

SUMMER 2022

Inspired GIVING

BENEDICTINE FOUNDATION



Inside this
EDITION

CHROME CITY RIDE FOR BENEDICTINE
CELEBRATING OUR 2022 GRADUATES
EMPOWERING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS & MORE!



A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT EVANS

Executive Director of Benedictine

Summer does not mean a break for the staff, students, or adults who are part of Benedictine's programs. While the school has a couple of weeks off in the summer, we operate 365 days a year helping developmentally disabled and autistic children and adults achieve their greatest potential. Your support helps make those efforts possible. The work we do at Benedictine not only touches the individuals we support, it also eases parents' minds by knowing their child is well taken care of, and allows them to more fully engage in their lives, their relationships and their communities.



SCOTT EVANS

Thanks to all of you who have jumped back in and supported our efforts to bring back all of our fundraising events; they have been a great success. At the close of our 2022 fiscal year on June 30th, your support of Foundation's fundraising efforts helped us raise almost \$2 million. In this digital issue of Inspired Giving, we have included a sampling of all the wonderful photos we have collected from our June Maryland/DC Golf Tournament hosted by Foundation Board of Trustee member, Thad Fletcher and his wife, Donna, the Godfrey farm Blueberry Boogie Walk and Run that benefited Benedictine, and our July Chrome City Ride which celebrated its 20th anniversary, that is organized by Spud Blake, another member of our generous Board of Trustees.

While the 2021-2022 year brought us some unforeseen challenges, thanks to your generous support we now have a newly updated playground, additional funds for staff compensation, and most importantly unrestricted funds that allow us to put the dollars where they are needed the most. We are grateful to all of you.

As we move into our next fiscal year, we continue to solidify plans for a new residential wing and expanded classroom space as part of our master planning. More to follow on moving forward with a fundraising campaign to support those projects.

I hope you will join us for our next fundraising event on October 24th. The Birdies for Benedictine Charity Golf Tournament at the Talbot Country Club. It's always a great day of golfing at a beautiful course in Easton, MD.

I would like to close by mentioning that August is National "Make-A-Will" Month. This past year we had a generous friend of Benedictine establish a significant Charitable Remainder Trust. If you haven't yet considered the legacy you want to leave for your family and an organization you love like Benedictine, I urge you to speak with our Foundation staff. You could help so many and ensure a strong future for Benedictine.

SCOTT EVANS
Executive Director of Benedictine

In this EDITION

- DIRECTOR'S NOTE2
- EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS3
- STUDENT SPOTLIGHT3
- SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS.....4
- GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT5
- GARDEN CENTER5
- CHROME CITY RIDE6-7
- BLUEBERRY BOOGIE.....8
- GOLF TOURNAMENT8
- SUMMER SPLASHING9
- BOWLING MADNESS9

Foundation Staff:

Foundation: 410-634-2292

Claudia Nichols Cunningham,
Chief Advancement Officer
Claudia.cunningham@benschool.org

Caroline Bauerle,
Development Director
Caroline.bauerle@benschool.org

**Ashley Hinch, Grants Specialist
& Planned Giving Coordinator**
Ashley.hinch@benschool.org

**Nathalie Derakshani, Database
and Advancement Services
Coordinator**
Natalie.derakshani@benschool.org

Inspired Giving is published by:

Janine M Lis
Marketing & Communications Manager

Christina Lippincott
Lippincott Designs, Graphic Design



**SCAN HERE TO VIEW
BENEDICTINE ON
DELMARVA LIFE**



14299 Benedictine Lane, Ridgely, MD 21660 | (410) 634-2112 | info@benschool.org

Visit us online at BENSCHOOL.ORG





Celebrating Dignity of Work

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS

Work Based Learning Experience and Employment Development Skills Programs

For many of us the summer months are a time to take a break but not for our staff at our Easton Office training center and the young adults we serve. In partnership with community resources, we have two important programs in full swing providing crucial employment skills for special needs students ages 18-21.

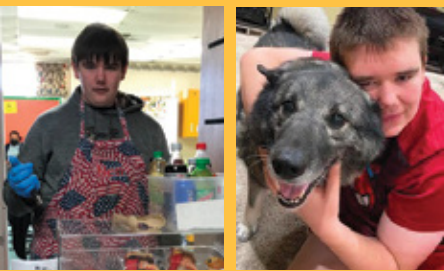
Work Based Learning Experience (WBLE) is a 5-week program in partnership with Chesapeake College in Queen Anne’s County. The College sets up the work sites and funds the cost of the student’s wages while Benedictine provides job coaching for the students as they navigate this new experience. Nathan is pictured here is working at the library in Centreville. Partnership is also with the YMCAs.

Employment Development Skills (EDS) prepares students to search for jobs. This program serves 21 year olds through the special education programs at local high schools. This is a partnership with the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS). Benedictine staff prepare students by teaching them how to write resumes, cover letters, secure references and interviewing skills. They also teach soft skills like interpersonal skills, time management and cleanliness as basic as brushing their teeth.



Nathan, a student at Queen Anne’s County High School, is pictured working at the Centreville Library.

A STUDENT’S JOURNEY MEETING MILESTONES *And How His Family Healed*



Before coming to Benedictine, the Kraft’s son, Sean, attended a special needs preschool program, regional elementary program, and a non-public special education school. The educators were supportive and worked hard with Sean, however, the schools and Sean reaped very little progress in academics and behavior support. Sean grew frustrated and it became difficult for him to lead with his natural kindness and it was challenging for the family. His mother needed to resign from her career to support Sean as he required behavior therapy and constant supervision.

When Sean joined Benedictine he was placed in ABLEs (Academic and Behavioral Learning Environment), Benedictine’s program for the most challenged. Within a short couple of years, Sean, who is now 16, has thrived and progressed to where he is now in A Functional Academics classroom. This progress enabled Sean to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah – something he was unable to do prior. And Sean has discovered that he loves cooking and gardening!

The programs at Benedictine touch so many more lives beyond just the students and adults they serve. Sean’s whole family is thriving as they have been able to focus on each other and their individual interests. Sean’s brother went through a rigorous certification process to move forward with his dream to become a barber. He is the only barber Sean and several of his special needs friends trust to cut their hair. And another beautiful outcome of his success is that he generously donates his services cutting homeless men’s hair at the family’s synagogue.

Sean’s mother was able to return to her teaching career during the pandemic, positively impacting the lives of over 125 children. “My ability to strengthen student academic progress and boost their confidence as learners has meant unmeasurable joy to the students, their parents, and me.” – Reenie Kraft.

To show their gratitude and support for Benedictine, Sean’s family is giving back to Benedictine in creative ways. Every year for the family birthdays, they have asked their friends and family to donate to Benedictine instead of giving gifts. Their friends have witnessed Sean’s growth in person and through their Facebook posts, so it was a natural extension to organize donations to the school through their Facebook pages.

Sean celebrated his Bar Mitzvah recently. Traditionally, monetary gifts received are often saved for college. Instead, Sean’s family asked those celebrating Sean’s Bar Mitzvah to donate to Benedictine - the school that has made the biggest impact in his life.

“In his case, it’s not college... it’s Benedictine. We have been so grateful for Sean’s amazing progress at Benedictine. To date, Benedictine has received over \$3,800 in donations in Sean’s honor.” - Reenie Kraft

Sean is pictured with his family, working at the Mini Mart, with his dog, and at his Bar Mitzvah.

SCHOOL *Celebrations*

Students had fun time being together and even doing some dancing at this year's prom. And everyone at Benedictine was proud to see this year's students graduate and celebrate such a big milestone!

 *Congratulations*
TO OUR GRADUATES



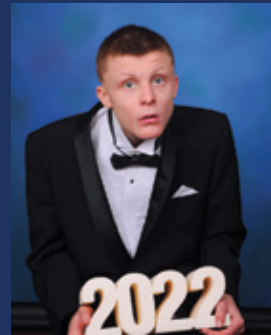
DEVONDRE



LUKE



ASAD

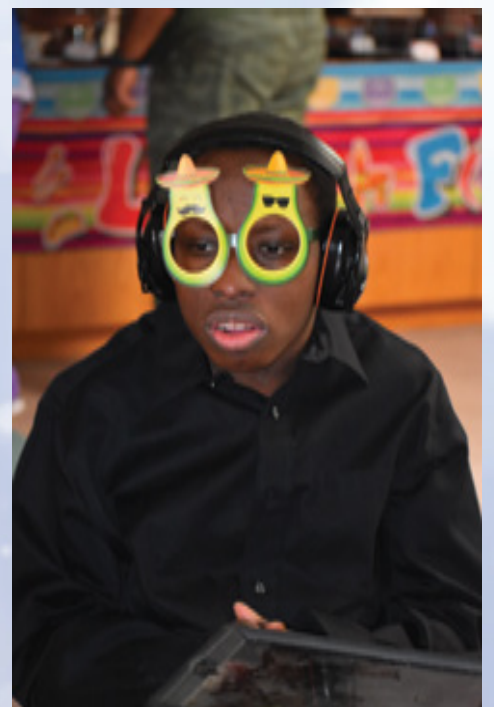


LEE CURTIS



KAMYRN

2022 Prom AT BENEDICTINE



BENEDICTINE *Graphics Department*



Benedictine's Graphics Department is always busy either screen printing shirts for Chrome City Ride, the Birdies for Benedictine golf tournament or for organizations like the Town of Preston and East Coast Low Voltage. They are also embroidering amazing designs for Queen Anne's County 4-H and many more! With a staff of 9 full time employees including Sister Mary Agnes, they produce over 1600 jobs per year.

The Screen Printing Department was first established in the late 1980's as a component of the vocational training center for students aged 14 and up. It has also been a very important behavior management tool - students knew that they must have good behavior to work in the area. And for others, it helped to calm them down if they were having a difficult day.

Today, the Graphics Department has several adults and a student who helps with the jobs. Reach out to Kayla at kayla.coleman@benschool.org for more information.

WHAT'S GROWING AT THE *GARDEN CENTER*

Benedictine's Garden Center offers much in the ways of greens, flowers, veggies and more! Part of the vocational training program, the Garden Center gives Benedictine's students a sense of accomplishment while learning how to follow directions, develop organizational skills and be creative!

Early in the spring the garden was tilled and flowers and vegetables were planted. Other projects include making worm tea fertilizer, creating birdhouses out of gourdes and the newest initiative - a monarch butterfly house!

The Garden Center offers arrangements for all occasions and the floral cards have been designed by the students! Please reach out for your floral arrangement needs! Mary.wright@benschool.org.



SUMMER EXPLORATION

Our students have been – “Out Of This World” exploring this summer. Their science theme provided them a journey into the galaxy with STEM projects learning about the stars, our moon, NASA and more!





CHROME CITY RIDE

A Brother's Love and Commitment

The Benedictine campus was gleaming with chrome on Sunday, July 31st, as the 20th annual Chrome City Ride fundraiser made its way back after a two-year hiatus. Spud Blake, the founder of Chrome City Ride, has led a team of dedicated friends and colleagues, mostly in state and local law enforcement, to execute this motorcycle rally ride and car show.

This year's event raised \$100,000 and Benedictine's campus in Ridgely welcomed close to 1,000 riders, drivers and spectators. This event has grown into one of the largest rides in the state.

"I am eternally grateful to every committee member that has volunteered their time, many of them since the first Chrome City Ride. I am also thankful for the dedicated staff at Benedictine. Each year more and more parents and loved ones get involved and it has been heartwarming for all of us to see this support. – Spud Blake

Spud's family's journey to Benedictine began in 1999 when he brought his mother to see the campus for his younger sister, Barbara, who is developmentally disabled. "My sister was placed with Benedictine many years ago after my family had done a nation-wide search. The residents of Benedictine are treated with so much dignity, love and respect. It has been a fantastic place for Barbara and for our family too." – Spud Blake

Barbara lives in one of Benedictine's group homes. She enjoys her bowling league, hanging out with her friends and housemates plus just relaxing at home in her fuzzy slippers! She also Facetimes her brother Spud all the time. – Group Home Manager





20th
Anniversary



CHROME CITY Ride



“ I am eternally grateful to every committee member that has volunteered their time, many of them since the first Chrome City Ride. I am also thankful for the dedicated staff at Benedictine. Each year more and more parents and loved ones get involved and it has been heartwarming for all of us to see this support. ”

– SPUD BLAKE



DEDICATED FAMILY CONTINUES TO **SUPPORT BENEDICTINE**



The Annual DC/Baltimore Area Charity Golf Tournament was in full swing this year. Spearheaded by Thad Fletcher and his wife Donna Rochelle, whose daughter is developmentally disabled, this year's tournament raised over \$52,000 to support the developmentally disabled and autistic children and adults that Benedictine serves.



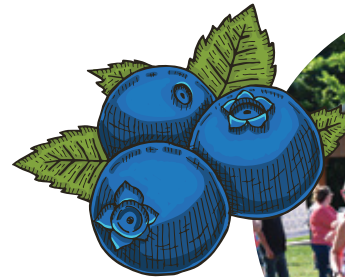
"It was a great day to gather at Woodmore to share in camaraderie and raise important funds to support Benedictine. Our daughter Gabby has had a wonderful experience at Benedictine and it so important to ensure that Benedictine can continue to do the important work in serving children and adults with developmental disabilities. Their quality of care is exceptional."
- Thad Fletcher, Benedictine Trustee Board Member

The tournament introduces players to Benedictine's mission and the generosity and commitment of the Fletcher family. Participants from as far away as Texas, Illinois and Oklahoma joined the Fetters for this fun day of golf and philanthropy.



BLUEBERRY BOOGIE

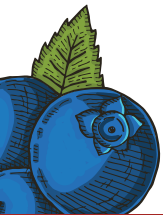
at Godfrey's Farm



Godfrey's Farm selected Benedictine as its beneficiary for its 2nd annual Blueberry Boogie 5K Run/Walk. With runners of all ages and experience, the event raised over \$15,000 to support Benedictine's programs.

"Students from Benedictine have been visiting our farm for many years and seeing the excitement they bring and the kindness of their caregivers is heartwarming. This made our choice to support Benedictine an easy one!"
- Lisa Godfrey

Upon hearing about this event, a generous Benedictine supporter pledged a matching gift. "We have supported Benedictine for many years and thought this was a wonderful way to give and bring recognition to both Benedictine and the partnership with a local business. We are so happy that Benedictine was selected by Godfrey's Farm and to see how many people participated."
- Denise Kaczmarczyk



Mark your Calendar!

BIRDIES FOR BENEDICTINE | Monday, October 24, 2022 Talbot Country Club

BENEDICTINE SPRING GALA | Saturday, May 6, 2023

Mark your calendar to celebrate at the Trident Aviation Airport Hangar in Easton.





SUMMER

Benedictine's pool was overflowing with excitement as students, adults, staff and family members all gathered to cheer on our swimmers at the annual swim meet. Close to 40 students and adults who participated were encouraged and celebrated for their stellar attitudes and determination!

Splashing



BOWLING MADNESS *Returns*

Bowling came back this July with much excitement! It was the first time in two years that our adult community could get together on the lanes at the Easton Bowling Centre. Practices were held on Sundays in July with a tournament on July 24th.

In total, 51 adults participated in the tournament. Two bowlers bowled a turkey – 3 strikes in a row during the practice rounds – Ben A. and Jason B. A “Spirit Award” was presented to Nick B. and David C. for their enthusiasm! Most improved was awarded to Nancy G. High scorers during the practice rounds were Bryan S., Todd S. and Melissa N. Congratulations to everyone for their participation and great sportsmanship!

