So many gifts are bestowed upon me as a volunteer at St. Joseph Home. As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my gratitude to:

**A Strong Commitment to our Mission** – The board, with the affirmation of the SC Leadership Council, recently amended SJH’s Mission Statement to present a more respective, positive view of its residents by removing limiting language and outdated labels. It now reads:

> St. Joseph Home creates a home for adults and children with developmental disabilities who have complex support needs and use a wheelchair for mobility. The Home, a non-profit ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, offers a creative, loving environment for those in the residential, respite programs, and day programs. Attention to the individual’s medical, social, educational and spiritual development reveals the unique giftedness of each person.

**The Community of St. Joseph Home** – As Jean Vanier shared during his address as he collected the 2015 Templeton Prize, “Community, on the other hand, is a place of togetherness in spite of differences, of people united in love and open to all other people.” Our residents are the heart of our community. They unite families, friends, staff and volunteers. When I turn off of Wyscarver Road onto Sister of Charity Way, I immediately feel at home. The trappings of today’s culture – power, individual success, stress – evaporate as I remember what it means to be human.

**Hearing Angie’s Voice** – Nothing has touched me more during my involvement with the Home than hearing Angie’s voice. Angie could always express herself with her bright eyes and contagious smile. Through innovative technology and the dedicated work of staff, Angie now has the ability to express herself through words. What a gift!

**Strong Women** – My life is better today because it was touched by a number of Sisters of Charity. Always supportive, always a listening ear or knowing glance, the Sisters have provided me with strength to lead. For over 160 years, Sisters of Charity have been dedicated to serving where the needs are greatest and championing the marginalized. It has been an honor to serve in their ministry.

**Lyndsey Barnett and Bill Geisler** – I have learned so much from these two individuals whose board terms are expiring. Lyndsey taught me the wisdom of intellectual honesty, questioning in fulfillment of our responsibility as trustees. Bill shared immeasurable experience and an ability to see the entire picture. While their involvement will continue, their presence on the board will be missed.

So as we wrap up another year, *Thank You.*
As I think about the past year, I find myself reflecting on the fact that this is the 143rd year that St. Joseph Home has stepped up to meet the needs of individuals whom society has placed on the margins and offer them the opportunity to be recognized as the gifted individuals that they indeed are. While each year brings its own specific details and excitement, the bedrock core mission that was established so long ago by the Sisters of Charity ceases to change and I am humbled and honored to be part of a community with such a rich tradition.

This year our community embraced the true sense of possibility as we worked alongside the family of a child who came to us three years ago dependent on a ventilator and through the collaboration of quality interdepartmental care, facilitated his return home to family. St. Joseph Home was also able to provide a resident with the opportunity to learn to communicate on her own. For the first time in her life, she could speak for herself rather than have others speak for her. These amazing experiences will open doors for other individuals to follow in these footsteps and provide the proof of the power that exists in the moment to moment interactions that take place with every resident on a daily basis at St. Joseph Home.

As the outlook of care for individuals with disabilities changes, St. Joseph Home continues to lead the conversation of how to care for and provide opportunity for individuals who have intense support needs related to their developmental disability. The future is bright for our community as we embark on a planning process around the long term future of our campus and service models so as to continue our rich tradition. Over the coming year, we will be working alongside the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to finalize our plans that will better serve our residents and provide them with a more modern space to enjoy. As the national landscape of service provision continues to adapt and change, St. Joseph Home remains committed to responding to State and Federal mandates by first ensuring that we do not lose what has made our community the standard of care for so many years to the unique population we serve. We will continue to provide leadership in the models of care that we afford and maintain the highest quality staffing for the individuals we serve, all while ensuring that our services reflect the uniqueness of each individual gift given by God.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for being a part of the rich community at St. Joseph Home. We simply could not be what we are without the gifts that each one of you share; our accomplishments are truly YOUR accomplishments.

Warm regards,

Dan Connors
SJH Successes

WALK, RUN AND ROLL – WE REACHED OUR GOAL!

We couldn’t have asked for a better ending to a fantastic race day full of fun, food and fellowship at the 28th Annual Incline to the Finish Line 5K on Saturday, April 16! A record breaking 568 individuals came out to conquer the hill and celebrate the community. 45 teams were organized around residents, respite guests, local organizations and supporters where more than $40,000 was raised in race registration, sponsorship and donations!!!

BRANDON’S GOING HOME

Brandon, who has been a resident with the SJH Community within the pediatric ventilator unit since 2013, transitioned home to live with his parents in June. In preparation for the transition, Brandon’s parents participated in extensive training hours alongside nursing staff as well as home visits which proved instrumental in preparing Sunday and Curtis (Brandon’s parents), the SJH staff and of course Brandon for his new journey. We are happy to report that Brandon is thriving in his new neighborhood where he has his very own bedroom and a local park that serves as his backyard. He loves spending time at the park and especially enjoys being pushed on the swings. Brandon attends Woodford Piadeia School in their CHIPP Program for students who have hearing impairments.

SPRING FEVER

Andrew, a 2nd Grader at Evendale Elementary, played on the Mudcats in the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League this Spring where he served in the outfield, third base and shortstop positions. Players get buddied up with a teen volunteer and when at bat, they have the option to have the ball pitched to them, hit off the tee or use a switch connected to a bat that allows it to swing and automatically hit the ball off the tee. Amanda Smith, Andrew’s daytime Nurse, notes “We have had someone from the SJH community in the stands cheering Andrew on at every game. The support has meant so much to the both of us.” When Andrew asked what he enjoys most about playing for the Mudcats he comments “I love running the bases and hitting the ball”. He also mentioned that it’s pretty cool to have the announcer enthusiastically yell his name every time he goes up to bat.

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GOVERNOR’S VISIT TO SJH
On July 13, 2016 St. Joseph Home residents, families, Board of Directors and staff as well as members of our broader community joined Governor John Kasich as he signed into law two bills that strengthen Ohio’s Developmental Disability System at St. Joseph Home. Following the bill signing, the Governor spent time with several residents, families and staff. “I view those here and that work here as heroes,” Kasich stated. The entire SJH community was honored to have hosted the Governor to sign these influential bills.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD
Resident Cam has always suffered from seizures on an almost daily basis making it difficult for him to enjoy life to the fullest. With the assistance of his neurologist VNS (Vagal Nerve Stimulator) Therapy was recommended in the hopes of having better control or perhaps even significantly reducing the amount of Cam’s seizures. A device was placed under his chest wall where the lead (or wire) is attached to the Vagas nerve. When activated through a magnetic handheld device that is swiped across the generator an extra dose of stimulation is delivered to the brain, ultimately ending the seizure. SJH nurses and staff noticed immediate results commenting that “Cam is much more alert, his eyes are open and he is happier than ever before. It is obvious that he has a better quality of life. It was not unusual for Cam to go all day without even opening his eyes prior to the procedure”. After seeing first-hand the positive results that Cam has experienced, with the guidance of their neurologist, there is a possibility that other resident’s could benefit from VNS therapy as well.

ANGIE’S JOURNEY TO FIND HER VOICE
Resident Angie has always been very happy and social. She loves to be in the mix and even sometimes the center of attention. However, until recently it was difficult for Angie to convey her emotions outside of the beautiful smile on her face. With the assistance of the Perlman Center, Angie has acquired a communication device that gives her the ability to put words to her feelings and thoughts as well as access Social Media. Angie’s Mom recently discovered through a Skype conversation that her favorite color is red after thinking it was purple for so many years. Melissa Goetz, Angie’s Speech Therapist comments “This device opens up so many doors for her. Angie can now serve others such as children, her passion, by reading books. She has even gained employment for the first time as an ambassador for PRC who produces the communication equipment. Angie has proven that possibility does overcome disability and even at 41 years of age, you can still gain your voice.”
Financial Information

Support, revenue, and gains

Support:
- Government support ........................................... $6,333,741
- Contributions ................................................. $718,018
- Special events ................................................. $7,092

Total Support .................................................. $7,058,851

Program services revenue ....................................... $1,725,233
Change in value of charitable remainder trust ............... ($172,872)
Interest, dividend, and rental income – net ................. $744,694
Net unrealized and realized (loss) gain on assets .......... ($1,024,439)
Net assets released from restrictions ......................... $0

Total support, revenue, and gains ............................ $8,331,467

Expenses

Program services:
- Residents ....................................................... $7,655,348
- Respite .......................................................... $1,020,962
- Day Program ................................................... $766,122
- Community Waiver Services ............................... $410,675
- Housing ......................................................... $62,698

Management and general .................................... $1,735,335

Total expenses .................................................. $11,651,140

Deficit of support, revenue, and gains over expenses .................................................................................. ($3,319,673)

Change in net assets ............................................. ($3,319,673)
Net assets at beginning of year ................................ $41,869,675
Net assets at end of year ....................................... $38,550,002
This is the story of Lauren, mother of Colin who resided at St. Joseph Home until his passing in 2015.

“At the young age of 23, I became a mommy on August 18, 2003 to my beautiful healthy baby boy, Colin. We experienced all the great joys new mothers and babies share until I received a phone call, just 5 months later that would forever change my life and that of my family. Colin had been rushed to Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and was in serious condition and which we later learned due to Shaken Baby Syndrome. Over the next week we did not know if he would survive…it was a waiting game. After a week on life support, Colin started breathing on his own. Thanks to CCH, he would live but his life would never be the same.

As days turned to weeks and weeks turned to months I came to realize that I would never see Colin crawl, walk or talk. He had suffered severe brain damage that affected all of his functions which now required 24/7 care. I didn’t know what I was going to do or how I was going to do it, but I knew I was going to give Colin the best life I could.

One of Colin’s nurses shared with us that she used to work for St. Joseph Home and how he would be a perfect fit for them. My father started doing research and got in contact with SJH. We were told there was a long wait list to be admitted, so to get on the waiting list we began an extensive evaluation to determine if Colin was eligible. At first I didn’t like the idea. I wanted my baby home with me…I wanted to take care of him. But I knew deep in my heart, I had to set my feelings aside and do what was best for Colin. On our first visit to SJH, I was filled with so many emotions. Thoughts raced through my mind of it looking and feeling like a hospital filled with rooms and patients lying in their beds. I knew right away I could not have been more wrong. As soon as I walked through the door I had a sense of peace. I saw how much love and care the residents received just by looking into their eyes, so I knew right then and there Colin belonged at SJH.

After four months in Children’s Hospital, my family’s concern grew over how we were going to provide the medical support Colin needed. As we were sitting in Colin’s hospital room one morning, awaiting discharge, we received a phone call from SJH and were told that Colin was accepted! Tears of joy overwhelmed me. Colin came to SJH in April of 2004. Everyone welcomed Colin, my family and me with open arms. He received not only the best care but a love I could never have imagined. Over the next 12 years SJH became a part of my family. From the first time that Colin spoke the word Mom to the beautiful cards I received on special occasions, holiday parties and the many outings to places like the zoo, aquarium and museums, it was evident that the staff at SJH saw that the residents’ opportunities were boundless despite their limitations. They were treated with not only love, but dignity and respect. Thank you St. Joseph Home, from the bottom of my heart, for the miracle of the 12 years that I had with Colin.”
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To ensure a lifetime of care will always be available, the Home established the Caring Companions Society to recognize the contributors that have lent a caring and compassionate hand to God’s children.

Your gifts have helped St. Joseph Home provide a loving home and the highest possible quality of life for our residents with severe/profound disabilities. Your planned gift could continue to provide care for these residents and others long into the future, and be a part of your legacy.

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Emerging Leader Award
Honoring an emerging philanthropist who has made a significant impact in the lives of SJH residents and respite guests.

Joe Murphy and Nate Niehaus

S. Joan Carole Award
Recognizing the accomplishments of a volunteer or volunteer group in leaving a lasting impression, an Indelible Mark, on the SJH community.
Pat Kneip

St. Joseph Home Award
Recognizing those who have distinguished themselves by reflecting the four pillars (community, servant leadership, gentle teaching and heritage) of SJH through their service and leadership in support of making possibility a reality for SJH residents and respite guests. May be an individual, group, staff or volunteer.

Harold Boyd

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award
Recognizing those who have made significant contributions to the SJH community. They are transformative to our work through investments of time, talent and treasure.

Rick Theders