



**St. Mary's**  
HOME FOR CHILDREN  
*Healing Lives, Restoring Hope – Since 1877*

Volume Nineteen

# The Doorway

Issue One

## *A Letter From The Executive Director*



*Photo courtesy of  
YWCA Rhode Island*

Dear Friends:

The holidays are over, yet the spirit of giving and the generosity of our donors continues. We are always overwhelmed and heartened by the outpouring of support for the people we serve. I think many in the community do not know the importance and necessity of philanthropy to support the good work that nonprofit organizations do. St. Mary's Home for Children would not be able to operate without it.

Payment from governmental entities and insurance companies often does not cover the full cost of providing vital services and does not provide funding for program development, innovation or physical plant and technological improvements. Nonprofit agencies depend on grant funding and the generosity of our donors to enhance program offerings, improve facilities and update technology to ensure adherence to best practices.

Grants from the Champlin Foundation and CDBG have enabled us to make necessary improvements to our aging physical plant. The RI Foundation and CharterCare Foundation have supported the implementation and evolution of our Building Bridges Initiative and the June Rockwell Levy and Maximus Foundations have supported our STAAR project, which serves young people impacted by human trafficking. These are just a few examples of the many funders that support our agency and enhance the work that we do.

During the holidays, our donors fulfilled the wish lists of the children in our residential programs as well as children and families served in our school, outpatient and community-based programs. Our donors brightened the holidays for children and families in ways that many of us take for granted. Our donors not only provided joy during the holiday season, but also good will that lasts throughout the year. Donations pay for our young people to participate in activities like Girl Scouts, recreational basketball, dance classes and karate. The children get to explore activities that they enjoy and interact with youth in the general population, providing them with opportunities to "practice" being in the community, lifelong memories and development of new skills and talents.

I wanted to take this opportunity to ensure that our donors and grant funders understand how meaningful their acts of kindness truly are – that they have greater impact than they even know – impact that may last a lifetime.

With Gratitude,

Carlene Casciano-McCann  
Executive Director

*Make a child's wish come true...*

*by supporting our annual event*

★ CHILDREN'S FRIENDSHIP AWARD ★

April **11** Thursday

CAFÉ NUOVO ROTUNDA PROVIDENCE, RI

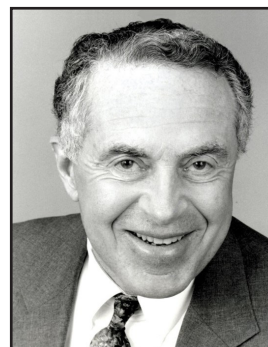
from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

\$90.00 PER PERSON

For additional information please call 401.353.3900 x262

E-Mail: [mcmiller@smhfc.org](mailto:mcmiller@smhfc.org) • [www.smhfc.org](http://www.smhfc.org)

***A Great Loss To Our Organization  
We Will Never Forget  
Dr. Clark A. Sammartino***



*Clark Sammartino served on the St. Mary's Board of Directors since 2007, most recently as the Board's Treasurer. We have been the beneficiary of Clark's wise counsel, kindness, generosity, and good humor for many years. Clark was a highly accomplished individual who was down to earth and invested in helping those less fortunate. Philanthropy was in his blood. We are better for his involvement in our cause. We will forever miss him.*



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❧ IN MEMORY ❧

*We recognize the passing of the following individuals who designated St. Mary's as the recipient of memorial funds, a bequest or were friends of the agency.*

*We are truly grateful for their friendship and commitment to SHMFC and we will forever miss them.*

CLAUDINE DESHAIES

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# SAFFE Program

*"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."*

– Rita Pierson

The Supporting Adoptive and Foster Families Everywhere (SAFFE) Program is our newest homebased program in the Outpatient Department, otherwise known as The Shepherd Program. The SAFFE Program has been providing services to families for the past year and a half, and we have seen great success with the families we have served. We have received positive feedback from parents, caretakers, other service providers and DCYF. The SAFFE Program began as a community based contract through DCYF with the ability to service 12 children/families at a time; however, after a year of successful outcomes DCYF requested to increase our capacity in order to service more families. The SAFFE Program is now contracted to service 16 families at a time.

The SAFFE Program is an intensive, community based program aimed at preserving foster and adoptive placements for children and teens, statewide, up to age 18, that have either disclosed sexual abuse or are exhibiting symptoms of sexual abuse, such as sexualized behaviors. The SAFFE Program aims to provide therapeutic support and education to caretakers of children who have been sexually abused, in order to assist them with understanding and supporting these children, as well as sexual abuse specific treatment to the children/youth. The continuity of services, supports and resources available through The SAFFE Program include child and/or family therapy, care coordination, in home assistance, family education and skill building specific to sexual abuse related impacts and parenting strategies, etc. Through a trauma informed approach, families receive psychoeducation and support to assist with stabilizing the child's placement to avoid disruption.

There is not one specific treatment modality used in this program, rather a trauma informed approach that is tailored to

each child's unique abilities and needs is used. Some of the clinical techniques utilized include Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Play Therapy, Expressive Therapy, sensory interventions and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. All of the children in the SAFFE Program are offered a unique opportunity to participate in Equine Assisted Psychotherapy using the EAGALA model. The children in the SAFFE Program are also offered an opportunity to participate in our "Hope for Healing" clinical support groups for



*St. Mary's Home for Children's SAFFE Team*

children and teens who have survived sexual abuse. The clinical benefits of participating in a support group with peers who have similar lived experiences are immeasurable.

Children need consistent, unwavering support from adults in their lives. And their caretakers need the same unwavering support and additional psychoeducation as parenting a child with a sexual abuse history and sexualized behaviors requires a different and unique set of parent skills and approaches. The SAFFE Team at St. Mary's Home for Children provides all of this to the families we are honored to serve. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child.

*Submitted by: Melissa Santoro, LICSW, Director of Outpatient Services (The Shepherd Program)*

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



*Carlota Burgo*, Family Liaison

Carlota Burgo, Family Liaison, has worked for St. Mary's for three years. Carlota first came on board as a residential counselor in the Horton House, serving youth ages 13-18. With implementation of the Building Bridges Initiative, Carlota moved into the position of Family Liaison and is instrumental in assisting youth and families to accomplish treatment plan goals, and reunify. Once families reunify, Carlota remains a support for up to six months, to ensure successful reunification.

Carlota lives in Pawtucket, RI with her son. She graduated from Central Falls High School and then obtained her certificate in Case Management from Rhode Island College. Carlota has always had a strong desire to work with youth. Carlota puts her heart and soul into her work. St. Mary's and those we serve are very fortunate to have her in our lives!



## 2019 STARLIGHT, STARBRIGHT

We are pleased to extend this invitation to you  
to join us in recognizing the 2019 Children's Friendship Award Honorees:

Hallam, ICS  
Nixon Peabody LLP

This year, our event will be held on:

Thursday, April 11, 2019  
The Rotunda at Café Nuovo  
One Citizens Plaza • Providence, RI 02903  
Please Join Us on Thursday, April 11, 2019

### Supernova Sponsor \$5,000

#### MAIN EVENT SPONSOR

Corporate name recognition on event invitation,  
event printed materials, web site and social media sites  
Prominent mention in all press releases  
Thank you with photograph in agency newsletter (5,500 piece distribution)  
Event banner to include name and logo of company

#### Tickets for Ten (10) guests

Use of our logo to promote sponsorship on corporate communications

#### Large Luminary Bags with Corporate Name – Table Centerpieces

### Comet Sponsor \$3,000

Corporate name recognition as a sponsor on all event print materials,  
web site and social media sites  
Prominent mention in all press releases

#### Tickets for Six (6) guests

Large Luminary Bags with Corporate Name – Table Centerpieces

### Big Dipper Sponsor \$1,200

Mention in all press releases and web site

#### Tickets for Four (4) guests

Three (3) luminary bags with corporate name

### Little Dipper Sponsor \$500

Mention in all press releases and web site

#### Tickets for Two (2) guests

Two (2) luminary bags with corporate name

### Meteor Sponsor \$350

Name on event night materials  
One (1) luminary bags with corporate name  
Tickets for One (1) guest

Purchase a luminary in memory/honor of someone to be lit at the event.  
\$100 for Two (2)

Please contact MC Miller at 401.353.3900 x262 or by e-mail, mcmiller@smhfc.org  
For any questions, or additional philanthropic involvement

**We Hope You Will Join Us And Become One Of Our Super Stars!**



# Holiday Spirit at St. Mary's Home for Children

*Our dedicated Perennial Planters helped the kids create beautiful holiday center-pieces.*



*Hosted by Nikki Kavanagh (at her beautiful home) and Trisha Lynch. Gifts were collected for our residential children.*



*Officers from the North Providence Police Department stopped by to help serve breakfast and lunch to our children during the holidays!*

*Carlene attended a press conference held by the Jeffrey Osborne Foundation and received a generous donation from Jeffrey Osborne!*



## Happy Retirement!

We want to give a HUGE thank you to Susan DeRita. Over 20 years of service, Susan is now enjoying the "next chapter" of her life!

We are truly grateful for her commitment, service, and unwavering dedication to the mission of St. Mary's.



**ST. MARY'S HOME FOR CHILDREN**

420 FRUIT HILL AVENUE  
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI 02911

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
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Providence, RI  
Permit #11



A HUGE *thank you*  
to all of our generous Donors,  
Friends, Staff, and Board members  
who contributed to a very successful  
2018 Holiday Season  
here at St. Mary's!



Together, we raised  
\$216,283 in total cash  
and in-kind gifts for our  
children and families in need.

