

## Newsletter Summer 2003

### Preschool Graduation

On June 27th at 4:00 PM, an afternoon graduation was held at Marguerite's Place Preschool. We have two "graduates" moving on to first grade in the Fall and several others who have "moved up" to the next level in Preschool.

The children made pillowcases, as a gift to each other, which included the name and hand print of each of the classmates. Sr. Elaine shared a story with the children and their families. The children entertained their guests with several songs and then received a certificate and gift of a photo album from their teacher, Miss Aimee.

Refreshments were then served, including a special graduation cake.

### What I liked most about Preschool...

"Getting a present on my birthday" -Dai-sha

"My teacher, Miss Aimee" - Devon

"Making a gingerbread house for Christmas" -Sarah

"Dying Easter eggs" - Valeree

"When the Easter Bunny came to school" - Brian

"Watching a caterpillar turn into a butterfly" -Amanda

"Playing with my friends" - Erica

"Everything!" - Yashua

### Volunteer Dan Ryan Recipient Max I. Silber Award

The Max I. Silber Community Service Award is presented by the United Way of Greater Nashua to members of the community who exemplify the ideals of community service and volunteerism. This year, our own, Dan Ryan was one of three recipients of the award at the United Way 73rd Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation at the Nashua Marriott.

Dan Ryan is a very modest individual who does not seek recognition for his work although he consistently volunteers at several agencies in Nashua including Marguerite's Place. Some examples of his volunteer efforts include supplying winter gloves and toys for a children's Christmas Party, visiting the elderly, and providing customized repair work and maintenance for agencies without the staff or resources to do so.

On hand to celebrate this achievement were Dan's wife and two children and staff from Marguerite's Place. Danny modestly stated in his acceptance " I don't believe I deserve this award". However, Sr. Sharon remembered an incident this past winter, when Dan was up on our roof between snow storms. Dan never hesitates to work us into his schedule whenever we need him. We know he is most deserving of this recognition.

## **Residential News**

As we move into the "lazy days" of summer, we see that the residents in our program have been anything but lazy! One resident has been hired full time as a Licensed Nurses Aide after working per diem at a local hospital, two residents are working in the food service industry, one resident is working in a law office, another resident is working in health care while attending college part-time, and one resident is working in housekeeping while trying to upgrade to an office job.

One resident is only one test away from completing her GED and hopes to attend college in the Fall. Three other residents are preparing to start GED classes. We have one resident who is a high school student and is attending summer school as well as volunteering at a local hospital for work experience. One resident was the grateful recipient of a donated car through a contact of volunteer, Dan Ryan. One child made his First Communion and one child graduated from Elementary School.

Our former residents continue to move forward with their lives. One former resident achieved honors at nursing school with a 3.59 average and also obtained her LNA and is working during her summer break as a nurses aide. Three former residents completed financial fitness training through UNH Cooperative Extension and are saving towards post secondary education or homeownership in the IDA program. One former resident and her three year old daughter were both Baptized in May. We celebrated the Baptism of another child in July. Many of the former residents have been meeting regularly on the "Self-Sufficiency Committee" to plan activities, give input, and assist with fundraising events. We already have former residents volunteering to help with the 9th annual Fall Fundraiser.

The children in the Daycare and Preschool continue to thrive. Many toddlers took their first steps during this past quarter. Others shared their first word or showed us their first teeth. The Preschoolers worked hard practicing their songs for the graduation ceremony. We also celebrated many summer birthdays.

We are so happy to be able to share in all these accomplishments-large and small.

## **Meet the Staff of Marguerite's Place...**

My name is Celeste Langlois and I am the Infant Teacher at Marguerite's Place Daycare. When I first came to Marguerite's Place, as an intern, I was already enthused about what a holistic approach the agency had and about all it stands for. I loved every minute I got to go into Marguerite's Place and be a part of it, especially spending time with the children.

I have been working at Marguerite's Place as the Infant Teacher for three years now. Spending 40 hours a week with the children is a lot different than a couple of hours a day. Along with the happy moments and accomplishments, I go through their stressful days, sick days, and just plain tired days. My eagerness has been transformed into a more meaningful appreciation for what I am a part of by working here. I truly get to be a part of the lives of these children and families.

Whenever I would set goals for my future, I would always say I wanted to work someplace where I would be happy to go to work each day; where I could be doing something that, even if I didn't need a paycheck, I would still want to go and feel I could make a difference. I consider myself blessed to have found all of this working at Marguerite's Place. The only difference is that instead of feeling that I am making such a difference in the lives of the children and families-I feel they are continually enriching mine.

### **An Alumni Story...**

My name is Jureska .When I came to Marguerite's Place, I thought about continuing my education. I had only gone to 9th grade in school. I did not finish school-I got pregnant and I was so immature. I did not realize why school was so important. I had plans for a diploma in my future but my plans changed when I had another baby.

When I moved into Marguerite's Place, my life began to change. At Marguerite's Place I learned how to listen (this wasn't easy). But I had to start listening so I could plan my future. This also helped me to be a better parent to my kids. After leaving the residential program, I still work with the staff in the Aftercare program and the Daycare. I have realized I want a better future for myself and my children and I want to fight for my goals to be educated and a good role model for my children, I want to be a good parent and earn the love and respect of my kids.

I am trying to continue schooling and I want to have a career. I know it won't be easy, but I feel strong. I thank everyone who is helping me through this. The children are growing and learning new things everyday. My children love the day care staff. My youngest child has grown up in Marguerite's Place Daycare. Thank you to all the staff for your help. This has been a learning experience for my whole family.

Jureska

### **A Resident's Story...**

The first and most important thing I have to do is give thanks to God for giving me one more opportunity and for helping me to find Marguerite's Place. They took me and my son into their home and gave me support, understanding, care and love, and a little "push" to get started and motivated for a change in my life.

That changed me completely from a homeless, unemployed and depressed person to a human being who is trying to do better and follow goals of employment and schooling.

I am working full time as an Licensed Nursing Assistant at Southern NH Medical Center. I will also attend GED classes in the Fall.

My son is in elementary school and goes to the YMCA after school. He loves sports and is involved in baseball, basketball, and swimming. He was also able to go to sports camp this summer.

As you can see, my life is full. Thanks to God and Marguerite's Place.

"God Bless"

Zoila

## A Special Thank You...

From the children at Marguerite's Place to the Division of Public Works employees for help with our playground!

Marguerite's Place, Inc. cordially invites you to attend our 9th Annual Fall Fundraiser

Friday, October 3rd

Sky Meadow Country Club

Dinner and Dancing along with a Silent Auction

Entertainment provided by

### **Boston Band "Soho"**

Tickets are \$50 and are available at 598-1582

## How can you help?

There are several ways you could help us. You or your employer could:

- 0. *Become an event sponsor at a level of \$500, \$750, \$1000 or \$1500*
- 0. *Purchase tickets and attend the fundraiser*
- 0. *Donate an item to be auctioned off during the event*

Please call 598-1582

Thanks to all of you who have supported us over the years!