We hope you enjoy the inspiring stories in this edition of our magazine which features Kathy Marinucci – a parent, dedicated volunteer, donor and this year’s Community Award recipient.

Inspiration is all around us every day, and it comes in many forms including the exceptional dedication of Benedictine staff to those in our care. In this issue, we recognize Phyllis Young who has been with us for 50 years.

You’ll also see photos from our recent graduation ceremony. This event is a milestone for every student and parent. Our graduating students triumph over significant challenges to accomplish a goal that comes easily for many. Many Benedictine parents have shared that they didn’t think graduation was possible for their child to accomplish, but the dedication, faith, and personal fortitude of students, staff, and parents alike make such things possible. The pure joy and pride on the faces of our graduates year after year says it all.

Many caring people in our community find creative ways to support and raise awareness of our mission. The Mid-Shore Board of Realtors sponsored a pit-beef fundraiser in Easton to raise funds in a unique and delicious way. Chesapeake Classic Car Club sponsored a cruise-in at Chick-fil-A that recruited Benedictine students to judge cars and present the winning trophy. These, along with many other community partnerships, enrich the lives of our students and adult clients throughout the year.

Last month’s art show on campus was a terrific success. Teacher Emily Whelan truly exemplifies our mission, and our students’ creativity really shined.

A special year of celebration begins next spring, as we kick-off our 60th anniversary. We hope you’ll be inspired to help assure the future of Benedictine’s vital programs and services with your support.

CHARLEY MILLS
President, Board of Trustees
For three generations, Benedictine has had a place in Kathy Marinucci’s life. Beginning with her mother-in-law who started the first Spring Benefit more than 40 years ago, to her son Dominic, who is a member of the Adult Services community – Kathy has helped to build a community around Benedictine.

“Kathy is part of the Benedictine family as a parent, a volunteer and an advocate,” said Education Director, Julie Hickey. “In her role as a parent, she has supported her son directly; as a volunteer, she has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of fundraising events, and as an advocate, she helps to spread the word about Benedictine to others.”

For her dedication, Marinucci was named the Community Award recipient at the Class of 2018 Graduation Ceremony on campus. The award recognizes her years of support and generosity, most notably by providing students access to her animals at Dominic’s Farm.

Marinucci turned a plot of farm land in Queenstown, Md., into a unique place where everyone is welcome. From what started as a flower farm, to providing the first horse for an equine therapy program, her farm has evolved into a working farm with horses, goats, chickens, dogs, cats, miniature horses, and pigs.

By blending her two passions, her love of animals and helping individuals with challenges, Marinucci provides therapeutic opportunities for students on her farm and when she brings her animals to campus.

“Kathy does this without question, without compensation and without need for recognition,” said Hickey. “She does it because she loves the students, loves the Benedictine mission, and wants to make a difference.”

In addition to sharing her farm, Marinucci volunteers annually at Spring Benefit and Chrome City Ride and continues to contribute to countless other special events throughout the year.

“I’m honored, of course, to receive this award,” said Marinucci. “But I don’t do any of this for recognition – I do it because I love it, and I do what I can from my position. My joy is making other people happy and I continue to try to impact the lives of others.”
Motorcycles and muscle cars roared through the Mid-Shore Sunday, July 19, for Benedictine’s 17th Annual Chrome City Ride. Nearly 2,000 classic cars, street rods, motorcycles and spectators from six rally points across Maryland, and in Delaware, thundered onto the Benedictine campus in Ridgely. Generous sponsors, donors, riders and volunteers helped to raise more than $117,500.

The event, organized and run by volunteers, has grown into the state’s largest ride, and has generated more than $1.6 million since its inception. More importantly, this event provides a unique way to share Benedictine’s mission with all who attend. This year’s ride featured special guests Candy Clark and Cindy Williams from the classic film American Graffiti.

“We are honored to have so many car enthusiasts from the Maryland and Delaware region come to support the kids each year,” said Volunteer Event Chair, Spud Blake.

“This is an event where the kids love seeing the cars and motorcycles and interacting with the various owners.

The owners take time to show the kids what is special about their ride.”

Generous sponsors, off-site registration locations and volunteers continue to make the event a success year after year. Blake thanked CPR Vintage Porsche Restoration in Easton for helping to promote the event, and Outback Steakhouse, Green Turtle, Paul T. Ewing, Inc. in Easton, Hitchcock Autoworks and the Old Glory and Rommel Harley Davidson dealerships for serving as registration locations and rally points.

Volunteers from Callahan’s Gas and Appliance in Centreville coordinated the parking of hundreds of vehicles on campus, along with more than a dozen first-time volunteers from Choptank Transport in Preston.

Each rider passed under a large U.S. flag waving from a ladder truck at Benedictine’s front entrance, courtesy of the Denton Volunteer Fire Company. Riders enjoyed a BBQ lunch from Famous Dave’s and took home collectable ride T-shirts designed and printed by Benedictine Graphics.
In July, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan visited Benedictine Programs and Services’ main campus in Ridgely; and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford traveled to Benedictine’s Community Services and Training Center in Easton. Both met with staff and students to learn about the organization which serves children and adults from nearly every county in the state.

The visit to Benedictine, a leader in providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities and one of the area’s top six employers, marked the first ever by a Maryland Governor.

Once on campus, Hogan was greeted by Foundation Director, Barry Smale and Adult Services individual and recently elected member of Benedictine’s Board of Directors, Greg Hviding, who guided the Governor through Heritage Hall. The hall displays pictures and artifacts spanning the organization’s history – from its 1887 founding to today’s current model.

Next, a conference room showcased the many vocational and educational services offered on campus, including a locally sourced breakfast prepared by the School’s Healthy Way Cafe program.

During the breakfast reception, Hogan joined Executive Director Scott Evans and Education Director Julie Hickey.

“We are part of the educational continuum in Maryland, serving students when local public schools cannot meet the educational needs of the most challenging students,” said Hickey.

Evans detailed Benedictine’s upcoming transformations, including compliance with new federal and state guidelines, upgrading and repurposing facilities to help meet those guidelines, and recruiting and retaining staff.

“We’re trying to be innovative, while looking at sustainability,” Evans said.

Hogan thanked Benedictine’s staff for the work they do, and for working closely with policy makers at the state level.

“You’re in it every day,” Hogan said. “Thank you for everything you’re doing here.”
Around Benedictine

Take a look at what we’ve been up to on campus and in the community...

ART SHOW

SERVICE

COMMUNITY

CLASS OF 2018

CRUISE-IN

HOSPITALITY
Art Show

The Benedictine School’s 2018 Art Show displayed students’ creative pottery, pointillism and lettering talents. Winners from each category were recognized during an award ceremony on July 27. “Our students are so creative and talented, especially when given opportunities like this,” said Education Director Julie Hickey. “Congratulations to them all and a big thank you to Emily Whelan for making it all possible.”

Service

Phyllis Young was recognized for 50 years of service to Benedictine in July. Young began her extensive career with Benedictine as a Dorm Mother in 1967, followed by Nursing Assistant, Vocational Teacher, Home Economics Teacher, and Summer Camp Teacher’s Aide. She joined the Adult Services staff in 1988 as a House Counselor, first at Generals Highway in Annapolis, then Forest Landing, and finally at Deer Run in Denton until her official retirement in 2007. She retired only a year before returning part-time as a Relief Counselor, where she now works almost full-time at the Denmor House. She was honored by MANSEF in 1997 as the recipient of the Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives Award. Phyllis continues to inspire dreams and change lives 21 years after receiving the award.

Community

The Mid-Shore Board of Realtors helped to make a house feel more like a home through the purchase and installation of a porch swing at two Benedictine group homes. By partnering with the Benedictine Foundation, MSBR hosted a pit beef fundraiser on July 13, at Tred Avon Square in Easton. “In all, volunteers sold 400 sandwiches, more than 80 brownies, and delivered nearly 200 meals,” said Daphne Cawley-Edwards, MSBR president. “Thanks to their efforts, a generous donation from Duane Hilghman, of Benson and Mangold, and other donations, we doubled our $1,000 goal.” Catering by Jaime provided pit beef and chips, Shore United Bank donated sodas, and Benedictine’s Sweetly Made Bakery provided brownies for the fundraiser.

Class of 2018

On the 14th of June, The Benedictine School held its annual graduation ceremony on campus to celebrate the accomplishments of 11 students. The ceremony recognized the individual achievements of each graduate with a special award presentation. Family, friends and staff in attendance enjoyed an evening of hospitality during the culminating event of the school year. Graduates from Benedictine were awarded a High School Certificate of Program Completion and will transition on to adult life in their home communities.

Cruise-in

The Chesapeake Classic Car Club hosted their monthly summer Cruise-in at Chick-fil-A in Easton on August 4. The community event drew more than 50 registrants and raised $515.00. Participation and support from Mid-Shore Recovering Veterans Group and CPR Vintage Porsche Restoration made the event fun for registrants and individuals from Benedictine alike. The group from Benedictine who came out to enjoy the cars on display also had the honor of awarding a one-of-a kind Benedictine’s Choice trophy, built and designed by General Manager at CPR Porsche Restoration, Josh Pritchett. The custom trophy went to Lenny Shaffer for his “All Couped Up” 1934 three-window Ford coupe.

Hospitality

Students practice work skills in the classroom and at various businesses during an eight-week Hospitality Class. Benedictine’s Community Service’s and Training Center, in partnership with the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), conducts hospitality training with area community partners. Students learn employment skills such as making hotel areas ready to receive guests and food service tasks like preparing table settings.
2018 BENEDICTINE CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC
FRIDAY, OCT. 19
HOG NECK GOLF COURSE
EASTON, MARYLAND
REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BENSCHOOL.ORG