



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR
Special Needs

February 2022

Dear Neighbor,

On behalf of the Saint Catherine Center community, I am excited to share with our neighbors around Tahmore Drive our plans for a modest addition in order to better meet the needs of the children and young adults we serve. Following a multi-year planning process and an unanticipated delay due to COVID, **we are embarking on the most important initiative** to happen at Saint Catherine's since its establishment in 1999 and our move to Fairfield in 2007.

As you may know, we serve children and young adults whose lives are challenged by significant disabilities. Our programs support their academic, social and vocational needs with nurturing and caring staff and intentional programming. The need in our area has outpaced our facility and many of our program ideas remain on the shelf due to inadequate facilities. Enrollment since inception has grown from 16 to 40 with a waiting list for services.

We have completed drawings and are preparing to submit them to the Town of Fairfield for consideration. In advance of that submission, I am reaching out to share the plans. The proposal will allow us to catch up to our current enrollment in terms of practical spaces for storage, bathrooms, small instructional rooms and office space. It will support programmatic improvements that will expand our hands-on instructional space that translates into authentic vocational experiences. Enrollment growth will be controlled, that is, it will be small, incremental, intentional growth of numbers served while respecting the site limitations and the residential neighborhood. The number of onsite parking will remain the same as the parking lot is more efficiently planned. The timing of the programs is staggered so there should continue to be no appreciable impact to traffic.

The Center has developed a strong reputation for high quality programming; fiscal responsibility and adherence to mission as a result of strong leadership for the Board of Directors as well as a well-trained and committed staff.

This proposal represents a modest, intentional plan that allows us to continue to serve a vulnerable population. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the plans, please let me know by calling 203-540-5381 or emailing me at hburland@diobpt.org.

Regards,

Helen C. Burland

Helen C. Burland
Executive Director