

October 2023



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR
Special Needs

Celebrating a Night of Joy & Gratitude Annual Gala 2023

It was a night to remember, filled with joy, gratitude, and a sense of unity that left us all inspired. On Sunday, October 8th, we hosted our highly anticipated annual Joy and Gratitude Dinner at the McClinch Family Center at St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull. It was an evening that truly captured the spirit of our mission.

On this memorable occasion, we came together to honor two remarkable individuals who have dedicated their time to our mission, celebrate the achievements of the Center, and raise vital funds to support our programs. This year, our hearts filled with pride as we presented the Leadership Award to Helen Burland and the Volunteer Service Award to Monsignor Robert Weiss to recognize their unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions to our Center. Helen Burland's leadership has been a guiding light, inspiring many. Monsignor Weiss' selfless service embodies the spirit of compassion and dedication that is at the core of our mission.

With over 260 guests in attendance, the gala was a testament to the strong bonds of our community. The event was graced with the presence of individuals who believe in our cause and support our efforts to provide the best care and education for our students and adult participants. It was heartwarming to witness the gathering of like-minded people, all committed to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

A highlight of the evening was the live auction, skillfully hosted by the incomparable Terry O'Connor. This auction not only added an element of excitement to the evening but also played a significant role in raising crucial funds for our programs. The generosity displayed by our guests was truly awe-inspiring, and we are deeply grateful for all your support.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to every single person who played a part in making this night a resounding success. To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees, your



contributions are instrumental in ensuring that Saint Catherine Center can continue our mission of meeting each individual where they are and empowering them to reach their fullest potential.

As we look back on this beautiful evening, we are reminded of the strength of our community and the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. It is through events like these that we can continue to provide the love, care, and education for our community. With your unwavering support, we are confident that we can make a lasting impact on their lives.

Once again, thank you for making our Annual Gala a night to remember. Your dedication fuels our determination to work tirelessly toward a more inclusive and compassionate world and grow where we are planted.

[View photos of the evening](#)



Building for the Future: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Friday September 15th, was a day filled with a sense of accomplishment as about 200 guests, friends, students, staff, and family members gathered at Saint Catherine Center for a momentous Blessing and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The event, graced by the presence of Bishop Caggiano, was a celebration of the successful *Building for the Future* expansion project that promises to bring even more enriching experiences to the Center.

The ceremony began with a heartfelt welcome from Laura Grozier, Executive Director of Saint Catherine Center. Her words set the tone for the day, emphasizing the significance of the expansion project and the incredible support it had received from the community. "Together we turned a vision into a beautiful building with incredible hope and appreciation." Laura's warm and genuine welcome put everyone in the celebratory spirit.

Mike LaBella, Chairman of the Board of Directors, as well as Helen Burland, retired Executive Director, came to the podium to express their profound gratitude. LaBella commended the dedication and hard work of the board and construction teams, while Burland reflected on the journey and the tremendous growth the Center has witnessed over the years. Their words served as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the Saint Catherine community.



A significant part of the ceremony came as Bishop Caggiano blessed the building and acknowledged the importance of the work being done at the Center. His presence and words served as a reminder that the expansion was not just about bricks and mortar; it was about expanding the horizons and potential of each individual who walks through its doors.

Finally, the students and adult participants themselves took center stage. With bright smiles, they joined to cut the ribbon, symbolizing the opening of the newly expanded facilities. It was a moment that captured the essence of our mission: empowerment and inclusivity.

The project in itself is a confirmation to the Center's commitment to providing the best possible educational and developmental opportunities for everyone. The new spaces have been meticulously designed to nurture creativity, curiosity, and collaboration. Among the standout features is a commercial grade kitchen, a hydroponic garden that encourages hands-on experiences, and beautiful courtyards that provide serene and reflective outdoor spaces.

Furthermore, the expansion project has allowed for the creation of additional program space and therapy rooms, ensuring that every student receives the personalized care and attention they deserve.

As the ceremony concluded, the sense of community and shared accomplishment was felt. In every smile, in every heartfelt word of thanks, and the gleam in the eyes of the students and adult participants, the success of the expansion project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was evident. It marked a new chapter in the Center's history, one filled with hope, growth, and endless possibilities for all those it serves. Saint Catherine's stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to support the important mission and work.

[View more photos.](#)





Join Us

Saint Catherine Center hosts
**Mass to Celebrate People
with Special Needs**

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport, *Celebrant*

**Sunday, November 6, 2023
2 p.m.**

Holy Cross Church
750 Tahmore Drive, Fairfield
Adjacent to Saint Catherine Center

*All are welcome,
but reservations are recommended.
Please RSVP to:
ahite@stcatherineacademy.org*



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