

October 2024



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

Celebrating a Night of Joy & Gratitude Annual Gala 2024

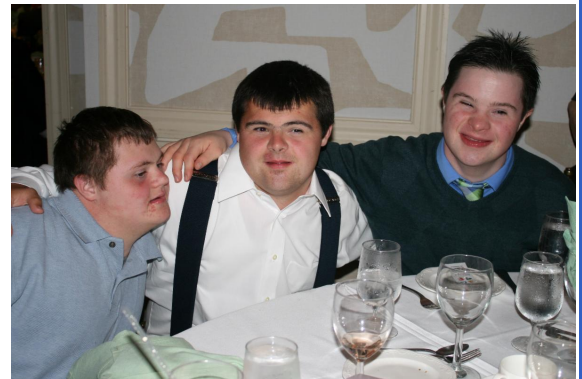
On Sunday, October 6th, we gathered for an unforgettable evening at our annual Joy and Gratitude Gala. This year, the dinner was held at The Waters Edge at Giovanni's in Darien. This celebration recognized the 25th anniversary of Saint Catherine Academy, filling the night with a deep sense of joy, celebration, and gratitude.

Two individuals were honored for their remarkable contributions to our mission. Laura Grozier, Executive Director, presented the Leadership Award to Tony Minopoli, whose guidance and commitment to our board have been vital to the growth of our programs. His financial acumen has been instrumental in managing the Center's investments and expanding endowments. Christine Woods received the Volunteer Service Award, a recognition of her selfless dedication, perfectly reflecting the compassion and care at the heart of our mission.

With more than 300 guests in attendance, this year's gala saw a record turnout—a true testament to the growth and strength of our community over the past 25 years. The energy in the room was palpable as supporters who believe deeply in our cause came together to celebrate the achievements of Saint Catherine Center and rally behind our efforts to provide the gift of purpose to our students and adult participants.

One of the evening's highlights was the live auction led by the ever-engaging Terry O'Connor. His dynamic presence added excitement to the night, while the generosity of our guests played a pivotal role in raising essential funds for our program. We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support shown by all.

To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees; we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your contributions ensure Saint Catherine Center can



continue its mission of meeting each individual where they are and helping them reach the highest level of independence possible. "Without all of you, this would not be possible. You answered the call 25 years ago when the seed for Saint Catherine Academy was planted and you helped us grow over the past quarter century into a Center serving students and young adults," said Laura Grozier.

As we reflect on this wonderful evening, we are reminded of the incredible strength of our community and the bright future that lies ahead. Your unwavering support allows us to continue to provide the love, care, and education that changes lives. Together, we are building a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Thank you for making this year's Joy and Gratitude Gala an extraordinary success. Your dedication inspires us to keep moving forward, with confidence and hope, toward the next 25 years and beyond.

[View photos of the evening](#)



A Celebration of 25 Years Saint Catherine Academy Anniversary Mass

On September 22nd students, young adults, families, board members, staff, volunteers, and friends came together to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Saint Catherine

Academy. The event was marked by a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank Caggiano, Monsignor Robert Weiss, and Father David Roman, highlighting our deep sense of faith and community that has guided the Center through the years.

The students and young adult participants played a meaningful role in the Mass, participating in the readings, the prayer of the faithful, and the offertory procession. Their involvement highlighted the mission of the center; to ensure every individual is embraced for their gifts and abilities.

During the homily, Bishop Caggiano spoke from the heart, saying, “We gather here because every child and every adult is loved, respected, included, and celebrated for the beautiful person they are. When we come to the Center, we come to a place where Christ is alive, and you can feel it when you walk through the doors.” His words capture what makes Saint Catherine Center so special.

Laura Grozier, Executive Director, expressed her gratitude to all who attended and reflected on the incredible journey the Center has embarked on over the past quarter century. “This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our community—students, families, staff, volunteers, and supporters—who have helped make Saint Catherine Academy what it has become today.”

After the Mass, everyone gathered at the Center to enjoy cake and refreshments to celebrate the milestone. It was a beautiful, heartfelt way to mark 25 years of dedication to serving individuals with disabilities.

As Saint Catherine Academy continues its mission, this anniversary celebration serves as a reminder of the Center’s enduring impact, with many more years of growth and community ahead.

[View more photos.](#)



Welcome New Staff

We are excited to introduce two new staff members to

the Saint Catherine Center community.

Deanah Wright joined us as our Coordinator of Vocational Programs. In her role, she organizes students' work experiences at job sites, helping them build valuable skills. Married with four children, Ms. Deanah has always been passionate about serving others, striving to live in a way that reflects the values of Jesus. "I am truly blessed to be a part of Saint Catherine Academy, where I can contribute to the growth of such an amazing group of students," says Ms. Deanah.

Tiffany McKay (Ms. Kay) is our newest art teacher. A graduate of the University of Texas in Austin with a degree in Art, Ms. Kay works with a wide variety of mediums, from paint and pastels to paper mache and sculpting. She is eager to inspire creativity in our students and young adults, encouraging them to explore new ways of making art. As she says, "There's no such thing as bad art."

We are thrilled to have Ms. Deanah and Ms. Kay on board and look forward to the energy and enthusiasm they bring to our programs!



Join Us

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

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

**Sunday, November 3, 2024
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*



Follow us on Facebook!

[Saint Catherine Center](#)
[Saint Catherine Academy](#)

Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs | 760 Tahmore Drive | Fairfield, CT 06825 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!