



THE LATEST NEWS FROM
**SILVER SPRINGS -
MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL**

WE LOVE THEREFORE WE SERVE
(AGAPOMEN DIAKONOMEN)

FALL 2010



Before

*Messiah Lutheran Church,
Downtown Creates
A New Playground For Our
Youngest Children!*



During



After

*“How beautiful
a day can be
when kindness
touches it!”*

~George Elliston

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President's Message



In an inspiring act of timeless caring, please consider naming Silver Springs – Martin Luther School in your will. We are grateful for the recent timeless gifts received from the following estates: Raymond D. and Eva F. Fidler; Verna G. Guterman; E. Jane Hartman; Kathryn E. Kopf; Thomas H. Skidmore Trust; and through Lutheran Home at Germantown Foundation, the estates of: Rudene H. Browne; Margaret C. Clymer; Anna M. Frank; Emma M. Kingerman Trust; Verna L. LaPella; Ethel A. McCollaum; Marie-Leah Reist and Emmalina M. Woll. Children benefit immeasurably from these acts of kindness.

There are no formal requirements for making a bequest to Silver Springs, although we do appreciate receiving notification. To designate a specific purpose, such as general operations, endowment, computers, or assistance to families, it would be helpful if this intention were worded as...“at the Board’s discretion for [name the specific purpose].”

We are happy to work with you and your advisors to ensure that your legacy wishes are honored. For more information about the Society of 1859, our Legacy Society, or about other ways you can make a planned gift to benefit Silver Springs, please contact Joan Plump, Development Officer, at (610) 825-4440, Ext. 318 or JPlump@silver-springs.org.

As always, thank you on behalf of the children.

Sincerely,

Ruth W. Bartelt, President/CEO

AGAPOMEN DIAKONOMEN

“WE LOVE THEREFORE WE SERVE”

Silver Springs - Martin Luther School is a Social Ministry Organization affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and its Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. This periodic newsletter is published to provide staff, families and friends with news and information about Silver Springs - Martin Luther School and its mission. Please direct inquiries or comments about the newsletter to Lynn Unipan, 512 West Township Line Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1001; Tel: (610) 825-4440, ext. 206; Fax: (610) 825-3839; e-mail: lunipan@silver-springs.org.

Visit us on the web at www.silver-springs.org

A mosaic of public and private funding makes possible these services to children and families. Silver Springs receives funding through managed care organizations, the Commonwealth and the federal governments. Non-allowable and capital expenses are funded by individuals, businesses, groups, congregations, corporations, foundations, other friends, Lutheran Home at Germantown Foundation, and Silver Springs - Martin Luther School. Funding is received from Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties (and other counties), the Pennsylvania Department of Education, local school districts, the City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services; a partnership in serving children and families in need.

Because of you, we were able to provide...

- Quality preschool for the three-year-old son of an alumna;
- A coat for each child who arrived at school on winter mornings wearing only a t-shirt;
- 31,460 hot lunches at Luther School last year;
- Grocery store gift cards for 70 families for Thanksgiving and 86 families for Christmas so they could enjoy a special holiday dinner;
- A Septa TransPass for an alumna so she could keep important medical appointments;
- Financial support to help a mom feed her children for a week;
- Funds for an alumna to purchase books and a computer for her first year in college;
- 100 personal care packages for boys and girls entering Residential Treatment last year;
- Financial assistance to the family of a Silver Springs child so they could stay in their apartment for an additional month while the parent sought employment;
- Thirty new computers for Luther School;
- Scholarships for seven college students;
- A visit to our nation's Capital for 63 children;
- A new truck with snow plow to keep the campus cleared and safe in winter.

Thank You!

Silver Springs Children Visit Washington, D.C.

Excitement filled the air early one August morning as sixty-three children and thirty-one staff members from Silver Springs filled two chartered busses for an expedition of sightseeing and educational opportunities in Washington, D.C. Starting with a guided tour of the Capitol, the group was treated to lessons about the history of the rotunda and statues of Pennsylvania senators, and a visit to the Supreme Court Chambers of the 1800's. The group then moved on to the interactive Newseum, which traces the history of journalism and includes exhibits of important historical events, the antenna from The World Trade Center and pieces of The Berlin Wall. After a walk around The Mall and visits to the World War II, Lincoln and Korean War Memorials, the day wrapped up with dinner on the way home. The children were attentive and mesmerized; it was a fantastic trip.



"I started volunteering at Silver Springs because my mother lived in an orphanage as a child. Thanks to the kindness, generosity and love from others, she was able to find her dreams and then follow them. She was given the opportunity to go to Kutztown University and become a successful artist and teacher. When I look into the eyes of the children at Silver Springs, I see my mother's eyes, and hopefully they see the eyes of someone who believes in them and loves them. Hopefully they see a friend."

— Sarah Hale Cohen, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lafayette Hill

Seeing Eye to Eye

These visitors greeted the children with yelps of excitement. Several puppies and their trainers from Seeing Eye in Morristown, NJ came to Silver Springs one summer morning. The volunteer trainers, including Francie Erickson, mother-in-law of Silver Springs social worker Jennifer Erickson, explained to the children that volunteer "host parents" train the puppies for approximately a year, teach them basic skills, and expose them to the various sights and sounds they will encounter once they work as "guide dogs" with the blind.



Social worker Jennifer Erickson and child make a new friend.

The trainers gave the puppies instructions and invited the children to make new furry friends. The children's smiles, some initially tentative, became increasingly enthusiastic. The visit was important to the puppies as well. "The kids helped out by petting and playing with the dogs and creating distractions by making noises that the dogs had to ignore," Jennifer Erickson said. Giggles filled the air as the Golden and Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds enjoyed belly rubs from their new friends, making a fun time for all.

Alumni Spotlight

Andrea is a 19 year old alumna of residential treatment and Martin Luther School. She graduated from Germantown High School and is in her first year at college studying Human Resources Management. Way to go, Andrea!



(Andrea celebrating her high school graduation in 2010)

LuLu Shriners Bring Fun in the Sun

The weather was beautiful; the company excellent; the food delicious and plentiful; and the activities fun. This happy June 10th event was a gift to the children and staff of Martin Luther School from the LuLu Shriners Stewards and LuLu Shrine member, Carlo Malantonio Jr. and his catering company, Grand Buffets Catering. These loyal friends provided lunch for almost 300 (serving much of it from inside a beautiful red trolley), gave each student an adorable stuffed bear and coloring book and entertained all with joke-cracking and balloon-animal-making clowns. Silver Springs is grateful for such generous partners in helping to bring joy to special children!



A New Playground: A Gift from Our Friends at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown



LET THE CHILDREN PLAY... on a new playground nestled under beach, pine and catalpa trees on Silver Springs' 35-acre campus. The playground was made possible by a large financial contribution from Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, whose congregation also volunteered three full Saturdays in May to dig the required footings, pour many wheelbarrows-full of concrete, assemble and install play equipment and spread 100 cubic yards of mulch. We are so grateful!



Blessed With So Many Friends

Throughout the year, many individuals and groups host fun weekend parties for children. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Abington; Bethlehem Baptist Church; AKA Sorority's Twenty Pearls Mentoring Group; Junior League of Philadelphia; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lafayette Hill and others spend weekend afternoons sharing stories, painting faces, playing sports, decorating t-shirts, and celebrating holidays with the children.



A Resilient Child

This is the true story of a 10-year-old boy who came to Silver Springs' Residential Treatment Program after several psychiatric hospitalizations and many different foster family placements. "Alex" had two older sisters, the first born when their mother was just 13. The children had been removed from their mother's care. Alex once went to school with dog feces on his shirt; the home was filthy.



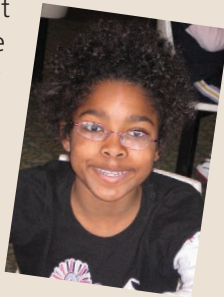
Once placed in foster care, Alex missed his mother terribly. He believed he was being disloyal to her if he enjoyed any other place or family, and believed he did not deserve to be happy anywhere away from his mother.



Soon after placement at Silver Springs, Alex began to talk about everything—but not about his mother. He saved his allowance and gave it to her every week.

Alex's mother was required to take several steps in order to have her children returned to her. She did not meet these requirements, but she did telephone her children and visited them every week.

Alex initially refused to talk about going to another foster family. He threatened to run away from any foster home. Over time, we helped Alex identify his fears. Very slowly he began to believe that he might be able to be happy even if he did not live with his mother. He began to believe that he deserved to be with a family who could take good care of him and that he would still see his mother every week. His mother was able to help him reach this understanding.



Alex moved to a foster home a few months ago. He continues to have a relationship with his mother and, at the same time, is settling in with his new foster family. Alex's resilience is helping him to embrace a hopeful future.

From Fried Eggs to Grilled Cheese

"First you crack the eggs; oh, you have to heat the pan next...." Andrew, an eight-year-old student at Luther School, explained his fried eggs recipe to Chef Aaron McCargo, Jr., his classroom visitor. Camden native and host of Food Network's *Big Daddy's House*, Chef McCargo crouched down next to Andrew's desk and asked him what to do next. A ten minute discussion ensued as the two shared ideas about spices and even how to make a grilled cheese sandwich. "I was so excited when I found out you were coming. I watch your show with my Mom!" said 14-year-old Matthew when Aaron walked into his classroom.



With a robust laugh and ebullient personality, Chef McCargo engaged Luther School students as he visited us in preparation to headline our third celebrity chef benefit, *Chefs for Silver Springs*. Chef McCargo spoke of his commitment to helping children overcome hunger and the challenges too many inner-city youth face. He told the students how he first began cooking in his sister's Easy Bake Oven, emphasizing that they should "keep working, just keep trying to reach your goals." Chef McCargo donates his time to non-profits like Share Our Strength and Great American Dine Out to help end childhood hunger.

Thank you to our *Chefs for Silver Springs* 2010 Sponsors!

Major Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor



Food Network's Chef Aaron McCargo Jr. presents a delicious meal and sets the tone for an energetic evening benefitting the children's programs of Silver Springs



Silver Springs President Ruth Bartelt and Chuck Gulati, Trustee of The Gulati Family Foundation, the evening's Major Sponsor, welcome Chef McCargo



Bob Bartelt, Jr., a *Big Daddy's House* fan, introduced Chef McCargo to the crowd of 225



Clockwise from center above:

Development Director Kristen Gay displaying Roy Halladay-autographed jersey during live auction presided over by Silver Springs Trustee Bob Madonna; Vice President Bob Bartelt with daughter Lauren Purdom; Rick and Debbie Whited with Neil and Leigh Clark; Trustee Jewel Ndulula and niece Constance Cherry share a visit with Chef McCargo; Heather Douglass and Marian Harrison; Chef McCargo greets Karin Henderson, creator of Silver Springs video *Bring Big Smiles to Little Faces* that debuted tonight; Trustee Clyde Basham and wife Lynda; Trustee Bill deHeyman and wife Martha



Thank you to more *Chefs for Silver Springs* 2010 Sponsors!

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Save the Date for Chefs 2011!

On Friday, November 18, 2011 we will welcome Chef Guillermo Tellez of Square 1682 in Center City to join us for another fabulous evening to benefit the children and programs of Silver Springs.
Please join us!

Silver Springs – Martin Luther School



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Thank You to the Individuals, Organizations and Businesses Who Contributed Items to the 2010 *Chefs for Silver Springs* Silent Auction:

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