

January 2024



## SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

### *Dream, Believe, Achieve: Goal Setting in the New Year*

As everyone returned well rested from Christmas break, Saint Catherine Center found itself at the threshold of exciting opportunities and boundless potential. The coming of 2024 brought not only a fresh start but also marked the culmination of efforts to expand and enhance the learning environment within our Center.

The heart of Saint Catherine Center beats with the promise of growth, and the new year serves as a signal guiding everyone toward a year of new possibilities.

Staff members have embraced the new year with a shared commitment of growth. Whether it's refining teaching methodologies, or mastering one skill, teachers, students, and our young adults are eager to explore and learn. "I'm looking forward to a new year of challenging our young adults to help them reach their full potential and feel their best," said Ms. Carolynn, adult program team lead.

This upcoming year, **Patrick R** is looking forward to continuing to spread laughter and joy to everyone with his jokes.

**Ryan** and **Vishnu** are starting a new reading program and will be working on improving their skills.

**Jocelyn** is looking forward to teaching her sister how to count from 1-10.

**Philip** wants to be busy this year getting better at math and reading.

**Patrick N** and **Natalie** want to advocate for themselves more by asking for help when needed.

**Vinny** and **Fabricio** are both looking forward to working more at vocational sites. Vinny says he wants to help the kids at Assumption pre-school while Fabricio wants to work more



so he can go out to lunch with his hard-earned pay.

**Connor** can't wait for the new playground to be ready, "I love to swing!" he exclaims.

Goals and academic achievements aside, there's a collective commitment among our students and adult participants to grow and reach their full potential. As the year unfolds, the hope resonating at the Center is contagious. The anticipation of achieving personal and academic milestones is reflected in the eyes of both staff and students.

As we look forward to the upcoming year it is also important to look back at how much each student, young adult, and staff member has grown and accomplished over this past year. We celebrate all our successes and we are eager for the opportunities this new year brings!



## *Annual Nativity Pageant: A Journey to Bethlehem*

Saint Catherine Academy welcomed Christmas with music and a lot of love at our annual Christmas Pageant, "A Journey to Bethlehem," on December 20th. More than 150 family members and friends attended.

The students rehearsed for several weeks and were so excited to have the opportunity to share the Nativity story with their families and friends. The Pageant is an annual tradition that showcases all of our students. It is a great example of our core value that celebrates abilities and success. Congratulations to our actors and staff for a job well done!

There was a role for everyone in the script written and directed by Sr. Cheryl Driscoll, and assisted by all the Academy teachers and assistants. Anna and Eric Spencer (principal) narrated the story. Izzy, Bradley, Ian, Connor and Luke joined as shepherds, while Henry beamed as the star of Bethlehem. The three kings were Fabricio, Vinny and Antonio. The band of angels (Tanisha, Nyah, Keona and Melissa), led by Angel Gabriel (Philip) brought tidings of great joy to Mary (Jocelyn) and Joseph (Frank). Each student presented their own personal "gift" to Jesus—including joy,



helping, kindness, singing, smiling, friends, a loving heart—and a spirited happiness!

The performance was followed by a reception, hosted by members of the CT Order of Malta. At the conclusion, Eric Spencer asked guests to consider what their gift to Jesus would be this Christmas. It's a consideration not just for the Christmas season, but for all year.



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