





## OUR MISSION

Rooted in Gospel values that affirm the dignity of every person, **Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs** fosters the educational, spiritual, and social well-being of people with disabilities through a continuum of direct services at **Saint Catherine Academy** and our **Adult Services Program**, and support for faith formation and inclusion in the parishes and Catholic schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

## ABOUT SAINT CATHERINE CENTER

Founded in 1999, **Saint Catherine Academy** is a state-approved special education program for students ages 5 to 22 who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism. Small classes focus on academics, the development of life skills, and vocational experiences. The **Adult Services Program**, recognized by the CT Department of Developmental Services (DDS), was opened in 2015 for adults ages 21 and above. Life and independent living skills are reinforced and integrated with activities in the community.

The Center also provides support for faith formation and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in local parishes and schools.

Students and adult participants currently come from Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Madison, Milford, Monroe, New Canaan, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Shelton, Southport, Stamford, Trumbull, Waterbury, West Haven, Weston, Westport, and Rye, NY.

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Fall 2022

Dear Friends of Saint Catherine Center,

In the children's classic, Peter Pan tells us that "all the world is made of faith, and trust, and pixie dust." Reflecting on this past year, we recognize the importance of faith and trust as a foundation to the mission of Saint Catherine Center. During the year, we explored the role of faith in the lives of the individuals we serve and their families. A deep connection to their faith, an appreciation for community, and openness to God's love were evident in all of these conversations.

An intricate network of trust exists between our families, staff, and donors. Knowing that our faith will guide us, we place our trust in each other. Our families trust us with their most precious treasures. Our staff trusts each other to help balance the needs of our individuals with the demands of the day. Our donors trust that their resources are effectively shepherded to support the mission of the Center. And our young people come to Saint Catherine's with an open heart and a willingness to try to be their best selves because they trust us to safely guide them.

At Saint Catherine's we are surrounded by faith and trust. Each interaction builds on the previous one and strengthens the overall relationship. In challenging times, these trusting relationships help us know that our foundation is strong and will prevail. *But let's not forget the pixie dust!* That touch of magic, those moments of creativity and recognition when the ordinary becomes extraordinary - *for those who believe.*

Thank you for being part of our community of believers. We have faith that we can count on your partnership as we look to the future.

May your world be filled with faith and trust and a touch of pixie dust!

With gratitude,



Charles F. Chiusano  
Chair, Board of Directors



Helen C. Burland  
Executive Director



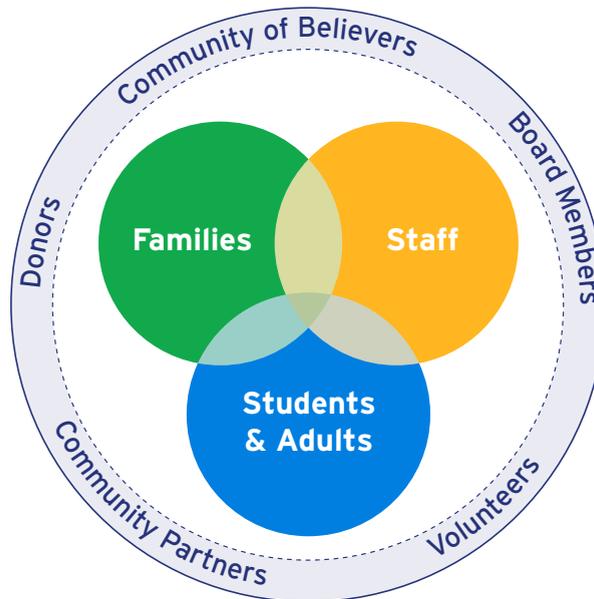


## OUR CORE VALUES

Trusting relationships are at the heart of everything we do at Saint Catherine Center.

Each **Circle of Trust** intersects and shares a set of Core Values based on the belief that all individuals are valued and deserve respect and dignity.

- We respect the dignity and diversity of each person.
- We serve people of all races, ethnicities, faiths, and economic backgrounds.
- We focus on the total well-being of each person we serve.
- We create a supportive and welcoming atmosphere where each person feels a sense of belonging.
- We celebrate the abilities and successes of each person.
- We seek to build interpersonal relationships in a nurturing community.
- We bring hope and joy to our students, adult participants, families, staff, and community partners.



*“Our overall goal is to create an environment with acceptance and inclusion at its core, where all feel valued and respected.”*

Helen Burland, Executive Director



# OUR FAMILIES

Our families trust that we accept their children and young adults for who they are and will keep them safe while also challenging them.

Families entrust us with their most sacred treasure, knowing that our goal for each individual is to have a sense of belonging while we companion them on a journey toward greater independence.



*“We feel blessed knowing that Jacki has a fun-filled day surrounded with people that we can trust. We depend on the staff to keep her safe, be kind, show patience, and be empathetic. Thank you, Saint Catherine’s, for giving parents the assurance that our children are loved!”* Lori Mercede, parent

*“It was amazing to go to the Christmas Pageant in person and see how proud Philip and his classmates were to share all their accomplishments. This was an experience we will remember forever.”*

Aidan, William, and Grace Flood, Cousins



*“When Ellie walks in to the program each day, she is met with a sense of community, support, and the expectation that she will function to the best of her abilities. These confidence-builders carry over into her time at home and in the community, and continue to enhance all our lives. We are so grateful.”*

Sarah Kahn, parent





## OUR STUDENTS AND ADULTS

Our students and adults trust staff to help them learn, thrive, and build relationships with others.

Whether it is learning about the lifecycle of a chicken, recognizing new words using an adaptive device, or setting the table, our staff offers consistency and affirmation in the development of academic and life skills. At community vocational sites, our individuals use their skills in real-life work environments. Friendships develop and confidence increases as trust grows. These photos from the past year embody the many skills and attributes of our students and adults.

Teamwork



Exploration



Education



Celebration



Curiosity



Interaction



Affirmation



Socialization



Expression



Communication



Adaptation





## OUR TEAM

A safe and welcoming environment depends on the trust and respect that our staff members have for each other.

Years of experience, as well as kindness and a willingness to support each other characterize the staff at Saint Catherine Center. Flexibility, the ability to problem-solve, and a sense of humor are key. As teams, they collaborate on strategies to make learning and daily challenges easier for each individual.

Whether it is learning how to operate a Hoyer lift, coordinating a cooking activity, or role-playing adaptive movements in our first Joint Professional Development Day, staff freely share their ideas and expertise. From morning greetings to afternoon dismissal, staff cultivate an atmosphere of possibility and hope every day.



*“The staff at Saint Catherine's is like extended family. They're diverse. Everybody brings something different to the table. And once we work together, we create magic.”*

Racquel Lynch, new Director of the Adult Services Program  
(pictured above, right)



# OUR FAITH

## We trust in the faith that forms our foundation and informs our mission.

Together we form a community of believers with a common purpose to help and serve one another. Our program offers opportunities for spiritual development, such as the annual Mass Celebrating People with Special Needs, as well as encouragement for families and parishes in their efforts to be inclusive.

We appreciate the many individuals and other organizations who supported our mission last year by celebrating Mass with us (Bishop Frank Caggiano, Rev. Peter Cipriani, Rev. Rob Kinnally, Rev. Chris Ford, Msgr. Robert Weiss), volunteering on PB&J Fridays (Order of Malta), fundraising for us (Knights of Columbus) and attending the annual Christmas Pageant.



*“People have questioned what Patrick really knows. His understanding and connection to his faith stand as evidence to us that he is more in tune with what Jesus wanted us to know than most of us.”*

Mary and Bob Ross, parents



*“The message is simple: to care for and be kind to each other, forgive each other, and ask God for help when we need it. This is basic to all faiths, really. And all faiths are welcome at Saint Catherine Center.”*

Eric Spencer, Principal



# OUR DONORS

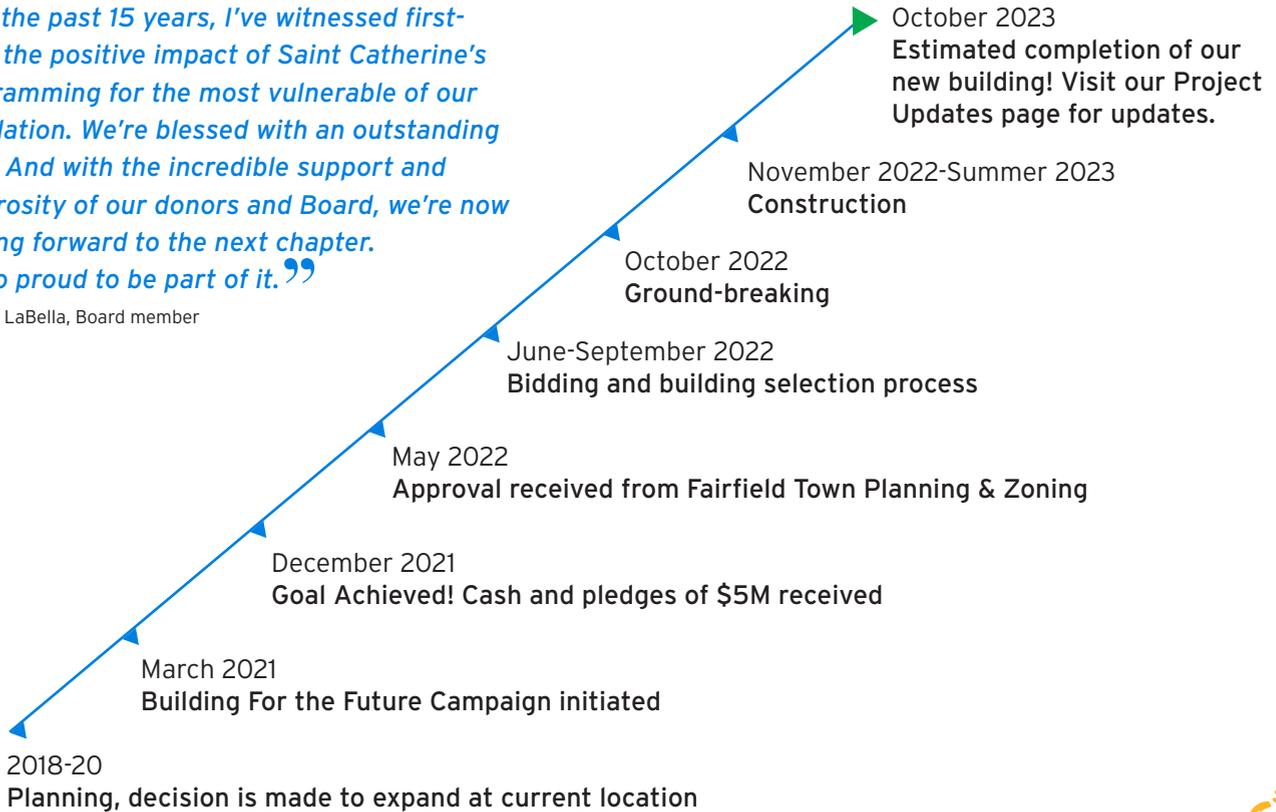
Our donors trust that our mission is meaningful and that we will work toward that mission.



The *Building For the Future* Campaign met goal, allowing the expansion project to move forward.

“Over the past 15 years, I’ve witnessed first-hand the positive impact of Saint Catherine’s programming for the most vulnerable of our population. We’re blessed with an outstanding staff. And with the incredible support and generosity of our donors and Board, we’re now moving forward to the next chapter. I’m so proud to be part of it.”

Michael LaBella, Board member



# JOY & GRATITUDE 2021

Family and friends of the Center came together in person in October to celebrate our annual “Joy & Gratitude” Dinner at a new venue, the McClinch Family Center at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. **Virginia Dwyer-Aoyama** (below, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) was honored with the Volunteer Service Award for her dedication to the Library Program at Saint Catherine Academy. **Elena and Steve Schlegel** (below, right) received the Leadership Award for their role in support of the *Building For the Future* Campaign. Our thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers, and Rev. Joseph Marcello from St. Catherine of Siena (pictured below, right, with the LaBella family).





## Support and Revenue (rounded to nearest 100)

Tuition and Program Fees*	\$2,195,100
Unrestricted Donations	305,500
Restricted Donations**	1,117,300
Realized Investment Income	293,900
Bishop's Appeal***	326,700
PPE Balance	70,800
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,309,300</b>

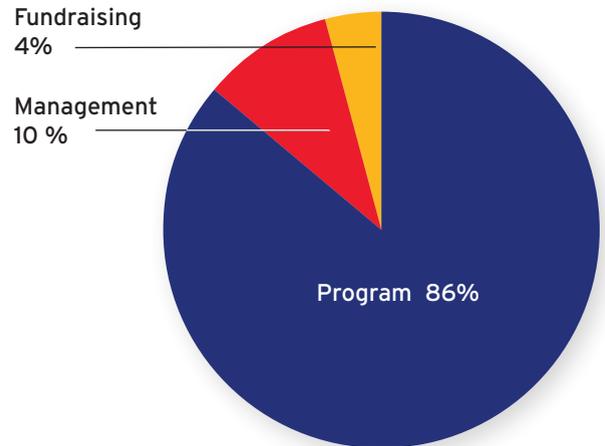
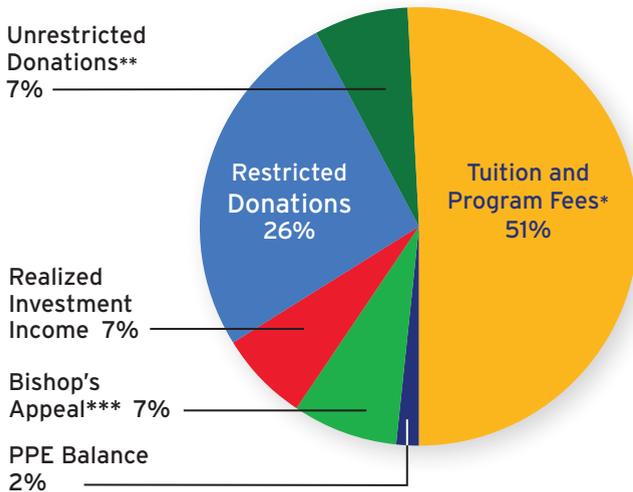
- \* Awarded scholarships 190,000
- \*\* Restricted donations include  
*Building for the Future* Campaign donations 1,009,200
- \*\*\* Partial 2021 and 2022 payments

## Expenses

Program	\$2,413,900
Management	275,000
Fundraising*	111,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,800,400</b>

Audited financial statements and IRS 990 report will be available at [StCatherineCenter.org](http://StCatherineCenter.org) by 12/2022.

\*Includes *Building for the Future* Campaign materials.



## CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS 2021-2022

This list includes all contributions to both the Annual Fund and the *Building For the Future Campaign* from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. We thank our circle of donors, whose gifts show the trust they have in our mission.

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 Mrs. Margaret Pozvek  
 Mr. Jeff Pratt  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Pratt Jr.  
 Ms. Claire Preisser



*We are thankful to our vocational partners, who provide opportunities for our students and adult participants to build meaningful skills in real-world settings.*

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 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Young  
 Mrs. Carol Young  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Young  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Zagrodzky \*

\* Board member 2021-22

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions.*

**There is still time  
to join us for our 2022**

**Joy  
&  
Gratitude**  
Annual Dinner  
Sunday, October 3, 2022



Saint Catherine Center is  
proud to host these special  
events:

**MASS to CELEBRATE  
PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Bishop Frank Caggiano,  
*celebrant*  
Sunday, November 6, 2022  
2 p.m., Holy Cross Church



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Friday, December 23, 2022  
10 a.m., Saint Catherine Center





SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR  
*Special Needs*

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