

Celebration

Sisters of Charity
of Seton Hill

Fall/Winter 2007 Vol. 16 No. 1

The reviews are in

Seton Arts Service Corps a smash hit

Your support makes it possible

“The program does a wonderful job of fostering students’ confidence and creativity. . . . The program and student teachers truly embraced every child’s unique spirit and encouraged the children to express themselves. . . . I saw my daughter’s confidence increase as the program progressed.”

(Bridget, parent)

The positive responses of parents and children to the 2006-2007 Seton Arts Service Corps are proof of the program’s initial success and its potential. Because of its foundation in the arts, the Seton Arts Service Corps reached across the generations, bringing children and adults together for positive, constructive, and creative interaction.

The program also caught the attention of donors Glenn and Carole Johnson of Greensburg. This summer, they made a five-year pledge in excess of \$100,000 to the Seton Arts Service Corps in memory of their daughter Beth Ann.

She was killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

“The only reason we can afford to do this is because of this atrocity,” Glenn explained.

“Therefore, this money must be used in a way that honors Beth and brings some good from this despicable act.”



Seton Arts Scholar Erin Davis (standing) assists a student during a session at St. James School (Wilkinsburg). Through the Seton Arts Service Corps, children experienced art, drama, and music while learning lessons in respect, patience, and kindness.



Seton Arts Scholar Ryan Carroll (right) demonstrates a drama technique with a student at Word of God School (Swissvale). Studies show that students who participate in the arts are more likely to show improvement in their attitudes toward school, self-esteem, and self-efficacy than non-participating youth.

A psychology major at Seton Hill University, Beth hoped to pursue a career in drama therapy or music therapy. The Johnsons believe that the Seton Arts Service Corps exemplifies their daughter and her interests. Projects that they choose to fund must meet two criteria:

- Is this something that would have been of interest to Beth?
- Is the project one that is well organized with set goals and dedicated people who have the desire to achieve?

Beth’s talents were numerous. She mastered 14 musical instruments, was

continued on page 8



In Memoriam: Beth Ann Johnson

We remember, Beth,
The joy you brought,
The smile that warmed,
The gift you shared,
As music’s praise
Raised hearts and minds
From earth to heaven
Your spirit sings eternal praise

—Sister M. Thomasine Steel,
January 15, 1989

MISSION STATEMENT

The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill is an apostolic community of women religious, baptized in Christ, and vowed to continue the mission of His Church. In the Spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Elizabeth Seton, the Congregation conceives its purpose to be an active ministry on behalf of the Kingdom.

This service is: informed by Gospel values, responsive to the needs of a changing world, guided by the prudent use of available resources, respectful of human dignity, protective of human rights, devoted especially to the poor and oppressed, rooted in faith, animated by prayer, supported by the common life, and performed in humility, simplicity, and charity.

Celebration

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Editor: Susan M. Isola
Graphics Editor: Sister Mary Kay Neff, SC

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Dear Friends,

In western Pennsylvania, around Labor Day, it's easy to sense the changing of the seasons. The warm, sunny days transition to cool, crisp nights, hinting at the winter to come. It reminds me that Thanksgiving is just around the corner, followed by the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

In this issue, we are pleased to announce our newly elected Provincial Council (page 4). As we move through our own transition, it is amazing to see how much we have accomplished in the past five years . . . and how much more we hope to do in these next five years. Your support of our efforts, through your generous donations and your prayers, allows us to be an instrument of change in today's society.

This fall, the Seton Arts Service Corps, a collaborative ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill and Seton Hill University, marks its second anniversary. Its initial success is evident in the responses of participating students, parents, and Seton Arts Scholars. We continue to seek funding for this ministry to further develop our initial program and for expansion into other neighborhoods and counties. We are grateful for the generosity of Glenn and Carole Johnson. Their support of this ministry is a living tribute to their daughter, Beth Ann, a psychology major at Seton Hill University who was killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland (page 1).

Rendu Services, Inc., a collaborative ministry of the Daughters of Charity, Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, and the Vincentian Sisters of Charity, continues to positively impact the lives of the people in Fayette County (page 3). Two Sisters of Charity now serve on the staff: Sister Annette Frey and Sister Mary Philip Aaron. Sister Rachel Blais, completing her requirements for a master's degree in social work, joins them as an intern for the next year. Your support of their work enables them to reach out to others in need of life's basic necessities.

Finally, we wanted to give you a snapshot of the positive things that are happening in schools where Sisters of Charity administer (page 4). Many of you have shared with us the positive and lasting influence our sisters have had in your lives through their ministries in education. Whether it's academic achievement or serving others, our sisters continue to teach valuable lessons to the next generation.

We thank you for your ongoing support of our sisters, their ministries, and our retired sisters. Daily, we remember you in our prayers, knowing that with your support and God—nothing is impossible.

Yours in Christ,

Vivien Linkhauer, S.C.

Vivien Linkhauer, SC
President/Provincial Superior



Vivien Linkhauer, SC

Making a difference in Fayette County

Rendu Services helping others to improve their lives

You can help us to do more

At 8:45 a.m., the township truck pulls up to the curb. Three township workers, the sisters, and volunteers pass cartons of food hand-to-hand from the truck into the food pantry, the basement of the house that is the center of operations for Rendu Services, Inc.

By 9:15 a.m., the volunteers and sisters finish arranging the food on long tables placed around the perimeter of the small room. The sweet fragrance of ripening cantaloupes fills the room—a treat since fresh produce is typically hard to obtain by food banks. Among the staples are instant mashed potatoes, elbow macaroni, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, and canned goods. Crusty loaves of bread are stacked on one table and another holds bags of frozen chicken breasts and hot dogs.

Sister Annette Frey, SC, calls everyone together to join hands. Her prayer from the heart is touching, ending with the words, "May we give more than food, but also ourselves and You. Amen."

Though the food pantry doesn't officially open until 10 a.m., clients begin lining up at 9:30 a.m. Many bring their own box in which to carry their allotment of food. Some come alone; others have children with them or another family member.

Volunteer Melvina Morrison takes her place behind one of the tables, keeping a watchful eye on her 11-year old grandson, Jeffrey Morrison, who is volunteering for the first time. Other volunteers include Kathy Dugan, Bob Horwatt, Cheryl Baughman, and first-timer Bev Peterson. Some of the volunteers also partake of the food pantry's services, wanting in some small way to give back for the help they themselves have received. Other volunteers see this as a means to help the sisters and others in their community.

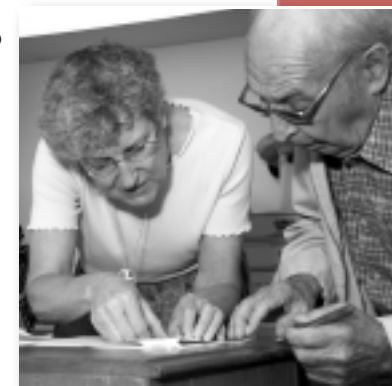
The food pantry feeds approximately 75 people each month, but Rendu Services does more than just provide food. Its services include:

- Health outreach through the Health Van ministry and assisting parishes in setting up Parish Nursing Programs;
- Literacy outreach to children and adults;
- Delivery of Meals-on-Wheels (weekly);
- Assessment and referral of clients to community social service agencies;
- Community disaster training through the American Red Cross;
- Leadership training for volunteers.

While this organization continues to change lives in Fayette County, the sisters know that more can be done. Their immediate needs include:

- Constructing a second building on the property to house a larger, more easily accessible food pantry, a free clothing exchange, and blood pressure screenings;
- Maintenance and repair of their current building (a house that is approximately 100 years old) to meet health and safety codes;
- Compensating for the increase in gasoline prices that affect the use of the Health Van;
- Upgrading the computers used by the staff.

Their dreams for the future—which you can help them to achieve—involve expanding current services, adding a social worker to the staff, developing a prison ministry, and continuing their efforts to assist clients in developing their full potential.



A Rendu Services Success Story

Sister Annette shared this story about a family of five who were experiencing financial difficulties because the father's job didn't provide enough income to support the family. There were three teenagers in the family—two boys and a girl—lots of hungry mouths to fill, explains Sister Annette. The family used the Rendu Services Food Pantry for approximately 36 months.

During this time, the mother was attending classes at the Penn State-Fayette Campus, working towards a bachelor's degree in administration of justice. Four years later, she's earned her degree and now has a job at the

Adelphoi Village that provides full benefits for herself and her family. This year, she didn't return to the food pantry because she is now contributing to the support of her family. Additionally, her husband was able to get a better job. The food pantry helped to support the family while she earned her degree, which now allows her to help others who are in the same situation that she was.

PHOTO TOP: Sister Annette Frey (left) helps a client with paperwork at the food pantry. Helping clients to fulfill basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing is a primary goal of Rendu Services.



Sister Mary Philip Aaron (left) hands a loaf of bread to a client. Statistics show that 45.6 percent of Fayette County residents have a household income below \$25,000 and single-parent families represent 24.5 percent of the population.

Sisters of Charity helping others to achieve
Students earn prestigious scholarships

Your support keeps sisters in the schools

Two eighth-grade students at St. James School (Wilkesburg) each received a \$3,000 scholarship toward their tuition at a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Sister Marie Margaret Wolf, SC, (seated, left) principal, and Sister Antoinette Bosco, SC (seated, right), family liaison, congratulate Julian Randall (standing, left) and Asia Harris (standing, right) who received two of 10 scholarships presented to students in four local dioceses. This is the first year students from St. James School were eligible to apply for the Bishop Donald Wuerl Scholarship, sponsored by Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania.

Your contribution to our Sister Support Fund enables Sisters Marie Margaret and Antoinette to accept a reduced salary from this inner-city diocesan elementary school that ministers to children living in impoverished and at-risk conditions. You are helping us to make a difference in their lives.



Sierra Welsh, right, a seventh-grader at St. Philip School (Crafton), was one of 31 students in the Diocese of Pittsburgh named a 2007 Carson Scholars Fund Award recipient. The award recognizes and rewards students in grades four through 11 who strive for academic excellence and demonstrate a strong commitment to their community. Scholarships are awarded for attendance at four-year colleges and universities upon a student's graduation from high school.

"Sierra is the second student from our school to receive this award," said Sister Geraldine "Geri" Marr, SC, principal. "The honor not only recognizes academic excellence, but honors students who are service minded and caring. Sierra jumps at any opportunity that allows her to help others. Her academic achievement and service to the community will make her an outstanding leader for tomorrow."



Sisters of Charity elect new Provincial Council

Sister Vivien Linkhauer (center) was re-elected to a second five-year term as Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Charity. Joining her

on the 2007-2012 Provincial Council are (standing, from left) Sister Catherine Meinert, Sister Brigid Marie Grandey, Sister Brycelyn Eyler, and Sister Grace Hartzog.

Bquests enable the mission to continue

Throughout the years, many of our loyal supporters have included the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in their estate plans. For this we are extremely grateful. These gifts, which contribute to the support of our sisters, enable us to continue our mission to serve those in need. During the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2007, the Sisters of Charity were the recipients of nine planned gifts totaling \$41,806.

We remember in our prayers the persons listed below, as well as their friends and families. As we did during their lifetimes, we continue to offer our thanks to these benefactors for the following planned gifts:

- Estate of Margaret F. Bertram
- Estate of Bernice E. Gibbons
- Estate of Mary M. Griffin
- Estate of Catherine Majhan
- Estate of Mary E. Maslar
- Estate of Walter J. O'Connor

Estate of Dorothy M. Scanlon
 Estate of Father John Unger
 Estate of Sister Miriam David Volker, SC
If you are interested in exploring how you can make a difference in the lives of others through a planned gift to the Sisters of Charity, please contact Kristina Swank, director of Institutional Advancement, at 724-836-0406, ext. 640, to discuss planned giving possibilities.



SISTER M. EUGENE O'DONNELL, SC, age 93, died April 19 at Caritas Christi. A native of Pittsburgh, she entered the Congregation in 1932 from Saint Raphael Parish (Morningside). A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, she earned a master's degree from Providence College (RI). Her early ministry experience was as a secondary school teacher at Saint James (West End); Sacred Heart (Shadyside); Saint Anselm (Swissvale), and Holy Innocents (Sheraden) where she was principal. She also taught at Salpointe High School (Tucson) from 1950 until 1959. In 1968, she was instrumental in developing the Greensburg Diocese's Adult Institute under the direction of the late Bishop William G. Connare. Her other ministry experiences include serving as a diocesan area coordinator for religious education, a member of the staff of the Doran Hall Retreat and Renewal Center, and as a Seton Hill University trustee. Prior to her retirement in 1999, she served as a docent at the Carnegie Museum Library for 10 years. In 2003, Salpointe High School (Tucson) honored her and three former students by inducting them into the school's "Hall of Champions."



SISTER MARGARET MARIE DOWD, SC, age 89, died July 10 at Caritas Christi. A Pittsburgh native, she entered the Congregation in 1945 from Saint Mary of the Mount Parish (Pittsburgh) and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hill University. Sister Margaret Marie's primary ministry was teaching, and she served in schools in the Greensburg, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, and Tucson dioceses, and the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington. As a member of the teacher-exchange program between the Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of the Holy Family (New Orleans, LA), she taught in the Diocese of Lafayette (LA). Sister Margaret Marie also ministered as a catechetical teacher at Holy Trinity Parish (Huntingdon) and provided auxiliary services at Elizabeth Seton Adult Care Center (Brookline).



SISTER MARY CALLISTA MC CHESNEY, SC, age 95, died July 15 at Caritas Christi. A native of Pittsburgh, she entered the Congregation in 1931 from Saint Joseph Parish (Sharpsburg) and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Duquesne University. Sister Mary Callista taught at the primary level in diocesan schools in Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, Pittsburgh, and Tucson in addition to the Archdioceses of Los Angeles and Washington. She also taught catechetical classes at Most Holy Trinity Parish (Huntingdon). From 1979-1985, Sister Mary Callista was the coordinator at the Greensburg Central Catholic Faculty House (Greensburg). From 1985-1992, she resided at Saint Pius X convent (Mount Pleasant) and did volunteer work in the parish and neighborhood.

Through their ministries, the Sisters of Charity have touched the lives of thousands of people. If a Sister of Charity has made a difference in your life, please consider a gift in her honor or memory. You may use the envelope provided, or contact Kary Coleman, Annual Fund director, at 724-836-0406, ext. 615.

by Sister Grace Hartzog, SC
We Remember...

Continuing the Work of Charity

Welcome to our newest donors

A warm welcome to our newest Partners in the Work of Charity!

Each and every donor helps to improve the quality of life for others, including those who are poor and in need, as well as our own retired and infirm sisters. Thanks to you, we are able to help more people through our ministries in education, the social services, healthcare, parish ministry, and pastoral care.

Daily, we remember all of our donors—our Partners in the Work of Charity—in our prayers. God's great blessings help us all to make a difference!



Welcome: New Annual Fund Director

The Sisters of Charity recently hired Kary Coleman as the Annual Fund Director for the U.S. Province. Her experience includes more than seven years working in the development field, incorporating annual fund administration, public relations, special event management, and grant writing. "As a graduate of Seton Hill University, I am well acquainted with the mission and vision of the Sisters of Charity and want to direct a fund development plan that will meet the needs of the sisters and their work," says Coleman.

New Donors

from 3/1/07 to 6/30/07

(3) anonymous
Amica Companies Foundation
Catholic Congregants of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth
William & Mary Harrington Fund
Saint Sylvester Parish-Slickville, PA
Jim and Gerry Adair
Mr. Richard Akers
Ms. Peggy Bach
Ms. Linda Basco
Ms. Jenny Batchko
Ms. Kathy Ann Bee
Ms. Stephanie Bee
Mrs. Celeste Bowler
Adelaide Aschmann Brady
Sister Louise Bray
Ms. Elaine Bryan
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Camut and Family
Mrs. Rita Carr
Mrs. Alyne Joan Cawood
Mrs. Noreen P. Connolly
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Ms. Susan Mucha
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Ms. Joselle M. Skelley and Mr. Carmel C. CoCo
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smallhoover
Ms. Eleanor M. Smelko
Ms. Kelly Smith
Mr. Joseph V. Soisson
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Mr. and Mrs. James E. Vecellio
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory V. Vroegindewey
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff J. Wild
Mrs. William Wingfield
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Woodhead
Dr. Marcia Wratcher
Mrs. Christine Zupancic

Making our work possible

Partners in the Work of Charity

Through the generous support of our sponsors, the Sisters of Charity will welcome benefactors to the 2007 Partners in the Work of Charity event, on Sunday, September 16, at their motherhouse, Caritas Christi.

This annual stewardship event allows the sisters to express their appreciation—in person—to you, our benefactors and Partners in the Work of Charity, for your wonderful support this past year. It also allows us to share the good news of our ministries with you. Your support of the Sisters of Charity and our ministries allows us to help so many others who are in need.

Because of the generous support of our sponsors, the complete cost of this annual event is underwritten. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to these companies and organizations who stepped forward to support our event at the Gold (\$5,000), Silver (\$2,500), and Bronze (\$1,000) levels.

This year, in addition to the Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors shown to the right, eight other businesses are supporting our event at the patron level (less than \$1,000):

- Ager Sales & Service;
- Beckman Motors;
- Candy Vending Machine Company;
- Gibson-Thomas Engineering Company, Inc.;
- InSIGHT Eye Consultants;
- Likar Roofing Company;
- Mellon Bank;
- Moore Tire Service, Inc.;
- Westmoreland Telephone Company.

Enjoy Coupon Books Available

Order your copy of Enjoy 2008 for only \$25. This book offers more than 1,000 half-off and two-for-one coupons on travel, shopping, dining, sporting events, regional attractions, and more in the Pittsburgh region. To order your copy, call 724-836-0406, ext. 644, (Greensburg) or 412-421-5862 (Pittsburgh). Enjoy 2008 will be available through December (A \$3 handling fee will be added to any order requiring shipping.)

Card Party & Luncheon Scheduled

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 13, and plan to attend our annual card party and luncheon to benefit the Far East Missions. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Thank you to the Sewickley Spa for donating a massage package for our Treasure Chest prize. Door prizes and a ticket auction will also be offered. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person or \$100 for a table of four. Call 724-836-0406, ext. 647, for reservations. Proceeds benefit our sisters' work in South Korea and China.

Holiday Cash Tickets available in October

Tickets will be available on October 1 for our Holiday Cash Calendar Ticket. For \$10, each ticket provides 26 chances to win from \$100 to \$1,500. Only 1,000 tickets will be available, and winning numbers will be taken from the 7 p.m. Pennsylvania 3-digit Lottery. All cash winnings are determined by the amount of money on each day of the ticket's calendar. No prizes will be awarded on Sundays. Call 724-836-0406, ext. 644, to reserve your ticket.

Annual Flea Market set

Donations of gently used items for our annual flea market will be accepted from October 15 through October 23 at the Activity Room, Caritas Christi. Please, no clothing or furniture.

The flea market opens with an Early Bird Sale Thursday, October 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$5. Admission is free from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Other dates for the event include Friday, October 26, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, October 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sunday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. when we have our "Bag Sale." Admission is free during these three days.

Gold
Sponsors

Seton Hill
UNIVERSITY



Silver
Sponsors



Bronze
Sponsors



Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Partners in the Work of Charity Event
Caritas Christi • 1:30 p.m.

October 1 – November 30, 2007

Holiday Cash Ticket available for purchase
DePaul Center, Greensburg
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Card Party to benefit the Far East Missions
Caritas Christi • 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

October 15-23, 2007

Flea Market: drop off gently used items
(no clothing or furniture, please)
Activity Room, Caritas Christi
Call 724-853-7948, ext. 110, for information.

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Flea Market: Early Bird Sale
Activity Room, Caritas Christi
\$5 Admission (6 p.m. - 7 p.m.)
Free Admission (7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)

Friday, October 26, 2007

Flea Market
Activity Room, Caritas Christi
Free Admission
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Flea Market
Activity Room, Caritas Christi
Free Admission • 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Flea Market: Bag Sale
(Everything that fits in a bag for \$4)
Activity Room, Caritas Christi
Free Admission • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

December 2, 2007

Advent Visit
Caritas Christi

Sisters of Charity
of Seton Hill
DePaul Center
463 Mt. Thor Road
Greensburg, PA 15601-1293
724/836-0406
412/243-4651 (Pgh.)
724/836-8280 (FAX)

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Seton Arts Service Corps a smash hit continued from page 1

active in the college's music ministry, and played the organ for the Sisters' Masses at Assumption Hall. A resident assistant (RA) at Seton Hill University during the summer of 1988, Beth and the other RAs organized "Opportunity 1988," a show to showcase the talent of the students they were mentoring.

"Now that I think of it, this certainly could have been a forerunner of the Seton Arts Service Corps," said Carole. "We see this project as a 'win' for everyone involved. We're sure that Beth would have been a Seton Arts Scholar if the program existed when she was a Seton Hill student. We are proud to sponsor this program."

Plans are underway to select the next group of Seton Arts Scholars and consideration is being given to expanding the program to a third inner-city location in Pittsburgh. Your gift in support of the Seton Arts Service Corps exposes at risk youth and their families to the transformational power of the arts through theatre, music, dance, and the visual arts. Your generosity will inspire a life-changing experience through creativity and engagement.



Seven sessions of the Seton Arts Service Corps were held at Word of God School (Swissvale). Students of all abilities and ages excelled in the creative atmosphere fostered by the Seton Arts Scholars and the program.