

A letter from our Administrator

Dear Family and Friends,

Wishing you a very Happy New Year. I recently read one of my favorite writings titled, "A Year of Time" by Steven B. Cloud. He writes: *"We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds and all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it or purchase it. Time is one of our most precious possessions."* As we begin this New Year may we make every moment count and may we live each day with more meaning by touching people's lives.

This is truly an exciting year for us, 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of St. Edmond's Home. St. Edmond's was founded by Archbishop Edmond Prendergast, who in his Lenten Letter of March 2, 1916 mentioned the need for a Catholic Home to care for children with polio. The home originated at 44th Street and Haverford Avenue in Philadelphia and was formally dedicated on December 8, 1916. The home was administered by the Sisters of Bon Secours for 68 years. They were succeeded by the Sisters of Mercy and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. We have been truly blessed with leaders who had a vision and moved us toward that vision. With the development of the Salk vaccine and the epidemic of polio eradicated, there was a gradual evolution to the changing needs of those served. Due to the need of a larger residence, property was obtained in Rosemont, Radnor Township, in 1956 where we continue to provide services today.

As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary year we acknowledge the support of the community, the Women's Auxiliary, dedicated staff, benefactors and the on-going support from Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who by their contributions have helped us provide an exemplary program where children are guided to maximize their potential in a loving joyful environment.

I wish you a blessed New Year,

Denise Cloftne

100th Anniversary Staff Kick-off Event



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



Special Events and Updates

Our 100th Anniversary Planning Committee has been hard at work planning special events throughout all of 2016. Some highlights will include an Celebration Mass to be held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, A donor appreciation luncheon in April, a 100th Anniversary Community Celebration in October, a brick laying project and many more. We have also created a marketing committee dedicated to updating our brochures, informational folders, promotional videos and most exciting, creating our own website. These projects are underway and we hope to reveal them as we begin 2016.

We would like to thank all of our marketing partners Alvaré Associates, Kaufman Web Consulting, Branded Productions, and Rise-Art Media for sharing their expertise.



Family Fun Day



On October 10th, St. Edmond's held its annual Family Fun Day. It was a beautiful autumn day that was celebrated by Staff and Family. Members of the staff manned the bbq grill and the cotton candy and popcorn machine. Erik, one of our most recent staff members, distributed the cotton candy, by the end of the day he was covered in the sticky sweet treat. The day also included carnival games for the children and their siblings, face painting, pumpkin painting and tractor rides around the property. The event was a wonderful day to have fun and celebrate the larger St. Edmond's Home Family!



Introducing our New Chapel



Our newly renovated chapel was made possible by the generous donation of Mr. Wolstenholme. The new design was created by Auxiliary member, Chere Onofrio, and her brother Hank from Hank Page Designs and from our Friends at the St. Jude Shop in Havertown who completed the custom furniture work. We are truly grateful to all who made this renovation possible and just in time to celebrate our Christmas Eve Mass.




St. Edmond's Home
FOR CHILDREN

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Where Miracles Happen Every Day

*Save
the
Date*

*100th Anniversary
Celebration Mass*

**Sunday, 25th of September
2:00 in the afternoon**

***Cathedral Basilica
of Saints Peter and Paul***
1723 Race St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Invitations to Follow

Disney World Adventure



Early on a chilly Saturday morning, 7 of our kids, 10 staff and 29 additional staff, family & friends loaded up St Edmond's vans to drive to the airport for what would be an unforgettable week in Disney World. It took 4 vans and over 50 suitcases to get the group to the airport with all of the adaptive equipment, medical supplies and other items they would need for the week, it was quite an undertaking. The 8 day trip included Universal Studios, Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, Epcot and Disney Springs. Each day the children and staff had matching shirts or costumes as they enjoyed all the magic of Disney.



Our group had 2 character meals, one with Chef Mickey and one at Crystal palace with Winnie the Pooh and Friends. They also went to Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party and had a private dessert party in Epcot. The whole week was filled with shows, rides and fireworks! The children loved the fireworks and every time they met a Disney Character we would ask them to dance for them....they never disappointed, every character from Mickey to Princesses to Villains danced at their request!

THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE ON EARTH!



The group was also lucky to have a private meet & greet at Cinderella's Castle. Where our children met Mickey, Cinderella & Prince Charming, Snow White & her Prince, Sleeping Beauty & Prince Philip, and Wendy & Peter Pan! The children and staff alike were so excited and giddy; Julia Vivanco, activities coordinator, described the experience as amazing:

"I don't know who was more excited and amazed, our staff and children or the Disney Characters, you could see on their faces how amazed and touched they were by our kids"



Kids Page





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.

**St. Edmond's Home
for Children**
Catholic Social Service
Archdiocese of Philadelphia