

March 2025



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR  
*Special Needs*

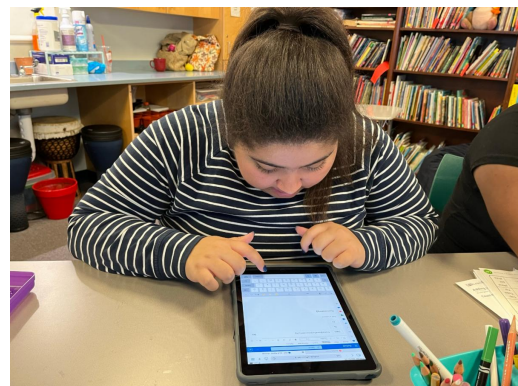
## *Technology Enhancements A New Era of Learning*

Technology plays a vital role in enriching learning experiences for our students and young adults. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to make significant technology enhancements that are necessary for engagement, independence, and skill development.

Through the generous grants provided by the Ursuline Serviam Ministry Fund, Fairfield Rotary, and all those who contributed through the Call for Charity at our annual Joy & Gratitude Gala, we were able to update computer workstations throughout the Center. Additionally, a grant from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism allowed us to purchase new iPads, which are used daily for interactive learning, communication support, and personalized instruction.

These technology updates have been vital in helping our students and young adults develop essential skills from communication and literacy, to math and counting and vocational training. Having up-to-date technology is important to provide accessible and adaptable tools for individuals with different learning needs. Included in the technology upgrade were updated workstations for teachers, staff, and our healthcare coordinator, ensuring they have the necessary tools to provide instruction and maintain mandated documentation for the state of Connecticut.

We are deeply grateful to these organizations and all those who support our mission. Because of you, technology is not just an enhancement but an integral part of how we empower our students and adults to reach their full potential.



*Celebrating the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering*



Every 25 years, the Pope declares a Jubilee Year—a tradition in the Catholic church that acknowledges a time of renewal, mercy, and reflection often marked with special Jubilee days throughout the year to recognize and celebrate different groups and various ministries. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering, from March 8 to March 9, 2025, was a worldwide celebration dedicated to honoring volunteers' selfless service and unwavering commitment. This global event, rooted in the spirit of the Catholic Jubilee tradition, aims to recognize and uplift the invaluable contributions of those who dedicate their time and energy to serving others. It invites volunteers from all walks of life, as well as organizations and communities that support volunteerism, to come together in a spirit of gratitude and solidarity.



Volunteers play a vital role in carrying out Saint Catherine Center's mission. They enrich the daily lives of our students and young adults through their kindness and support. From assisting in classrooms, worksites, and community outings to helping with special events and programs, their dedication makes a meaningful impact.



Laura Grozier, Executive Director, expresses deep gratitude for the volunteers. "Our volunteers are at the heart of our community. Their generosity reflects the very essence of the Jubilee—service and joy. We celebrate not only their contributions, but the relationships they have built with our students and young adults and the meaningful impact they have on each of their lives."

## *Ash Wednesday Service*

Students, young adults, and staff at Saint Catherine Center gathered for a special Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

Father Chris Ford led the prayer service and distributed the ashes, along with Sr. Cheryl, to all those who wished to receive the blessing. He explained the significance of this upcoming season as a time of prayer, sacrifice, and growing closer to God. "These ashes are a sign to everyone that we are growing our friendship with Jesus," explained Father Ford.

The service provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection and renewal as everyone prepared for the season of Lent. Through prayer, quiet reflection, and the act of receiving blessed ashes, our community readied their hearts for the journey toward Easter.



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