

July 2019



## SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

### *"A Little Like Camp": Summer Session at the Academy*

Even with a short week, the Summer School schedule at the Academy is lively and full of activity. With reading, writing, and math every day, Briana has been reading more than she usually does during the school year. Ronald has also been working on his reading skills using Edmark on the computer, and Jaheim is learning about money and making change. The weekly schedule also includes music, art, and movement, as well as regular physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

"It's important that our students keep the gains they've made, so the session is very much an extension of the school year," says Eric Spencer, Director of Education. "It is, however, more relaxed—a little like camp."

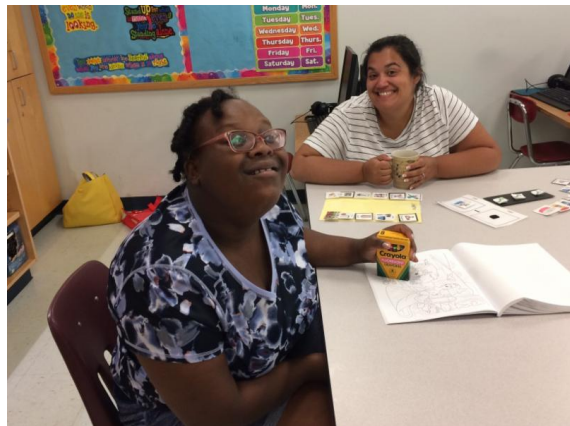
Classes are shifted so that students and staff mix in a different way. They go bowling and shopping, and prepare a meal together. And with field trips each week, the students also benefit from spending more time in the community. Each outing is an opportunity to learn more about nature and science, and to socialize.

Trips this summer include visits to the Beardsley Zoo, the Maritime Center, and Stepping Stones Museum. "I liked seeing the tigers and the tortoises at the zoo. And the sharks at the Maritime," says Jaheim. "And I also like wearing regular clothes and hanging out with Vinny."

"For a few short weeks we dispense with uniforms and have a chance to get to know each other better through enhanced interaction and community outings," says Eric. "It's a lot of fun."

[View some photos.](#)

*The summer session ends on July 18th;  
school resumes on Thursday, August*

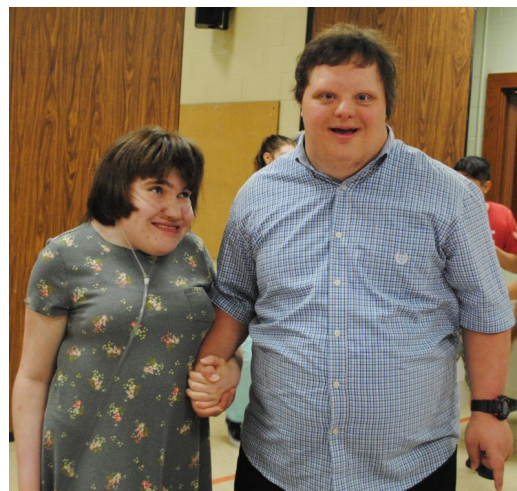




## *"Men Serve Women" Luncheon: Building Community and Having Fun*

The second annual "Men Serve Women" Luncheon in the Adult Program was once again a huge success. The ladies enjoyed being escorted and served, and the gentlemen put all their skills to use in creating a memorable experience.

[View the photos.](#)



"When we first came up with the idea, we were thinking about a group activity that would model treating women with dignity and respect," said Pat Gorman, a service provider. "Last year went so well that we decided to make it an annual event."

Organizing the special event builds multiple skills for the participants, who work hard to pay attention and follow instructions, work as a team and follow through, and—most importantly—show consideration and care for others. During two planning meetings the menu was chosen; a shopping expedition was organized; and teams were assigned for decorating and set-up, food prep, and clean-up.



This year the men chose barbeque chicken and hot dogs, corn, and a tossed salad—plus special beverages which included lemonade slushies and chocolate milk. Flower arrangements from Gilbertie's made the room was festive and inviting.

When all were seated, Tyler H gave the blessing using his communication device. "The team of us want you to know we appreciate and love you," he said, "Bless this bunch as we munch on our lunch!" Orders were then taken and served with assistance by Tyler T and Ryan.

For dessert the team provided custom-made ice cream sundaes. Owen, who just joined the program, also brought in cake and goodie bags as a surprise farewell gesture to his friend and companion, Tammy.

"The event really touches on so much of our mission," says Pat. "About building community, being creative, and having fun."

And, of course, the ladies love it.



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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**20th Anniversary Celebration Mass**

**September 22, 2019 | 2 pm**

Saint Catherine Center, Fairfield

*Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Principal Celebrant*

*Msgr. Robert E. Weiss, Concelebrant*

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