

MARCH 2016

*Rebuilding Lives • Rekindling Spirits • Renewing Hope*

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## New Chromebooks Help Jen School Student Make the A-Honor-Roll

Children who bring home excellent report cards have every right to be proud of their hard work, dedication and achievement. And yet, for some students, high grades are indicative of so much more than test results.

Such is the case with Antoine Cochran, 14, who enrolled at the Maryville Jen School late in 2015. He had left his home school district in Waukegan, where large class sizes and limited support services made learning difficult for him. In Waukegan, Antoine disliked school. While in junior high, he began to exhibit behavior problems. Eventually, he got into trouble and was expelled.

Flash forward to January 2016: Antoine is seated with his classmates in the audience at the Jen School's quarterly Awards Ceremony. His name is called. Antoine grins and walks to the podium to receive a certificate. On this day, in front of his cheering teachers and friends, Antoine is being

recognized for achieving A-Honor-Roll status.

For Antoine, his straight A's represent more than a great report card or a round of applause: they symbolize a completely new chapter in his academic life.

Antoine achieved this success by way of the Jen School's Relational Teaching Model, which is built on mutual respect between student and teacher. This model emphasizes the student's strengths, creates a sense of accomplishment and fuels the student's desire to learn more.

"The classroom setting in a mainstream environment was too large for Antoine," said Ann Craig, the Jen School Principal. "At Jen, he is receiving individualized instruction at his level."

The change of scenery has fostered Antoine's tremendous progress. "I think what has helped me the most is the support I get from my teachers and the staff," Antoine said. "The support helps me concentrate and focus on positive things. It feels a bit more comforting somehow."

Computer technology has also played

a major role in turning Antoine's educational experience around. In Waukegan, he only had access to computers in a lab setting; at Jen, he can check one out for individual use during school hours. "We currently have 45 Chromebooks and 50 students," Ann said. "So, there is rarely a time when all the laptops are checked out at once."

In 2015, The Maryville Jen School received a \$9,900 grant award from Altria Companies Employee Community Fund, which was used to purchase 30 Chromebooks, 30 licenses, and a charging station. The Jen School also received a \$5,000 grant award from the Dr. Scholl Foundation, which was used to purchase 15 Chromebooks, 15 licenses, and a charging station.

Altria Companies Employee Community Fund and the Dr. Scholl Foundation are longtime supporters of the educational and vocational programming at the Maryville Jen School. The positive impact of their generosity will be felt for generations to come. Antoine is just one of the students who have reaped the benefits of these awards.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Maryville

Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.

## Jen School Student Makes A-Honor-Roll

(continued from page 1)

Research suggests that Web-based resources increase student engagement and can introduce them to collaborative activities that trigger critical thinking and creativity. For Antoine, this has certainly been the case. He has used a Chromebook to explore tutorial websites such as CoolMath.com and SumDog.com. "Math is my favorite subject," he said. "I know all of my multiplication tables." He also credits the online resource FreeTypingGame.net with helping him improve his keyboarding skills.

Jen School Special Education Teacher Kristina Walz has witnessed Antoine's growth firsthand. "We are so proud of Antoine and his A-Honor-Roll achievement. He is an incredibly bright student," she said. "The Chromebook donation has been great for Antoine to broaden his learning experiences. He's also a very independent learner, so the Chromebooks are a wonderful option for him to complete research, practice skills and challenge himself academically."

If Antoine continues to succeed at the Jen School, he will eventually transition into an alternative or self-contained program in his home district in Waukegan. "Districts look for overall improvement in three areas: behavior, attendance and grades," said Ann. "Antoine has made progress in all three, but he still has some work ahead of him."

Antoine, who speaks both English and Spanish at home, is currently learning German, Italian and Russian. While math might be his favorite subject right now, he is adding foreign languages to his skill set for a practical reason. He wants to become a zoologist and believes that profession might include international travel. "I think someday I will work overseas. I will probably have a job that lets me go out and help other people."

**To learn more about the Jen School and its programs for male students, ages 10 - 21, please call 847.390.3020.**



## A Message from Maryville's Executive Director

Sr. Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.  
ryanc@maryvilleacademy.org

Dear Friends:

As we enter the spring season, our Maryville family is grateful to be able to celebrate this time of growth and renewal. For us, spring is symbolic of our philosophy that each person has value and should be encouraged to excel, no matter the challenges that life has offered. We want all the children and families we serve to believe in their hearts that every day offers new opportunities for enrichment and achievement.

Along with the important news stories this newsletter contains about our programs, donors and volunteers, we are pleased to share information about Maryville's upcoming events. We hope you will mark your calendars in advance and join us!

Whether you attend the Ed Block Courage Award Luncheon, our 10th Annual Gala, our CYO Golf Outing or our 5K Family Fun Run/Walk, you will be showing your support for Maryville's children. Your generosity makes our work possible. Together, we have the power to transform lives.

Peace and all good,  
Sister Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.  
Executive Director



## Donor Spotlight: Jim Rohrbach

At Maryville, one of our greatest strengths is the support of individuals who share in our mission. Long-time donor, Jim Rohrbach, is one of these individuals. After moving to Chicago in the late '90s, Jim began volunteering his time working with youth in our residential program here at Maryville. He was inspired by this work, seeing firsthand the difference he was making in children's lives. In the late '90s, Jim started his own business as a success skills coach, and due to the time constraints, was no longer able to volunteer. Although he couldn't be here in person, he felt he could make a difference by making a donation, once a month. In 1995, he started with a gift of \$25. Over the years, as his coaching business grew, he made the decision to increase his monthly donation by one dollar every month. He knew this extra dollar would make a greater impact in the lives of the children in our care than if he kept it for himself. It is part of his morning ritual that he teaches all of his clients; he visualizes his success and thinks of the individuals who will be impacted by his generosity. Over the past 20 years, month by month, Jim has donated over \$47,000 to the children and programs of Maryville Academy. And, he has no intention of stopping. He says giving to Maryville is his "favorite check to write each month" and he just asks us to pray he can give more.

Jim's story is a powerful one. It reminds us that we all can make a difference in a mission we believe in. He hopes his story will encourage others to give to Maryville, and start their own story. Maybe it is by making your first donation or becoming a monthly donor. Maybe it is looking at your gift last year and increasing it. We hope you will support Maryville Academy and join donors, like Jim, who are helping to brighten the future for children and families across Chicago.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE: PLANNED GIVING AND BEQUESTS

By making a gift to Maryville under your will or trust, you can support Maryville without impacting your current lifestyle. To learn more about how Planned Giving and Bequests can benefit Maryville's children, please contact Julie Fischer, Director of Development and Communication, at 847.294.1950 or FischerJ@maryvilleacademy.org.





## The Doctor is in the House

Each year, hundreds of volunteers share their invaluable expertise with Maryville. By doing so, they help us bring our mission of caring for children and strengthening families to life.

Dr. Karen Judy, a pediatrician at Northwestern Medical Regional Group in Glen Ellyn, offers her services as the volunteer Medical Liaison with our Crisis Nursery in Chicago. A few years ago, after a friend mentioned the nursery and its work to her in conversation, she arranged to take a tour of the facility.

"I'm one of those people who went to medical school knowing that I was going into pediatrics," Dr. Judy said. "I always had a passion for working with children and educating them. When I visited the Crisis Nursery for the first time, I was very impressed with the mission and the staff. They provide respite care for parents who are going through difficult times in their lives. The nursery also gives the children a place where they can feel cared for and nurtured."

Today, Dr. Judy works in partnership with Maryville staff to offer free educational programs for parents at the Crisis Nursery. These sessions involve a brief lecture and a Q&A session on subjects relating to children's health and wellness. While parents attend the group meeting, their children can play in the Crisis Nursery's Gym under the supervision of the staff. Past program topics

have ranged from healthy eating and sleeping habits to dealing with behavioral issues and preventing injuries.

As a physician whose patients tend to favor Pull-Ups and sippy cups, she has one very important piece of advice for parents: take care of those teeth. "The Number One chronic disease for children is dental cavities," she said. "They lead to a lot of missed days at school, pain and expense. I do not recommend that children drink a lot of juice; tap water is perfectly safe around here and it has fluoride, so it's better than bottled water."

In her role as Crisis Nursery Medical Liaison, Dr. Judy also donates her time by leading continuing-education programs for the staff. "We had a session recently and we reviewed asthma, fevers, allergies, skin rashes and teething," Dr. Judy said. "These are all the types of things that you need to know about if you're caring for small children."

Dr. Judy is quick to acknowledge that the Crisis Nursery is an important community resource. "We're finding out more about toxic stress and what that does to individuals and families," she said. "What the Crisis Nursery does is ameliorate some of that stress. It allows people to get back on their feet. It prevents injuries and neglect and abuse. When parents have limited financial resources and limited family support, this is an outlet for them."

**To learn more about the Maryville Crisis Nursery, please call 773.205.3637.**

## Children's Healthcare Center Helps Gunshot Victim Recover

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, at least 2,987 people were shot in Chicago in 2015. One of those victims of gun violence was Delontea Randle, 16, who is currently a patient at Maryville's Children's Healthcare Center (CHC).

Last July 14 at about 7:30 p.m., Delontea was shot six times while he stood outside his home in the city's Bronzeville neighborhood. His memory of the shooting itself is cloudy, in part because it happened so quickly. "It was like 30 seconds and then I opened up my eyes," he said. "When you're lying on that stretcher or in that street, you're thinking it's a movie, but it's real. You don't know death until it's right in your face."

After the shooting, Delontea had surgery to remove bullets from his back, chest, neck and stomach. "I've got two bullets in me that didn't shatter. They're like whole bullets and they didn't come out," he said. "But if the one in my neck had moved more, I could have been totally paralyzed."

What followed was a five-month stay at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) and many

hours of physical therapy. Once his condition improved and he no longer required acute medical care, Delontea was transferred to the CHC for transitional services.

At the CHC, Delontea receives 24-hour nursing care to ensure his wounds are healing. The staff also manages his medications and helps him properly use his hand splints and leg braces. Twice a week, CHC staff transport him to RIC Ravenswood for physical therapy.

On the days when he doesn't have outside medical appointments, Delontea uses his motorized wheelchair for a minimum of four hours. As part of his treatment at the CHC, he also receives post-traumatic psychiatric counseling. Once the Chicago Public Schools approves his homebound schooling, he will qualify for services for an hour a day, four to five days a week.

The CHC staff anticipates that when his wounds heal completely and his family is comfortable taking care of him, Delontea will be able to go home. In the meantime, getting stronger and developing more



independent living skills are his primary goals.

"I just can't fall off and sit back and feel sorry for myself," he said. "I'm doing this for my little brothers and my Mom, because they need me."

**To learn more about the Maryville Children's Healthcare Center, please call 773.205.3606.**

*Building a  
Brighter Future  
Together*

10TH ANNUAL MARYVILLE  
AWARD GALA

*Join Us for the 10th Annual  
Maryville Award Gala*

*An Evening to Benefit the Crisis Nursery and the Children's Healthcare Center*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016**

**MORGAN MANUFACTURING**, 401 North Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60642

6:00 P.M. Cocktails and Silent Auction

7:30 P.M. Dinner, Award Presentation and Live Auction

*Honoring Bert A. Getz, Jr. with the 2016 Guardian Medallion Award*

9:00 P.M. After Party

**TICKETS: \$350 PER PERSON** (includes After Party); **\$60** (for After Party only)

**To RSVP or to learn more about becoming a Gala sponsor, please contact Tina Hock at 847.294.1982 or [restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org).**



**THE CHICAGO BEARS AND MARYVILLE ANNOUNCE**

**The Ed Block Courage Award Luncheon**

*Benefiting the Ed McCaskey Scholarship Fund*

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Maryville Gymnasium—Des Plaines Campus, 1150 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016**

Please join us in paying tribute to Chicago Bears Placekicker Robbie Gould, this year's Ed Block Courage Award Recipient, with special recognition of the life and contributions of Ed McCaskey.

**\$65 per person** (\$25 of your donation is tax-deductible) Includes meet-and-greet with members of the Chicago Bears, luncheon and award program.

**To register, please contact Tina Hock at 847.294.1982 or [restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org).**

**CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION GOLF OUTING**

*Benefiting CYO Chicago Summer Sports League to keep children in at-risk communities safe, active and engaged.*

**Monday, May 23, 2016**

**Riverside Golf Club**

**2520 Des Plaines Avenue, Riverside, IL 60546**

**Shotgun Start—12:30 p.m.; Cocktails, Awards, Dinner—6 p.m.**

**\$350 per golfer** (Includes lunch, golf, cart fees, beer, wine, buffet dinner.)

Online registration will be available at [www.maryvilleacademy.org](http://www.maryvilleacademy.org) on April 1, 2016.

Can't make it? Become a Hole Sponsor! \$500 Hole Sponsorship sponsors a team this summer! Interested in joining our committee and making a commitment to helping keep children safe this summer?

**Please contact Julie Fischer at 847.294.1950 or [fischerj@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:fischerj@maryvilleacademy.org) or Kim Williams at 312.491.3534 or [williamsk4@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:williamsk4@maryvilleacademy.org).**

**MARYVILLE 5K FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK**

*Proceeds benefit Maryville Therapeutic Residential Programs*

**Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 9 a.m.**

**Maryville Des Plaines Campus**

**1150 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**\$35 per person / \$120 per family**

Families with strollers are welcome to join us for the 1-mile walk. Tap House Grill of Des Plaines will host the post-run party! Register online at [www.maryvilleacademy.org](http://www.maryvilleacademy.org) (Registration is needed to guarantee shirt size.) Can't run? Sponsor a child at Maryville to run!

**For more information, please contact:**

**Tina Hock at 847.294.1982 or [restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org](mailto:restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org)**



**Maryville**

**Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.**

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