Greetings!
Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas season and a Happy & Healthy start to 2020!

The following is your January 2020 Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter. We are looking forward to another year of fun-filled, educational and spiritual programs and ministries for persons with disabilities.

For more information about our services and ministries check out our website! And remember to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

Let's Celebrate Accomplishments

We were recently asked to look back on 2019 and think about our accomplishments. In doing so, we realized that many great things happened in 2019 and we wanted to share them with you!

Disability Services successfully collaborated with several community organizations/partners to provide additional services to persons with disabilities. This included bringing music and occupational therapeutic activities to Camp Happiness and teaching the "Healthy Lifestyles" curriculum to the participants in the Continuing Adult Education Program. We hope to continue both!

Disability Services saw an increase in participation for Camp Happiness & the Continuing Adult Education Program. Both were at capacity. We were also able to offer more competitive wages, which helped us to hire more dedicated staff as well.
Disability Services' Camp Happiness program earned a 5-year accreditation from the American Camp Association. This ensures families looking for summer programs that we provide a quality summer camp.

Catholic Charities Corp. was recertified for three years by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide Medicaid Waiver Services for persons with disabilities. This allows programs in Summit County and at Disability Services to continue billing Medicaid for services provided, such as Adult Day Services, Community Respite and Day/Resident camps.

Disability Ministries began a relationship with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD). This relationship ensures that individuals within their system have access to religious services. This past year an individual who is deaf/blind was welcomed to worship.

Disability Ministries has worked closely with the Diocese by sending interpreters to the Theology on Tap discussion series and to local parishes for their PSR programs.

Disability Ministries and the Cleveland Catholic Deaf Community have restarted publishing "The Orbit", a Deaf Catholic newsletter. This newsletter keeps the Cleveland Catholic Deaf Community in the know. It had not been published for several years and was missed by the Deaf Community.

_**Creatively Social - Workshops**_

We are excited to kick off our new inclusive workshop series: **Creatively Social!**

These creative workshops will be for individuals 16 years and older, with and without disabilities, and provide an opportunity for creative expression and social engagement.

Workshops will be led by Creative Instructors and Therapists from the community (Music Therapists, Community Artists, Drama Instructors/Therapists, Dance Instructors/Therapists, Art Therapists, etc.)

Workshops will typically be held on Thursday/Friday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm at OLA/St. Joseph Center in Tremont. Cost to attend is determined by instructor and materials needed.

**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

4/24/20- eARTh Day: Recycled Art Workshop  
Cost: $10
10/23/20 - Dias De Los Muertos Assemblage Art Workshop
Cost: $10

More creative workshop dates coming soon!

For more information and to sign up
please contact Lauren Mailey by email or call (216) 334-2963

If you are interested in being part of these workshops as an instructor or volunteer please contact Lauren!

Next Dance Night is March 13, 2020!

Two hours of fun, music and a dance contest with DJ Kris!

- Don't forget that all dancers should bring identification (ID or nametag with telephone number)

- For sensory sensitive individuals, please be advised that our dances do have flashing lights and loud music

- Supervision of dance participants must be provided by a family member or direct care staff (Admission for family/staff is free)

Questions? Email Lauren Mailey or call (216) 334-2963

Due to weather, sometimes we have to cancel - for last minute updates call our voicemail at 216-334-2963 or 2962 or check our website

Schedule for Beatitudes and Faith & Light Programs
The **Beatitudes** is a program offering sacramental and catechetical ministries to children with developmental disabilities in the Diocese of Cleveland. This ministry is offered at St. Augustine Parish. The following are the remaining 2020 dates. The theme this year is the Mass.

- January 25 - Can you make a Homily? What did you learn?
- February 8 - Let us pray after the readings. How do you pray for all the people?
- February 22 - The Creed and Our Father
- March 14 - Preparing for Communion
- March 28 - The consecration and communion
- April 25 - Closing Prayer / What do we sing at Mass?
- May 9 - Let us plan our special Mass
- May 23 - Closing Mass

**Faith & Light** is a gathering of individuals with disabilities and their families/friends. They come together to worship, pray together and share friendships. A community meets at St. Augustine Parish on the following dates in 2020:

- January 17 - Beauty of our Cultures
- February 21 - Forgiveness
- March 20 - Healing
- April 17 - Jesus is the way to the resurrection
- May 15 - Unity
- June 19 - Service

Please call Terry Hogan at 216-781-5530 if you are interested in attending or learning more about the Beatitudes and/or Faith & Light. Both are held at St. Augustine Parish - 2486 W. 14th St., Cleveland.

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**National Catholic Office for the Deaf**

Representatives from the Cleveland Catholic Deaf Community recently attended the annual National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD) Pastoral Week in Kansas City, MO.

The mission of NCOD is to spread God's message through the support of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Pastoral Ministry so that we all may be one in Christ.

The theme for this year's conference was, "Heart of Christ - Bread of
Catholic Blind Community Celebrates Christmas

On January 5, 2020 Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, joined the Cleveland Catholic Blind Community for their annual Christmas Mass and Dinner.

We are always honored to have Bishop Roger celebrate with us and representatives from the Deaf and Links Communities.

For more information on our ministry to persons with blindness and vision loss please contact Bob Duda by email or call (216) 781-5530 x31.

Continuing Adult Education Program a.k.a Saturday School

We had a blast this holiday season and have started out 2020 right! We currently have a lot cooking including.....

Our students have been busy working on our mission project collecting lip balm and shoe laces to send to immigrants at the US/Mexico border through the "Encuentro Project". Here is a little more information about the project:

The "Encuentro Project", in Ciudad Juárez (Mexico) and El Paso (United States), offers services for planning and lodging to deal with life experiences, in the area between the two countries, dedicated to migrants. The project includes direct work with applicants for asylum, migrants and refugees. Also, it offers social Catholic education about projects and the lives of migrants on the frontiers, through visits, meditation and spiritual accompaniment.
Internet, Cell Phone, Social Media Safety.
This Winter/Spring the participants are learning about online safety and cell phone safety. They had a lesson last week and discussed and completed different activities. This is such an important topic and the staff at the Saturday program will continue working with the participants.

We are excited to announce that our program is currently at full capacity! If you are interested in getting on the waiting list email Lauren Mailey or call our office at (216) 334-2963

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Camp Happiness 2020
June 22 - July 31, 2020
Children/young adults 5-21
Registration coming in February

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Wishing you and yours many blessings,
Marilyn, Lauren, Fr. Joe & Bob
Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries