppy hat and shawl who looks a lot like Tierra?

It's "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything"—with Tierra playing the part of the old lady and several participants from the Adult Program acting out the parts of the "thumping" boots, the "shaky" pants, the "wriggling" shirt, the "nodding" top hat and the scary talking pumpkin head who all follow the old woman in the woods. Eventually each clothing item becomes part of a scarecrow.

Role-playing is all part of our weekly TheaterWorks program with "Mr. Matt" (Hennessy), a music therapist at Arts For Healing in New Canaan and director of TheaterWorks.

The program integrates music, art, movement, and education into a fun theater experience for individuals with special needs. Using music and repetition, music therapists like Mr. Matt adapt familiar Disney stories, fairy tales, songs, and nursery rhymes to engage participants in the story while also developing language, cognitive, and social skills. Each session begins with a welcome song and an overview of the story. Then the story is acted out twice, giving everyone a chance to participate and express themselves in different roles. A goodbye song closes the session.

"It's a pleasure coming in every week and using their ideas as the foundation of a shared experience that we work through," Mr. Matt said.

"The adults have a great time," said Mr. Rich, a staff member. "You should have seen Ryan as the little old lady the second time through the story. He really took the role to heart."



[View more photos...](#)



## *Tricks and Treats...*

Halloween is one of the most anticipated days of the year at the Center. In the Academy, each class let their imaginations go wild for the Pumpkin Decorating Contest—with awards for the Most Colorful, Most Creative, Most Scary, and Most Funny. Magician Jay Reidy offered up a few perplexing tricks in his Magic Show, such as the upside-down crayon and the knotted rope. After the show, everyone enjoyed some popcorn treats before heading home to trick-or-treat.

**[View the photos!](#)**



Participants in the Adult Day program especially enjoyed a day to dress up as their favorite characters—which included angels, a princess, a butterfly, a fairy, a clown, a policeman and fireman, army sergeant, Superman, Cat-in-the-Hat, and more! The morning was full of homemade entertainment, thanks to some spooky games (“Sack Drac” and a skull toss) contributed by Kelley and Drew Schutte. A pizza lunch and homemade cupcakes from Michelle Rivelli followed. **The photos are a real “treat”—take a look!**



## *Doin' the Monster Mash*

More than 125 guests attended our fall Dinner Dance for people with special needs on October 19th—some in costume, and all eager to enjoy a delicious pasta dinner together. Dinner, however, is just a prelude to the main event—dancing. Our dedicated DJ, Herb Ramirez, had the dancing crowd going with a set of Halloween favorites, from Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” to “Monster Mash.”

The Dinner Dances continue to draw many people from group homes and individuals

across the Diocese. The special events are also an opportunity for local parishes to get involved. Our thanks to Cathy Romano and the youth group at Assumption Church in Westport for creating the festive fall centerpieces, and to Sue Baldwin at St. Andrew in Bridgeport, who gathered as many as 20 teens to serve food and beverages to the many guests who packed the beautiful Parish Hall, and to Rev. Sam Kachuba at St. Pius X Church in Fairfield.

The evening concluded as it often does with a conga line of laughing family and friends circling the big room. "The camaraderie and everyone's pure enjoyment make the evening so worthwhile," said one attendee. "I always have a good time."

**[Check out the photos on our website.](#)**



*We wish you  
and your family a  
Happy Thanksgiving!*

## *Save the Date*

*Mass Celebrating People with Special Needs*

*Sunday, December 2, 2 p.m.*

Holy Cross Church (*adjacent to Saint Catherine Center*) | 750 Tahmore Drive, Fairfield  
RSVP to 203-540-5381

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