

Mike Mahoney - Active in Saint Joseph's Community and Beyond

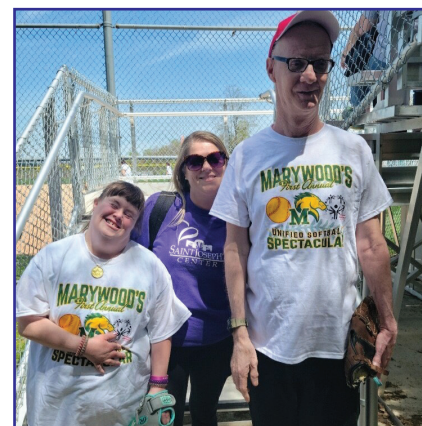
Meet Mike Mahoney, resident at the Gouldsboro Community Living Arrangement (CLA) home since 2021, who lives life to the fullest through active participation in the local community and opportunities offered by Saint Joseph's Center. One example is his involvement with the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus which is the highest of the honorary degrees. Their primary purpose is to foster the spirit of Patriotism and to encourage active Catholic Citizenship. Mike served alongside his late father, Michael, for many years at the Council stationed at Saint Catherine's Church in Moscow. Mike is committed to carrying on their family tradition. Charlie Schank, another Fourth Degree member shared about him, "The fact that Mike is there makes me very proud. He is always ready to help with fundraisers and is a wonderful example of a Fourth Degree member." Member of the Knights for over 40 years, Mike expressed,



Choosing seeds to plant in the Adult Day Services Garden is an important job that Mike is always happy to help with

Thelma Connor, Director of Adult Day Services.

One of his favorite hobbies is fishing with another participant in Adult Day Services. Accompanied by a staff member, they fish at Lackawanna State Park and a small pond in the Abingtons. Mike has his own fishing pole and has made some sizeable catches. He enjoys being outdoors and is involved in planting and watering the vegetable garden at Adult Day Services.



Mike participating in Special Olympics Unified Softball at Marywood University.

Meghan Lynady, Director of Community Living Arrangements shared, "Mike is a very social guy. He is usually up to trying anything and everything. He is quick to smile and will enthusiastically lend his helping hand. Due to his social nature, I think he truly enjoys spending time out in his community, helping

others, and forging relationships. He is friendly and his smile will certainly warm anyone's heart." Mike's sister AnnMarie and her husband Jimmy visit Mike for the holidays and his birthday. In between visits, Mike appreciates their phone calls which always brings a big smile.



Charlie Schank and Mike Mahoney attending the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus meeting at Saint Catherine's Church in Moscow

Mike enjoys shopping for ingredients to make snacks for those at Adult Day Services. He assists

in preparing the snacks as well as delivering them to his friends throughout the building. At the end of every day, Mike provides a beautiful closing by announcing "Good Night, everybody. See you tomorrow!" All of us at Saint Joseph's Center are grateful to know Mike!

“

I like going to the Knights of Columbus because everyone is my friend.

”

Mike also volunteers setting up tables and helping with clean up at a local soup kitchen which serves a daily meal to more than 250 men, women and children. Mike is seen collecting donations for those in need during the holidays, and after making dog treats at Adult Day Services, he delivers them to a local shelter.

Mike likes to stay busy and looks forward to enjoying activities. Every summer he and his housemates attend baseball games. Mike enjoys going to fairs and theme parks and also travels with staff to farms to pick fresh fruits. He goes bowling regularly, sometimes with residents from other community homes. Upon his return, he is eager to share his score with

Joe Snedeker visits Elmhurst CLA as last stop of Go Joe 27

“It’s a Great Day to be Alive!” is often proclaimed by WNEP’s Morning Meteorologist, Joe Snedeker. It’s believable because Joe gives examples in words and deeds by encouraging everyone to get outside, experience nature, enjoy the beauty of each day, and meet new people! Go Joe 27 was the epitome of this message. The clever slogan “Inflate and Donate” captured the hearts of so many in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania. They came out to gatherings as he stopped in their town, and they also displayed a variety of inflatable décor along the Go Joe route, every holiday or event was seen. It was outrageous and fun to be part of Go Joe.



Day 5 of the Go Joe Bike Ride included a stop at the Elmhurst Community Home. Angela, Raubin, Chrissy, Erica, April and Mike from the Gouldsboro Community Home cheered as Joe arrived. Program staff and Direct Support Professionals, Marissa, Micah, Diana, Jen, Haley and Joyce, were happy to see Joe! Their messages of love and thanks gave Joe the encouragement he needed to finish the 5-day Bike Ride at the Summer Festival that evening.

“It is heartwarming to see the community’s support of Go Joe and Saint Joe’s-year after year. It affirms the work we do, seeing how people care for residents, clients, and programs,” says Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, President and CEO. She continues, “Joe’s ride has such a great impact on the community and everyone’s generosity makes a difference in the lives of others. With a generous gift from the William E. Chatlos Foundation, donations were matched again this year. Everyone’s commitment—Joe Snedeker, WNEP, William Chatlos, and every individual donor and corporate sponsor is unwavering—and we are forever grateful”. **“The exhilarating, exuberant vibe of connecting with people for a common good to make a tiny little corner of the grand, mysterious universe a better place for a precious group of individuals is one of the great purposes of life! It happened at Elmhurst!”** says Joe Snedeker, Meteorologist, WNEP. **“Inspirational”** sums up Go Joe 27!

Marking the 10th Anniversary of the Baby Palooza held at Barrett’s Pub in Archbald



Erika Dutka, her family and co-workers have organized this yearly event to collect items and raise funds for the Saint Joseph’s Center Baby and Children’s Pantry. This year’s donation included – over 2,500 diapers, 50 packages of wipes, \$1,600, and other wish items. From left are, Alexis Schemel Wilkie, Gerard Walsh, Hayley Dutka, Michael Conway (holding his son Eric “Ricky” Conway), Erika Dutka, Mary Griffin, Outreach Coordinator, and Tamara Hall, Director of Maternity and Family Services. In front is Moira Lorraine Hackett Dutka (daughter of Erika Dutka).



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BUILDING A MEANINGFUL LEGACY THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Every year, Saint Joseph’s Center is the honored beneficiary of bequests made by friends of the Center. Each bequest, whether large or small, has an impact on Saint Joseph’s well beyond the time the gift is made. For more information please visit the website at www.stjosephscenter.org or call 570-963-1260 to request a Planned Giving Brochure.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you for your goodness to Saint Joseph’s!



Saint Joseph’s Center Installs Emergency Generators for Residences

From its beginning, Saint Joseph’s Center has prioritized the health and well-being of those entrusted to their care. In a typical year, Saint Joseph’s Center provides residential services at the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) for 99 persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have complex medical needs. Community Living Arrangements (CLA) serves an additional 45 individuals with intellectual disabilities in 13 community-based residential homes. One thing these programs have in common is a group of dedicated and caring staff, sharing the same goal of ensuring each resident has the potential to live their life to the fullest. With many of the residents being medically fragile, proper medical equipment is an essential part of their lives. With much of this equipment being electrically powered, Saint Joseph’s Center must always be able to keep them operating at full functionality. With grants from generous foundations and other fundraising, Saint



The brand new generator gets installed at the Main Center.

Joseph’s Center has installed reliable emergency system generators in the 3 ICFs and most of the CLA homes. With these generators, we can ensure that in case of emergency, residents will still have the essential equipment they require around the clock. Some of the equipment residents are reliant on are feeding pumps, food processors, mechanical lifts, suction machines, nebulizers, high-frequency chest compression vests as well as typical household requirements such as refrigerators, garage doors and HVAC. The initiative took several years to complete, but with each power outage experienced it is well worth the effort and expense.



The Dennis Crafferty Memorial Auction Committee showcasing some of the great items featured.

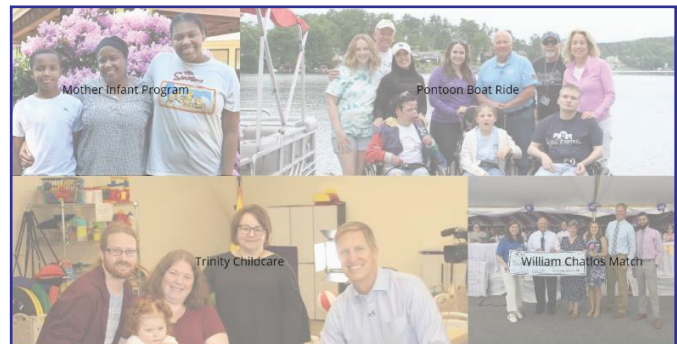
The 24th Annual Dennis Crafferty Memorial Auction will be held online November 7-14, 2024. Each year, the Committee selects items that make popular selections for the Auction. Tremendous support from the local business community makes it possible to have such a successful auction. Saint Joseph’s Center Auxiliary coordinates Shop-Around events and gift collection throughout the year. A special section features “Saint Joe’s Wishes.” These “Wishes” are requested items that benefit residents and clients directly served by Saint Joseph’s Center. “Purchasing a Saint Joe’s Wish is an added way to benefit the mission of Saint Joseph’s Center,” says Sister Maryalice Jacquinot. The online Auction can be viewed beginning November 7th by visiting stjosephscenter.org.



**Saint Joseph’s Center WNEP Telethon 2024
Stories are now on the website.**

Visit stjosephscenter.org

*Scroll down to the middle of the homepage
and click on the pictures to see each story.*



Please follow us on social media for pictures of residents, program happenings, and all the latest news and events! Facebook @saintjosephscenter and Instagram @saintjosephscenter



Dear Friends of Saint Joseph's Center,

As fall arrives, our attention turns quickly to the coming holidays. From Halloween to New Year's Day, there will be many opportunities to celebrate. For each holiday, we have traditions that are similar to your own, gathering with friends and family, giving thanks, enjoying special meals, exchanging gifts and praying for God's blessings. Our celebrations are enhanced by the many thoughtful considerations received from others. As friends and benefactors of Saint Joseph's Center know that you are always remembered with gratitude and prayer.

We are happy to share with you some updates and information about recent events. It is always humbling to reflect on the many ways that you and others support our mission throughout the Summer as we prepare for the Summer Festival, WNEP Telethon and Go Joe Bike Ride. "Inflate and Donate" made for fun and successful events. The residents and staff of the Elmhurst Community Home appreciated that Joe stopped by their home, so they could be part of the action.

You will enjoy reading about Mike who resides in a Saint Joseph's Center Community Home. With his gentle personality, Mike has become an important part of our community. He looks forward to his busy schedule and makes friends easily. Mike and others from the Adult Day Services love to be active in the community and visit favorite places.

Dedicated staff deserve recognition for the efforts they take to make opportunities possible for residents and clients. Planning, coordination and flexibility are required as we ensure that each person supported is given the chance to grow, learn, develop and engage. Staff look for and pursue unique opportunities that match with each one's interests and abilities. Mike's story is a good example of making that happen.

Once again, I want to extend my appreciation for your continued interest and support for Saint Joseph's Center. We are grateful for all that is possible. May God continue to bless you with an abundance of love and peace.

With gratitude,

Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM

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President/CEO



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