



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

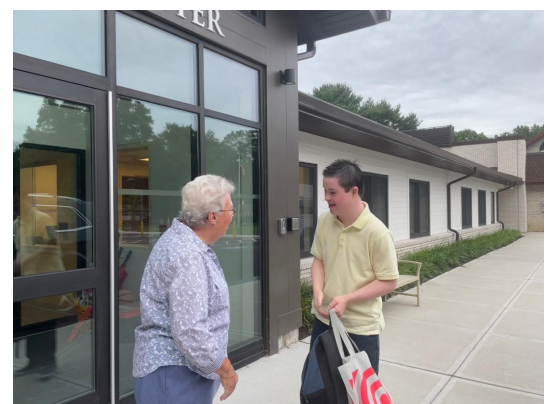
Welcome Back Academy Students A New School Year Begins

The first day of school at Saint Catherine Academy was filled with excitement and warm welcomes as students walked through the front doors ready to embark on a new academic year. Everyone is so happy to be back with smiles and joyful greetings exchanged between students, teachers, and staff.

Our wonderful students were beaming with smiles returning to school. "I'm excited to play with my friends," said Vinny. "I'm looking forward to helping my friends and teachers," said Fabricio. "I'm happy to be back to school because I like to help my friends with their devices," added Anna.

Our students' excitement is a testament to the welcoming atmosphere we strive to create at Saint Catherine Academy. This nurturing environment, where friendships and learning thrive, is something that students look forward to returning to each year.

This year promises growth and learning with the Saint Catherine Academy community coming together to celebrate milestones and achievements. We are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Saint Catherine Academy—a milestone that reflects our dedication to education and the community we have built together. In recognition of these special moments, we invite you to join us on Sunday, September 22, for an anniversary mass. This celebration will be a time for the entire Saint Catherine community to come together in gratitude, reflection, and joy as we mark 25 years of commitment to our students and their futures.



Upcoming Event

Please join us in celebrating 25 years of Saint Catherine Academy



Tony Minopoli and Christine Woods are Honorees at "Joy & Gratitude" Dinner on October 6

On Sunday, October 6, Saint Catherine Center will host its annual Joy and Gratitude dinner, an event where friends and families come together to celebrate and honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our community. The evening, filled with joy, gratitude, and camaraderie, will be held at the McClinch Family Center at St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull. Attendees enjoy a delightful evening featuring dinner, silent and live auctions, raffles, live entertainment, and opportunities to support our mission with friends and family.

This year, we have the privilege of recognizing two individuals, Tony Minopoli and Christine Woods, who have dedicated their time, energy, and passion to the Center.

Tony Minopoli, a valued Board Member for the past ten years, will be honored with the Leadership Award. Tony's involvement is deeply personal, rooted in his connection to his brother Vinny, who has special needs. "My brother has been a big motivator in my life. The single factor that drives my work and dedication to the Center is that we serve a population that needs our advocacy," shared Tony.

As the Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer for the Knights of Columbus, Tony brings a wealth of financial expertise and experience to the board. His contributions have been instrumental in managing the Center's investments, ensuring the sustainability of our mission for years to come. Tony has witnessed the Academy's evolution into Saint Catherine Center, the



addition of the Adult Program, and the Center's recent expansion. His commitment has helped strengthen the foundation of the Center and continue to support its growth for the future.

Christine Woods will be recognized with the Volunteer Service Award for her unwavering dedication to the Center. Chris' journey began at the 2017 Gala when her friend invited her as a guest. That evening Chris felt an immediate connection to the mission and community. Since then, she has become a regular presence at the Center joining the monthly PB&J service project, a volunteer initiative that has become a beloved tradition. "PB&J is such a beautiful way to come together once a month as a family to serve others less fortunate. I think it truly makes the students happy knowing someone at Merton House will enjoy eating a sandwich they made themselves. We all become a little bit better because of those few hours of prayer and working side by side for the good of someone else," says Chris.

In addition to PB&J, Chris volunteers regularly with the Adult Program and the Academy at vocational sites. She consistently joins a group of young adults working at Woofgang every other Friday, where they make specialty dog treats. Having the opportunity to go out to vocational sites is essential in the Center's programming and wouldn't be possible without the help of our community and volunteers like Chris.

As we honor the exceptional leadership and volunteer service of Tony and Chris, we are reminded of the profound impact individuals have when they commit themselves to a great purpose. We invite you to join us in this wonderful evening of celebration and gratitude to support the ongoing mission of Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs.

[Click to register for the event or make a donation.](#)

If you already purchased your ticket, thank you. We are looking forward to seeing you there!





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