

Providing Help. Creating Hope.



March 2018

Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter

Over 50 Years of Integrating Persons with Disabilities into Church and Society
1966-2018

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Upcoming Events

March

DD Awareness Month

March 9

Dance Night
at OLA/St. Joseph Center

April

Autism Awareness Month

April 2

Light It Up Blue for Autism

April 13

Dance Night
at OLA/St. Joseph Center

April 19

Connecting for Kids
Meet and Greet

Our Staff

Greetings!

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of the Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter. Happy New Year to you and your families! We hope that this year is a healthy and happy year!

Remember to check our [website](#) for more information and be sure to click on "[News & Events](#)" for more upcoming events. And don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Congratulations

Dennis McNulty

Retiring after 40 Years of Dedication & Service



This is a little bittersweet...alot bittersweet...but after a combined 40 years of working at Catholic Charities & the Diocese of Cleveland, Dennis McNulty is retiring on April 5, 2018.

Below are Dennis' words:

"I have been honored and very proud to have the opportunity to



serve persons with disabilities for the last 30 years as part of Catholic Charities, 25 years as Director and 5 years as Principal of OLA/St. Joseph Center. Prior to this, I am

also grateful to the Diocese for allowing me to teach at Cleveland Central Catholic High School for 10 years.



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Services & Ministries

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These past 40 years have been more than a job. They have been a vocation. I cannot comprehend where my life would have lead without these years of opportunities and blessings. I do hope that I have contributed, at least a little, to the mission of Catholic Charities and to the Diocese of Cleveland."

From Marilyn Scott, Program Director:



Yes, Dennis, you have definitely contributed more than a little to the mission of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Cleveland. And I know this because I have worked with you for 25 of those 30 years at Catholic Charities!

I know what you have meant to the thousands of persons with disabilities you have helped...from our programs to so many referrals and to those you have advocated for. You have shown them respect. And you have shown them that they are part of our community and part of our Church. That has always been your mission. That has always been the mission of Disability Services.



And speaking personally, you have taught me all of the above and so much more. You say you couldn't comprehend where your life would have lead without the years of opportunities and blessings and I feel the same way. You hired me right out of college (at a very strange interview!!!) and here we are 25 years later. I honestly would not be where I am had you not hired me. Thank You Dennis.

You will be missed by all of us at Catholic Charities and



beyond. But we all wish you an enjoyable and blessed retirement with Jill! And I will absolutely let you come back and volunteer!! We will need a dance night DJ every now and then!!!

Thank You Dennis!!!!



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!!

St. Patrick's Day Dance in Tremont!

Wear Your Green!!

March 9, 2018

7-9pm | \$3 at the door

2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland

Dancers, and any family/friends coming with you, must be age 16 and over. All dancers pay \$3 - Staff/Caregivers are Free. Everyone gets a pop, a bag of chips AND two hours of entertainment! We also have a dance contest where you can win different prizes each month!

2018 Dance Dates: March 9; April 13; May 11; June 8; July 13; October 12; November 9; December 14. Click [here](#) to print a flyer.

Due to weather, there are times we have to cancel - for last minute updates call 216-334-2963 or 2962 - we will change our voice mail; e m a i l [Marilyn](#) or [Dennis](#); or check our [website](#).



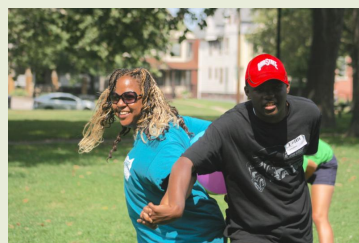
Camp Happiness Summer 2018

Camp registration has been mailed and is on our [website](#). We are excited for another fun-filled summer for those who attend and work at Camp Happiness!



Camp Happiness is a six-week summer day camp for children and young adults, ages 5-21, with cognitive disabilities, from June 18 - July 27, 2018. We have two locations - Cleveland/Parma area and at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe.

You can sign up for 1 week or multiple weeks. The weekly cost is \$350 and there are many options for payment and assistance. Camp Happiness is a Waiver provider (IO, Level One & SELF) under Community Respite.



Our staff make sure that the campers have a fun and adventurous summer, with field trips, swimming, arts & crafts and lots of singing! If you are interested in learning more, come see us at one of the

upcoming camp fairs (see below) or visit our [website](#).

We are also hiring Counselors for Camp Happiness! If you are interested or you know someone who would love to work at camp, visit our website to complete an [application](#).

2nd Annual Camp Happiness Match Challenge

The Logsdon Family Foundation has once again challenged us to a \$10,000 Match. They will donate \$10,000 to Camp Happiness if we can raise \$10,000!!! We did it last year and we are excited about meeting this challenge in 2018!!!



Last year, kids with disabilities were able to go swimming and go on community field trips! We were able to pay for those field trips and we were also able to assist campers with their weekly fees! So many of our families struggle to send their kids to camp each year. Yet camp is so important for children with disabilities socially!

Consider making a donation today to help more kids attend Camp Happiness this summer!!

[Donate Now](#)

Connecting for Kids Meet & Greet Thursday, April 19 from 6:30-8:30pm

Visit Camp Happiness at the Meet and Greet at the Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd. in Rocky River.

This is a free, public event where families can learn about local resources, therapies, after-school programs and summer camps for their child who is struggling (with or without a formal diagnosis). Participants can visit with representatives from more than 70 organizations to discuss services and explore program options.

Click [here](#) to learn more about this upcoming event.

March is Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month

Every year we celebrate March as National Developmental Disability Awareness month.

March 7 is DD Awareness and Advocacy Day - an annual event taking place at the Ohio Statehouse designed to



educate and empower people with developmental disabilities, their families, and community members.

This year's theme is, "COMMUNITY." People with and without disabilities working, going to school, playing and participating in their communities together.

Though we celebrate people with disabilities all year long, we are encouraged to spread awareness during the month of March.

40th Anniversary of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Statement on People with Disabilities 1978 - 2018

(Updated 1989)

from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability ([NCPD](#))

This year, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities (Statement). This major statement regarding persons with disabilities and their relationship within the Church calls us to embrace our responsibility with our brothers and sisters with disabilities to ensure their meaningful participation in the community of faith.

The Statement affirms the dignity of persons with disabilities, recognizing their inherent baptismal rights to receive spiritual formation, to have full participation, and recognizing their call to share their gifts with the Church.

The Statement also clarifies the roles of communities, parishes, dioceses, and national organizations in the integration of persons with disabilities in all the facets of the church's life.

[Click here to view the Pastoral Statement](#)

Sincerely,

Dennis McNulty & Marilyn Scott
Catholic Charities Disability Services