



December 2022



A letter from our Administrator

Dear Family and Friends,

Happy New Year and God bless you and your family with peace and joy in 2023.

Christmas was celebrated throughout the building with many brightly decorated Christmas trees, Christmas garlands and stockings were hung, Christmas lights twinkled, and in our chapel a beautiful creche of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph watching over baby Jesus offered a peaceful refuge. Christmas love was evident as we were blessed with many gifts for the children from our community, local parishes, schools, the Women's Auxiliary and our faithful friends—all of you!

Thanks to you and to our outstanding team from therapists to direct support professionals to nurses and to office staff the children had the most glorious Christmas ever. Everyone contributed to ensure each child enjoyed this very special time of the year. The selfless love and kindness shown by everyone reminded me of Mother Teresa's quote, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your extraordinary acts of kindness and for your generous spirit. May the light that shined at Christmas guide your way throughout the year.

I wish you a new year filled with God's blessings.

Denise Clofine

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Enjoying a buffet lunch, Hallie, Denise and Jessica pose for a picture at the Staff Appreciation Day Party in September.

St. Edmond's Wish List on Amazon!

- ♦ Go to <http://a.co/8UsKvp1> or go to our website where there is a link to our Amazon wish list.
- ♦ Browse list of suggested items requested by staff members who understand needs and desires of our residents
- ♦ If you make a purchase from the list, you can ship it to yourself and drop it off in person, or you can use the preset shipping address to ship it directly to us!
- ♦ Additional wish list items can be found on our website.

St. Philomena Cottage Hershey Fun!



In early September, House Manager, Paulette Wright, and the eager staff and residents from St. Philomena Cottage went on a two day visit to Hershey Park.

Each day was packed with many fun activities like riding the monorail and the carousel. Residents Zoe, Kenya and Nikki enjoyed visiting the Butterfly Garden and seeing all types of beautiful butterflies with many different colors. The ladies also visited Hershey Gardens, Hershey Zoo, and Hershey Water Park.

At the Hershey Amusement Park, Zoe had the most fun on the spinning Teacups Ride. Individual bubble machines were purchased for each young lady causing much laughter as hundreds of bubbles rained around them. Of course, who could resist the aroma from Hershey's Chocolate World where everyone went off to enjoy some more fun... and chocolate. Returning home to St. Philomena Cottage, Paulette shared that every night in Hershey, everybody went back to their rooms very happy and very exhausted!

Located in Newtown Square, St. Philomena Cottage was blessed and dedicated by Bishop John J. McIntyre in October 2020. With the generous support of the Women's Auxiliary, the home was established in response to a need for young adults who were ageing out of St. Edmond's Home for Children.

Please support St. Edmond's Home while shopping on Amazon!

- ♦ Go to smile.amazon.com
- ♦ Sign into your Amazon account or create one
- ♦ Type in St. Edmond's Home for Children in the search bar and click search
- ♦ Select Women's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home
- ♦ Begin your shopping and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of all eligible purchases to St. Edmond's



Dorothy Johnson Retires

This year, St. Edmond's Home saw the retirement of long-time employees Dorothy Johnson and Elizabeth Powell. Elizabeth Powell served the children for 27 years (profiled in our Spring 2022 issue). Dorothy Johnson served the children since 1986...36 years! She could be described as friendly, funny, cheerful and an excellent caregiver who provided outstanding care to all the children. Dorothy truly loved the children as her own and tearfully admitted leaving the children was very difficult for her.



Saying goodbye after many years, Livia, Dorothy, Winsome and Gail.

Dorothy is finally relaxing and attending to her new life which will include a trip to France where her grandchildren reside with her son and daughter-in-law. Dorothy's distinctive, booming voice and Jamaican accent will be missed by everyone—even the children miss that voice!

God Bless you Dorothy for your many, wonderful years of service to St. Edmond's Home. Job well done!

St. Edmond's Camp Rainbow

A yearly tradition, St. Edmond's Home again inaugurated Camp Rainbow in June. This wonderful summer program was established in the 1990s. Camp Rainbow is an exhilarating eight weeks for all the children at St. Edmond's Home—and some children from the community with similar disabilities. It's a time where St. Edmond's transforms everyday activities into fun and exciting themes and where laughter echoes throughout.

The children's smiling faces reveal how much they love Camp Rainbow. Some themes and activities this year included: *Fitness Fun* with a positioning relay, making protein sun butter balls and spa/relaxation time. *Symphony of Senses* where we built our own in-house "please touch museum" and "adventure aquarium" and dug into some sensory play with playdough, homemade putty and sand. *Sports Week* included a sports relay, baking sports cupcakes, and a sports ball guessing game! We ended our exciting eight weeks with one of the favorite themed weeks of the summer: *Beach and Boardwalk* with an outdoor barbecue, games, music, shell painting and sand art. It has been said that a rainbow symbolizes a connection between heaven and earth, but for our laughing, joy-filled children—Camp Rainbow is a bit of heaven on earth!



Better Future Forum

In 2022, St. Edmond's Home initiated a Better Future Forum (BFF). BFF is a monthly zoom meeting open to all staff to enhance inter-organizational communication. Every month each Director provides an update on current and upcoming issues within their respective departments. Overseen by the Administrator, Denise Clofine, the format allows all staff to participate with questions or comments. Residential Supervisor, Winsome Beckford, shared, "I look forward to the forum, because I enjoy hearing ideas from other departments." Kim Cowley, our Family Caseworker, likes the forum because it is inclusive (including the children) and everyone's voice

Thank you Women's Auxiliary!

Staff Jewelry Sale

Staff at St. Edmond's Home were surprised with a Jewelry Sale on October 11. Many wonderful donations of rings, earrings, necklaces, and other goodies were donated by the Women's Auxiliary. President of the Women's Auxiliary, Carolyn Slota, asked the members to donate items if possible. Of course, the legendary generosity of the members resulted in hundreds of donated, beautiful items for the staff to purchase at nominal cost. All of us are very grateful to Carolyn Slota and the members of the Women's Auxiliary for sponsoring this great event...there were many smiles that day! (All proceeds go to staff activities.)



Staff Coat Sale



Considered a tradition at St. Edmond's Home, we are grateful to the Women's Auxiliary for the donations of new and gently worn coats for our annual event. Members not only donated coats but scarves, handbags, shoes and boots! The sale was held on November 30, and many wonderful buys, at nominal cost, were available. Thanks to all the members from the Auxiliary who helped us hold another successful event. Our sincere thanks to everyone else who made a donation to this sale. (All proceeds go to staff activities.)



DJ Drew gets the staff into the holiday spirit with dance music at this year's Christmas Party. Great food from High Street Café and cash prizes (donations from the always generous Marc and Donna Lovenworth) made for a great party!

Welcome



Aissatou Bah

Meet Aissatou Bah our new Director of Program Services. She holds an undergrad degree in healthcare administration from St. Joseph's University and an MBA from Florida International University. She comes to us with a vast and diverse background, ranging from entrepreneurship, human services, social services, project management, operations management and team creation.

In all her endeavors she focuses on bringing sunshine, joy and quality service to the people she serves and her peers. She proudly states that the most important aspect of her job is seeing our children and young adults thriving and reaching their goals and full potential. In her words, "one one coco full up basket", meaning one by one the basket will eventually be filled and to never give up.

Aissatou is passionate about being compassionate, understanding others and meeting people where they are.

All of us warmly welcome Aissatou to the St. Edmond's family.

Our Year Round Wish List

- * Twin Sheet Sets
- * Yellow or Grey Bath Towels, Washcloths
- * Batteries especially AA Batteries
- * Michaels's, Joanne's or Hobby Lobby Gift Cards (for arts and craft activities)
- * Target, Walmart (for unexpected needs)

** A more comprehensive list may be found on our website:

www.stedmondshome.org

Santa Claus visits St. Edmond's Home!



Thank you Bryn Mawr Fire Company

A big thank you to Fire Chief Daniel Kincaid and all the wonderful volunteers of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company! For many years, Bryn Mawr Fire Company has brought Santa Claus to St. Edmond's Home. Bundled up and full of excitement, each year the children wait expectantly for the big fire truck that brings Santa and his elves to our home! It is a delightful holiday tradition for all of us, and we are truly thankful to everyone who participated in this joyful event.

320 S. Roberts Road, Rosemont, PA 19010
610.525.8800  www.stedmondshome.org



COMPASSION

Genuine Care and heartfelt concern for those we serve



DIGNITY

Respect for each person created in God's image, regardless of color, capacity, or age



CHARITY

Generosity toward all people in need, in gratitude for God's goodness to us



JUSTICE

Defense and advocacy for the rights of the poor and disadvantaged



EXCELLENCE

Professional competence and responsible stewardship of time and resources



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MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by love and supporting the dignity and quality of life for each child, skilled professional staff at St Edmond's Home provide an exceptional holistic outcome oriented plan of care for children with intellectual and physical disabilities.

We offer a broad spectrum of medical/nursing and therapeutic services to assist each child in achieving their greatest intellectual, physical and social potential. The children of St Edmond's Home are a reflection of God's love and their lives are immeasurably enriched by the tender and compassionate care of all of our St Edmond's family.

Visit our website at:
www.stedmondshome.org

St. Edmond's Home
is a Program of
Catholic Social Services



Ways You Can Support St. Edmond's Home

Amazon Smile: Shop at smile.amazon.com, click on "select a Charitable Organization to Start Shopping" search for St. Edmond's Home for Children and select Women's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home

Bequest: Name St. Edmond's Home in your will or living trust. (What you bequeath to St. Edmond's Home is exempt from federal estate tax.)

Gift Retirement Assets: Name St. Edmond's Home as your beneficiary of your IRA or retirement account after your lifetime (Exempt from income and estate tax.)

Gift of Life Insurance: Change ownership on a policy you no longer need. (Receive a current income tax deduction, and possible future deductions for payment of future premiums.)

Charitable Remainder of Trust: Create a trust with St. Edmond's Home as the remainder beneficiary of principal. (Receive an immediate income tax deduction.)

Make an outright gift of: Cash, securities, personal property, retained life estate, real estate, charitable lead trust, or charitable gift annuity.

**Not intended as financial or legal advice.
Please consult your advisor.*