

Spring 2016 **Issue Number 122** 

Dear Friends of Angels Place,

Helping... creating strong families... stabilizing communities... providing an opportunity for quality education for student parents and their children. You gave these gifts. Once again you astound me with your generosity, contributing to the success of our organization and helping our new near start on a positive note for over three decades. As you support us, we support families.

Five year old Aeron provided testimony to the impact of Angels' Place. Recently transitioning into kindergarten, she and her mother returned to celebrate with us at our Christmas dinner. Enjoying our potluck feast, I asked her about kindergarten. She enthusiastically told me about her ability to read the Smart Board messages and her new math skills which included addition and counting to 100.

Impressed with her story, I reminded her of when she was a toddler and how much she has grown and learned. She reported that it was all because she had attended Angels' Place. When I laughed she became very serious and said "It's fact, I'm smart because I went to this school, my teacher Cassie taught me everything." Squealing with excitement upon the arrival of her other recently graduated friends, I proudly listened to them compare notes about their newly acquired academic skills and experiences. This close bond is one that will never diminish between them or with the staff and volunteers at Angels' Place.

I enjoy being reminded of the impact of our program and never tire of hearing each personal story. We are helping fulfill educational goals and strengthen families, while forging strong, lasting relationships. After my 26 years I can say this is what makes Angels' Place unique, along with providing services at no cost to the student families.

We closed 2015 with an outpouring of kindness, I remain humbly in awe of your support. Raising the funds for our program is tough, however we are blessed with a legion of friends both old and new who rally to provide monetary, nonmonetary and in-kind donations. This newsletter is dedicated to you! Hats off to all of you for your continued belief in the potential of our families and the work we do, demonstrating your commitment to transforming the Pittsburgh community.

Thank you for sharing our journey and for the instrumental role you play in our vibrant future. Our accomplishments are a direct result of your constant attention and enthusiasm. Blessings for a peaceful 2016 filled with good health and happiness.

Executive Director



Aeron and Jessica

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## **Honor Roll 2015**

This issue of Crib Notes is dedicated to recognizing the friends who kindly donated to support our three centers in 2015. This installment is our way of proclaiming our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to the generous people who make Angels' Place a reality. It means a great deal to us that you help our children and their student parents complete their education and achieve their life's goals. Each gift you share throughout the year is a message of encouragement to the families enrolled, and we hope you feel blessed by the impact of your contribution.

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While we wish to be all inclusive in our appreciation there always exists a margin of error.

Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently overlooked any gesture of kindness and know that you are valued.

# **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – MEGAN GREFENSTETTE**

Volunteers are, and have always been, a key factor in the success of Angels' Place and the services we provide. This is certainly true about one of Angels' Place's newer volunteers, Megan Grefenstette.

Megan has been volunteering at Angels' Place for a little over a year and a half. Megan was helping her son Ben and some of his Seton La Salle High School friends unload a food truck delivery one day at the Brookline Center. "I was quickly drawn to the people and the program's mission and I wanted to become more involved," Megan said.

On a regular basis, Megan has been helping to cook lunches, play with the children, clean or organize anything that needs a helping hand. She also has assisted with the Angels' Place Halo Award Dinner by being a very active member of the Special Events Committee and with party planning at the Brookline Center.

When asked what she liked best about Angels' Place, Megan said, "without a doubt the staff and the children. Everyone is so dedicated, welcoming, warm and appreciative. It is always a pleasure to be there."



Megan and Santa

Megan is blessed with a wonderful husband, Ed, and three amazing children, Jake (22), Ben (18) and Ellie (16), who also love and are very supportive of the Angels' Place mission.

Aside from volunteering at Angels' Place, some of Megan's hobbies are: tennis, walking, organizing, helping with her daughter's sports team, helping out at Seton LaSalle High School and decorating.

Megan feels that Angels' Place Founder Mary Winter's vision inspired her from the first day she volunteered. She hopes that her contributions advance that mission in some small way which makes her volunteering a true honor and delight. Because of this mission, and the relationship with the people involved with Angels' Place, this is clearly an instance that she feels that she receives back more than she gives. The teachers and staff are an inspiration to her each day that she is there.

## **PURSES FOR CHANGE**

#### SAVE THE DATE!

Angels' Place will be holding Purses for Change -- a Luncheon, Designer Purse Raffle, and Fashion Show featuring the latest spring line from ANTHROPOLOGIE -- on Saturday, April 23 starting at 11am at the Edgewood Country Club. For \$45.00, guests receive a complimentary entry into the Designer Purse Raffle, with the opportunity to purchase more during the event, as well as a catered lunch and entertainment. All proceeds raised directly benefit the children and single parents educated and cared for by Angels' Place.





Friends Elliot and Aiden singing Jingle Bells together while waiting for Santa at the Brookdale Senior Living Center



Swissvale friend Lily in the Gross Motor Room



December was so warm, we stopped at the Salvation Army Playground on our way to seeing Santa at Brookdale. Miss Heidi with siblings Lily and Louay.



# **AMAZON SMILE**

Shop for all of your favorite products and Amazon will send a portion of the purchase price to Angels' Place.

Visit www.smile.amazon.com and log in with your existing Amazon account (or create a new one). On your first visit you will be prompted to select a charity that you would like to support. Simply type "Angels' Place" in the space bar or pick your own charitable organization box, click Search and then Select Angels' Place on the next screen...that's it! You will only need to do this once as Amazon will save your selected nonprofit.

It's very important to remember that a portion of your purchase will only support Angels' Place from the Amazon Smile page and NOT the traditional Amazon page, though the very same products are on both. If you don't see

the Amazon Smile logo in the top left corner of the screen then your purchase will not support Angels' Place.





Aedren and Payson Sledding

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 23 Purses for Change

May 14 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

August 24 Angels' Place Happy Hour at Franktuary

October 20 Halo Award Dinner



Happy New Year from the Angels' Place staff.



100% Tax Deductible

### DONATE YOUR CAR

Benefiting the babies, moms, and dads of Angels' Place, Inc.

Call: (855) 500-7433 angelsplacepgh-cardonations.org

# Wish Lists

#### **Brookline**

size 5 and 6 diapers Pull-Ups size 4T/5T paper towels (regular rolls and W Tri-folds for dispensers) letter-size laminating pouches tall kitchen garbage bags Kleenex tissues Clorox bleach latex gloves 100% juice (single serve boxes or bottles are great) dried fruit or fruit cups (raisins, cranberries, apricots) healthy snack crackers Chex cereals, etc. coffee or tea k-cups Gerber Graduates Puffs & Yogurt Melts fruit/veggie baby food baby rice cereal baby oatmeal gluten free snacks white water-color paper (thick)

postage stamps

rubber bands

letter size copy paper

tape dispenser re-fills

a professional camera

playground balls bubbles sidewalk chalk bibs diapers – sizes 4, 5 and 6 baby wipes hand soap napkins paper towels facial tissues paper plates lullaby CDs

Play-Doh

children's books

## **North Side**

healthy cereal
100% fruit juice
healthy snacks
individual applesauce/
fruit cups
cake mixes and cake
icing
Dixie cups
all purpose cleaners
Murphy's Oil Soap
floor mops
Sharpie markers
colored copier paper
11" x 14" (legal-sized)
copier paper

masking tape duct tape clear packing tape Post-It Notes trash bags – 13 and 30 gallon size dishwasher detergent laundry detergent



### **Swissvale**

all purpose cleaners toilet cleaner 39 gal garbage bags automatic liquid dishwasher soap gallon freezer storage bags tall kitchen garbage bag paper napkins mops and brooms small (cake-size) paper plates Scott Toilet tissue diaper wipes bleach paper plates ink pens/ black Sharpies masking tape Timothy hay for small animals jar spaghetti sauce saltines sprinkle parmesan cheese

salad dressing (not light or reduced hot cereal-Cocoa Wheat or Cream of Wheat paper towels Calcium Chloride Ice Melt eight quart pot big frying pan with lid correction fluid griddle Charlie Chinchilla Food size 4,5,6 diapers laminate pouches white and colored copy paper Scotch Tape cake frosting cake mixes graham crackers cereal