



## DOES GOD SMILE? A Loving Tribute

In the midst of several rainy days, one day burst forth in sunshine – the day we said goodbye to Tyequan. With a mixture of sadness for losing him and joy for having known him, Tyequan’s family and Cardinal Hayes staff gathered in the little church, St. Joseph’s, right down the hill from where Tyequan had spent the last six years of his life. In the cemetery as the sizable crowd gathered closer to Tyequan’s grave for the final words of the burial, the sun briefly ducked behind a cloud and then shined brightly again. It was as if Tyequan was smiling and tipping his hat in amazement to see how many people had gathered to pay him tribute.

Tykie, as he was affectionately known, came to Cardinal Hayes Home when he was 11 years old, and those at Hayes quickly learned that although Tykie had an imperfect body, he had a beautiful spirit. When God gave this boy his magnificent smile and cheerful nature, was God trying to teach us something – this is how to live, this is how to be joyful even when things are not as we would like them to be?

Memories written by staff were read at his service. The memories vary but they show what a profound effect Tykie had on all who knew him...



***Tykie had a beautiful smile and a beautiful spirit***

*Most of all I’m going to miss caring for Tyequan – he always made me smile... I’m going to miss you singing along or talking along with your CDs and DVDs. I’ll remember how happy I was when you got into the Beatles and you’d fill in the words for me for “All You Need is Love” and “Yellow Submarine.”... The beautiful boy with the biggest smile I’ve ever seen*

*– that’s how I will always remember Tyequan... I just want you to know that I love you so. You have left such a print on my heart... I’ll always remember your sense of humor, the special bond you shared with your brother, your love of music – your perfect sense of rhythm and time. The way you touched so many lives, the way you touched my heart... Many days I would hear him singing, “This Little Light of Mine” in the hall with*

*Sister Martha. She would stop at the end of each line, and Tyequan would pipe in so joyfully with “shine.”*

Tyequan’s final illness did not last long – the pneumonia that took his life was too much for his fragile body to fight. Staff and Sisters valiantly stood watch at his bedside in those final hours, anticipating that Tykie’s days of suffering were almost over, that the Lord was close at hand, ready to take Tyequan home. Does God smile? He surely did when He opened His arms and welcomed a most extraordinary young man, smiling from ear to ear and maybe singing “All You Need is Love.”

# PRE-VOCATIONAL CLASSES STIMULATE STUDENTS

## New program challenges youngsters

A student who graduates must move on to something new and faces different circumstances that require different skills and ways of coping. Since those who will reach this milestone at Cardinal Hayes School will no longer be students, their lives will be changed. In order to prepare our young people for life after graduation, pre-vocational classes have been developed where they will learn some basic job skills as well as social skills. Many will thus be able to function well in a day program.

Small groups meet on different days, and their tasks vary according to their abilities. The students are involved in the recycling process, watering plants, deliveries of mail from building to building. Those not capable of doing these things do simple assembly tasks.



*Putting away supplies*

A visit to this program demonstrates how it encourages young people with special needs. Challenges are geared to the individual's ability. The routine and structure of the program have a positive effect, bringing a sense of organization and

stability to the lives of the students. There are now seven classrooms at Cardinal Hayes School, and five of the seven participate in the pre-vocational program. The students in the other two classes have very severe physical and intellectual disabilities that prevent them from taking part.



*Shredding documents*

Observing a classroom session makes one aware of the attributes of the staff. The atmosphere is calm and steady in spite of the fact that one student is in need of special attention from several staff. The other students are all busy at a table, assembling simple puzzles or completing a workbook page. One young man showed slight frustration because he wanted a snack. He was gently reminded, "It's not time yet – put the banana away. Get work sheets and get yourself a pencil." This he did without protest.

Teacher Dara Russell is enthusiastic about the pre-vocational program and happy to explain its purpose. There are two phases: the pre-vocational involves simple assembly tasks, packaging, sorting,

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## PRE-VOCATIONAL CLASSES

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etc., to get students accustomed to “going to work.” Then there are the vocational tasks such as putting away school supplies and gardening (tomatoes, beans and squash are among the vegetables planted). Watering newly planted trees at the school site is another regular job.



*Assembly takes concentration*

Each classroom orders supplies from the kitchen, and regular trips to the main building on campus are made to bring the supplies back to the school. The tasks undertaken by the students are myriad, ranging from pick up and delivery of laundry to wiping down equipment and booster seats. Setting up tables and chairs for a staff meeting, photocopying and shredding are also tasks undertaken with supervision by staff.

As the students learn to do these tasks, they have greater self-esteem and take pride in their skills. Whether it’s assembling a puzzle or tending the garden, there is a sense of satisfaction in their smiles. That “ahh” feeling of accomplishment is written on their faces. What a joy and education it is to spend a few hours with these young people. Isn’t that one of the things it takes to be satisfied in life? – striving to do well the work that one is capable of and taking pride in it!

## ACCOLADES FOR GRADUATES

### Tributes to graduates at a WOW ceremony

Graduations are always special, but graduation at Cardinal Hayes School is truly extraordinary. This year, six students graduated – six young people with special needs and special personalities. Executive Director Fred Apers’ remarks focused on the passion and dedication of staff...  
*“You chose to be here. You make Cardinal Hayes Home and Cardinal Hayes School what they are. You give of yourself to help another person succeed. We could not survive without folks like you.”*



*Chaim – one of this year’s graduates*

The graduates, one by one, were honored by staff members who spoke of each student’s special qualities and uniqueness. The remarks were touching, sometimes humorous, and always memorable.

# A FINGER ON OUR PULSE

## Comments from New Employees

A recent post-orientation review offered new staff the opportunity to respond to several questions or statements. This sampling of “off the cuff” remarks indicates impressions of some new Cardinal Hayes employees:

**Question:** What “words of wisdom” would you share with a new employee?

**Answer:** (1) *You will love the kids, and the hard work pays off;* (2) *Treat people the way you would like to be treated;* (3) *be patient.*

**Q:** (comment on this sentence) – Caring for this population gives me a sense of fulfillment.

**A:** (1) *Because their success tells me I am doing a good job;* (2) *They appreciate everything you do for them, and they return it with love;* (3) *Making a change in someone’s life.*

**Q:** Teamwork is very important here – why do you think that is so?

**A:** (1) *Things get done the right way;* (2) *It makes everything easier and more fun.*

## INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

You are invited to visit our website:  
[www.cardinalhayeshome.org](http://www.cardinalhayeshome.org)

What would you like to know – the history of Cardinal Hayes Home?... more about the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who sponsor CHH?... what kind of programs are offered here?... how to make a donation online? Or do you just want to look at some pictures of our youngsters? Whatever the reason, all this information and more is available on your computer via the Internet.

If you have comments about our website, or anything else related to our agency or our school, I would love to hear from you. Send an e-mail to: [fredapers@cardinalhayeshome.org](mailto:fredapers@cardinalhayeshome.org).

# MEMORIAL OR IN HONOR GIFTS

## Donations with special meaning

Memorial contributions to Cardinal Hayes Home are a great comfort to families who have lost a loved one. Donations can also be given to honor someone – for example, on a special occasion such as an anniversary or birthday. When a gift is in memory of a person who has passed away, a card is sent to the family of the deceased. If a donation is in honor of a person, a card is sent to that person. In both cases, a thank you note from Cardinal Hayes Home is sent to the donor.

You may use the form below to send with your gift, or you may write the information on a separate paper and include with your donation. All gifts directly benefit the young people in care at Cardinal Hayes Home.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

Send card to:

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In Honor of

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Send card to:

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# MARSHMALLOWS ANYONE?

## What an evening for a campfire!

The weather was perfect on this July evening, and everyone was psyched for a fun event that brought together children and young adults from Cardinal Hayes campus homes and five community homes. It was easy to capture the mood as kids and staff began to gather. What a sight... wheelchairs being pushed across the lawn, everyone headed for the small campfire burning in a cleared area, greetings and laughter as residents and staff from different homes saw each other. As with any group of youngsters, these kids remember previous good times (for example, the spring semi-formal) and excitedly renew acquaintances.



*This is how you toast marshmallows*



*Blow on it to cool it!*



*S'mores are really yummy!*

One of the highlights of the evening was toasting marshmallows and learning how to eat them – “blow on it to cool it, isn’t that good?” And s’mores were eaten as quickly as they were put together. When the sun began to set, the mood became more relaxed and the chatter more subdued, but the smiles remained. No wonder there were many staff here, not because they were “on duty” but because they did not want to miss this wonderful evening.



*Vinnie enjoys a chat with Wayne Frenzel, Ass't. Exec. Dir.*

## AMAZING: A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!

### CHS Student brings a new dimension to local Spelling Bee

Each spring the Literacy Connections organization sponsors a community spelling bee in which local schools and businesses participate. Two-person teams compete in a lively and fun session, cheered on by the audience. This is a major fundraiser for Literacy Connections that helps more people to read, write and reach their potential.

This year, Jeremiah\*, a resident of Cardinal Hayes Home and student at Cardinal Hayes School, took part in the spelling bee along with a CHH staff member. Jeremiah is non-verbal but has made significant progress at Hayes through the use of sign language and a device called a "Dynavox." Each time it was their turn, Jeremiah and his partner carefully listened to the word. Then each letter was spoken to Jeremiah who pressed that letter on the Dynavox. To the delight of the audience, they were able to go several rounds before stumbling on the spelling of a word.

Those watching the spelling bee always enthusiastically root for their team, but this year the entire audience cheered and clapped for the unique team from Cardinal Hayes. The smile on Jeremiah's face reflected his pride and happiness. We can't wait until next year's event!

\* name changed for privacy purposes

## A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY Notre Dame student enjoys volunteer experience

During the summer months, Notre Dame offers the opportunity for students to take part in Summer Service Project Internships at various sites throughout the country. For several years, a Notre Dame student has been assigned to Cardinal Hayes School for the summer program. This has been arranged through Cardinal Hayes board member Ron Mosca, an alumnus of Notre Dame.

This year's student volunteer, Molly Boyle, sent this thank you note to Cardinal Hayes School following her internship:

*Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to volunteer at Cardinal Hayes this summer. From the moment I stepped into the school, I could tell what an amazing facility it was. Cardinal Hayes creates a truly wonderful environment that allows students and staff to thrive and learn. I enjoyed every day of my eight weeks at Cardinal Hayes and learned a great deal from my experience. This is a wonderful opportunity for Notre Dame students, and I will relay all the good information about this place to the student who comes next year. Thanks again... Molly Boyle*

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES SIZZLE Treatment specialists outdo themselves in planning for school breaks

The schedule of summer activities was awesome! With zeal, energy and imagination, Treatment Specialists lined up fun times for CHH residents for the weeks when school was not in session. There was an evening "camping" event with songs and stories; "let's go fly a kite" when kites were made and flown; a "Five Little Monkeys" story with sing-along and games; "Rhythm and Music" – designing and making musical instruments; cooking class (taking into consideration special diets); Play Doh party; swim day at a local lake when one-on-one staffing was required; a scavenger hunt – can you find all the treasure?

These and other activities made the summer weeks fun for both our young people and our staff. Three cheers for the Treatment Specialists who devoted time and energy to making sure that summertime 2009 was extraordinary for our youngsters.

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Sponsored by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
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Visit our website:  
[www.cardinalhayeshome.org](http://www.cardinalhayeshome.org)