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 info@johnpauliicenter.org | www.johnpauliicenter.org

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About John Paul II Center

John Paul II Center for Special Learning provides a unique educational and social program for children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are the only Catholic school in the greater Berks County area serving students with this kind of special need.

Like everyone else, people with disabilities have the capacity to make significant contributions to the community and to the world by utilizing their God-given talents. John Paul II Center for Special Learning was founded to provide each student the opportunity to develop this potential.

We educate the whole child, academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. The teachers and staff of John Paul II Center help the students grow through a child-centered curriculum based on a philosophy that each young person is a unique individual. Teachers strive to nurture spiritual development by emphasizing the values of sharing, cooperation, and respect of others through instruction and example. We serve children ages three to 21 of all faiths and religious beliefs, and have traditionally served Catholics and non-Catholics in equal numbers. Those students who are Catholic are prepared to receive their sacraments.

The overall focus of our educational program is to accelerate a student's growth through individual attention. Classes are offered from preschool age to the secondary level, including multi-disabilities.



Counting Our Blessings

 **JOHN PAUL II CENTER
 FOR SPECIAL LEARNING**
 Annual Report
 July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

2012-13 ADVISORY BOARD

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Community Volunteer

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A Mission of Faith

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Rev. Msgr. James A. Treston
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Violand & Associates

Michele Weber
Community Volunteer

HONORARY MEMBERS

Sister Francis Bisland, CPS
Honorable Arthur Grim
The late Senator Michael A. O'Pake

Our Mission

To provide a quality individualized academic, social and religious program for children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities or related special education needs in a safe, nurturing, Christian environment that acknowledges the dignity of all learners while challenging them on a daily basis to develop their talents and reach their God-given potential.



Upcoming Events

Walk-a-thon
Sunday, October 20, 2013

Hoagie Sale
Friday, November 1, 2013

Christmas Program
Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Catholic Schools Week
January 27, 2014 – January 31, 2014

Legacy Gala
Saturday, April 5, 2014

Graduation
Monday, June 2, 2014



Counting Our *Blessings*

Educational Income Tax Credits

Eastern Pennsylvania
Scholarship Fund

East Penn Manufacturing Co., Inc
Entech Engineering
First Priority Bank
VIST Financial

Berks County Community Foundation

Berks County Scholarship Tax Credit
Fund
Private School Tuition Assistance Fund

Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits

Eastern Pennsylvania
Scholarship Fund

Cambridge-Lee Industries, LLC
Customers Bank
Freedom Auto Group

Grants

Bartlett Foundation
Diocese of Allentown – Forward
With Christ Campaign

Matching Gift

Abbott Fund
FM Global Foundation
Maggs & Associates/Merrill
Lynch
Merck Partnership for Giving
Penn National Gaming

Endowment

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Close



Ways to Support *JPII*

- Daily prayers for students and staff
- Volunteer by helping in the classroom or serving on a committee
- Support our Walk-a-thon and Holiday Raffle
- Support our Guiding Hands Annual Fund
- Become a sponsor and attending the Legacy Gala
- Make a gift in honor or memory of someone special
- Designate a gift to the Endowment Fund
- Make a gift of appreciated assets
- Include John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Inc. in your estate planning
- Creating a Gift Annuity
- Make John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Inc. beneficiary of your retirement plan assets
- Business participation in State tax credit programs

If you find that your name has been inadvertently excluded from this listing, please accept our sincerest apology. We greatly appreciate any and all support that we receive and it is not our intention to exclude anyone.



Work for *Independence*

Students, ages 16 and older, have the opportunity to work at various businesses in the community on a volunteer basis. This experience helps students to gain responsibilities and job skills. A job coach from John Paul II Center accompanies the students to the job site for assistance, guidance, and support.

Jack Horrigan
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Haberberger

Paul & Bernadette Yohn
Rev. Stephen Halabura

In Kind

Ady Cakes, LLC
Anewalt's Landscape Contracting
Austin's
Berkshire Country Club
Berks Western Telecom
Ms. Jackie Binkley
Bistro 614
Body Zone Sports and Wellness
Boscov's Ala Carte Catering
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Boylan
Ms. Bernadette Bresnahan
Emily Warner-Burton
Butler's Pantry
Ms. Michele Byrne
Ms. Monika Capozzi
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Carpenter
Carpenter Technology Corporation
The Carriage House
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Ciatto
Mr. Albert Ciervo

City Charm Company
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Close
Cumru Township Lions Club
Dan's at Green Hills
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Dodge
EnerSys
Mr. & Mrs. Geoff Ermentrout
Fightin Phils
First Priority Bank
Dr. Frank A. Franco
French Creek Golf Club
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Mr. & Mrs. Dave Heckman
Ms. Charlene Jobe
Judy's on Cherry
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kerber
Kupkake Kouture
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Laser
Mr. & Mrs. James Leupold
Ms. Heidi Lilac
Ms. Cindy Long
Mr. Nathaniel Mayo
Ms. Tina McDonald
McGinn School Apparel
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Moffitt
Moselem Springs Golf Club
Murphy Jewelers

Nolde Forest Pottery
Pagoda Golf Area
Panevino
Papillon Brasserie
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Parisi
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Parisi
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
Ms. Michelle Plempel
Dr. & Mrs. Francis Plucinsky
Raylon Corporation
Reading Box Company
Reading Symphony Orchestra
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Reddy
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reinert
Mr. & Mrs. John Reshetar
Msgr. Edward Sarzynski

Work Sites *2012-13*

- Animal Rescue League of Berks County
- Berks Encore Mifflin Center
- Columbia Cottage
- Crown Plaza
- Daniel Boone Library
- Freedom Auto Group
- Mifflin Court Assisted Living
- Reading Hospital
- Unique Desserts

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Savage
Mrs. Barbara Ann Shotwell
Sorrenti
Mr. & Mrs. James Sotzin
Spa at Spring Ridge
Stokesay Castle
Sunshine Fitness Studio
Ms. Barbara Swoyer
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Thomas
Tina's Salon & Day Spa
Unique Desserts
Valhalla Health & Fitness Club
Van Scoy Jewelers
George & Sheila Violand
VIST Bank & Tompkins Insurance
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Weiler
Mr. & Mrs. W. Bradford White Jr.
Whitford Country Club
Willow Street Pictures
Wyomissing Animal Hospital
Wyomissing Area School District
Wyomissing Auto Spa
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wysock Jr.
Yocum Institute for Arts Education

Counting Our *Blessings*



Dear Friends,

John Paul II Center for Special Learning has come a long way in 30 years. We have accomplished so much but continue to evolve and grow. Yet we remain true to our mission every day. We strive to meet the needs of our students and adult consumers. We are always searching and reevaluating what we do and how we can improve it.

I want to recognize our Advisory Board who concluded their official capacity in June. Year after year for nearly 23 years they served John Paul II with such dedication and passion. There were a few times when the future of JP II was in question but the board rallied and took the school to new heights. We are grateful to them for bringing awareness of the school to the community and raising funds to financially sustain us and make tuition affordable for our families.

The school is beginning a new path that will only solidify our future. We recently became incorporated. The Allentown Diocese will continue to provide support and guidance as they always have. We are forming a new board of general jurisdiction. The board will be directing and supporting the school in the areas of finance, facility, marketing, development and eventually strategic planning. I look forward to working with the board in achieving new goals and taking the school to a new level.

Our accomplishments are not carried out by one individual but a multitude of people who believe in our mission and support our school. All the names listed in this report were instrumental in offering a program where each student and consumer could excel to reach their God given potential. Thank you to everyone for embracing our vision and helping us to achieve our goals. We are blessed to have you as a wonderful friend committed to our mission. Please know that we pray for you every day and all the good work you do on our behalf.

Yours in Christ,
Mary A. Adams

Mary A. Adams
Principal

ADMINISTRATION

Mary Adams, *Principal*
Becky Burton, *Director of Advancement*
Mary Deemer, *Advancement Assistant*
Lucie Yanney, *Office Manager*

TEACHERS

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Karen Fricke
Shelly Kreska
Mary Maher

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Sue Kaczmarek, *Liturgical Ministries Coordinator*

Cindy Long, *Music Therapy*

Sandi Lloyd, *Occupational Therapy*
Louise Miller, *Occupational Therapy*

NEW HORIZONS

Diane Rice, *Adult Program Specialist*

ADULT AIDES

Dennis Bauman
Ashley Bradley
Richard Dever
JoAnn Koller
Dolores Portner
Pamela Traczuk
Kim Wixon

Services received through the support of other organizations:

ART THERAPY

Phyllis Moser, *Yocum Institute for the Arts*

CREATIVE DRAMA

Joel Gori, *Yocum Institute for the Arts*

PSYCHOLOGIST

Karla Schlappich, *Berks County Intermediate Unit*
Natalie Avenoso, *Berks County Intermediate Unit*

SPEECH THERAPY

Katie Exas, *Berks County Intermediate Unit*
Cristen Fiorani, *Berks County Intermediate Unit*



Counting Our Blessings



Life Skills

The life skills program teaches specific skills such as: planning and cooking meals, washing and drying laundry, using the telephone properly, and volunteering/socializing in the community. As part of our program, students in the secondary class prepare lunch three times a week for the rest of the school to purchase. The students plan the menu, go shopping for the groceries, and prepare and serve the food.



Aquinas Society

(Gift of \$20,000 and above)

Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Cutrona, Sr.

John Paul II Society

(Gift of \$15,000-\$19,999)

Guiding Hands Society

(Gift of \$10,000-\$14,999)

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Principals Society

(Gift of \$5,000-\$9,999)

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Wilson
Mr. John Yocum
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Young

Mina Yanney

Mrs. Marie Yanney

In Honor of

Natalie Balistriere

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Wolf

Patrick Close

Ms. Liz Rothermel

Matthew Deemer

Mrs. Mary Kaucher

Jack Gulati

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Seitz

Counting Our Blessings



Music Therapy

Music is used therapeutically to create positive changes in human development and behavior. Using the six basic elements of music—rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, dynamics, and form—students and therapist engage in the physical act of playing a variety of instruments, and using voice and movement, to help each child's system learn to handle new ways of responding to sensory input.



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 Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas
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 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Trainer
 Mrs. Aileen Tschiderer
 Mrs. Carolyn Vannucci
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Verterano
 Ms. Tammy Wagner
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 Ms. Janice Yoder
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 Ms. Brenda Hartman
 Mr. & Mrs. Noel Wurst
 Ms. Janice Yoder

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 Mr. Mark O'Neill
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(Gift of \$500-\$999)

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 Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Ciatto
 Mr. & Dr. Stephen Crandall
 Mr. Patrick Dolan
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Blue & Gold Club

(Gift of \$250-\$499)

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 Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Chelius
 Mr. Carter Cheskey
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Chiacchio
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Deemer



How Your Gifts Helped

In addition to your support of John Paul II's general operating expenses, your gift helped John Paul II reach excellence in education by investing in the following:

- Provided iPads for all students to use while in school
- Updated Technology – to provide better support to teachers, students and staff
- Provided hardware and labor to make the entire school wireless
- Afforded teacher training to support their instruction
- Offered over 115 hours of Music Therapy
- Students participated in Embryology Project through Penn State
- Provided transportation for students and job coach to participate in Work for Independence Program
- Provide Reading and Religion materials to support the curriculum
- Delivered over 350 hours of Occupational Therapy
- Purchased a large screen for our Multi-Purpose Room to view movies and presentations
- Provided a new refrigerator in the staff lunch room
- Supported students and consumers on a variety of field trips



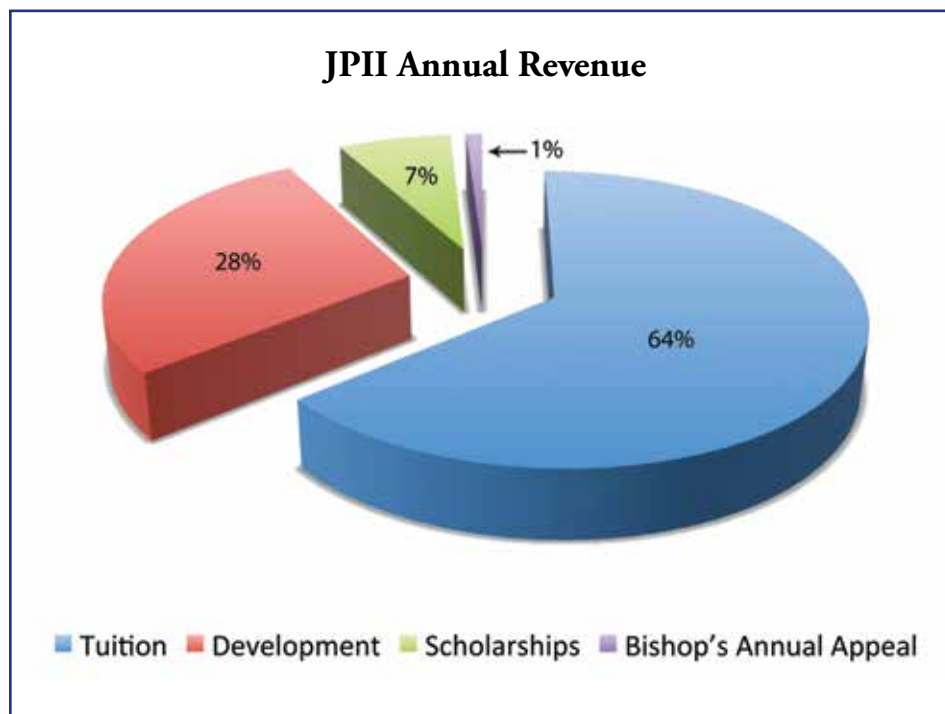
Occupational Therapy

At John Paul II, the occupational therapist collaborates with the teachers and staff to develop activities and lessons to improve students' academic and daily living skills. The therapist also provides direct services and will suggest assistive technology and modifications to tasks to help the student be successful.



Counting Our Blessings

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dierolf
 Dr. & Mrs. Dennis DiRenzo
 Ms. Sara Dunbar
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dyer
 Mr. Dean Exas & Dr. Bernice Parisi
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Fasig
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(Gift of \$100-\$249)

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Art Therapy & Creative Drama

Art therapy teaches our students about different art mediums, and helps develop fine motor skills, works with students with sensory issues, and requires that a student stays on task and follows directions. It is a method for students to be creative and have positive self expression, and is a confidence builder because it is a very accepting therapy practice.

Creative drama helps to improve speech and language skills, creativity and imagination, gross motor skills, spatial awareness and relations, and the ability to follow directions.

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Technology

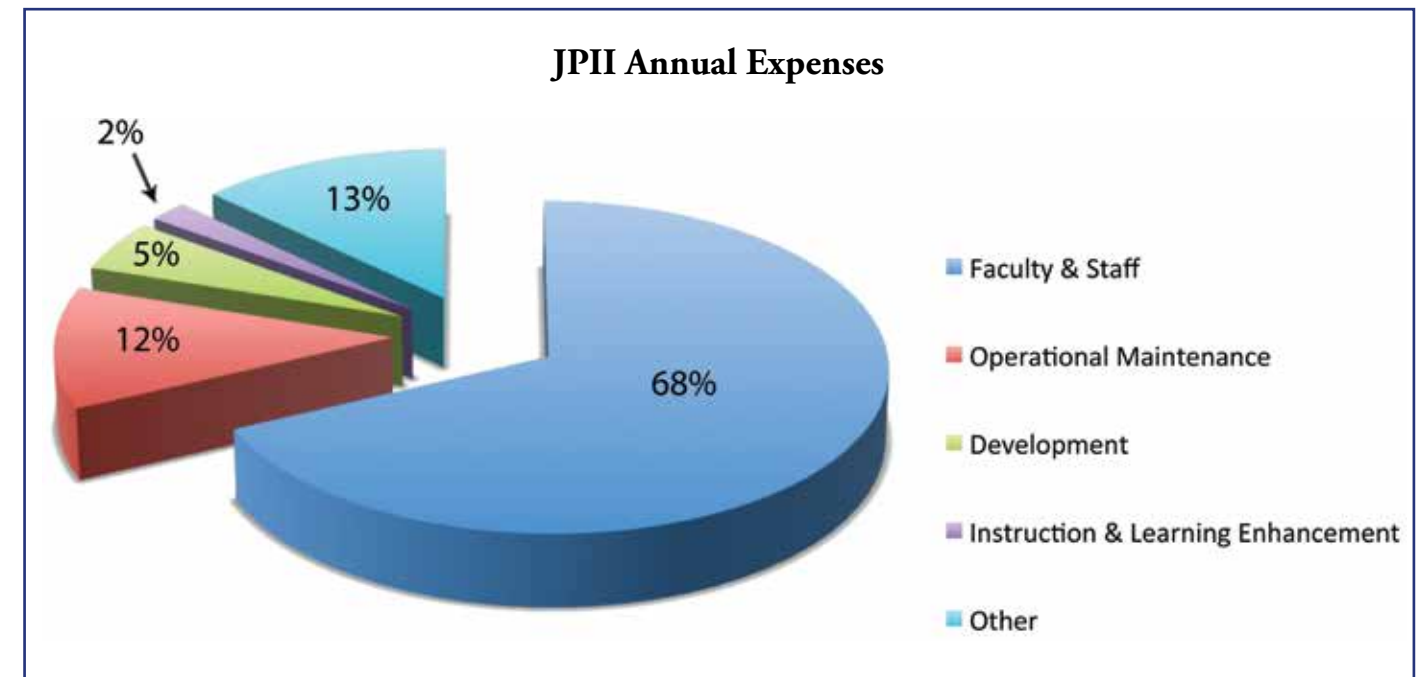
We live in the age of technology and John Paul II Center is pleased to offer their students the most up-to-date equipment available. We have computers and SMARTBoards in each classroom along with iPads for every student to use while in school. Technology enhances students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in both communication and learning. Not only is this technology available in the classrooms, it is used in many of the additional therapies, as well.



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Liturgical Ministries

Religion is an important part of our students' formation. Mrs. Kaczmarek, our liturgical coordinator, supports the teachers and students by scheduling, organizing, and preparing liturgy and music for Masses and Prayer Services. She teaches the students the music necessary to participate in Mass and services. She also instructs the students who are preparing for the sacraments and assists the teachers with religious instruction.

Speech Therapy

The focus of Speech and Language support is to teach our students to communicate appropriately in school, at home, and within the community. We teach the students to use language to start conversations, respond to questions, request preferred activities, reject non-preferred activities, and to communicate with friends and staff. Speech, language, and psychological services are provided by the Berks County Intermediate Unit through Act 89.



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New Horizons

New Horizons is a diverse, personalized day program for adults with developmental disabilities. The objectives of the program are to enhance the self-esteem of our consumers and develop and maintain their skills. Our focus is on social and self-help skills.

Activities at New Horizons are person-centered and allow individuals to choose from a variety of activities such as socialization, horticulture, music therapy, arts and crafts, and cooking. Community activities include shopping, bowling, going to restaurants and museums, attending shows and local fairs, and taking walks. Staff members encourage and assist individuals to participate in these activities.

Our Mission

To provide a personalized program for adults with developmental disabilities in a safe, nurturing, Christian environment that inspires each person to achieve his/her God-given potential and broaden their horizons.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Year Round