



Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston

The Bridge

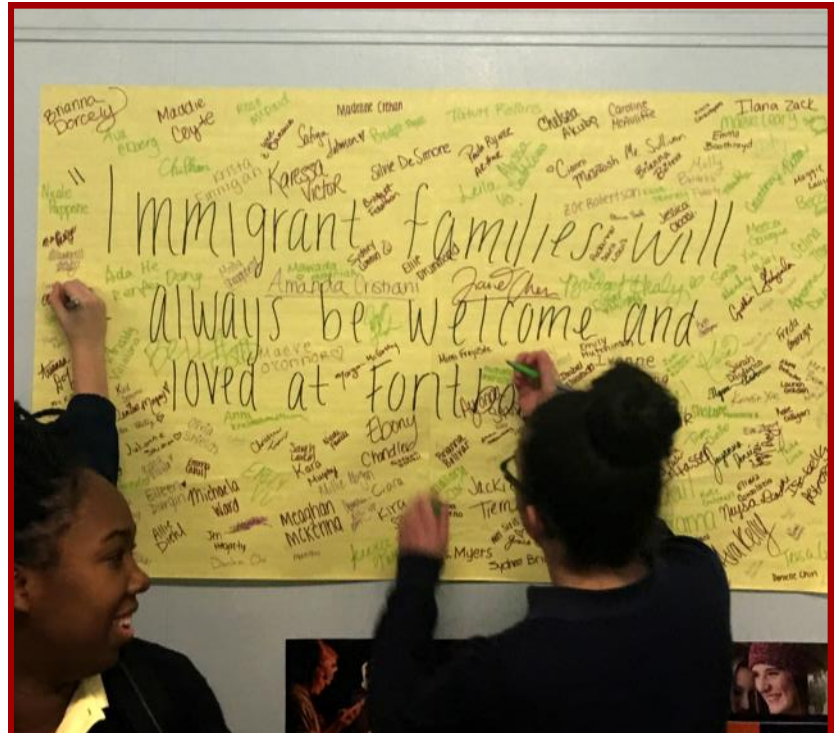
BETHANY HEALTH CARE CENTER + BETHANY HILL PLACE + FONTBONNE ACADEMY
JACKSON SCHOOL + REGIS COLLEGE + SAINT JOSEPH PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL + WALNUT PARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Called to Common Goodness

by Betsy Conway, CSJ, Director of Ministry and Mission

There are so many ways to promote the common good. In these times, it seems especially important to talk back to the things that separate us and strip the protections of those who have had to work harder for what is “good,” for what are basic human rights and dignities.

Recognizing every other as “dear neighbor” and using this language and concept consistently in and of itself promotes the common good. This language is in our mission, our every prayer and in the atmosphere at Fontbonne Academy. We know when we see it happening and we know when we do not. When disturbing and destructive things were said publicly about our dear neighbors in other countries, our Fontbonne Administration hung up a sign in our dining hall stating that Students from Immigrant families would always be welcomed and loved at Fontbonne. Many, many students and adults in the community added their names to this sign. It was posted and reposted on Instagram and Facebook so that others would know what we believe.



During this academic year, students have held “courageous convos” inviting conversations about such critical topics as social media, racism and the #timesup movement. The point of these conversations is to build bridges of understanding around topics that have been harmful, divisive and destructive. They are to empower our young women to have voice, and give voice in ways that lead us to deeper wisdom and transformational experiences.

The adults in our Learning Community have also participated in regular diversity conversations around race, gender identity and cultural competence. Michelle Cromwell, PhD, Director of Inclusive Excellence at Regis College, spent a day with us in the Fall and is returning later in March to guide us again toward an evolving consciousness of inclusivity.

On March 14, our students will participate in a school wide walk out in solidarity with young people across the country calling for greater safety in our schools and more sensible gun control. During these Lenten days, our Learning Community is raising money for our neighbors in Puerto Rico, who have been crippled by Hurricane Maria and an inadequate response for lasting assistance.

We encourage conversations about the value of another’s story to widen our lens about the “normalcy” of each one’s experience.

In the everyday, we are given multiple opportunities as we encounter one another, to make room and to see the holy, to know and believe and promote the truth that there is a glimpse of God in everyone and that the “common good” is the only good.

Emerging Leaders at Bethany Hill Place

by Courtney McSparron, Program Director

What makes a good role model? This is a question every Bethany Hill Place Emerging Leader must answer during their application process. The Emerging Leader program is in its second year. The program hires Bethany Hill Place children for leadership roles in their community. In order to be considered for a position a child must complete an application, interview, and attend professional development days. Also, the children understand that if they do not act as a role model they may lose their leadership position, because leaders always serve as role models for their community.

While this program has been positive for the children who take part – they gain professional skills, earn a small stipend, and form bonds with the other Emerging Leaders – it has also been a win for our community as a whole. Our Emerging Leaders know the spotlight is on them and they rise to the occasion. Their neighbors know they have earned Emerging Leader status and they want to prove they are right for the position. Residents have eagerly told me of Emerging Leaders helping new residents move in, carrying groceries for neighbors, and opting out of arguments with other children. Our Emerging Leaders understand they are tasked with being role models everywhere, not just when they do their job. The road to leadership is not always smooth, either. Several children have made mistakes. Some have been late to work or even behaved poorly in the building. But usually, these emerging leaders take even their failures as chances to learn. As one young Emerging Leader explained to me, she has a growth mindset. There are things she struggles with or can't do, but she only can't do it – yet.

My hope is the Emerging Leaders are making all residents and staff think about their status as role models. Real change comes when we understand our role in our community and the effect our actions and behavior have on those around us. I know the Emerging Leaders have led me to think about my actions. Am I acting as a role model in all aspects of my job, my life? These children truly are role models and have given much to common good of their community. Those of us watching them are inspired. We too want to act in a way that reflects our best selves and learn from our mistakes with grace. I am grateful for the Emerging Leaders for the work they do in our community, but I am more thankful for their service as role models for us all.

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Mission Statement:

The Bridge is the official communication of the Office of Sponsored Ministries to inform, educate and inspire the community linked to CSJ Sponsored Ministries.

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Promoting Kindness, Peace & Community at Jackson School

by Kathy Berube, CSJ & Jean Behenna, Mission Effectiveness Facilitators

"Peace is a gift of God, but requires our efforts. Let us be people of peace in prayer and deed" (Pope Francis)

During the past three months, there have been many opportunities for Jackson School to build community and to promote peace both here at Jackson and beyond. Many of the activities and projects have focused on helping those who are less fortunate, encouraging those in need of our support, and performing acts of kindness.

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Jackson during the week of January 28. The theme for 2018 was "Learn -Serve -Lead -Succeed". There was a beautiful liturgy at Our Lady Help of Christians Church for the Jackson School community where the Jackson School students had many opportunities to lead. Students were lectors, gift bearers, altar servers, and cantors. To begin the week, students were allowed to "dress down" and challenged to wear their craziest socks. In return, they were to bring in new socks to be donated to the Boston Sock Exchange through the Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland and to Cradle to Crayons in Brighton. Bags and bags of new socks were sent to help those in need. Students not only enjoyed the crazy socks day but also felt a great sense of satisfaction knowing that they had helped others. The week concluded with a family pasta night which was a great evening to enjoy the company of friends and family and delicious food as well. Catholic Schools Week was a great week of celebration and community building.

Led by the Physical Education teacher, Jackson School students participated in the "Jump Rope for Heart" project for the second year. The American Heart Association sponsors this event, and its goal is to teach children the importance of heart health and how students can make a difference in the lives of others by raising money for heart research. Students learned the importance of caring for one's health, and they experienced the satisfaction of contributing to such an important cause. The Jackson School community also participated in our annual Christmas service projects: the Giving Trees for Bethany Hill Place and The Literacy Connection, and the Blanket Drive for The Women's Table. In addition, during the month of November the sixth grade organized the annual winter clothing drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons. The support and generosity at Jackson School for all of these service projects is most impressive and certainly a testament to the importance of the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph to reach out to the "dear

neighbor" and the commitment to the common good.

Gracious hospitality is always evident at Jackson, and it was certainly strongly felt by the new students who joined our community mid-year. At one grade level, current students created a "welcome poster", and they all signed their names and wrote a message. The new student felt so warmly welcomed and his words would best express this sense of belonging. This new student stated, "At first, it was difficult to keep up with the work, but I knew that my new friends were open and considerate, and that they would help me." Another class created cards for the new students and sent letters to the new families to welcome them to the Jackson Community.

The service projects were not only focused on donations for those in need but also on acts of kindness to lift the spirit of others. Grade four students sent Valentines to Mary's House, a shelter in Waltham, and to former Jackson teachers, and grade six wrote Valentine wishes which were delivered to the Veterans who so generously have served our country. Performing acts of kindness has been an ongoing project for this entire year beginning with the Pinwheels for Peace and Kindness activities in September. Walking through Jackson School, there are so many bulletin boards depicting ways students can be kind to one another and can be peacemakers and truly make a difference in the world through their individual kind and peaceful actions. At our Ash Wednesday liturgy, the students of Jackson School were challenged to say the Prayer to St. Francis daily during Lent. Students here at Jackson are not only saying the prayer but also living the words of the prayer through their acts of kindness. What better way for children to do their part and make the world a better place for all!



The Warmest Welcome

by Nancy Fish, Head of School

What do you like to do where you live?" asked a four-year-old student to another student's 65-year old grandmother who was visiting Walnut Park Montessori School from her hometown in South Texas. "What is the weather like now in Texas?" asked another child. "Do the children have books to read or did they get too wet from Hurricane Harvey?" a three-year-old added.

The grandmother, a bit tired from her 2,000-mile cross-country plane ride the evening before, felt her heart expand, and her eyes lit up with excitement. The grandmother had planned to visit her grandchildren at Walnut Park Montessori School well before her quaint hometown and surrounding communities, nestled just inland from the Gulf of Mexico, were ravaged by Hurricane Harvey. She looked forward to the trip to see her grandchildren and was in awe of the warmest welcome that she received from all of the Walnut Park students in the classroom that day and their heartfelt concern for the people affected by the recent storms.

She spoke to the children in Spanish, the native tongue or second language for many in her home community, due to the proximity to the Mexican border. The children asked her to translate words, and many commented that their grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, or friends and neighbors, also spoke Spanish or multiple other languages. They giggled when they learned to say "hurricane" in Spanish, "huracán," but it was evident that the children knew it was not a laughing matter. They were sad to hear that schools were damaged and closed from the hurricane just weeks before, and they may not re-open for months or even years.

The grandmother felt guilty visiting Boston during the wondrous leaf-peeping season when the leaves shine in hues of orange and red under the golden autumn sun knowing that neighbors and friends back home were dealing with the devastation of the hurricane. But it was clear that the students at WPMS wanted to help, and they



did, sending multiple large boxes of items to Texans in need.

The warmest welcome received by the visiting grandmother was a small example of how WPMS students treat new people that they encounter - with love, kindness, and sincere curiosity about their homes. Though the grandmother was not a migrant worker or a refugee, she was from a distant part of the country in the midst of rebuilding.

As stated by Ms. Nancy Fish, WPMS Head of School, "The children at WPMS are continually encouraged by their teachers and administrators to build their communities, both near and far, always promoting the common good. The 'Portrait of a Graduate' from WPMS aims to create a child who displays tolerance of, appreciation, and kindness towards the dear neighbor by developing productive, gracious, caring community citizens, and leaders."

The grandmother who visited WPMS witnessed this mission firsthand. The children showered the Texan grandmother with such a hospitable welcome and exemplified such a love for all people; it was contagious. As the grandmother returned to Texas, she eagerly reciprocated the love that she felt at WPMS with family and friends back home, shining new light in an otherwise difficult time.

A Powerhouse of Prayer

by Mary Nagle, CSJ, Director of Mission Integration



reaching out to new peoples Bethany currently employs just over 200 men and women representing over 26 different countries. Imagine the varied and different “neighbors” we touch in varied and sundry ways. The staff is caring and compassionate in ways too numerous to count. Often times they anticipate the needs of the residents because they care so much and want the residents to feel at home.

Bethany extends gracious hospitality to everyone: residents, staff and visitors, day in and day out. It is never a case of them and us but of all of us being together to share the mission of Bethany, in so many and varied ways. Spending time with someone who is feeling lonely. Taking time to push a wheelchair without being asked. Doing someone’s nails. Reading to a resident.

Writing a letter or addressing a card helps to

lift their spirits.

There is no substitute for the PRESENCE that is shared. The love and service witnessed at Bethany is awe inspiring. May God bless our residents, their care-givers and all of our staff. They are “partners in ministry” and share the mission, charism and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. They are our future.

ABOVE: LETICIA SILVA AND WENDY CAZAVELON ALONG WITH TWO SISTERS OBSERVE THE VIEW FROM THE NEW ACTIVITY ROOM; BELOW:

Pope Francis challenges us to live “The Joy of LOVE.” He stated: “the family is the primary setting for socialization, since it is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, be patient and show respect, to help one another and live as one.” These words could well be a mission statement for all God’s people and a stepping stone to help build community and promote the common good.

The family of origin has been extended over a life time. Bethany has for years been promoting a “homelike culture” and tries to change or adapt the various institutional customs and ways that have existed. You only have to visit our renovated chapel, dining room, resident rooms and now our new activity center to get a sense of what HOME is, can be and will be.

Our Bethany Family is a vibrant force and a powerhouse of prayer. The residents help create a real caring community through their interaction with a truly dedicated staff. The joy and love they express knows no limits. You’ll find them laughing, joking and spending time listening to one another, creating lasting bonds. You constantly hear the phrase, I’ll pray for you” coming from the residents and the staff.

In extending our community and



Team IMPACT

by Mary Lou Jackson, Assistant to the President for Mission Integration



At Regis, our Pride student-athletes engage in service and social advocacy as part of their role as ambassadors of the college community. They volunteer and serve the dear neighbor without distinction throughout Boston at non-profits and by participating in on-campus service events.

Dean of Athletics Pam Roecker reflects, "I am proud of our athletic department's commitment to academic excellence, competitive effort, good sportsmanship, and a strong sense of community service. These priorities are consistent with the mission of Regis and NCAA Division III principles, but most importantly, the community service component is a natural extension of the Sisters of St. Joseph strong tradition of serving others. Our men's basketball team's work with Team IMPACT and Jarod is a perfect example of the spirit of giving back that benefits all of the parties involved."

This fall, the men's basketball team partnered with Team IMPACT, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses through the power of team. Team IMPACT children are drafted by local college athletic teams and become official members of the team from Signing Day through to graduation, attending practices, games and social events while forming unparalleled relationships with the student-athletes and coaching staffs. This opportunity offers children facing hardships associated with adverse issues to have access to expanded team-based networks to significantly enhance the quality of their lives with more love, laughter and support.

Jarod Woo, who is 16 and currently a student at Natick High School, was drafted by the men's basketball team

through Team IMPACT in a special ceremony at Higgins Court.

"We were extremely fortunate to sign Jarod Woo into our Regis basketball program," said Regis head coach Nate Hager. "He is a high character young man who loves hoops, video games and hanging out with friends, just like each and every one of our guys. Though Jarod is battling daily adversities, he has a wonderful outlook on life

and is a true role model for our program. We couldn't be happier to welcome Jarod and his family to the Pride!"

Draft Day started with Jarod, along with his parents Linda and Virgil, arriving on campus. Promptly members of the team and Jarod hit the court for a shoot-around and played a game of knock out where Jarod emerged as the winner. Afterward, everybody gathered in the team room for Jarod's signing day press conference. Coach Hager introduced Jarod and his parents and welcomed him to the Pride. Finally, Jarod signed the Congratulatory form and was an official member of the Pride. Jarod helped coach the Gold team during the Crimson and Gold Scrimmage and had a great time with the team.

Over the course of the season, Jarod has attended home games, participating in pre-game talks, half-time events, and post-game wrap-ups. He connects with the players online, whether it be in group chats or video gaming.

Basketball player Ademola Afonja has been inspired by Jarod. "Seeing a smile on Jarod's face through such a difficult time has definitely humbled me. This kid comes to our games with such positive energy and it has taught me that even on my worst day, whether it's school or basketball, I should continue to push myself," Afonja offers.

Established in 2011, Team IMPACT has already matched over 400 children with collegiate teams, improving the quality of life of hundreds of courageous children and touching the lives of over 10,000 student-athletes. Regis is proud to partner with Team IMPACT and support the effort to offer children like Jarod Woo our gracious hospitality and our own mix of love and laughter through Regis Pride.

SJPHS

by Author, Position

Easter Reflection by Ann Marie Ghiloni, CSJ, Director of Mission Effectiveness

The sights and sounds of Easter flood my senses with all things bright and beautiful on Easter morning; the rising sun, the sounds of Alleluia, candles announcing, “Light of Christ, Thanks be to God.” and the strong sweet scent of lilies, tulips, hydrangeas and azaleas, Forty days of preparation now give way to forty days of joyful celebration. May my heart be open to accept the gifts of Easter during these forty days.

May your Easter
ALLELUIA
fill the air
with joyful song



As you greet one
another with
PEACE
BE WITH YOU

Happy Easter
Suzanne and Ann Marie, CSJ
