



## From the Director By Nancy Sabol

Celebrating 75 Years of Service



An old African proverb tells us, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others”. I think this is a fine reminder to all of us. At any given time, in your personal or your professional life, haven’t you thought

about how much easier it would be to just “do it yourself”. The time it takes to train, to teach, to explain, to check, to double check. The effort doesn’t seem worth it, often, and so we easily fall into the dysfunctional pattern of going it alone.

Our residents are that way, as well. They have been disappointed far too many times – by family, friends, strangers, the courts, schools, those who were supposed to guide and mentor them. And so they have made a choice – to be independent, rely only on themselves, trust no one. They go it alone, even when the outcome is harmful or does not produce the expected results. It is a tremendous cycle to break. It requires risk on the part of the child, and perseverance and trustworthiness on the part of the helper. I have been known to ask my staff whether, by the very nature of their job title, they believe the children should consider them

trustworthy. I’m always a bit surprised by the mixed responses, but I always remind them – trust is not bestowed upon us because of who we are or what our title is. Trust is earned. And it is a privilege to know that we are trusted by another. It is something that we should treasure and treat with the deepest care, for it is easily violated and lost.

Over this past year, and throughout the Summer, we have had the opportunity to show our residents, through practical experience, what it means to go with another. They participated in programs, provided community service, and generally engaged in activities together, where team work and care for other human beings, the environment and even the creatures of the earth was essential. Hopefully it was a fundamental learning experience that began to heal the lack of trust in them – to teach them that working with others can be a better option than isolating, and that there is real reward to be found within healthy relationships.

Going it alone has its benefits and its positive aspects. Going together is hard work, and can certainly create frustration and sadness and fear. It can also bring a lifetime of joy. What choice do you make today?

*“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.”*

# Gannondale Joins Earthforce

Twenty residents spent seven weeks learning about their community and about the environmental problems we face. The girls completed 1,240 hours of service projects such as creating community gardens, stenciling storm drains, picking up litter and educating neighbors. There

was fun, learning and activism, as well as the opportunity for weekly field trips! Special thanks to the instructors at EARTHFORCE for making this such a valuable experience for the girls.

## Summer Career Planning

**CAREERLINK** - 10 residents had the opportunity to earn \$7.25 per hour completing work on our campus. They cleaned out storage areas, painted, completed grounds-keeping activities and did paperwork in order to learn the skills necessary to enter the labor market for the first time. Classes were also conducted to support employment opportunities and encourage high school graduation and post-secondary education. Girls were able to earn money to pay off restitution, or to put in an account for when they return to their community.

### HEALTH CAREER EXPLORER CAMP

This program was designed to recruit students into a health services field, to support their academic achievement, develop knowledge of the medical profession and establish long-term mentoring relationships in the health care delivery system. Six students completed the program and were eligible to receive a \$2,000 scholarship to Mercyhurst North East. We also had two residents earn the privilege of attending a field trip to Cleveland and the Science Center.



## Wish List

- Slippers
- Underwear
- Socks
- Bathrobes
- Gloves
- Earmuffs
- PJ's (no nightgowns)
- New items only please

## Equine Program

Getting in touch with horses helps the girls get in touch with themselves and gain important insights into their relationships with others. Residents in our intensive treatment program took weekly classes designed to teach life building skills pertaining to non-verbal communication, relationship skills, establishing personal boundaries, self-awareness, accountability, and other issues. They were then rewarded by having the instructor bring her horse on campus, where the girls were able to provide grooming techniques and discover what it was like to deal with such a large animal up close!



# Car Show Rolls Onto Campus

On Sunday, August 15, Gannondale hosted the 3rd annual classic car show. Though not scheduled to begin until 1:00 pm, cars started rolling in early in an effort to get prime parking on the front lawn. Classics of all kinds came in, much to the delight of the crowd. It was a beautiful, steamy afternoon, filled with music, food, raffle baskets and a 50-50.

Special thanks to the good people at Allstate Insurance and the Forquer Group for sponsoring this event! And our gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who worked to make this a successful event.



*John Karnes, Gannondale board member and Allstate employee presenting a donation to Nancy Sabol. Also pictured are John's sons who enjoyed all of the cars.*

## Sisters Continue to Offer HOPE

Several years ago, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity began what is known as the Sister Patrick Stapleton Hope Scholarship. Named after one of their most devoted leaders, this scholarship has provided former residents with resources to support their educational goals. A past resident, who was in our program over seven years ago, was recently awarded funds as she pursues a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management.

She stated, "I can admit that Gannondale definitely changed my life, and because of the program and the wonderful staff who I had the honor of working with I am a better person today. I have two kids of my own now, and I am able to be a great mom to them, as well as successful in all other aspects of my life. I'm very thankful for the program and all the difference it has made."

Thanks to our Sisters, former residents who may not otherwise have had the opportunity can pursue their dreams of a higher education! What greater gift is there?

## Gannondale News

**Summer School** - Some of our residents participated in a seven week Title 1 remediation program which includes reading, math, art enrichment and physical education. They had swimming class twice weekly where they learned basic water safety techniques.

**Field Trips** - The Summer came to a close with two field trips. When the Coach bus pulled up, residents were thrilled to climb aboard and set off to the Cleveland Zoo one week, and to Niagara Falls the following week. These two events offered them the opportunity to learn while enjoying such fine resources so close to Erie. Certainly almost none of our residents has ever seen the Falls, so this was truly an experience they will never forget!

**Service Hours** - In Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010, Gannondale is proud to announce that our girls provided 2300 hours of community service to the Erie Community. They assisted at church and community events, tutored at the Gertrude Barber Center and the JFK Center, and helped the Lions Club with their White Cane Days, just to name a few of their accomplishments. This is a remarkable number of hours, and the girls are to be congratulated for giving back!

# GANNONDALE

## *Residential Center for Girls*

4635 East Lake Road

Erie, PA 16511

Phone: 814.899.7659

Email: [gdale@gannondale.org](mailto:gdale@gannondale.org)

Website: [www.gannondale.org](http://www.gannondale.org)

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## Your Donation Helps

The basic cost of care for the youth served is covered by the placing county governments on a per diem basis; however, this provides only the necessities for the girls.

Through the years we have relied on grants and gifts to provide renovations, repairs and maintenance on our buildings.

Please consider a tax deductible gift to Gannondale: To memori-

alize the life of someone close to you, or to commemorate a birthday, anniversary or other special event.

Your contribution, regardless of amount, will benefit the girls in care at Gannondale.

Mail contributions to: Gannondale; 4635 East Lake Road; Erie, PA 16511

### **Mission Statement:**

Gannondale, a ministry of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, provides holistic and therapeutic residential care for young women placed by the courts.

The typical length of stay is nine to twelve months.

- reaching out to those in need
- alert to the needs of the times
- willing to take the initiative
- courage to meet the challenges

# GANNONDALE

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