

June 2022



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR
Special Needs

June 13, 2022

Dear Friends of Saint Catherine Center,



In the children's classic, Peter Pan tells us that "all the world is made of faith, and trust, and pixie dust." Reflecting on this past year, we recognize the importance of faith and trust as a foundation to the mission of Saint Catherine Center. We recently took time to explore the role of faith and trust in the lives of the individuals we serve and their families. A deep connection to their faith, an appreciation for community, and openness to God's love were evident in all of these conversations.

There is an intricate network of trust that exists between our families, staff, and donors. Knowing that our faith will guide us, we place our trust in each other. Our families trust us with their most precious treasures. Our staff trusts each other to help balance the needs of our individuals with the demands of the day. Our donors trust that their resources are effectively shepherded to support the mission of the Center. And our young people come to Saint Catherine's with an open heart and a willingness to try to be their best selves because they trust us to safely guide them.

At Saint Catherine's we are surrounded by faith and trust. Each interaction builds on the previous one and strengthens the overall relationship. In challenging times, these trusting relationships help us know that our foundation is strong and will prevail. But let's not forget the pixie dust! That touch of magic, those moments of creativity and recognition when the ordinary becomes extraordinary – *for those who believe.*

Thank you for being part of our community of believers. Together we perform magic. If you have already made a gift to our annual fund this year, thank you. If not, will you consider joining us before June 30th? I hope we can count on your partnership as we look to the future.

May your world be filled with faith and trust and a touch of pixie dust!

With gratitude,

Helen C. Burland

Helen C. Burland
Executive Director



Growth and Independence: Themes of the Year

As the academic year comes to a close, Saint Catherine Academy teachers offered some reflections on the year.

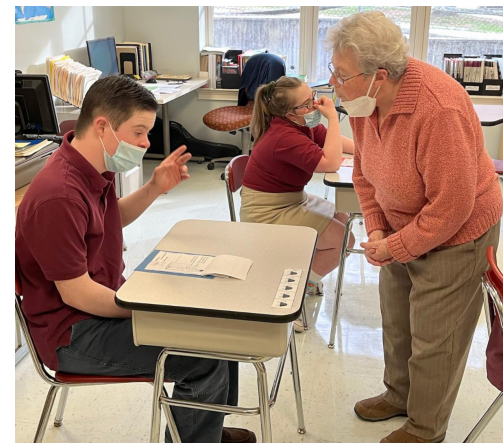
Jim Winebrenner

For my students, this year has been about independence—whether it was turning pages while listening to a story or working with a calculator by themselves, they made great progress. I want them to become as independent as possible.



Sr. Cheryl Driscoll

The students grew in their independence in all areas this year. I was struck by how they were very aware of the needs of their classmates, helping them out when they were unable to do certain tasks. As their independence grows, so does their consideration for others.



Rosemary Lara

This year has been about transition. I had two new students come on board, and another is moving toward completing his school program. So I have been focused on seeing where the students are, where they're going, and what we've needed to do to make the transitions smooth. There were many small steps taken and gains made.

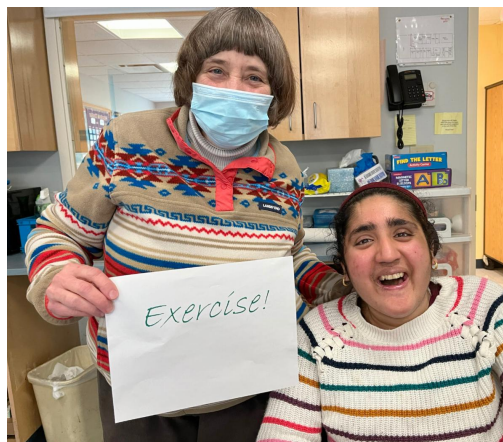


Joanne LaPorta

My students this year have grown so much, especially in the social realm. In their own ways, each has learned how to better communicate to staff and to each other. Friendships have formed. All of this helps create an environment where it's easier to learn.

Eric Spencer, Director

We were all glad to return to some pre-Covid normalcy this year, working at off-campus vocational sites and enjoying field trips in the community. But the highlight of this school year for me is the way our staff embody their faith every day in the dedication and level of kindness they show the students and each other. I'm proud to work with them.





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