

November 2020



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

What Is Essential

Dear Friends of Saint Catherine Center and Saint Catherine Academy,

In the children's book, *The Little Prince*, the diminutive hero speaks to all of us, young and old: "And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." Over the last nine months, we have been challenged to decide what is indeed essential. Many of us have cast aside our previous notions and replaced them with scaled back and fundamental principles.

Saint Catherine Center has done just that.

We have learned, again, that our programs are essential to the children and young adults that we serve, and to their families. And we have come to understand that we are essential to one another. It is evident in the support that the staff provides to each other. It is evident in the important relationships between and among our students and adult participants. It is evident in the support we receive from our volunteers and donors.



"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly."

It is with the heart that we see the spirit of generosity underlying these essential relationships evident all around us: in the outreached hand preparing for a walk outside and in the smile after 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches have been prepared and delivered to the food pantry. It is in the voice of encouragement from a staff member and in the high-five delivered after a basket has been scored. It is in everyday activities, in the ordinary, that we celebrate the extraordinary joys.

As we begin this season of giving, we invite all of you to join us in celebrating generosity and the difference it can make in the world. **On December 1, for the first time, Saint Catherine Center will participate in GivingTuesday along with thousands of other nonprofits.** For us, GivingTuesday will kick off a month-long celebration of "Joy and Gratitude," recognizing the generosity in our midst in all its forms. Celebrate with us through acts of kindness, volunteering your time or expertise, lending your voice to those who cannot speak for themselves, or [making a donation](#) to a special cause like Saint Catherine Center!

Generosity is the catalyst to forming the world the way we want it to be, where life is valued and purposeful. I hope you will join us in this effort and make a donation so we can continue the *essential*

work that is done every day at Saint Catherine Center.

[Please watch our video](#) to see more about the good work of the Center, and share the link with others.

I hope you and your family experience many moments of joy in this season of giving.

Be well, and God bless,



Helen C. Burland
Executive Director

P.S. It's never too early to give--feel free to [make your contribution](#) before #GivingTuesday! If you have already given, *Thank You* for your generosity!



#GivingTuesday **Call to Action**

Matching Gift from the Valerie Luff Foundation



“Compassion calls us to care deeply for all of our brothers and sisters. At Saint Catherine Center you witness true compassion at the deepest level. The students and young adults exhibit kindness unconditionally and live courageously. Their family members take the words ‘commitment’ and ‘selfless dedication’ to the highest level. The staff live a vocation, giving of themselves every day.

In tribute and in awe to all of these beautiful people who make up the Saint Catherine community, the Luff Family is pleased to offer a \$20,000 matching grant to bring attention to this bright beacon of hope and joy. Please support ‘This Little Light of Mine’ and yours!”

Kelly Weldon and the Valerie Luff Foundation

[Click here to help us meet this match!](#)