



Providing Help. Creating Hope.



Summer Camp Edition 2014

Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter

48 Years of Serving Persons with Disabilities
1966-2014

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July 25

Camp Happiness Field Day

September 20

1st Day of CAEP

October 4

Walk of Hope

October 10-12

Weekend Retreat

December 6

Journey to Bethlehem

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[Dennis C. McNulty](#), Director

[Marilyn Scott](#)

Dear Samantha,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter! We hope that you are enjoying your Summer! It's been a busy one for us...there is lots to share with you so read on!

Don't forget to check out our [website](#) for more information about Disability Services & Ministries and be sure to click on "[News & Events](#)" for more upcoming events.

God Bless You!

Camp Happiness and Migration & Refugee Services Collaborate!!

Catholic Charities Disability Services Camp Happiness program is very proud of their collaboration this summer with Migration & Refugee Services (MRS)!

Maura Armsworthy, Social Worker for MRS, contacted Marilyn Scott from Disability Services to see if two boys she was working with would be appropriate for Camp Happiness. Camp Happiness is a day camp for

children and young adults, ages 5-21, with cognitive disabilities.

Both of these boys and their families had been in the United States less than a month.

Abukar is from Somalia - he is 5 years old and is Deaf.

Muntadher is from Iraq - he is 8 years old and has Cerebral Palsy.



Maura brought them and their families to the Camp Open

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House. Abukar immediately started playing with staff; Muntadher was more hesitant. The next week they all joined us at the Zoo...where both boys were amazed to see animals they see back home in their natural habitat!

They started Camp Happiness the following week. Both families were a little nervous about sending the boys off to camp. They were nervous about them communicating their needs; about sending them on the vans to camp; about them swimming. One mom sat in the parking lot the first couple days...just in case she was needed! But soon they realized how great camp was for both of them and how much they would learn! Both Abukar & Muntadher have joined in ALL activities! In addition to the Zoo, both have gone to the Natural History Museum and the Science Center; they join with all the other campers in games and arts and crafts; they've watched Frozen; and they love to swim!! Their smiles are contagious! You can see how much fun they are having! The camp staff are enjoying it too. They have seen both boys learn so much in such a short time.

This collaboration between Disability Services & MRS has been wonderful, not only for our offices, but for the families, the kids, our staff and other campers. This has been a unique opportunity to see Catholic Charities at its best; serving children who have been marginalized. Camp Happiness and MRS have teamed up to be a truly welcoming voice to these children who are just learning about America. What a strong message we have sent!

Camp Happiness Summer Fun!

Campers participating at Camp Happiness this summer have had a fun-filled time...and there are still two weeks left!

Each location - Parma, Wickliffe & Lakewood - has gone on many fun field trips, including: the Zoo, the Natural History Museum, the Science Center, Lake Farm Park, Hinckley, Mahall's Bowling, Lakewood Library and Madison Park, a Lake County Captains game, and so much more!



They have created beautiful and creative arts and crafts, based on the different weekly themes - Under the Sea; Ohio Week; Holidays; and more! They cook, they play and they learn at the same time!

We have many new campers this year and many returning, as well! Each of them seems to go home at the end of the day happy and tired!



Our staff this year have been wonderful! We have teachers and college students and many volunteers. They have each brought their unique talents to Camp Happiness! Thank you Camp Happiness staff for a successful summer so far! And thank you also to Kathy Rich,

Camp Coordinator, for a wonderful job leading staff and campers this year! Your creativity has led to many new activities this summer!

Field Day is Friday, July 25. The theme is "Carnival" and there is a lot planned - it is a full day! The last day of camp will be Friday, August 1. You can see pictures on our Facebook page or on our website!

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Did You Know

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Congratulations Camp Happiness on your ACA Accreditation!!

Every three years Camp Happiness goes through the American Camp Association (ACA) accreditation process. This is very important for us because being ACA accredited shows that we operate a camp program which meets standards of safety and quality.

Camp Happiness is proud to have gone through ACA accreditation this year and to have passed with 100%! Congratulations and Thank You to all who were involved in making this happen!



We would like to thank Guys Pizza in Mentor, Dewey's Pizza in Cleveland Hts., and Angelo's Pizza in Lakewood! Each restaurant helped us to raise \$150. This money was used for campers to go on a field trip to the Science Center and to buy special snacks at camp!

Services & Ministries - FEATURE

Continuing Adult Education Program (CAEP)

For 25 years, the CAEP or "Saturday School" has provided educational and social skill building for some 20 adults with developmental disabilities, ages 21 and over. Participants enhance their skills in math, reading and history. They also work on the computer, make arts & crafts and have fun making friends, watching movies and having holiday parties! Participants also learn about their local community by going on field trips.

Classes meet on Saturdays from September through May at OLA/St. Joseph Center (2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland, OH). Students provide their own transportation. Tuition is \$88/month with an additional one time material fee of \$60; Waivers are accepted and financial assistance may be available.

The 2014/2015 school year will begin on Saturday, September 20, 2014 and end on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Call 216-334-2963 or [Email Marilyn Scott](#) to set up an appointment.

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

***37th Annual Walk of Hope
Saturday, October 4, 2014***

[Click here for a flyer](#)

Sincerely,

Dennis McNulty & Marilyn Scott

Catholic Charities Disability Services

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