

May 2019



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

20th Anniversary "Joy & Gratitude" Dinner on June 9th

Will you be joining us?

Reservations are coming in for our 20th Anniversary "Joy & Gratitude" Dinner on Sunday, June 9th, at Fairfield University. More than 300 guests are expected.

Four individuals will be recognized at the signature fundraiser for their dedication to volunteerism, leadership, and partnership.

Dian Jennings Mayo of Redding Ridge will be honored with the Leadership Award for her dedication and early influence in the establishment of the Academy. **Marie and Sal Gilbertie**, owners of Gilbertie's Herb Gardens, will receive the Community Partnership Award for their long association with the Center as a vocational worksite. The late **Jim O'Brien**, one of Saint Catherine Academy's first Board members, will receive the Volunteer Service award. O'Brien helped to steer the construction of the Center's current facility adjacent to Holy Cross Church in Fairfield. ([See last month's enews](#) for more about Jim.)

Each year our Annual Dinner is a creative endeavor on the part of many. This year, both Academy students and adults from the Day Program have been helping us prepare for the big event by creating some beautiful collaged vases. Under volunteer Gina Barber's artistic direction, committee members, staff, and even Brownie Troop 50563 of New Canaan have put together a garden of giant lilies to go in the vases as centerpieces.

At the event, guests will enjoy the music of Keltic Kick while perusing an interesting variety of items in the Silent Auction before dinner. Later, a Live Auction will feature some unique experiences, such as a weekend in Philadelphia with tickets to a Phillies game and Queen concert; a New



York City theater weekend (“Come From Away”); four NY Mets General Manager’s seats; and more.

Corporate sponsors currently include the Knights of Columbus Supreme Office, AEA, GoldPoint Partners, CrossBay Capital Partners, TD Bank, and Neuberger Berman.

The Center has come a long way since 1999, when Saint Catherine Academy opened in the Queen of Saints Retreat House on the campus of the Catholic Center with just five students, one teacher, two aides, and the principal. We now serve 16 students in the Academy and 23 young adults in the Day Program.

"The name of our event—‘Joy & Gratitude’ dinner—is very appropriate. While our role of journeying with our students and adults is challenging work, it brings a lot of joy," said Helen Burland, Executive Director. "This is the only major fundraiser we hold for the Center, and we're excited about a full house on June 9th to join us in the celebration."

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets or make a donation to Saint Catherine Center’s “Joy & Gratitude” Dinner. The Silent Auction will be open online on June 6. For more information about the event, [visit the website](#) or call 203-540-5381.



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