



A **H**undred **Y**ears of **S**haring!

On May 11, 2011, Harborcreek Youth Services will celebrate a **H**undred **Y**ears of **S**haring with an Anniversary Liturgy and Luncheon. Bishop Donald Trautman will begin the celebration with Mass at 10:30 AM at St. Peter Cathedral. A luncheon at the Bayfront Convention Center will follow.

Tickets for the luncheon may be purchased online at [www.hys-erie.org](http://www.hys-erie.org) or by calling Mary Law at (814) 899-7664, extension 365.

**HYS Academy:  
Leading the Way to  
Academic Success**

Parents with children who struggle in school are pleased to learn that there is another option for them in alternative education.

HYS Academy, located at the Wesleyville campus of Harborcreek Youth Services, is a short term program available to students in grades 7 through 12 who are dealing with behavioral, social, personal or academic difficulties. It is designed to help them overcome the obstacles that interfere with their ability to be successful students.

Ms. Sydney Amacucci is the director for HYS Academy, and she is quick to point out that many of the students are in need of alternative education simply because they had a lapse in judgment. "There are kids that make decision errors



Left to right: Joe Kloecker, HYS Executive Director John Petulla, Sydney Amacucci, Beth Iadeluca, Catholic Charities Executive Director Mary Maxwell and Jennifer Richardson, Alternative Education Teacher.

Continued on page two



Faith

Charity

Hope

*The Triple Crown Event*

**Question:** Where can you help more than 15,000 people in 13 counties, have a sumptuous meal, dance to your heart's content, see your dear friends and make some new ones all at the same time? **Answer:** **The Catholic Charities Ball** being held the evening of **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Bayfront Convention Center. A top notch musical group, noted for their crowd pleasing vocals and dance music, The Chosen Few Band, will be entertaining the crowd. Proceeds from this signature event, entitled the Triple Crown for faith, hope and charity, will benefit *Families in Need* from all faiths across the Diocese of Erie.

Celebrity amateur dancers will once again entertain with their various levels of talent: They include **Ned Dwyer Lehrian**, Realtor with Remax Group, **Tom New**, Creative Director for WQLN, **R.J. Zonna**, Vice President for United Way of Erie County, **Ken Slaney**, PNC Private Client Group, **Jason Wiczorek** of Rectenwald Architects & President of Young Erie Professionals (YEP), **Lisa Zompa**, Development Director at the Erie City Mission, **Casey Martin** of Wegmans Corporation, **Christine Dahlkemper**, Co-Owner of Dahlkemper Jewelry Connection, and **Erica Jackson**, Director of the Center for Credit and Consumer Research at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

**Msgr. James Peterson** and **The Peterson Family** will receive the *Helping Hands Award* for exemplary service to church and community. Monsignor, better known as "Fr. Pete," retired after 28 years of teaching at Gannon University and leads the Maria House Projects that provide many services including housing, second chances and a taste of community life for men who are working hard to re-establish themselves after drug or alcohol addiction, which in many cases has resulted in incarceration. Fr. Pete and his brothers, Tom and Ward, have mentored and empowered hundreds of volunteers to serve others.

For more information on sponsor circles, becoming a Host, or tickets, please call (814) 824-1250 or visit our website at [www.erieRCD.org](http://www.erieRCD.org).

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE  
DIOCESE OF ERIE, INC.**

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

- Atty. Jay Alberstadt, Jr.  
Chairperson
- Steven DeHart
- Maureen Dunn
- Gilles Mulard
- Marne Roche
- Mary E. Schaaf
- Rev. Chris Singer
- Mary Tellers
- Mary C. Maxwell,  
Executive Director

**MISSION  
STATEMENT**

*As Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, we are witnesses and servants of Jesus Christ. We provide health care, social and pastoral services that educate, affirm and support individuals and families to their fullest human potential. We advocate on behalf of those who are limited in power, voice and access. Catholic Charities agencies, institutions and programs are committed to the sacredness of human life and the betterment of society.*

# Embracing Autism in Religious Education

**P**reparation of children and teens with an autism disorder for Mass and the Sacraments was the subject of a recent Program called "Opening Doors to Religious Education for Children and Adolescents with Autism." Sponsored by the Catholic Charities Office of Disabilities in collaboration with the Office of Religious Education, this program was attended by more than 60 adults and seven children from 11 parishes along with 6 seminarians. This workshop began with a Mass, celebrated by Rev.



Nicholas Rouch, Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Erie, followed by a presentation by nationally known presenter on the subject, Lawrence R. Sutton, PhD., Licensed Child Psychologist and Director of the Western Region of the PA Bureau of Autism Services.

Dr. Sutton, also an ordained deacon at Our Lady of Grace Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, addressed the role of the parish community and shared a model of recruiting and training high school students as mentors to youth with autism as they participate in religious education. The training is based on the strengths of those with autism —good memories, strong visual learning skills and careful adherence to a routine once it is established. A visually oriented Mass book was provided for attendees as a starting point for parents or professionals to further individualize and create a unique Mass book for the individual child. For more information, email [jjohnson@eriercd.org](mailto:jjohnson@eriercd.org) or call Jackie Johnson at 814-824-1257.

## THINK ABOUT IT

### Do you believe in our mission?

Designate Catholic Charities Endowment at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504 as a Beneficiary of your IRA.



## HYS Academy *Continued from page one*

because they're adolescents," says Amacucci. "I see children in need of nurturing and guidance; someone who will lead them in a direction where they will be successful and feel good about themselves."

HYS Academy has referrals for students in the Harborcreek and Iroquois School Districts, and Amacucci is hopeful that other districts will realize the benefits of this strength-based, solution focused curriculum where Christian values are strictly enforced. "We are building a program that is cohesive and holistic for students who are having difficulty succeeding in a traditional setting," says Amacucci. "I want them to look at their experience here as an opportunity to grow and move forward."

The students remain part of their home school district, and the teachers are updated on their progress. "Our goal is to have the students comfortably return to their home school district with a sense of accomplishment, better coping skills and growth in academics."

For more information on HYS Academy, contact Sydney Amacucci at 814-450-2482.



## Successful Social Enterprise Benefits St. Martin Center and the Community

In an effort to generate additional revenue, St. Martin Center found a resourceful way to solve not only one dilemma...but two. The launch of a social enterprise business called Catering On Parade creates revenue while providing hands-on experience for the students in the Hospitality In Training (HIT) program.

“Non-profits have to be very innovative in generating additional revenue,” says Cheryl Kobel, Chief Executive Officer of St. Martin Center. “It is critical to their success and their very existence. Catering On Parade provides an additional funding stream for dollars to flow back through SMC to fund the other programs of the agency and to provide services to thousands of individuals in our community.”

Part of the mission of St. Martin Center is to provide individuals with immediate assistance and then to offer programs and services that lead them to a path of self-reliance. Reflecting their mission’s “hand up, not hand out” approach, SMC put the Catering On Parade program in place to secure their fiscal future. “We felt that as SMC preaches this is what individuals need to do” says Kobel, “then we need to do it too. If we talk the talk, then we must also walk the walk.”

Three separate services are offered through Catering On Parade including boxed lunches, prepared food, and catered events like parties and meetings. Menus are available for all three.

Students participating in the HIT program prepare the food and receive first-hand experience on how to make a business successful. Graduates of the 12 week course learn about customer service and serving meals as well as food preparation and handling. After graduation, participants are able to take the ServSafe Certification exam and are ready to step into paid jobs in commercial kitchens. Many graduates are resettled refugees who are now contributing members of society.



Catering on Parade and the HIT program are making a positive difference for Saint Martin Center and the community they serve. For more information, please contact William Dillon, the Director of Catering On Parade, at (814) 452-6113, extension 232.



Sam Zafutto, right, with resident, Andy Wheeler.

## The Face of Catholic Charities

### Sam Zafutto

Administrator of Christ the King Manor

Sam Zafutto is the Administrator of Christ the King Manor in Dubois. A staff member there for over 25 years, he has held his current position since 1994.

It is Sam’s responsibility as administrator to oversee the operation of Christ the King Manor and its four divisions: Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Cottages/Independent Living, and Christ the King At Home where home support services are provided. Sam manages a staff of over 300 and coordinates services with various department heads.

Being a part of Christ the King for so long, it is easy to see why Sam feels such a strong connection to the staff and residents. He understands well the major changes that nursing homes have undergone over the past 25 years. He also anticipates the future, and with so much experience serving seniors he has a good idea of what to expect. “As the Baby Boomers age,” says Sam, “the senior population will be growing...but I don’t think we will see a huge increase in institutional care. People are going to want to remain in their homes and we will need to find ways to provide the necessary services for them.”

Sam is confident that the way care is delivered to seniors is going to change. “With the expected rise in the senior population,” he says, “there will be more needs, but they will be delivered in settings other than institutional nursing homes. Christ the King Manor must be ready to provide for the changing needs of future senior citizens.” With the four separate areas of care already offered at Christ the King, it is easy to see that they are off to a great start!

## 2011: A Year of Growth for Christ the King Manor

2011 promises to be a year of growth and positive changes at Christ the King Manor. Before the year is over, residents of the Dubois area nursing home will enjoy a brand new activity room where they can participate in special events held at the Manor. “An addition is being added to the existing building,” says Sam Zafutto, Christ the King Administrator. “The large area will accommodate more residents, and we are hopeful it will be complete by Christmas.”

*Continued on back page*

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

429 East Grandview Blvd.

Erie, PA 16504

Ph: 814.824.1250

Toll Free: 800.374.3723

[www.eriescd.org](http://www.eriescd.org) or [www.erieRCD.org/charities.asp](http://www.erieRCD.org/charities.asp)

**YOUR DIOCESAN LEADER IN HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL AND PASTORAL MINISTRIES**

## **Real Alternatives Program Supports Women Who Choose Life Over Abortion**

Real Alternatives is a pregnancy counseling service and a major component of the Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services (CCAS) pro-life, abortion alternatives initiative. According to the program's supervisor, Danelle Stone, "the mission of Real Alternatives is to help women who may be thinking that having an abortion is their only option and that other help or alternatives are not available for them."

Real Alternatives reaches out to single or married people who are experiencing a pregnancy and need counseling or help with future plans. The goal is to support and encourage their decision to parent their expected child. It also extends assistance to the grandparents who often play a major role in caring for and raising the baby.

Help is offered in the areas of decision-making, parenting preparation, grief and loss counseling for those who choose adoption, and discussions on the risk of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

Maternity clothes, diapers, baby clothes and baby supplies are also available when donations make this opportunity possible.

For more information, please contact Danelle Stone at (814) 456-2091 or [dstone@cccas.org](mailto:dstone@cccas.org).

## **A Year of Growth for Christ the King Manor** *Continued from page three*

The addition will also house a beauty parlor and kitchen area for parties. "There will even be a new kiln for ceramics," says Zafutto. A patio for outdoor gatherings will complete the new construction.

The staff and residents at the Manor are excited about another change...one that doesn't involve bricks and mortar. Dr. Eric Peck has been promoted to Medical Director at Christ the King. "Dr. Peck has been with us for about 10 years as an attending physician," says Zafutto. "He is familiar with our facility and is very well liked by the residents."

Dr. Peck exhibits values and philosophies that are right in line with those of Christ the King. "He supports the policies of the Manor and of the Catholic Church," says Zafutto, "which is very important."

His responsibilities include coordinating the medical care for the residents, working closely with Administration and Nursing, and implementing policies for appropriate medical services at Christ the King Manor.



**Dr. Eric Peck, Medical Director**