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## *Congratulations* **SISTER LINDA!**

Sister Linda Yankoski, Chief Executive Officer of Holy Family Institute, has been chosen to receive the Pittsburgh Business Times' Women of Influence Career Achievement Award.

The Women of Influence program honors the Pittsburgh region's most influential women in the business, nonprofit, and government sectors.

The Career Achievement Award is presented to one woman each year who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and performance over the course of her career.

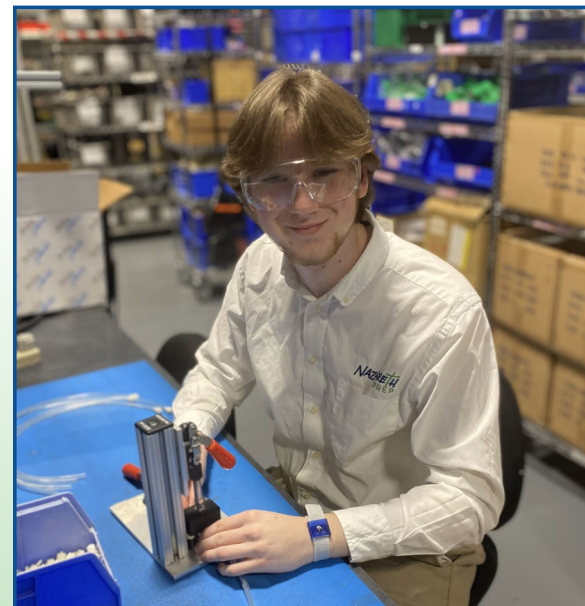
We are blessed to have Sister Linda's leadership and thrilled to see her recognized by the Pittsburgh community at large!

# HOLY LIGHT

WINTER 2024

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

## **BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE BY BUILDING CONNECTIONS TODAY**



Nazareth Prep junior Christopher Bell at his internship with MSA, The Safety Company.

It's a common question for any young person – “What do you want to be when you grow up?” But the reality is that the standard high school curriculum does not always give students the information they need to answer this question with confidence. That's why Nazareth Prep reimagines the way we prepare our students for post-graduate life. We collaborate with top employers in the region to help students gain hands-on experience in the workforce, feel better prepared to pursue post-graduate pathways, and build professional networks.

A crucial aspect of the Internship Program's success is helping students identify their strengths and figure out what is important to them in a future career. Nazareth Prep students are matched to an internship assignment each school year based on their strengths and interests. Each student is paired with a faculty member who serves as their Internship Manager and guides them throughout the process from “Match Day” to weekly Internship days to reflecting on what they learned at the end of the year.

Senior Ariana McPherson has learned a lot about herself through the Internship Program. Her internships have taken place at companies in widely varied industries, helping her to identify areas of interest and make educated decisions when planning for her life after high school. It was her sophomore internship at Concordia Villas at St. Joseph that helped Ariana choose a post-secondary path in the medical field. “It was humbling, gratifying and so inspirational learning medical protocol, working with the

nurses, and assisting patients at Concordia. While growing up, giving back was a virtue instilled in me by my family. What better way to feel good for the rest of my life than pursuing a career in healthcare?” Last year, Ariana interned in the finance department at Carnegie Mellon University and this year she is with Federated Hermes. Both internships have helped her gain crucial skills in organization, collaboration, time management, and more.

*Continued inside ➔*



Senior Ariana McPherson in AP Humanities class.



# BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE (CONT'D.)

The key to our Internship Program is the support and partnership of forward-thinking local organizations. Each week, more than 60 Internship Partners across the region invest in the future of our workforce by hosting our students.

We also rely on the financial support of organizations to make the internship experience possible. Organizations like the Philip & Patricia Muck Charitable Foundation, whose commitment to Catholic education and belief in our extraordinary students led them to make a generous gift to support our work. Similarly, the Baird Foundation awarded Nazareth Prep the Paul Purcell "Kids Win!" Annual Baird Education Grant, helping to support the cost of transportation and staff for the program. KeyBank has recently expressed its commitment to our mission with a significant tax credit gift to support tuition for our students who may not otherwise be able to afford a private education.

At the heart of it, our Internship Program is a testament to our community's belief in the bright future we envision for our students. In order to change the landscape of our region's workforce, we invest in the best resource we have – our young people.



Freshman Devin Matasich boards the van for his weekly internship with Don's Appliances.



Home Study & Post-Release Services Staff (L to R): Merly Yepez, Natalia Torres, Jose Caballero, Maryoskar Toro, Deborah Vidal, Claudia Gilbert, Ivonne Casas, Mike Sexauer, Sister Linda Yankoski, & Ligia Diaz Pentzke

## SPEND A DIME, GIVE A DOLLAR!

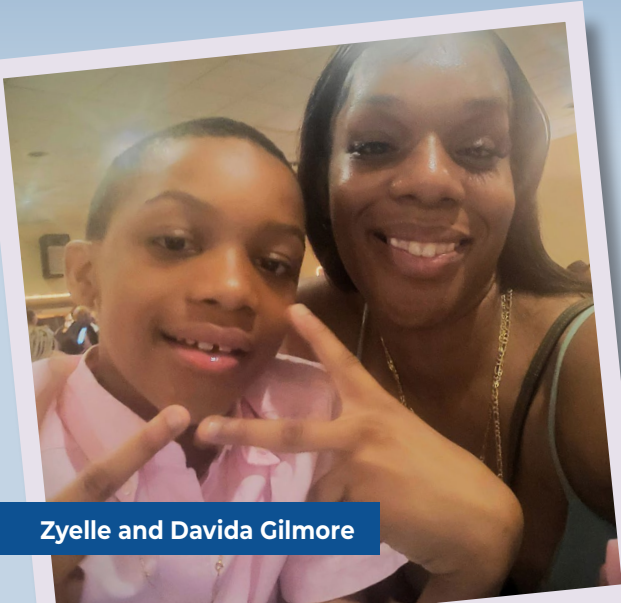
Support deserving Nazareth Prep students by redirecting your taxes through Pennsylvania's tax credit programs. Get up to a 90% credit of your donation, effectively donating one dollar at the cost of just 10 cents! Details at [hfi-pgh.org/tax-credits](http://hfi-pgh.org/tax-credits). Contact Susan Neszpaul, Executive Vice President of Philanthropy, at 412-239-9014 or [neszpaul.susan@hfi-pgh.org](mailto:neszpaul.susan@hfi-pgh.org) to make a direct impact.

## SNAP® HELPS FAMILIES BRIDGE COMMUNICATION GAPS

Early intervention and family participation can make all the difference when dealing with behavioral challenges. Based out of Holy Family Institute's McKees Rocks location, SNAP® (Stop Now and Plan) is an award-winning program for children ages 6-11 and their families to work together on improving their interactions. Children and parents meet in separate group sessions each week with other families facing similar challenges. Participants learn skills and strategies for managing behaviors and form connections with others in the group. After 13 weeks of group meetings, each parent and child meets with their own caseworker to work toward their individual goals.

Davida Gilmore and her son, 11-year-old Zylene, were having a hard time communicating, resulting in behavior problems at home and in school. They heard about SNAP® from the school counselor and enrolled in the program. "I really like how the parents communicated and shared their input," said Davida. "It felt good to get that relief around other parents."

After a few weeks of meetings, Davida began to feel a shift in her interactions with her son. "He opened up more. He started sharing more stories about his day and asking how my day was." With the lines of communication open, Davida and Zylene found it easier to work through challenging behaviors. SNAP® is particularly effective in overcoming problems because it involves the entire family in the process, allowing them to work together to achieve the results they seek. Over the past five years, nearly 1,000 families have benefitted from the SNAP® program.



Zylene and Davida Gilmore

## JOURNEY OF HOPE STAFF VISIT FROM FAR AND WIDE

Since 2014, the Journey of Hope program has provided shelter and care to unaccompanied minors arriving in the United States. In 2022, the Home Study & Post-Release Services program launched to ensure the safety and stability of those children after reunification with their sponsors.

With staff members across the country from Washington to Connecticut and many places between, the program's team works remotely to serve children in their new homes. This December, staff members traveled to Pittsburgh to meet in person and learn more about Holy Family Institute's other programs and services.



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## INTERNSHIP PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



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

For years, F.N.B. Corporation (FNB) has been a dedicated supporter of Nazareth Prep. "The Nazareth Prep interns are always fantastic and we are happy to have them with us at FNB," said Chairman, President, and CEO Vincent Delie. "We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this program, which in turn enables us to work with exceptional future employees and leaders."

Not only is FNB a long-time Internship Partner, the company also provides financial support for the school, including a generous contribution toward the construction of a state-of-the-art Activities Center on our campus in Emsworth.

Through his internship at FNB, junior Kente Allen gains hands-on experience and exposure to the financial industry under the mentorship of Ron Graziani, Senior Vice President and Manager of Property and Casualty for FNB's insurance business.

Nazareth Prep relies on the commitment of companies like FNB and leaders like Delie and Graziani to help us equip interns with practical skills, a network of professional contacts, and a newfound confidence that will serve them well in their future careers.

To learn more about becoming an internship partner, contact Katie Sidhom, Vice President of Business Development, at 412-239-9025 or [sidhom.katie@nazarethprep.org](mailto:sidhom.katie@nazarethprep.org).



Nazareth Prep intern Kente Allen with his mentor, Ron Graziani.