



The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence

Programs Serving Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
A Division of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

A PERFECT SCORE... IN GENEROSITY

Jim and Tina Gula

Occasionally, an organization is blessed by extraordinarily generous individuals whose selfless giving truly makes a difference in the lives of those they serve. Jim and

Tina Gula are just that – extraordinary in their generosity to the *Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence*.

The Gulas made a significant planned gift that assisted us with the construction of our new Don Guanella campus on Sproul Road that we call the Cardinal Krol Homes.

On June 27th, members of our community gathered there for a cookout with Jim, Tina and their daughter Kelsey to bless the newest addition to that campus – a beautiful outdoor pavilion and memorial garden that is their most recent gift.

A friend of Father Dennis Weber since first grade, Jim has been exceedingly generous through his substantial ongoing financial support and dedicated service as a faithful volunteer along with Tina. For about 25 years, they have been a regular presence organizing and helping the Don Guanella Challenger League, our spring

baseball/whiffle ball activity. They have also participated in and sponsored other activities for our men and women such as movie nights and baseball game outings.



Father Dennis Weber presents a Papal Blessing to Jim, Tina, and Kelsey Gula in appreciation for their generosity.

At our event on the 27th, Jim and Tina handed out awards to recognize all the Don Guanella and Divine Providence Village athletes, and announced two new scholarships for students at *Cardinal O'Hara High School* whose involvement in the school's Community Service Corps includes assistance with the Challenger League.

If giving of time, talent, and treasure are the three marks of generosity, then the Gulas get a perfect score.

Thanks, Jim and Tina!

"Tina and I are privileged and honored to be able to make life a little more enjoyable for all the wonderful residents and staff at Don Guanella. Our hope is to be an example for many others who are capable of giving to this very worthy and life enhancing organization."
- Jim Gula

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Day Programs Compassionate Care, Individual Attention, and Community Integration

It is with confidence and pride that we feature the **Day Programs of the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence** in this edition of the Newsletter.

To visit our Day Programs is to experience a warm and nurturing community focused around a myriad of structured activities where caring, learning, and fun abound. A genuine eagerness and creative energy animate our dedicated staff as they meet the ever-changing needs of each of our day clients, while also achieving new outcome measures in the evolving field of services for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Located on the grounds of Our Lady of Fatima parish in Secane, Delaware County, our Day Programs provide comprehensive services daily for 250 individuals. Our clients come from Divine Providence Village and Don Guanella group homes, as well as those living in the community. Services include individual and group activities aimed at building life skills; volunteer opportunities, job coaching and supported employment; specialized services for those who are aging; and an array of health and wellness, communication, sensory, and recreational programs. The pages that follow describe these programs in detail, while providing the human lens of client and staff stories through which to view a “day in the life” of the men and women we serve. Here’s what undergirds our efforts:

- A firm commitment to implementing the "Community Rule," mandated by the PA Office of Developmental Programs, to provide increased community integration opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. Our Day Programs have proven highly suc-

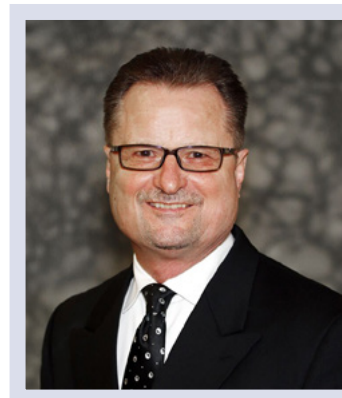
cessful in meeting the state’s new metrics for individuals to be engaged in meaningful community experiences.

- A consistent emphasis on enhancing options for individual choice and person-centered planning based on each one’s unique medical and behavioral needs. This yields creative new ways to support some clients in the community, while allowing others to flourish in our sheltered workspace.

- A genuine openness to new ideas, training, and practices, in particular for staff serving those with dementia and autism. We strive to be a learning organization that encourages staff development and growth, both individually and collectively.

We hope that you are inspired by what you read, and gain a better appreciation for the role of our Day Programs as an integral component of our continuum of care. As always, our benchmark is ongoing fidelity to our mission to serve and empower those with intellectual disabilities, and fulfillment of core values like compassion, dignity, and excellence. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

TO VISIT OUR DAY PROGRAMS IS TO EXPERIENCE A WARM AND NURTURING COMMUNITY FOCUSED AROUND A MYRIAD OF STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES, WHERE CARING, LEARNING, AND FUN ABOUND.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Fran Swiacki".

Fran Swiacki
Executive Director

(l-r) Cathy Fitzgerald, Gina LaPenta, and Lynne Parkes



LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Celebrating 40 Years of Commitment with
Catholic Social Services (CSS)

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.Ed., founding director of our Community Outreach Program (COP), recently celebrated 40 years with CSS. The COP is a very popular program which has evolved over the years and is now part of the Adult Training Facility within our Day Programs. Cathy has dedicated her life to helping others, first as a marriage and family therapist, and then, when the opportunity arose, choosing to work closely with individuals with intellectual disabilities, spearheading the creation of the COP. Cathy now serves as a Program Specialist for those individuals attending the Day Programs who live in the community. Co-worker Gina LaPenta shares: *"Cathy is beloved. She is dedicated and passionate about our mission and puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She has a continual smile on her face."* CSS and the Day Programs are honored to have benefited from Cathy's innovation, team spirit and commitment over the past 40 years. God bless you, Cathy, for all the good you have done for so many!

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

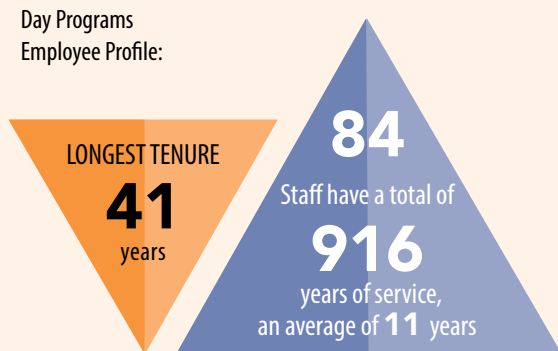
A Key Ingredient for Client Fulfillment

Our dedicated staff in the Day Programs continually strive to implement best practices related to active client engagement. The *CSS Developmental Programs Division* Training and Development function is now an integral part of Quality Management, working together to ensure robust and consistent training across all programs. Active engagement practices and core-values are fundamental to our mission, and are tailored to meet the unique needs and interests of our individuals. Active engagement depends on creating a learning environment in which individuals experience meaningful interactive relationships while engaging in fun, personalized activities. The aim is to facilitate an individual's progress toward socially significant goals and enhance his or her overall quality of life. Team work plays an important role in helping our individuals to live a more fulfilling and healthier life through quality care that keeps them actively engaged. In the community or at Fatima, we are never limited by what our individuals can't do; rather, we are motivated to creatively discover and daily promote what they **CAN do!**



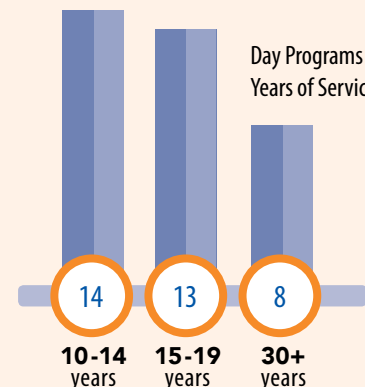
Staff engage in a team building exercise at the Day Programs.

Day Programs
Employee Profile:



Staff have
over **10** years
of service

Day Programs Employee
Years of Service:



EMBRACING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Through Individualized Day Programming



Mary Jo
at Mrs. Marty's Deli

We are blessed to live in a time when persons living with intellectual disabilities are valued as unique individuals who possess their own God-given abilities and talents. Guided by our Core Values, the Day Programs at Our Lady of Fatima in Secane have embraced the task of identifying, promoting, and enabling participants to reach their unique potential.

We are accountable to state and federal guidelines that continue to evolve in ways intended to provide increased community integration. This has, in turn, sharpened our ongoing focus on providing the most appropriate opportunities and achieving the best outcomes for each individual. For some, that means pursuing options for gainful employment in the community that often prove quite rewarding, providing greater independence and more meaningful and inclusive experiences of community participation. In fact, our Strategic Plan has prioritized increasing the range of opportunities available for individuals to fruitfully engage in community activities, according to their capabilities and interests.

In order to provide the highest quality of service to our individuals, the Day Programs staff have all received specialized community integration training, and the *Association of People Supporting Employment First* (APSE) has certified our management team and job coaches as Employment Specialists.

Currently, about one third of the individuals in our Day Programs spend at least 25% of their day out in the community working, volunteering, or being involved in recreational activities. Our goal is to continue to increase the level of community participation by exploring partnerships and relationships that can afford new opportunities for as many of our individuals as possible.

WE NEED YOU

If you, or someone you know, have connections with business or nonprofit leaders in our local community who could provide employment or volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Paul Holmes
Director of Day Programs
484-472-5011 or
pholmes@chs-adphila.org.

Community Employment Program Job Sites:

1847 FINANCIAL
ACME MARKET
FORMAN MILLS
GROCERY OUTLET
HAVERTOWN HEALTH & FITNESS
HUNGRY A
LLANERCH COUNTRY CLUB
MCDONALD'S
MRS. MARTY'S DELI
WAWA
WALMART
WENDY'S



The Day Program Employment Team (l-r) Darren Umble, Jeannean Porter, Nellie Lawrence and Cheryl Peterson

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

Building Meaningful Relationships

The Community Employment Program, one of the many components of the Day Programs at Our Lady of Fatima in Secane, is thriving. Below are a few success stories which exemplify the positive benefits realized by our clients, staff and the community when employment in a supportive environment is facilitated.



(l-r) Cathy, Darren Umble - Director of Employment Services, Jim Meehan - Managing Partner of 1847 Financial, Cheryl Peterson and Meghan

MEGHAN AND CATHY

Attitude Ambassadors at 1847 Financial

Meghan and Cathy brighten the days of the many people employed in their large office building in Conshohocken. The ladies began working part-time at **1847 Financial** as “Attitude Ambassadors” in November 2017. Cheryl Peterson, Employment Specialist for our Day Programs, transports and supports these ladies who have earned a special place in the hearts of their colleagues; they even have their own special parking space! Cathy and Meghan work throughout the entire building, but can most often be found on the 8th floor refilling copy machines, labeling, and sorting and delivering mail. They enjoy selling snacks to the entire building; Cathy welcomes guests and promotes sales and Meghan handles the money. Cathy has also volunteered at a day-care center for the past 16 years. She loves working with the children and keeping up with them. As for working at 1847 Financial, Cathy says, *“We are both doing really well at our jobs and really enjoy meeting new people. The job is fun and interesting.”* A model partner with the Developmental Programs Division, 1847 Financial employs our individuals and is also a financial supporter. Pat Bergmaier, one of their financial advisors, spoke to our families at a recent Town Hall Meeting on special needs financial planning. Thanks, 1847 Financial!

ROBERT'S WAWA STORY

Succeeding with Hard Work and Support

Robert is a great testament to the importance of going above and beyond what a job requires, and demonstrating a great work ethic. He started part-time with **WAWA** in March 2017, was briefly transferred to another store, and returned to the newly renovated WAWA in Holmes in October 2018. With the encouragement and support of his team, especially from his long-time DPV Life Sharing provider Shirley, Robert worked through some initial challenges with the new routines. He is responsible for cleaning and supplying the coffee and soda counters, keeping the condiments stocked, and vacuuming the rugs. Robert worked hard to master his new routine and job requirements well. He independently works his shift and no longer needs a job coach to tell him what has to be done next. Management, staff, and customers all express pride in Robert for having such a clean coffee counter and store. He has made friends with “the regulars” and has improved his verbal skills, speaking more and smiling a lot. Robert is a wonderful example of how job training, support, diligence, and hard work can help one succeed. Thank you, WAWA!



June 13, 2018

SPRING FORMAL

Sponsor List

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1847 Financial

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Legacy Benefits Group
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Pavone Mechanical
The Hot Dog Stand
Toshiba - Matt Bonner
TriBen Insurance
Zones





ROOTED IN MISSION:

A Radical Call to Unconditional Love

by Father Dennis Weber, SdC

Previously, I had written about an initiative adopted within the Developmental Programs Division (DPD) called **Rooted in Mission**, with this year's theme being **Agape: Unconditional Love**. Our mission – whereby our purpose and meaning are defined, core values are identified and lived, and Catholic identity is embraced as integral – is therefore “rooted” (ingrained, embedded) both individually and corporately in the day-to-day services and support provided to those entrusted to our care. This year, we emphasize how this “rootedness” is exemplified in what the scriptures call *agape* or “unconditional love.”

To understand this further, it is helpful to look at the source of the word “rooted.” As is often the case, many English words derive from Latin; the Latin word for “root” is *radix* and for “rooted” is *radicati*. From “*radix*” we derive the English word “radical,” which is often used in a negative way to describe someone or something as extreme, uncompromising, or revolutionary. But in its truer and deeper sense, a “radical” rootedness

characterizes someone or something that is essential, fundamental, far-reaching, and pervasive. In this sense, we can see that Jesus Himself, and his message to love one another as God loves us, was and is “radical.” So for us to be radically rooted in our mission means that we manifest God’s unconditional love for all people as fundamental to, and pervasive throughout, all that we do.

The mission statement of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia proclaims that we “continue the work of Jesus.” The DPD Rooted in Mission initiative invites all of us to reflect on a different quote every three months as we strive to be radically committed to fulfilling that call to do what Jesus did. This quarter we are challenged to live out these words of Pope Benedict XVI from *Deus Caritas est* (*God is love*):

“Practical activity will always be insufficient, unless it visibly expresses a love for others... My deep personal sharing in the needs and sufferings of others becomes a sharing of my very self with them... I must give others not only something that is my own, but my very self; I must be personally present in my gift.”



The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence

Don Guanella and Community Programs

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20 East Cleveland Avenue
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Divine Providence Village

686 Old Marple Road
Springfield, PA 19064
610-328-7730

Day Programs at Our Lady of Fatima

10 Fatima Drive
Secane, PA 19018
215-578-8204

www.dgdpcommunities.org

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Students from Archbishop John Carroll High School spent a morning with individuals at the Day Program.



Students from Cardinal O'Hara High School volunteered at the Day Programs at Our Lady of Fatima.

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Father Dennis Weber, SdC

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Family Town Hall Meetings: September 12, 2018 and November 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
at *Divine Providence Village* Multi-Purpose Room

Malvern Retreat: October 9 - 11, 2018 at *Malvern Retreat House* in Malvern

Don Guanella Feast Day Mass: October 24, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
at *Our Lady of Fatima Church*

Memorial Prayer Service: November 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
at the *Divine Providence Village Chapel*

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence

- Join the Don Guanella/Divine Providence Annual Giving Society by making a three-year pledge of support.
- Join the St. Luigi Guanella Legacy Society by making a planned gift. This can be as simple as naming the Communities of DG/DP in your will, or naming us as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy. Other ways of giving include transfers of appreciated stock, IRA rollovers, and management of other retirement assets that may result in substantial donor tax savings.
- Make a gift of cash online or through the mail.
- For ways to give, visit:
www.DGDPCommunities.org/ways-to-give,
or call Mark Bradford at 484-472-5059.

LET'S BE SOCIAL: @DGDPCommunities

