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8235 Ohio River Boulevard
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"EL GALLO DE MAMA"

Our Journey of Hope team members work around the clock to ensure that the children in their care are safe, happy, and healthy during a tumultuous time in their lives.

A key part of achieving this goal includes providing children with opportunities for self-expression and enrichment. The following is a description of the beautiful painting on the left, which was painted by one of our Journey of Hope residents, featured in a recent art show at our Moon campus:

"I painted a rooster because it reminds me of my childhood, my country. When I was a child, my mother had a rooster of many colors. For the family, it was a symbol of joy."

Every dawn, Mom woke up very early to prepare the daily bread. A crowing rooster woke up just at the same time. Sometimes they were tired days for her, days of great sadness. The green in the background symbolizes that even though everything is dark, the little details can remind you how beautiful life can be. The crowing of the little rooster made her happy.

The rooster makes me think of Mom; she is positive and loves animals. For her, they are a symbol of hope. Mom is my home."

El Gallo

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HOLY LIGHT

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

STUDENT SUCCESS IS ON DISPLAY AT NAZARETH PREP YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS

The energy at Nazareth Prep during this time of year is electric as we celebrate not only our graduating seniors, but also all of our students, their families and support systems, and the corporate partners who make our Internship Program possible.

Each year, we applaud our students' entrepreneurial spirits with the St. Joseph the Worker Scholarship Competition. **This year, over 30 students in grades 9-12 submitted business plans to spur economic and community development in our region.** Five winners were chosen by a review panel led by Head of School Dr. Stacy Tweedy. Each winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship toward their post-secondary pathway – be it college or another career training program: ninth grader Jaison Johnson for *Digital Life: A Community-Conscious Streaming Service*, tenth grader Paris Green for *Community Bros: Tech-Driven Landscape Design*, eleventh grader Lucas Stunkel for *Rainbow Learning: Educational Equity and Environmental Stewardship Through Affordable and Eco-Conscious Art Supplies*, and twelfth graders Brendan Stone for *TechnoBridge: Affordable Semiconductor Manufacture in Under-Resourced Communities* and Chasiti Strickland for *Even Ground: Design and Manufacture of Affordable Assistive Technology for Americans Living with Disabilities*.

We honored these enterprising students on Tuesday, June 6 at the St. Joseph the Worker Scholarship Reception, at which President Michael Sexauer also presented awards to some of our outstanding Nazareth Prep Internship Program partners. Allie Chornick of Mascaro Construction received the Mentor of the Year Award. The Partner in Mission Award was presented to Boy Scouts of America, Partner in Growth to Allegheny General Hospital/Highmark Health, and the New Partner of the Year Award to Matthews International.

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Dr. Stacy Tweedy and President Michael Sexauer with Dawnese Booker and Lauren DeDomenic, accepting the Partner in Growth Award for Allegheny General Hospital/Highmark Health

Photo: Simply Sisters Photography

YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS (CONT'D.)

If you came to campus for the event, you might have thought you had accidentally stumbled onto a quaint European village square. Our student interns at Pathways Community Living created a catering plan called “The Street Food Stroll,” featuring five “restaurants” complete with themed facades to set the scene. Students served delicious dishes from The House of Pasta, Meat and Greet Deli Shop, Salad Bowl Café, Little Tart Bakeshop, and Blackberry Jasmine Mocktail Bar. Seeing our interns in action truly demonstrates the spirit of Nazareth Prep and the Internship Program.

Just two days after this celebration, the Class of 2023, along with their families, friends, and supporters, came together for this year’s commencement ceremony. Commencement speaker Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, President/CEO of Pittsburgh Technical College, extolled graduates to “Choose to move forward, choose to navigate each storm with precision towards your dreams, choose to have the best, to be the best, and to give your best and most importantly choose to press on and to take full responsibility for your future!” **We are thrilled to send these graduates off to exciting new opportunities, whether they are pursuing a four-year degree, attending a technical or trade school, or entering the workforce directly. We are proud to call them Nazareth Prep alumni and cannot wait to see how they change the world.**



Members of Nazareth Prep's Class of 2023 celebrate together at Commencement on June 8

YOUR TAX DOLLARS CAN HELP US BUILD TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Through the support of our loyal donors and partners, Nazareth Prep provides life-changing educational opportunities for youth from under-served school districts, equipping them with the skills and experience to become the leaders of tomorrow. Our teachers and staff help our students to become problem solvers, resilient learners, and entrepreneurs who are prepared to succeed in life after high school.

The Pennsylvania state government offers generous tax credits for individuals and businesses who support educational institutions serving students from low-achieving* school districts.

By redirecting your taxes through the state's tax credit program, you can support deserving Nazareth Prep students. **Gifts made through the program are eligible for up to a 90% credit – the equivalent of donating one dollar at the cost of 10 cents!** More information about the program is available on our website at hfi-pgh.org/tax-credits.

If you or someone you know might like to take advantage of this program, please contact Susan Neszpaul, Executive Vice President of Philanthropy, at 412.766.9020 x1084 or neszpaul.susan@hfi-pgh.org.

*A low-achieving school is defined as a public school ranking in the bottom 15% of Pennsylvania schools based on combined math and reading assessment scores.



NEW LEADERSHIP FOR HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE SPECIALIZED LEARNING

Ron Zangaro is a legend amongst educators and Northsiders alike. Now after nearly 40 years of service as an educator in Pittsburgh, Zangaro plans to retire in June 2023 from his position as Education Director of Holy Family Institute Specialized Learning (HFSL).



Ron Zangaro has served Holy Family Institute for over 11 years

Zangaro has been a part of Holy Family Institute for over 11 years. He worked in our workforce development program and then served as the inaugural principal of Nazareth Prep. Zangaro then brought his background in education and workforce development to HFSL at our Seville campus. He has been instrumental in growing the program to offer a well-rounded educational experience for its students.

Located in Ross Township, HFSL is a licensed private school for elementary and secondary students who are referred by their home districts. Once enrolled, HFSL's dedicated faculty and staff work with students to overcome their unique academic and behavioral challenges to set them up for a successful return to their home school district. **Zangaro's legacy of authentic leadership and gentle strength will continue as a new administration takes the reins at HFSL.**

Dale Sleva, Jr. will serve as the building Principal for HFSL under the guidance of Dr. Carrie Potter-Murray, Senior Director of Specialized Education Services. Sleva has led a dynamic and service-driven career in education at Penn Hills School District and Mars Area School District. Dr. Potter-Murray joined the Holy Family Institute leadership team in January 2023. Mr. Sleva and Dr. Potter-Murray are excited to continue to grow and develop HFSL beginning in July 2023.



HFSL's new Principal, Dale Sleva, Jr.



INTERNSHIP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: LANXESS

Nazareth Prep's Internship Program is a unique and transformational opportunity for students to experience the workforce and develop skills and knowledge that will launch them to post-secondary success.

One of our dedicated corporate partners, LANXESS, hosts students at three separate locations: their Burgettstown manufacturing plant, their Neville Island chemical lab, and in multiple departments at the regional corporate office in Robinson.

Nazareth Prep junior DaQuan Kemp interned at LANXESS' Neville Island site each Wednesday this year, where they manufacture biocides to prevent mold and mildew in coatings. Rotating between three mentors, DaQuan has worked on numerous tasks including filling, preparing, and organizing samples in the lab, attending meetings, and training to understand site protocols and PPE use. His mentors all agree that he had a great attitude and did an excellent job throughout the year.

DaQuan has another year at Nazareth Prep before he graduates, at which time he hopes to pursue career opportunities in business. DaQuan's experience at LANXESS helped him to learn soft skills and gain professional confidence that will be crucial in his future career.

To learn more about becoming an internship partner, contact Darrin Krally, Vice President of Business Development, at 412.766.9020 x1285 or krally.darrin@hfi-pgh.org.