



Newsletter

Spring 2025

The Communities of Don Guanella
and Divine Providence

Serving Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Catholic Charities of Philadelphia



Charity



Justice



Excellence

Compassion



Dignity



Courage



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This Spring as we celebrate the Easter season at The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence, we embody the spirit of renewal and hope through all those who we empower and serve everyday. Each day we serve as Missionary Disciples to the ladies and men who are the heart of our mission. We are so blessed with our dedicated administration and direct care professionals who are all family.

As shared in this newsletter, we also have been welcomed into the communities of other wonderful missions and partners. We were invited to Malvern

Preparatory School's annual Caritas Carnival. In March, in honor of Disabilities Month we attended the annual Mass Honoring Persons with Disabilities. This annual tradition truly embodied our mission as a community and how we live in accordance with our core values.

We value each and every one of you who has made an impact within our community. By virtue of your dedication and support, our men and women live every day to the fullest with compassionate care from our staff.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Fran Swiacki, Executive Director

Community Living

Welcome New Resident, Karl

In December 2024, we welcomed a wonderful addition to The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence. Karl, a new resident, first joined our mission while attending our Day Program at Our Lady of Fatima. Since then, Karl's family noticed a huge change within his overall behavior and frame of mind. After several months of attendance, Karl formed friendships with others and started to talk much more than he did prior to joining our program. Karl's mother decided to reach out to our Admissions Director to see if there was any availability within our Community Living Arrangement (CLA) homes. We worked with Karl's family to locate the best living arrangement. After several months of Karl living at one of our CLA Homes, the staff has built a railing to assist Karl at home. Karl's mother stated "the staff always adapts to the needs of the residents." We are beyond blessed to have such a wonderful individual join our community. Karl's mother has seen a complete transformation in Karl's life since joining our mission!



Mrs. Everingham (Karl's Mother)
"I am at peace knowing that Karl is so happy everyday and is receiving the best care at The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence."

Caritas Carnival

Malvern Prep



We are grateful to Malvern Prep for inviting The Communities and Bishop McIntyre to the annual Caritas Carnival. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Father Bill, Mrs. Catania, and your students for welcoming us to campus for a wonderful day filled with love and joy. Your mission of Truth, Unity, and Love was truly inspiring.

“Charity – caritas – is our very life;
it is what makes us ‘be’ what we are.”

POPE FRANCIS
1936 - 2025



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Nurses' Week

The Power of Nurses

*Loving God,
Divine Healer of all,
Give our nurses strength and
courage in their profession.
May their hearts be filled with
compassion and love.
May their hands touch others
with their skill and tenderness.
May their care inspire others with
their knowledge and wisdom.
Above all, God,
Help them always to remember
the true purpose of their vocation:
Generous service and dedication
to those who need assistance in
body and spirit.*

Amen

The week of May 6th, The Communities celebrated our beloved Nurses. This year's theme for National Nurses Week 2025 is **"The Power of Nurses"**. This theme was chosen to celebrate the strength, compassion, and impact nurses have on the quality of life for all those they serve.





Congratulations!

We would like to recognize Angela Babcock and Alicia Ryan from Divine Providence Village for passing the Certified Developmental Disabilities Nurse Exam and Developmental Disabilities Certification Exam. They have officially become Certified Developmental Disabilities Nurses.

Annual Mass

Honoring Persons with Disabilities

This March, The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence attended a Mass Honoring Persons with Disabilities, the Deaf Community, Family, Friends, and Caregivers at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. It is such a wonderful tradition to celebrate the lives we serve every day. Here at The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence, we focus on the importance of making each and every one of our residents feel recognized and supported every day.



*A special
"Thank You" to
the students of
Roman Catholic
High School who
helped make this
day special for
members of The
Communities.*



Jefferson University

Occupational Therapy Program Partnership

For the past 3 years we have had the privilege to work with 2-3 of Jefferson University doctoral students who are working on their doctoral capstone project. Each year has brought an opportunity for all of us to grow and learn together in how we provide support for the individuals we serve.



The students, under the guidance of Dr. Herge and April Wilson, an Occupational Therapist at Divine Providence Village and a former Capstone student, have brought

enhanced levels of support to our ladies and teams, and their work this year has been amazing. Thank you to Dr. Herge and April for your dedication to the work we do and the individuals we support. April Wilson provided the following update on all the good work the 2024-2025 students are doing at Divine Providence Village.

The students also recognized how much love and support are poured into our ladies through the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). In this year's project the students identified a gap in the training that DSPs acquire at the start of their work on our campus, and the increasing and evolving support needs of our residents as they change

and age. Therefore, the students created and developed a 6-week collaborative program to enhance and build-upon the skills of DSPs related to supporting active engagement to help close that gap.

The program consisted of weekly activity groups. Students provided the activity and collaborated with the DSPs.

Each activity group included a debrief on what DSPs felt went well, what was more difficult, and ways to problem solve those difficulties together for the betterment of the residents.

Each week's activity was connected and led up to the final event: The First Annual DPV Spring Fling Fashion Show!



The group programming and fashion show were a huge success, with smiles from residents and staff alike. The targeted outcome of the student's programming was to hopefully enhance the competence and confidence of staff in supporting residents of different ages, abilities, and support needs in the selection of and engagement in meaningful activities to improve opportunity for resident community-building, socialization, cognitive stimulation, sense of purpose, and more.

*-Angela Babcock, RN, CDDN, Administrator
& April Wilson, OTD, OTR/L*

Day Program

What's Cooking!

Every week, the Day Program hosts a cooking class at Our Lady of Fatima. What makes the cooking classes so exciting is that every month is a new themed meal for holidays, seasons, and celebrations. Over the last couple of months, the men and women have made pizzas and Irish Potato Candy. These fun-filled classes consist of teamwork, creativity, and laughter. During the process, everyone works together communicating each step of the recipe. While waiting for the meal to be prepared, each person shares their favorite part of the cooking class.



Throughout this activity, our staff members guide our client residents while performing the hand over hand technique. The hand over hand technique physically allows someone to make their choices become a reality while still honoring their ability and independence. The objective of this technique is to provide guidance and teaching through physical activity, allowing the individual



to experience the fulfillment of completing the task. The outcome of this action is the feeling of empowerment, dignity, and knowledge of how to complete a task. We are dedicated to making any choice in our residents' minds a reality.

A Special **Thank You** to our Partners ~

We are so very grateful for our generous Partners who help make all of our special events possible. These events create wonderful memories and have a lasting impact on the lives we serve.

Compassion Core Value Partner: \$10,000

Vince Iacone's Automotive Inc., Springfield PA

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Friend Core Value Partner: \$250

Mr. Joseph A. Pavone, Sr.
The Caregiver Training Center
J.P. Mascaro & Sons

"Charity lights the path to Divine Love." ~ Don Guanella



"A big thank you to Williamson College of the Trades for coming to Divine Providence Village during their Community Service Week. The residents will certainly enjoy walking around campus appreciating all the beautiful flowers that were planted. Thank you for joining our mission and making an impact within our community!"



The men and women that make up The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence rely on your generosity to support the quality continuum of care that provides for their needs.

WAYS TO GIVE

Please use the enclosed envelope and make your check payable to **The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence.**

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The Communities of Don Guanella
and Divine Providence

Administrative Offices

20 East Cleveland Avenue
Norwood, PA 19074
610-543-3380



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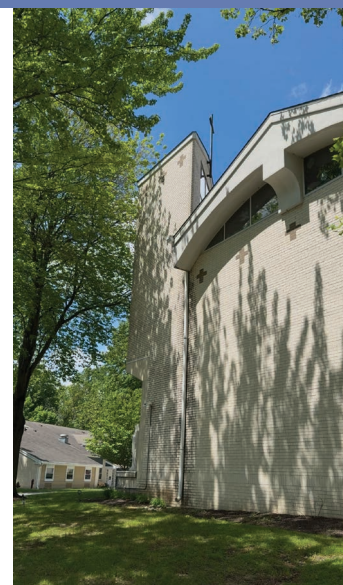
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Leone PP. XIV

The Chapel Bells of Divine Providence Village were rung announcing the election of Pope Leo XIV.

"As a family in faith, our union with Pope Leo XIV is part of God's plan for His Church on earth. We stand ready to serve as Missionary Disciples for Christ relying upon the Holy Father's wisdom and pastoral guidance."



To listen to the bells go to:
<https://dgdpcommunitites.org/video/>

Or scan this QR code.

