



VISION WINTER '99

Building better futures with children and families

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SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

A page where we highlight and thank our volunteers for sharing their time and talent.

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DONORS IN ACTION

See how individuals and organizations have creatively helped raise funds for Hillside.

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PLANNED GIVING

Your gifts support our mission of caring—now and in the future.



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MCGOWAN FUND

Charitable gift helps fund the Work-Scholarship Connection.

Hillside Client Honored For "Doing The Right Thing"

When Christie J. decided to hold a car wash to benefit the American Cancer Society she did not know that one year later she would be recognized for it by the community. For Christie, the car wash was an act of love—a way to help others who, like the Hillside staff member whom she had recently lost, were suffering from cancer. Having the car wash helped Christie to deal with her feelings over the loss of her friend and to overcome her realization that "this could happen to anybody."

What Christie discovered was that not only were her actions worthy of recognition, but that she herself could be an example for others her age. Sherri Whitter, a Hillside staff member who worked with Christie, decided to nominate her for a "Do the Right Thing" Award. Sponsored by the Rochester Police Department, the program aims to build self-esteem in schoolchildren by acknowledging their good deeds. Christie was just the kind of person the city liked to reward and in April 1998 she became a winner.

Christie was surprised when Whitter first approached her to talk about the nomination. According to Christie, Whitter first asked her if she had heard of the program and then began to tell her all about the award. Christie finally asked Whitter "so why are you telling me about this?" She was happy, yet shocked when Whitter finally told her that she had nominated her for organizing the car wash.



For Christie, the car wash seemed to come together quickly and easily. Once she had the idea, which she patterned after previous successful car washes run by Sunnyside Cottage, she received a great deal of help from her fellow classmates, Cecilia Gallant, a teacher at the Andrews-Trahey School, and other Hillside staff members. "The whole Hill wanted to participate," says Christie, who credits much of the event's success to the people who helped make it happen. She also noted that the publicity received from local television and radio stations and signs posted near the Monroe Avenue Campus also contributed to the popularity of the event.

When it was finally announced that Christie had won the award last April, she almost couldn't believe it—and she was nervous. "Being on TV is a big deal. I've been on TV before, but this time it was a big event," said Christie. She also hoped that she would make her friends from Hillside proud. Now that she has moved off the Hill, she does not get to see her old Hillside friends as often as she would like. She wanted to show them that she was doing well.

At the awards ceremony, Christie had the opportunity to meet Mayor Bill Johnson and Police Chief Robert Duffy. She also learned about the other four children who were recognized as the April award winners.

Now that the excitement brought by winning the award has subsided, Christie is happy to get back to doing her favorite things like studying math in school or just relaxing in front of the television. Christie is sure that she will remember this experience forever and she encourages others her age to follow her lead. "If you have an idea, go for it," says Christie, "You can do anything you need to do if you put your mind to it."

Palmer To Return To Hillside For Skins Challenge

Golf legend Arnold Palmer will return to Rochester for the 1999 Hillside Skins Challenge. This 11th annual event is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, at Blue Heron Hills Country Club in Macedon.

Palmer, who participated in the event in 1995, is popular among Skins Challenge organizers because of his care for children and identification with Hillside's cause. "Out of the ten years we have been doing this event," says Don Johnson, event chairman, "the year he participated was one of the most memorable. He is easily identified by both golfers and non-golfers alike."

Much of Palmer's popularity stems from his success in the sport of golf. At 59, Palmer has had 92 career victories, has been a member of six Ryder Cup teams (in 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1971 and 1973) and was named PGA Player of the Year in both 1960 and 1962. Most recently, Palmer staged a spectacular win in the 1990 Senior Skins Game.

Hillside Skins Challenge will once again include a Pro-Am in the morning. Call soon—there are still a few openings left! Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available.

The Hillside Skins Challenge benefits the Hillside Children's Center Emergency Shelter, a safe haven for youth in crisis. For more information or to purchase tickets call (716) 244-HILL (4455).



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Special Gifts From Special Santas

Thank you to all who gave to

Special Santas this year...the many toys,

blankets, Walkmans and warm clothing are now enjoying their new homes with more than 1,300 families served at Hillside.

Nothing can describe our joy in meeting each one of you who came to Special Santas headquarters with a gift. Many of you brought your children, teaching them that giving to others is a very important part of holiday traditions. You are giving your children a very special gift and they will thank you someday.

We also want to recognize those of you who mailed us cash donations. Your generosity enabled us to fill requests for more than 700 food certificates for families to use in celebrating their holidays.

AAA Rochester, with a long tradition of giving to Hillside, showed their generosity in a special way this year. By becoming satellite Special Santas headquarters in all their offices, they extended to the community their commitment to Hillside. Another wonderful gift!

Many office, church, Scout and community groups chose to give gifts to children and families rather than gifts to each other, and quite creatively, too! One group brought their favorite books from childhood, sharing them with each other then giving them to Special Santas. Another group gave gifts they always wanted but never received, and some gave gifts best fitting another's favorite hobby or profession. Others gave gifts to Hillside in the name of their co-workers or supervisors. These gifts give twice—a happy memory and a happy child.

Hillside Special Santas was lucky to have Santa's top elves sent right to us from the North Pole this year! WARM 101.3's Tony

Spotlight

ON VOLUNTEERS

Infantino and Dee Alexander are the best holiday gift anyone could ever receive. WARM 101.3 staff are some of the most caring, giving people we at

Hillside have had the privilege to know. Their dedication to our families and children through Special Santas and throughout the year has made a difference in the lives of many.

Other special thanks go out to Bruegger's, Channel 8, Target, and McDonald's, to name but a few of our corporate contributors.

Last but not least, we thank our wonderful volunteers who bring us the true spirit of the holidays. We love you, and hope you were able to have as happy a holiday as you gave to others.

Thank you all...for the very special gifts you gave. May your kindness be returned to you and your families in many ways.



Volunteer Opportunities

If you or someone you know would like to get involved at Hillside, call the Volunteer Office. Monthly orientations are held for those interested in finding out more about Hillside and the Volunteer Program. Just call (716) 256-7500 to sign up.

Interested community members can choose to volunteer for one-time events, such as coming to one of our monthly birthday parties where they help youth in our residential programs celebrate their birthdays.

Or, they can make a longer commitment to Hillside by being a resource volunteer who befriends one youth for at least one year. Unit volunteers are also needed. They participate in activities with youth at a residential unit, the Recreation Department, or in one of our many classrooms.

Please contact the Volunteer Office to get updated information and to explore your options: (716) 256-7500, TTY (716) 256-7881.



Hillside students (from l to r) Luke, Shawna, and Amanda show their entrepreneurial spirit.

Hillside Students Help Spread Universal Message

Twelfth graders at Andrews-Trahey School had a chance to be part of history while learning about being good citizens. As one of a few groups in Rochester and the only group within the Hillside community to offer T-shirts bearing Rodger Jackson's new Universal Millennium Symbol, they helped to spread his message of "Peace, Hope, Unity, 2000."

What started out as an invitation by Hillside teacher Lori Porte for Jackson to come and talk to her students about the purpose of the symbol and his fund-raising for charity, ended in the opportunity for the students to use the T-shirts for their own fund-raising. Jackson offered to give Porte's class 42 shirts bearing the Universal Millennium Symbol in return for only the cost of the shirts. "There was a great effort on his part (Jackson) to help us," said Porte. "He was so inspirational."

With Jackson's talk generating interest in the peace symbol and the idea of giving back to the community, Porte's students decided to hold a T-shirt sale. Any profits would be donated to a charity chosen by the class.

According to Rose Martins, who assists Lori Porte with the class, this was an empowerment activity for their Participation in Government class. "They see that



they are able to make a difference, too," said Martins. She also hoped that they would learn to be good citizens and "not always be the recipients of aid, but reach out to others." The class planned to select their charity in late January.

As part of an ongoing relationship with Rodger Jackson, the class will continue to sell T-shirts throughout the year. For more information, call (716) 256-7834.

D O N O R S I N Action

*A sampling
of how individuals and organizations
have given their time and talent to Hillside,
proving that actions speak louder than words.*

Skins Steering Committee Tees Off

Hillside Skins Challenge is once again fortunate to bring together a talented group of professionals from Rochester-area organizations to serve as part of the 1999 Steering Committee. Under the leadership of Don Johnson, event chairman, members Debbie Lipani (promotions director), *Democrat and Chronicle*; Jim Gabalski (marketing director), Ziff-Davis; Jerry Standera (operations director), Penfield Florists; Scott Wilson (Pro-Am director), Ziff-Davis; and John Scarpelli (Pro-Am director), Ziff-Davis, will work closely with Hillside Children's Foundation to build awareness and raise funds for the children at Hillside.



If you or anyone you know is interested in serving on a Hillside Skins Challenge Committee, call Jane Springrose of Hillside Children's Foundation at (716) 256-7517. Help is still needed in making the 1999 Hillside Skins Challenge a great success!



Birthday Bells: The Eisenhart family celebrated Ginnie's 80th birthday with gifts in her honor to the Andrews-Trahey musical program. From left to right: Sheri O., who sang for the family; Ginnie Eisenhart; Debbie Maggs; Dick Eisenhart; Eleanor Morris; and Betsy Carver.

Bells Ring In Eisenhart's Honor

Former Hillside Board member Ginnie Eisenhart was honored by family members and Hillside staff at a birthday celebration given by the Hillside Children's Foundation in December. Eisenhart family members Eleanor Morris, Ed and Lala Eisenhart, Debbie and Robert Maggs, and Betsy Carver all gave donations to Hillside in honor of Ginnie's 80th birthday.

The celebration was held in the Andrews-Trahey School music room to display the new instruments made possible by the Eisenhart family's donations: an Orff tenor-alto xylophone, resonator bells with individual notes and eight glockenspiel. Guests enjoyed musical performances by Hillside client Sheri O. and music teacher Linda Bloem. A cake was presented to Ginnie, and Dennis Richardson commended her for her dedication and service to children.



Newman's Own Organics And Wegmans Grant A Wish

Once again, Hillside has benefited from Paul Newman's product line, Newman's Own, which was developed to raise money for charitable organizations across the nation. In a recent donation presented by Dave Wagner, category manager for Wegmans Nature's Marketplace, Hillside received proceeds from the latest promotion for Newman's Own Organic products.

In honoring Paul Newman's request that proceeds from the promotion go to benefit children's reading programs, it was decided that the donation be used to purchase encyclopedias for Hillside's Day Treatment Program. Newman's Own raised \$3,700

for Hillside, to which Wegmans added an additional \$500, raising the total donation to \$4,200 in value.

Because of the generosity of Wegmans and Newman's Own Organics, a Hillside wish has been granted!

Local Newspaper Takes Hillside To Oz

Characters like Dorothy, the Scarecrow, and the Wicked Witch of the West were brought to life for some Hillside children in November thanks to a donation of 100 "Wizard of Oz on Ice" tickets from Tom Flynn and the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

Earlier in the month, Flynn also donated 100 tickets to another ice-skating show, "Cook's Champagne—A Toast on Ice," on behalf of the newspaper. For the Hillside children who attended, it was a real treat to see such popular skaters as Ekaterina Gordeeva and Todd Eldredge perform live.

Children's Foundation President Carol Bonenfant explained the importance of such gifts to the children of Hillside when she said, "Recreational outings are an integral part of the therapeutic experience for our youth—and the fun part of being a child."

D&R DEPOT FUND- RAISER BENEFITS WESTERN REGION

Enjoy a fine meal and raise funds for Hillside at the same time when you dine at the D&R Depot Restaurant in LeRoy, New York! From now through the end of February, Hillside Children's Center Western Region Services is a "charity of the month" in the D&R Depot's special fund-raising program for local and national charities. Five percent of every guest check during this time will be "credited" to Hillside, which will receive \$25.00 in cash and a \$50.00 restaurant gift certificate for every \$50.00 in credits.

Throughout the year, D&R Depot guests also have the opportunity to write in the name of a charity to which a five percent check credit will be given. So, with your help, Hillside can benefit during any visit to D&R Depot until the end of the fund-raising program on December 31, 1999.

Any questions about this program can be directed to Karen Sylvester, Hillside's Western Region Leader at (716) 733-8018 or Jane Springrose of Hillside Children's Center Foundation at (716) 256-7517. Come and support Hillside on your next evening of fine dining.

Gifts from the heart

GIFTS FROM OCTOBER 1—DECEMBER 31, 1998

Through gifts in memory of friends and family, or in recognition of special events and accomplishments, you can honor loved ones while providing hope and care to children and families. Our thanks go out to each and every Hillside friend who has made a memorial or tribute gift.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

\$10 or more

Denise M. Alben

Ms. Lauralee Alben & Mr. James P. Paris

Madeleine S. August

Anonymous

Myrtle S. Benham

Mr. & Mrs. Lovette E. Davis

Florence Brown

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

Helen Burness

Ms. Susan Burchfield

Hyman Camhi

Ms. Shirley Rock

Barbara Charlton

Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Lewis

Monique Coen

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Wall

Frances DeRyke

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin F. Reynolds

Kenneth W. Dunn

Mr. & Mrs. George Bluhm
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Dumka
Mr. & Mrs. George R. Falcon
Fleet/Retail Loan Services
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Henricks
Mr. & Mrs. Dewey T. Jackson
Martha Brown Middle School
Mr. & Mrs. Roger R. McGee
Minerva Deland School
Mr. & Mrs. Gary E. Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Pino
Ms. Mary Elizabeth Reese & Family
Ms. Patti A. Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Sabey
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth P. Schirmuhly
Ms. Patricia A. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney J. Stark
Col. Philip A. Sturdevant
Mr. & Mrs. Edward G. Wackerle

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Walters

Diana Duetsch

Brovitz, Inero, Kasperski, & Co., PC

Russell J. Ehle

Mrs. Roseanne U. Ehle

Angela Fiaschetti

Ms. Denise A. Fiaschetti

Frank Fritzsche

Mrs. Janet B. Stern

Kent S. Frost

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Warren

Deborah Fulmer

JSR Ultrasonics

Harris Furman

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

Amos Garbicik

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

Leland George

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

Estelle Gudovitz

Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Cohen

Vessela Hariton

Dynak, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce W. Haritonoff

Ethel Holleran

Col. & Mrs. Bruce B. Campbell

Ann Interlichia

Mr. & Mrs. R. Clinton Emery

Wendy Jerome

Mr. Jay Martel

Redford Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. James S. Warnick

Donald Jones

Mr. Harry H. Lang, Jr.

Eileen Kellman

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

David Kobus

Ms. Cecelia J. Mills

Charles Kohlmetz

Ms. Joan M. Lusardi

Janet P. Lemcke

Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Pringle

Asher Netti-Luong

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin J. Cahill

Eric Marchant

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Marchant

Harold Matzky

Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Dear, Jr.
Mrs. Thelma D. Mertz

David Meyerson

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Capell

Tom Newcomb

Ms. Eileen Hayes-Power

Edward O'Brien

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Thomas

Douglas A. Pieper

Mr. & Mrs. Emil J. Pieper

Floren Raeman

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

David B. Reed

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Gabbey

Douglas E. Salomon

Mrs. June W. Walters

Charles H. Satterlee

Gleason Works Elder Statesmen Club

Richard P. Schonfeld

Andrews-Trahey School Staff
Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Gelerinter
Ms. Elaine Gjeltema
Mrs. Nancy M. Kannianain
Dr. & Mrs. Steven A. Schonfeld

Margaret Sullivan

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Thomas

Gloria Volk

Mr. Robert W. Volk

STEPHEN A. ROSENBERG MEMORIAL FUND

Thelma Ring

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Levin
Mrs. Betty Rapoport

Stephen A. Rosenberg

Mr. William M. Steinfeldt

PAUL TESTA ATHLETIC FUND

Hyman Camhi

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Testa

Eileen D. Jones

Ms. Marion M. Jones

Sylvia Moss

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Harris

David Nahmais

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Testa

June Ruopp

Ms. Karen Melin and Mr. Joseph F. Bray

Bernie B. Shrybman

Ms. Rochelle A. Testa and Mr. James Shrybman

Paul Testa

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Harris

Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Lippert

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Zwick

Judith Yurman

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Testa

Mary Lou Zink

Ms. Marion M. Jones

TRIBUTE GIFTS

\$10 or more

Mrs. Corea at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Mr. Cox at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Mrs. Dillen at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Dr. & Mrs. Jon Dombroski at Christmas

Ms. Cynthia B. Knox

Mrs. Dunleavy at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Timothy Elder at Holidays

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen D. Elder

Mrs. Fauer at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Maude Lancaster Frank at Hanukkah

Mr. & Mrs. John Riley

Mrs. Giovenco at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Dr. Bharat Gupta

Westside Internal Medicine/Unity Health System

Lisa M. Hamilton

Eastman Kodak Company

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Horton

Mr. & Mrs. Youssef Kazour

Mrs. Hurley at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Mrs. Jugovic at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Mrs. Khalil at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Mack

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond J. Mack

Mrs. Mathews at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald W. Merz at Holidays

Ms. Betty M. Oatway

Robert P. Milton

Ms. Patricia I. Verhagen

Mrs. Pittman at Holidays

Ms. Marla Root Taplinger

Dr. K. Rajamani

Westside Internal Medicine/Unity Health System

Mary Ellen Semmel's Retirement

Prattsburgh Post Office

PAUL TESTA ATHLETIC FUND

Get-Well Wishes to Rhea Drexler

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Harris

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Harris at Hanukkah

Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Lippert

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this listing. Please call (716) 256-7519 with corrections.

The following names were either omitted or misspelled in the United Way listing in the Fall 1998 Vision.

Diane Bahr
Marge Baittle
Brooks Howard

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Children's Fund Donors Make A World Of Difference

THANK YOU shouted out from the rooftops just doesn't seem enough thanks for all the wonderful contributions we've received from friends in our community toward the Hillside Children's Fund! Your gifts do make a very real and positive difference in the lives of children in our care. With your support, we are able to provide so many critical and often lifesaving services to young boys and girls in need of help.

Some of the critical services which are funded in part by Children's Fund gifts are the Emergency Shelter, Visiting Friends, Therapeutic Foster Care, and Aid to Independent Youth, to name only a few. These services bring strength and support to lives that are falling apart, and give hope for a brighter future.

For example, the Emergency Shelter is the only shelter in the Rochester area that admits children under 12 years of age. The Shelter is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and helps children who've had to leave their homes in times of crisis—children who've been sexually abused, children in trouble with drugs or alcohol, children who are suffering from neglect and the extreme stresses of poverty. Your gift to the Children's Fund helps hundreds of children find safety, food, medical attention, crisis counseling, and professional care within Hillside's shelter walls.

Special thanks to all our friends who joined our family of Children's Fund donors and to all those who were able to increase their support this year. All gifts to

Hillside are truly appreciated...and make a world of difference to the children. The gift of a healthy and bright future is truly a priceless gift—especially to a child.

Thank you for giving a gift from the heart.



Kiwanis Club Raises Hillside's Flag

The Kiwanis Club of Brighton was honored recently at a Flagpole Dedication Ceremony attended by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Rochester Mayor Chief of Staff William Faucette, Jr., and Hillside Children's Center clients, board members, and staff. Brighton Kiwanis members were recognized for their gift of \$2,450, for a new flagpole at Hillside Children's Center Monroe Avenue Campus.



Kiwanis Club of Brighton members Thomas Bellwood and Richard Brown (president) join Congresswoman Louise Slaughter at the ceremony.



Being true to their motto "We Build," the Kiwanis Club of Brighton has been helping to build children's

futures at Hillside since 1989. Their total contributions to date exceed \$9,000. "The Brighton Kiwanis Club has helped us with many special projects over the years. The

new flagpole is a constant reminder of their generosity and concern for children," said Carol Bonenfant, president of Hillside Children's Foundation.

Stock Quiz

Here's a little true/false quiz to test your knowledge about using publicly traded stock to make a charitable gift to Hillside Children's Center. Good luck.

1. Only stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange can be used to make charitable gifts.
2. For tax purposes, it is normally better to sell long-term appreciated stock and give the cash to Hillside.
3. The value of a stock gift is determined on the date when Hillside receives a letter from the donor indicating his or her decision to make the gift.
4. If you buy stock in January and in three months it doubles in value, you can give the stock to Hillside in June and avoid



paying capital gains tax on the appreciation of the stock.

5. It is normally better to give stock that has depreciated in value rather than stock that has appreciated.
6. For tax purposes, the value of a stock gift equals the amount of cash received by Hillside Children's Center after it sells the stock.

7. Most stock gifts require legal assistance to complete.

If you answered ALL of these statements "FALSE," you may move to the head of the class! But if you used the "T" word, or were unsure of any of your answers, we can help. Call Carol Bonenfant at (716) 256-7516 with questions. We want you to know the advantages of stock gifts—and how easy they really are.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS REPLY FORM

Dear Friends at Hillside Children's Center,

- Please send me free information about planned giving options.
- Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.
- I have provided for Hillside in my will or other estate-planning document.
- Please send me information about the Pinnacle Society.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

THIS INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

MAIL TO:



Hillside Children's Foundation

1183 Monroe Avenue

Rochester, NY 14620

Wish List

Help us stretch our budget just a little further while bringing big smiles to the faces of children and families.

CURRENTLY, WE NEED:
Pup tents and winter-weight sleeping bags

for Boy and Girl Scout camping

Boxing gloves and punching bags

for residential children to safely relieve stress

Scout uniforms (including hats, shirts and scarves) for Hillside youngsters involved in Scouting

Tickets to appropriate sporting events/shows for children in all programs

Drum set including bass and pedal, snare drum, toms, floor toms, cymbals and stands for music education and music therapy programs

If you can help, please call the Hillside Children's Foundation, (716) 256-7515.

Hillside And Crestwood Sign Affiliation Papers

On December 18, 1998, the Boards of Directors for Crestwood Children's Center and Crestwood Children's Foundation, and the Board of Governors for the Hillside Behavioral Health System signed an Affiliation Agreement. Crestwood Children's Center and Crestwood Children's Foundation will join Hillside Children's Center, Hillside Children's Foundation, and Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection as affiliates of Hillside.

The signing comes after an 18-month study by a Partnership Team, consisting of staff and board members from Crestwood Children's Center, Crestwood Children's Foundation, and Hillside. The goal of the discussions was to determine areas of synergy that would provide improved services to the children and families in the



community. The group found that the missions of these organizations are compatible and would be strengthened by affiliation. The approval process also



Hillside President and CEO Dennis Richardson and Chairman of the Board Peter Oddleifson joined Crestwood Children's Center Chairman Preston Henderson and Crestwood Children's Foundation Chairman David Vasile, along with Donna Cimino, President and CEO of Crestwood Children's Center, for the official signing on December 18.

included an extensive financial and legal review by the respective organizations.

The Partnership Team identified many benefits that will result from the affiliation,

including: mutual learning given each organization's differences which are valued; improving the service delivery system for children and families in the areas of accessibility to services, quality of services, flexibility of services, and cost efficiency; meeting future community needs; preparing for managed care; diversifying the array of services and creating a seamless experience for children and families; providing coordinated points of entry; fostering advantages of scale; expanding capabilities to seek research funding and partnerships; enhancing organizational stability; diversifying funding sources; and enhancing community image.

The affiliation is conditioned upon receipt of all required governmental approvals.

The affiliation is expected to be consummated on or before June 30, 1999.

McGowan Fund Supports Young Students In Need

For Shalika, the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection was a way to improve her grades. For Ricky, it was just the push he needed when he felt like giving up. For Michelle, it was a way to grow and mature.

For these kids, and the over 900 other students who have participated in the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, it means hope.

The Work-Scholarship Connection, created in 1987, is managed within the auspices of the Hillside Behavioral Health System after being fully funded and operated by Wegmans for many years. The program recently benefited from a \$15,000 gift from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, created in 1992 by the founder of MCI Communications. The McGowan Fund's purpose is to promote, nurture, and fund promising programs in health care, education, and special talents.



"Gifts like these are the lifeblood for our organization," said Annette Gantt, director of the Work-Scholarship Connection. The program identifies students in the Rochester and Syracuse City School Districts who are at risk of dropping out of school by evaluating criteria such as poor school attendance, poor standardized test scores, suspensions, and students failing more than half of their classes.

At-risk students are matched with trained youth advocates who provide support in a number of ways, from talking with teachers and setting up tutoring sessions, to assisting with job-readiness skills and finding employment.

When they are old enough, participants are able to get jobs at several local businesses, including Wegmans Food Markets. Once on the job, the students are matched with workplace mentors who help them learn new skills, as well as to gain

perspective on important issues such as attendance and proper appearance.

In return, students in the program, who range from grades six through twelve, must maintain a 2.5 grade point average. Their parents attend several meetings each year to learn how they can support their child's efforts to complete school. In addition, students and parents sign a contract that details the program's expectations regarding grades and attitude.

"It's very important that the families become involved," Gantt said. "They are often the true key to students' success."

Approximately 60 percent of the participants—kids previously identified as potential dropouts—go on to graduate from high school.

"The program gave me focus in school," said Ricky. "I felt like I knew where I was going and how I would get there."

Hillside Children's Choir Sings Proudly Amidst Success

Hillside Children's Gospel Choir was nothing more than an idea a little over a year ago, but in just a short time this idea has grown exponentially. The promising group of young singers now receives more invitations to perform than it can accept. "We have just blossomed," says Dee Crues, choral director for Hillside Children's Choir.

No one had expected the group to be so popular, although organizers had always hoped for its success. Shortly after Dr. Charles Fallon, principal of the Andrews-Trahey School, had seen a similar group perform at St. Joseph's Villa, plans were put in motion to begin a Gospel Choir at Hillside. Dee Crues was asked to lead the group because of her talent as a vocalist, which she showed in her performances for Hillside's cultural diversity program. "I was excited," said Crues, about being asked to start a group at Hillside. "I decided to go with the flow. However God works this thing out is fine with me."

When the plan for a choir was finally put before the children, the response was overwhelming. Crues and other organizers began by asking Hillside children to sign up if they were interested in being a part of a Gospel Choir. They were surprised when 30 children responded. Even more amazing is that only a few of these original children have left the group, and only because they were discharged from Hillside. Currently, the group has 39 members, with requests from other interested children coming in all the time.

As choral director, Crues has had a plan for the group ever since the beginning. She believes that she has a responsibility to ensure that the children learn from their experiences as members of the Gospel Choir. In a letter that went out to Hillside school officials, Crues writes:

"The youth involved will be inspired, motivated and culturally enriched while in the Gospel Choir. The youth will see themselves also, as overcoming obstacles and disadvantages."

With the help of many Hillside staff members, Crues is able to put her plans into action. According to her, it takes the effort of a great number of people to bring the children together once a week for choir practice. It is necessary to coordinate with staff from food services, the medical building, the school and the cottages each and every time the children are pulled

from their normal routine. "It is a corporate effort to get these children together.

There are a lot of people involved in this one hour of rehearsal," says Claudia Austin, a staff member who handles all the operations for the choir.

Despite all the work involved, Crues and Austin know they are doing the right thing when they see the difference the choir has made in the lives of the children. With each rehearsal or concert, the children are able to build self-confidence, something that many of them lack when they come to Hillside. "The kids are able to realize within themselves that they can do this," says Crues. Austin also adds that it is truly amazing to see these children, who come from troubled backgrounds, working together for a common goal.

If actions speak louder than words, it is obvious through its many performances that the Hillside Children's Gospel Choir is on the road to success. Over the past year, they have performed for audiences at St. Joseph's Villa, the University of Rochester, Rochester Guild for Special Children and Hillside Children's Center, to name a few. Just recently, they received an invitation to perform at the 1999 Lilac Festival.

With each new experience, the Hillside Children's Gospel Choir is able to accomplish what it set out to do when the group was formed over a year ago. "It is all about, first of all, them building self-esteem, but also for them to be helpful to someone else," says Crues, who believes that, by example, the children can encourage others to give back to the community as well.



Choral Director Dee Crues takes her role with the Hillside Children's Gospel Choir very seriously. Through her instruction, the children not only learn about music, but how to overcome personal obstacles as well.

Hillside's Quality Recognized By YSQC

Hillside Children's Center was honored at the fifth annual meeting of the Youth Services Quality Council (YSQC) of Rochester and Monroe County in December. Presented with the Organizational Quality Award, Hillside was recognized for its consistent quality in the delivery of services to children and families. Hillside President and CEO Dennis Richardson, who accepted the award on behalf of Hillside, said that it was a privilege for him to work for an organization that supports children and families and at the same time promotes quality in its service delivery.

Hillside Children's Center students from the recreation art therapy program designed the centerpieces displayed on each table. Made with real evergreen branches and velvet ribbon, the centerpieces held a single white candle in the center.

Hillside Monroe Regional Leader Tess Mahnken-Weatherspoon, who represents Hillside as co-chair of YSQC's Annual Event Workteam, presented YSQC's other annual award, the Quality Leadership Award.

The Youth Services Quality Council is a 51-member association that provides leadership to youth service organizations who work cooperatively for youth and families to improve the delivery of services. Its key goals are to ensure a high-quality system of services for youth and families, to ensure that services address the needs of diverse customers, and to create opportunities for system change by member organizations and funders.

Hillside Awarded CCSI Grant

Hillside's efforts in creating a more diverse and culturally competent organization were supported recently when the Monroe County Office of Mental Health and Coordinated Care Services, Inc. accepted a grant proposal submitted by Joe Brown, Hillside's diversity consultant. The grant, which will provide Hillside with \$6,250 in funds, will be used to further develop the Diversity and Cultural Competence Training Curriculum already being used by Hillside.

According to Brown, Hillside is on the cutting edge in its development of diversity programs. He believes, however, that Hillside's progress must continue. "We are just getting into the meat of cultural competence. We must continue to work toward a standard," says Brown.

Big Tree Lights Up The Hill

The Monroe Avenue Campus lit up when Dennis Richardson and Hillside staff joined clients, board, council members and guests for Hillside's first annual tree lighting ceremony in December. The event brought the spirit of the holidays to the children of Hillside with the official lighting of the large evergreen tree in the center of campus.

The ceremony began with musical performances by the Hillside Children's Gospel Choir led by Director Dee Crues. Volunteers from Chase Bank also sang popular Christmas carols and encouraged everyone to participate.

Hillside Chaplain Marge Stevens read a short prayer and reminded participants of the many cultures represented at Hillside by lighting candles for Kwanzaa.

When it came time to light the tree, Dennis Richardson asked for help from "someone with experience in lighting trees." Lucky for him, Santa stopped by to assist and to hand out flashlights to all the children at the event.

Immediately following the ceremony, guests enjoyed refreshments in nearby Eastman Hall, where elves were busy filling orders for all the boys and girls of Hillside at Special Santas Headquarters.

Overall, the event proved to be a tradition worth continuing.



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