



# The Doorway

Volume Fourteen Issue One

## A Letter From The Executive Director



Dear Friends:

Collaboration and partnerships are essential to filling service gaps in the human service industry. Collaborations in the nonprofit world may look a little different than those in the for profit arena. The primary driver for

collaboration for nonprofits is to accomplish one's mission. The financial benefits, if any, may take years to be realized. Scarce resources and dwindling funding have been catalysts for partnerships to emerge. If it takes a village to raise a child, then agencies must function as interconnected entities to succeed.

As a member of the Ocean State Network for Children & Families, we have worked with Family Service of Rhode Island and many other agencies to facilitate systems change within the child welfare and children's behavioral health systems. While the change process is a greater challenge than we had hoped due to limited funding, many agencies that serve vulnerable and at-risk children and families have joined together to advance the vision of an effective system of care that builds healthy families and maintains children in their homes.

Other collaborations have enabled St. Mary's to provide additional resources and therapeutic services to the youth that we serve. Tri-Town Community Action provides vocational assessment and job readiness skills to our adolescent girls and, potentially, summer employment opportunities. These real world skills prepare our residents for self-sufficiency as well as opportunities for a more productive and fulfilling life.

Northern Rhode Island Community Mental Health Center provides St. Mary's with psychiatric services that benefit our outpatient and Enhanced Outpatient Services clients.

Our kids have benefitted greatly from a partnership with New England Tech. Occupational Therapy students provide services to students in our school and residential programs. Many of the children we serve benefit from sensory interventions that help soothe their nervous systems. An Occupational Therapist is also providing consultation on the development of sensory rooms in the resident's living quarters. Occupational Therapy is a valuable resource that will, in addition to other therapeutic interventions, help our children learn effective coping skills to regulate their emotions.

Through a partnership with Equine Empowerment Solutions, both our Enhanced Outpatient Services and Residential Treatment programs are deriving the benefits of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, a unique modality that helps youth work through issues that may be too difficult to tackle with traditional talk therapy alone. Many of the people we serve respond well to alternative therapies and EAP is an excellent avenue for healing.

Not only do partnerships benefit the clients we serve, but also our staff. Exposure to the thinking and expertise that other agencies offer opens our eyes to new possibilities and ideas. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships and creating new ones as our client's needs continue to evolve.

Sincerely,

Carlene Casciano-McCann  
Executive Director



## Employee Spotlight

In this issue of The Doorway, we introduce you to Cameron Jones. Since 2000, Cameron has worked with the children in several capacities. He began his work at St. Mary's as a Residential Counselor, worked in our Enhanced Out-Patient Services program, has been a campus supervisor and is currently the Unit Supervisor of the Harding Unit, a hospital step-down/diversion program. Cameron is a certified trainer in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. Cameron is the proud father of two daughters ages 6 & 14 and resides in Cranston. He is a graduate of Hope High School and has taken many psychology and social work classes in pursuit of a degree. He is very sympathetic to the needs of each child and offers encouragement and support. While the children may be at St. Mary's for different reasons, Cameron adapts his approach to meet each child's individual needs. He is particularly skilled at providing trauma-informed care to those we serve. Due to the needs of the population of the unit, Cameron would like to have additional therapeutic supplies. Weighted vests and blankets have been shown to be effective with the children by simulating a hugging sensation which unconsciously helps a child to calm themselves. If you would like to purchase a vest or blanket for the Harding Unit, please call 353-3900 x262 for information.

## How did you do that?

St. Mary's Home for Children dedicates its entire budget to providing for the children and families we serve. Our ability to maintain our aging infrastructure, update living areas, provide additional resources and implement evidence-based treatment services depends on the generosity of our donors. We would like to recognize the following major corporations and foundations who have responded to our funding requests (\$1,000+).

### *🌿* \$1,000+ DONORS *🌿*

<i>American Legion</i>	<i>Electric Boat Corp. Employees</i>	<i>Mayor Lombardi's Holiday Fund</i>	<i>Shriner's of RI</i>
<i>Anonymous Donor</i>	<i>Emma G. Harris Foundation</i>	<i>Murray Family Charitable Foundation</i>	<i>State Employees Charitable Appeal</i>
<i>Blue Cross &amp; Blue Shield</i>	<i>Episcopal Charities</i>	<i>National Glass &amp; Gate</i>	<i>RES/TITLE</i>
<i>Boston Red Sox Foundation</i>	<i>Frederick C. Tanner Memorial Fund</i>	<i>Navigant Credit Union</i>	<i>TACO</i>
<i>Claflin Company Employees</i>	<i>Ida Ballou Littlefield Trust</i>	<i>Alex and Ani</i>	<i>The Champlin Foundations</i>
<i>Combined Federal Campaign</i>	<i>URI-Inter Fraternity Council</i>	<i>Nordson Corp. Foundation</i>	<i>Weybosset Research and Management</i>
<i>Egavian Foundation</i>	<i>Jeffrey Osborne Celebrity Classic</i>	<i>Pacifica Foundation</i>	

There are hundreds of other donors who have made generous donations to help St. Mary's fulfill our mission of "Healing Lives and Restoring Hope". We are grateful for everyone who contributes to our efforts. A full listing of all donors may be obtained by calling **the Development Office at 353-3900 x262**.

## Project Happy Birthday

Every child likes to have a special celebration on their birthday, especially the children at St. Mary's. Being away from home and family on such a special day is difficult for a child. However, at St. Mary's we like to celebrate a child's birthday in a big way. The child wakes to find decorations celebrating their day, selects a special menu for his/her party and his/her choice of birthday cake. As our supply of birthday decorations dwindles, we seek the donation of general party goods. Solid colored plastic tablecloths, plates, napkins and cups or teenage universally themed items are quite useful. Happy Birthday decorations that are flat (no strings) and can be affixed to a wall or door and are a welcome sight for the birthday boy or girl.

**Help  
make every  
birthday  
special!**



## *🌿* In Memory

We recognize the passing of the following individuals who designated St. Mary's as the recipient of memorial funds or were friends of agency:

*Dorothy & Ponzi Angelone*

*Mary Bart*

*Brenda St. Martin*



## Holiday Cheer

Starting as far back as October, we begin receiving phone calls from individuals and groups asking how they can help during the holiday season. It is heartwarming to see many children come back year after year to donate toys, hats and gloves for the children here at St. Mary's. Alexander, Bianca, Ellorie, Heather, Kelly and Olivia are just a few of our annual visitors. Children from the Brown Play School, Early Childhood Center, Nyatt Elementary School and Stephen Olney School contribute many needed items that are not only useful during the holidays but all year long. We also have many "elves" that do very specific wish list shopping for the children and provide stockings filled with goodies. Lori Butler and friends, Emmanuel Church, Yushin America, Amerinet, East Greenwich Methodist Church, The Horley Family, The Emin Family, Alex and Ani, Ameriprise Financial, American Mathematical Society, Macy's-Warwick, McBride's Pub & friends, Metro Honda and Collision, North Providence Firefighter's Local 2334, Pawtucket Credit Union, Wendy Therault & friends, United Train of Artillery and many others contribute toys, new clothing, gift cards and several other items for the children.



*Kara Turenne, from Charity by Design - Alex and Ani, presents Susan DeRita, Development Officer, with gifts for the children.*



*University of Rhode Island students present Carlene Casciano-McCann with a donation collected from sororities and fraternities during Philanthropy Week at the college*



*Santa and members of the North Providence Firefighters Local 2334 sponsored a pizza party and provided a gift for each child.*

## A Healthier Campus for All

On December 13, 2010, President Obama signed into law Public Law 111-296, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This legislation was responsible for the most sweeping changes to the school nutrition program in over 15 years. The goal was to provide healthy and nutritious meals to children in all schools in the nation. We recognize that many of the children in our care may come from environments where healthy foods are not always available. We also know that many of the medications they must take lead to weight gain. Therefore, we partnered with the RI Department of Education and The University of Rhode Island's Nutrition Program to educate not only the children but the staff as well. Representatives from URI have come to St. Mary's on several occasions to provide us with visual tools to learn portion sizes, better foods to choose and incentives to exercise. We hope the children will gain a better understanding of healthy eating and are able to make better choices when they leave St. Mary's.

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND



Community Nutrition Educators from the nutrition program at The University of Rhode Island



Jeffrey Osbourne and Carlene Casciano-McCann at the National Philanthropy Day presentation event

## 2013 Partner in Philanthropy

Annually, the Rhode Island Chapter of The Association of Fundraising Professionals holds National Philanthropy Day to recognize individuals and companies who have made significant contributions to local non-profit agencies. This year we honored a very deserving friend of the agency for his ongoing support. While Jeffrey Osbourne is widely known as a great entertainer, we know him as a philanthropic and compassionate man. Through his annual celebrity golf classic, Jeffrey raises funds to benefit several local social service agencies that serve children and families. St. Mary's Home for Children is fortunate to have Mr. Osbourne as one of our supporters but more significantly as a friend to our children. He took time out of his busy schedule to interact with the children and encouraged those who had aspirations to become the next great singing idol. His compassion, kindness and positive energy were a source of inspiration to both the children and staff of St. Mary's.

## The 1877 Society – Another Way of Giving

• FOR TODAY, FOR TOMORROW, FOR OUR CHILDREN •

**What is it?** The 1877 Society, a major gift program, takes its name from the founding date of St. Mary's Home for Children. Started with two children and no budget, St. Mary's today serves more than 800 clients annually and has an annual budget of over 6 million dollars—still just a drop in the bucket compared to the great needs of vulnerable children and their families.

**How do I join?** You can become a member of the 1877 Society in several ways:

- Include St. Mary's in your will and leave a legacy of caring for children.
- Make St. Mary's the beneficiary of your retirement plan.
- Designate St. Mary's as the beneficiary or owner of your life insurance policy.
- Donate highly priced stocks to receive income for life at a generous rate of return.
- Through revocable Living Trusts
- Contribute a lifetime aggregate gift of \$5,000 of more.

### 1877 SOCIETY MEMBERS

*Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Allen*

*The Honorable Mayor Scott Avedisian*

*Mr. and Mrs. George K. Baker, Sr.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Norman Baker*

*Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barton*

*Dr. and Mrs. John Bert*

*Mrs. Frederick Bissinger*

*Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bourque*

*Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brooks*

*Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Brown*

*Dr. Steven Bonauto*

*Drs. Vito and Louise Buonomano*

*Rev. and Mrs. Craig Burlington*

*Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Buss*

*Ms. Lorraine Butler*

*Mrs. Mary Cabral*

*Mr. George Caruolo*

*Mr. and Mrs. Steven Casinelli*

*Dr. Neida Ogden Dimeo*

*Ms. Pamela Finegan*

*Mr. Robert Forrest*

*Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Friedman*

*Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gemma*

*Mr. Anthony Geruso*

*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hanoian*

*Ms. Anne D. Harris*

*Mrs. Elynore Hartzell*

*Dr. and Mrs. David Heimbecker*

*Ms. Kathleen Hickey*

*Capt. Carl Hoyer*

*Ms. Nancy Hudson*

*Mrs. Elizabeth H. Ingraham*

*Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kerr*

*Mr. and Mrs. John Kilmartin*

*Mrs. Alfred Lamy*

*Mr. and Mrs. Peter Loescher*

*Mr. and Mrs. John Lombari*

*Mr. and Mrs. E. Hans Lundsten*

*Mr. Jean Madden*

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael Manni*

*Mrs. Carlene Casciano-McCann  
and Mr. Thomas McCann III*

*Mr. and Mrs. Walter McLaughlin*

*Mr. Raymond Menoche*

*Mr. Michael Moran*

*Mrs. Leo R. Murphy, Jr.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mushkin*

*Mr. and Mrs. James Paolino*

*Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Paolucci*

*Dr. Jessica Pepitone  
and Mr. Christopher Graham*

*Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Phillips*

*Mr. Exum Pike*

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richins*

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach*

*Ms. Elizabeth J. Roberts*

*Dr. and Mrs. Clark Sammartino*

*Mr. R. Kelly Sheridan*

*Mr. Mark Simmonds*

*Dr. Albert & Cara Simmonds*

*Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Smith*

*Mrs. Hope Talbot*

*Mr. and Mrs. John Tarantino*

*Ms. Linda Tucker  
and Mr. Richard Hodgson*

*Mrs. Eunice Tuckerman*

*Mr. Raymond Uzanus*

*Mr. and Mrs. William Viall II*

*Mrs. Ernest Wilkinson*

*Bishop Geralyn Wolf*

*Mr. and Mrs. David Wrenn*

## Board of Directors 2013-2014

### OFFICERS

The Rt. Reverend Nicholas Knisely  
*Chair*

Mr. John Lombari  
*President*

Mr. Anthony Landi  
*First Vice President*

Ms. Joan D'Agostino  
*Second Vice President*

Mr. James Paolino  
*Treasurer*

Dr. Clark Sammartino  
*Asst. Treasurer*

Ms. Lorraine Butler  
*Secretary*

Mr. Exum Pike  
*Asst. Secretary*

Mayor Scott Avedisian  
*Honorary VP, ex-officio*

Mr. Norman Baker  
*Honorary VP, ex-officio*

Mrs. Teresa Bert  
*Honorary VP, ex-officio*

Dr. Vito Buonomano  
*Honorary VP, ex-officio*

Dr. David Heimbecker  
*Honorary VP, ex-officio*

Mr. Michael Manni  
*Honorary VP, ex-officio*

### MEMBERS

Mrs. Stacie Collier  
Mr. Bernard Jackvony  
Judge Howard Lipsey  
Mrs. Jennifer Mann  
Mrs. Rosalind Newton  
Mr. Raymond Steele

**ST. MARY'S HOME FOR CHILDREN**

420 FRUIT HILL AVENUE  
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI 02911

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Providence, RI  
Permit #11



*Brrrrrrr....  
We'll always  
remember the  
Winter of  
2013-2014,  
a record-breaker  
for snow & cold!*

*Snow Family by the teenage  
girls on the Hills unit*



**Are you a former resident wanting to connect with old friends  
or a friend of St. Mary's wanting to show your support?**

Signing up is easy. Once you have established an account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) simply type in St. Mary's Home for Children and join our group. Notices of events, reunions and news will be posted for you to enjoy and comment on. If you have any questions please call us:  
**Susan R. DeRita at 401-353-3900 x262**

This program is supported and  
funded in collaboration with the RI  
Department of Children, Youth & Families

