

THE MIRACLE



St. Edmond's Home
FOR CHILDREN

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Where Miracles Happen Every Day

Summer/Fall 2018

A letter from our Administrator

Dear Family and Friends,

The past two months have passed so quickly, and I have wonderful news to share.

On August 14, I sat in the Montgomery County Court House with over twenty supporters of the St. Edmond's Home Community. Gabrielle's life was about to be blessed by an adoption. One of our children, Gabby, is loved and adored by everyone, but she particularly touched the heart of one of our staff. Catherine is a medical appointment coordinator and has served St. Edmond's for almost 23 years. Catherine was about to become a mother. When they announced Gabby's name all of us took our seat in the Courtroom. After the Judge announced Catherine as Gabrielle's mother the room filled with applause and tears of joy.

Catherine is our second staff person to adopt a child here at St. Edmond's Home. Adoption is truly one of the greatest acts of love and selflessness. We wish Catherine and Gabby all the happiness this beautiful life has to offer.

I am also happy to share that the Disney Trip Planning Committee received a \$5000 donation from the Women's Auxiliary. The complicated and complex arrangements and planning to the Magic Kingdom continues, but the excitement is building. A heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make this trip possible.

At the end of summer we look forward to the upcoming holidays. Holidays remind us about the important things in life: family, friendship, relationships—and all this beautiful life has to offer.

Denise Clofline



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To gasps and joyful disbelief Denise shares with the hard working Disney Trip Planning Committee the news that the Women's Auxiliary will donate \$5,000 toward the Children's Trip to Disney World!

Over the past year the team, led by Julia Vivanco, has worked very hard to raise funds for this once in a lifetime trip for the children.

New Mother Catherine Klimczak



On August 14, Gabriella Anne, was formally adopted by staff member Catherine Klimczak.

Save the Date!

Coat & Toy Sale
Thursday, November 15
10-10:45 am and 2-2:45 pm

New and gently worn coats for all ages as well as toys are now being accepted. All proceeds will benefit the children. Donations may be given to Loretta or Linda

facebook

Our Facebook following has grown dramatically over the past year. If you haven't "liked" & "shared" us yet, please do at [facebook.com/stedmondshome](https://www.facebook.com/stedmondshome). Keep informed of the latest news and events at St. Edmond's Home and view lots of pictures of our amazing kids and staff and exciting events. You can also find information on our donation needs and how you can help.

Thanks to all of our Facebook friends!

Staff Appreciation Day 2018



God blessed us with great weather on August 9—the date of our annual Staff Appreciation Day Party. It wasn't too hot, humid or hazy (typical summer days), so the barbecue was lit, picnic tables were set up, water games readied and DJ Drew started the music.

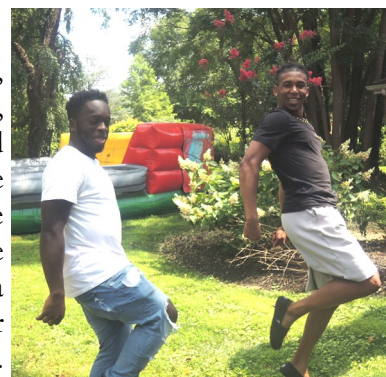
Following an opening prayer of appreciation by Denise Clofine, our outstanding staff enjoyed a wonderful assortment of food served by the management team. The outdoor barbecue included a scrumptious mac & cheese, shrimp jambalaya, a variety of chicken wings and the always popular hamburgers and hot dogs.



Staff submitted desserts for the annual *Dessert Contest* and included: Chocolate Chip Sour Cream Cake, Fried Oreos, Pumpkin Cake, Key Lime Pie,

Almond Cake, and the winning Rainbow Cake submitted by Lisa Humbert.

Later in the afternoon, Activities Coordinator, Julia Vivanco, arranged very funny competitive games for staff. There was a large inflatable basketball game, a bungee "jump", a water balloon toss, and a St. Edmond's trivia contest. Winners received cash prizes.



We thank Marc and Donna Leavenworth for their generous donation that made these cash prizes possible.

Camp Rainbow 2018

Our annual summer camp program, Camp Rainbow, came to an end on August 16. The joyful, noisy outdoor barbecue followed the emotionally touching *End of Camp* Mass that was celebrated by Bishop Maginnis.

This year, nine campers from the community joined our own children for eight weeks of fun-filled activities including bowling, swimming, cooking, crafts and gardening. We also have a “Snoezelen,” which is a multisensory environment experience designed to reduce anxiety and to stimulate communication skills. In addition to bowling and the movies, outings included Dave & Buster’s, the Aquarium, and various theater and sporting events. Our summer camp also serves as an extended school year program, because it is vital that the children meet their goals as determined by their individualized education plans (IEP).

“The soul is
healed by being
with children”

(R. Dostoyevsky)

During camp all the children are served by young, energetic, local college students who serve as camp counselors. This year, Camp Director, Julia Vivanco’s assistant was Christine Vaughn. Both Julia and Christine worked tirelessly to assess and assign counselors for each child. With each passing day, the counselors and the children bonded—building relationships and becoming best buddies. Teams were assigned and competitive games and contests were organized.

At the end of summer, when camp comes to an end, it really is very hard to say good-bye. It is a bittersweet day. Counselors not only have to say good bye to their very special buddies, but they must also say good bye to the many friends they made at St. Edmond’s Home.

On the last day, after the happy and tired campers have gone home and the laughter has quieted down you will hear the soft, heartfelt sighs of goodbye and witness many hugs and tears. Perhaps the young counselors are becoming a bit wiser about life; perhaps the children taught them how to be better human beings. This is the blessing that the children give us every day at St. Edmond’s Home.

Miss Veronica Retires

Veronica Francis’ last day was difficult for her and for us. She shared with Denise how difficult the decision was—as she truly loves St. Edmond’s and feels blessed to have served here for close to 20 years. Her husband of 45 years is retired, and she wants to spend more time with her family. Veronica is blessed with five children and 12 grandchildren.

We will truly miss Veronica! She has always been kind, compassionate, cheerful and could always be found in the kitchen humming and singing while she cooked.

All of us gratefully thank Veronica for her many years of outstanding service and send our sincere wishes for a wonderful new chapter in her life.





Welcome Mikey & Colleen

So far , this year, we welcomed two new residents.

Mikey came to us in April to be closer to his mother. Mikey just turned four years-old and is super cuddly. He just loves to relax and be cuddled.

Colleen came to us in June where she had been living with her great aunt (who comes to visit all the time). Recently Colleen went home for her special Sweet Sixteen Party.

A very warm welcome to Colleen and Mikey and to their families!



Colleen (middle) with sister Allison and brother Sean.

FAMILY FUN DAY!

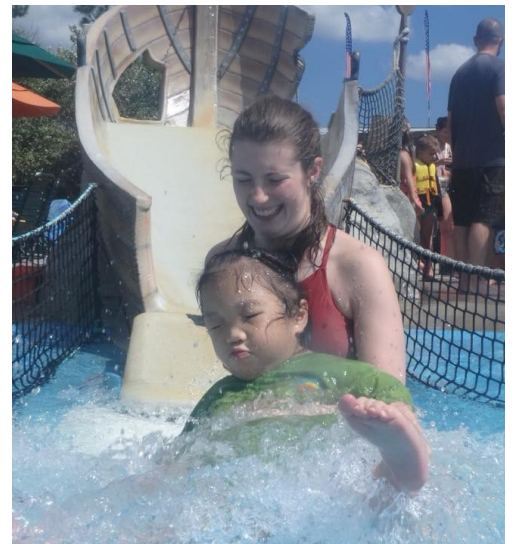
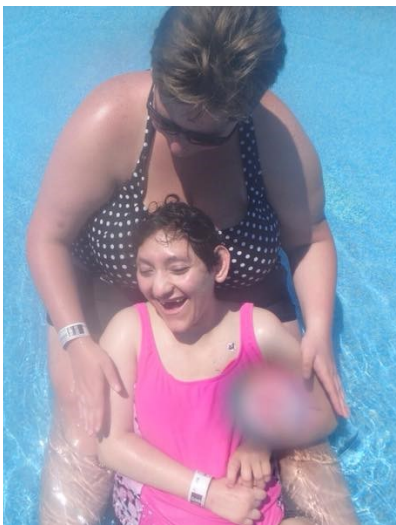
Family Fun Day is scheduled for
Saturday, October 13

Hayrides, apple bobbing, face-painting, a photo booth and many other fun activities are being planned. This is a great opportunity for families to greet some old friends and make new friends.

Hope to see you there!



Kids Page





St. Edmond's Home FOR CHILDREN

ESTABLISHED 1916

Where Miracles Happen Every Day



COMPASSION
Genuine Care and heartfelt concern for those we serve



DIGNITY
Respect for each person created in God's image, regardless of color, capacity, or age



CHARITY
Generosity toward all people in need, in gratitude for God's goodness to us



JUSTICE
Defense and advocacy for the rights of the poor and disadvantaged



EXCELLENCE
Professional competence and responsible stewardship of time and resources

320 South Roberts Road, Rosemont, PA 19010



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www.stedmondshome.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by love and supporting the dignity and quality of life for each child, skilled professional staff at St Edmond's Home provide an exceptional holistic outcome oriented plan of care for children with intellectual and physical disabilities.

We offer a broad spectrum of medical/nursing and therapeutic services to assist each child in achieving their greatest intellectual, physical and social potential. The children of St Edmond's Home are a reflection of God's love and their lives are immeasurably enriched by the tender and compassionate care of all of our St Edmond's family.

Visit our website at:
www.stedmondshome.org

St. Edmond's Home is a Program of Catholic Social Services



Ways You Can Support St. Edmond's Home

Amazon Smile: Shop at smile.amazon.com, click on "select a Charitable Organization to Start Shopping" search for St. Edmond's Home for Children and select Women's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home

Bequest: Name St. Edmond's Home in your will or living trust. (*What you bequeath to St. Edmond's Home is exempt from federal estate tax.*)

Gift Retirement Assets: Name St. Edmond's Home as your beneficiary of your IRA or retirement account after your lifetime (*Exempt from income and estate tax.*)

Gift of Life Insurance: Change ownership on a policy you no longer need. (*Receive a current income tax deduction, and possible future deductions for payment of future premiums.*)

Charitable Remainder of Trust: Create a trust with St. Edmond's Home as the remainder beneficiary of principal. (*Receive an immediate income tax deduction.*)

Make an outright gift of: Cash, securities, personal property, retained life estate, real estate, charitable lead trust, or charitable gift annuity.

**Not Intended as financial or legal advice.
Please consult your advisor.*