“ICE CREAM!!” SHOUTED KODY. It’s not surprising to hear a two-year-old get excited for some ice cream, but that’s not what Kody wanted. He was calling for his daddy.

“Have you thought about looking at St. Rita School for the Deaf?” asked a good friend. Kimberly and Jared Hill were confused because their son Kody is not deaf. At the time, Kody had not been diagnosed with apraxia, but they had a strong suspicion that it was the cause of his speech delay. “I had no idea that St. Rita School for the Deaf had an apraxia program and because of the name, I thought they only accepted deaf children into their program,” said Kimberly.

When it was time for Kody to start school, Kimberly and Jared had several concerns. One major concern was finding a way for Kody to have a language. Kody was eventually diagnosed with apraxia, which is a neurological disorder that affects the brain pathways, so he was not able to say very many words and certain sounds were very difficult for him to say. At two years old, Kody could only say thirteen words and eight of those words were names. Two of the names were nicknames because he was not able to pronounce daddy or his sister’s name. Kimberly and Jared had been told by another school that Kody would never be able to say more than a few words and would not be able to express original thoughts. So, when the Hills learned that Kody would be learning American Sign Language (ASL) at St. Rita, as well as doing speech therapy, they were excited that he would have more than one way to communicate with them.

Sweet Treat continues on page 3
Dear Friends,

IT SEEMS FITTING that the school’s mascot is a lion which represents strength and courage. When you explore further and go to the core of the lion or a human being for that matter, you take a look at the heart. The heart of a lion symbolizes strength, bravery, courage, and boldness.

Throughout the school’s history, strength, courage, bravery, and boldness have been a part of everyday life at St. Rita. It doesn’t take much to recognize these characteristics in our students, staff, parents, and our donors. We are grateful for Fr. Waldhaus’ courage to build a school for the Deaf over 100 years ago and being brave enough to say “yes” to the challenge that lay ahead.

Despite the everyday challenges our students face, they walk into school with the determination and courage to succeed. Many students were told in the past that they couldn’t but continue to prove people wrong every day and say, “I can and I will.” St. Rita creates an environment that helps our students become the best they can be!

It can be intimidating to sit around a table when you feel that the world may be against you. Parents show strength on a daily basis to fight for what their child needs in order to be successful. They are bold enough to say, “I want the best for my child and I will do what it takes.”

Staff go above and beyond every day to show strength, courage, bravery and boldness. They think outside the box when others have said it won’t work. They show strength when they have exhausted all their efforts but keep moving forward because they know our students can be successful.

This past December, we lost a long time faculty member who had the heart of the lion. Ellen believed in the students and fought for what she believed was right. When she passed, the staff came together and were brave not only for each other but for the students. It showed just how much strength and courage we have when we can lean on one another. The strength of one is strong but the strength of many is mighty.

Donors like you have the heart of a lion. You are brave and bold enough through the sharing of your time, talent, and treasures. You believe in what we do at St. Rita School for the Deaf. Without you and your bold commitment to our students, we could not do what we do every day.

The heart of the lion is strong just like the heart of the school. The core of the school’s existence, the students we serve and where we educate them continue to be connected to our hearts. Thank you for being on this journey with us to be strong, courageous, brave, and bold for our students so that they can continue to learn in an environment that meets their specific needs.

Sincerely,
Angela M. Frith, President

2019 Events

Find us on Social Media

St. Rita School for the Deaf Golf Classic
Friday, August 2, 2019
Glenview Golf Course
To register visit: http://www.srsdeaf.org/Golf.aspx

Dream Makers Scholarship Benefit
Saturday, November 23, 2019
Evendale Recreation Center
To register visit: www.srsdeaf.org/scholarshipbenefit.aspx
Your Financial Support Helps Transform the Lives of our Students

Unrestricted Funds  The unrestricted funds St. Rita receives through its annual appeal helps to support its general operating expenses and its greatest areas of need such as its unique student programs and services. Unrestricted support from our donors allows St. Rita to meet the needs of its students and enrich their lives through hope, love, language and education.

Matching Gifts  Matching gift programs are a tremendous opportunity for a donor to double or even triple the impact of their gift. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees to St. Rita. Please check with your Human Resources Department to see if your employer is a matching gift company.

Sponsorships  If you are interested in sponsoring our St. Rita Golf Classic in August or our Dream Makers Scholarship Benefit in November, please contact Hap Durkin at 513-771-7600 ext. 324

Estate Planning  Regardless of your income level, you can have a significant impact on St. Rita School for the Deaf by making a donation through your Will or Bequest, Individual Retirement Account, Charitable Gift Annuity, Gifts of Life Insurance, Charitable Remainder Trust, Charitable Lead Trust, or Gifts of Real Estate, Personal Property or Stock. For more information on Estate Planning, contact Hap Durkin at 513-771-7600 ext. 324.

1720 Club  The 1720 Club is a year-long raffle, named for our campus address and it’s also the amount of cash you can win each month. On the last business day of each month, winning tickets are drawn for a total of $1720 in monthly prizes: There will be 5 winners for prizes of $1,000, $300, $200, $120, and $100. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Tom Reusch at 513-771-7600 ext. 325.

Makers of Miracles Grand Raffle  The Makers of Miracles Grand Raffle gives you the opportunity to win $25,000!!! Plus, we have two bonus drawings on May 24 and June 21 followed by our Grand Prize Drawing on July 12. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Tom Reusch at 513-771-7600 ext. 325.

Piggest Raffle  The Flying Pig Marathon’s Piggest Raffle Ever drawing will take place on Friday, May 3, 2019 and you have a chance to win some awesome prizes! Purchase a pig for $5 each on behalf of St. Rita from the drop-down menu at www.piggestraffle.com for a chance to win $5,000. St. Rita receives 100% of your raffle purchase. For more information on the Piggest Raffle Ever, contact Tom Reusch at 513-771-7600 ext. 325.

When it was time for Kody’s younger brother, Kory, to start preschool, sending him to St. Rita was an easy decision. “We are thankful that St. Rita’s preschool program is open to all kids in the community and that Kory gets the opportunity to learn ASL as well, said Kimberly. It’s especially helpful when Kody is struggling to tell us something and then Kory can jump in and help us figure out what Kody is saying.”

Since Kory is younger, he doesn’t always understand why Kody has certain challenges. Being at St. Rita has allowed him to be exposed to a wide variety of people. Instead of feeling like there is something wrong with his brother, Kory has learned that everyone has different needs and challenges and that he can be helpful to the people around him. Kimberly said that she has seen quite a few changes with Kory over the past two years. He’s become more compassionate and patient with his brother and others around him.

Kody has come a long way with ASL and speech therapy in the three years he has been attending St. Rita. Recently, Kimberly was getting Kody ready for bed when he told her that they had a tornado drill at school. He said that he got scared and started crying. Kory chimed in and said that they did have a drill that day. It meant so much to Kimberly to hear her son tell her about his day and be able to express his emotions.

“We are so thankful our friend suggested St. Rita because it has been a wonderful experience for our family, said Kimberly. The staff have been helpful every step of the way and we couldn’t have gotten to where we are today without them.”

These days, if anyone asks for ice cream in the Hill home, it means that two active little boys are going to have a sugar rush and smiles on their faces.
What’s New at St. Rita

(This page, clockwise from top left) Recess; Christmas Program; Preschool class dressed up for Halloween; Fire Prevention Week training; Christmas Program; High school students hanging out with NET Ministries team to play games and learn ASL; Christmas Program; Preschool Thanksgiving meal; Rita Roast Coffee Shop — Evendale Police stopped by to support the student’s coffee shop.

(Opposite page) Choir performance at the Evendale Chamber Christmas Dinner; Making coffee for the Rita Roast Coffee Shop; Christmas elves; Christmas fun with Career Plus.
When did you attend St. Rita?
I attended St. Rita school from 1996 to 1998.

Why did you and your parents feel that St. Rita was the right place for you to go to school?
My parents felt that communication with sign language was very important. St. Rita was also a safe place with good support and opportunities to socialize with other students.

What is your favorite memory from when you were in school here?
I have many good memories from sports, drama, activities, homecoming, prom, and many others.

Who was your favorite teacher in high school and why?
Maryann Barth and Greg Ernst. Maryann taught me how to write in English and read and improved my language skills. Greg Ernst taught me how to earn a living for my family and to think of my future.

What did you do after you graduated from St. Rita?
I went to Cincinnati State and I graduated in 2005 with my associate degree. Now I’m currently attending Wilmington College to get my bachelor’s degree and I will graduate in May 2019!

Why did you decide to come back to St. Rita to teach?
I wanted to be close to my friends there who are just like my family. Being around all the staff and kids makes me happy daily and cheers me up with their beautiful smiles. I decided that it was the best place for me to work since it is comfortable and I love working with young children. I love to teach my students to be positive and teach them sign language.

What do you love most about teaching at St. Rita?
Teaching sign language as a way to communicate.

What is one thing you wish more people in our community knew about our school?
If children are struggling, we can support them by teaching them how to communicate through sign language. I would love see new faces and to see them succeed at our school.
Memorial Program

Looking for a way to honor someone who has everything? Celebrate a special occasion, say thank you or remember an important person in your life by making a gift to St. Rita School for the Deaf in his or her name. Weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and holidays take on a new meaning when your gift brings help and hope to families who are struggling with their child’s special needs. Remembering those who have touched your life in a special way can comfort and console loved ones while also helping children to succeed in their life. People enrolled in the Memorial Program as well as the donor, are remembered at a special Mass and daily in the prayers of our students and staff. If you are interested in participating in the Memorial Program, please call 513-771-7600.

August

Anniversary of Death

- Neal T. Lehane
  Sharon and Trent Lewis

Birthday Remembrance

- John W. Morrison
  Ms. Mary J. Massarelli

In Honor of

- Anne Flake
  St. Rita
- Kevin M. Hall
  Ms. Jennie M. Tilton

In Memory of

- Lori Bertolino
  Mr. and Ms. Steven K. Compton
- Lynn Blake
  Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mooney
- Betty J. Cates
  GE Foundation
- Frank de Salvo
  Mrs. Helen B. Walker
- Kevin Delaney
  Ms. Kathleen M. McGurk
- David Duckworth
  Mrs. Betty J. Kilcoyne
  Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Kilcoyne
- Rebecca Eller
  Ms. Kathleen M. McGurk
- Thelma Enderle
  Mr. Ronald F. Enderle
- Kimberley Ann Fletcher
  Mr. and Mrs. Joe Appelmann
- Gordon G. Hammergren
  Jvion, Inc.
  Champion Graphics Corporation
  Mr. John A. Abraham
  Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bennett

Mrs. Ruth Lohmeier
Mr. Edward Robinson
Mrs. Dolores Stelenpohl
Ronald Hannisch
Ms. Kathleen M. McGurk
Donald Henrich
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Trimbach
William Kelley
Sharon and Trent Lewis
John Kessen
Mrs. Ginny Beemer
Cliff Kist
Ms. Geraldine A. Weigel
John Frank McCray
Ms. Sandra K. Thornton
Bonnie Otten
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cappel
Jose F. Poyo
Ms. Rita Gotowala
Rosemary Reiter
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Ruthven
Robert Rolfs
Ms. Ann Beischel
Bob Rumgay
Mrs. Mickey A. Palmieri
Anna Young
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hedges
Michael Zaloga
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Deutsch

Special Intention for

Diane Bechtold

September

Anniversary of Death

- Edna Snelling
  Mrs. Rita Mahoney

Birthday Greetings

- Roberta G. David
  Deputy Grand Matrons

OES Liberty Belles
Joyful Sparklers

Birthday Remembrance

- Martha Gross
  Mrs. Rita Mahoney
- Daniel Mahoney
  Mrs. Rita Mahoney
- Dick Paff
  Mrs. Rita Mahoney

In Honor of

- Anne Flake
  St. Rita
- Petey Hollaender
  Hollaender Manufacturing Co.

In Memory of

- Jane Bannon
  Ms. Kathleen M. McGurk
- Cheryl G. Barth
  Mr. Joseph P. Barth
- Dave Bastas
  Ms. Eileen R. Pelligatta
- Shannon Beemer
  Mrs. Manta J. Schwertman
- Robert A. Blum
  Mrs. Nancy Blum
- Patrice Booze
  Mrs. Betty J. Kilcoyne
- Edmond H. Brooks
  Mr. and Mrs. David J. Brooks
- Robert R. Bushman
  Ms. Julie Sanders
- Fred & Betty Crone
  Mr. and Mrs. Barry J. Auer
- Martha Era
  Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kohls
- Gerald Espelage
  Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lambers
- Joseph Flavin
  Mrs. Ginny Beemer
- Gordon G. Hammergren
  Mrs. Susan Engleheart
- Ken Kimmeyer
  Mr. and Mrs. Mark Trimbach
- Evelyn Kunkler
  Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Siefing
- Ralph Larsen
  Mr. and Mrs. David M. McRiker
- Dale A. Makar
  Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fields
- Rosalind L. McCafferty
  Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Vonderhaar
- Rose Ann Merz
  Mrs. John Wolff
- Dorothy Scheetz
  Ms. Nancy J. O’Hara
- Francis M. Shipp
  Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Vonderhaar
- Joseph Sieve
  Mrs. Rita Mahoney
  Mr. and Mrs. Dale A. Maris
- Mike Talley, Jr.
  Mr. and Mrs. James Kolibob
- David J. Thomas
  Mr. and Mrs. Dale A. Maris
- Roger Vaughn
  Mrs. Mickey A. Palmieri
- Rita Weber
  Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Kersting
- Nick Wimmels
  Mindy and Michael Schmitz
- Robert Zinser
  Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Ashbrock

In Honor of

Caroline Duffy

October

In Honor of

- Robert A. Kilcoyne
  St. Rita
- Robert J. Kelley
  Mr. Robert J. Kelley

In Memory of

- Dominic Barstis
  Lucille Przybylsz
- Joseph B. Conway
  Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Stentz
- Maureen Cropper
  Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hedges
- Joseph and Rosemary Ernst
  Mr. and Mrs. Tim O’Leary
- Joseph Flavin
  Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Babel
- Robert Grace
  Mr. and Mrs. Gene F. Lachmann
- Elaine Hammersmith
  Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hedges
- Lee Keehner
  Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kohls
- Jim Kramer
  Mrs. Mary Appelmann
- Shirley Laib
  Ms. Betty Matacia
- Susan Larbes
  Mr. and Mrs. Tim O’Leary
- Lucy
  Mrs. Mary Appelmann
- Mary Murphy
  Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Grimm
- Joanne Pierce
  Mrs. Jo Ann Ellert
- Marianne Renchen
  Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Babel
- Ronald Riemann
  Mrs. Ginny Beemer
In Memory of
Mildred (Mert) Adamson
Mrs. Rita Mahoney
Michelle Appleblatt
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hedges
John R. Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Barnes
Richard J. Berning
Jos. Berning Printing
Jane Bobak
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bobak
Dave Boh
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley A. Hastings
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Vonderhaar
Ellen Brigger
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Babel
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory R. Ernst Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Marsh
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Richmond
Mrs. Carol Schneider
Mrs. and Mr. Gary L. Stiens

In Honor of
Anne Flake
St. Rita
Kevin M. Hall
Mr. Timothy Walker
Lora Widman
Mr. Christopher G. Hoff

In Memory of
Joyce Appelmann
Mrs. Mary Appelmann
Helen Beckman Family
Mrs. Lou Traut
Patricia M. Benken
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael Cappel
Mr. and Mrs. Max Rusche
Patricia Borchers
Mr. and Mrs.
Clarence Siefing
Stephanie I. Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Brooks
Julie Currie
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burwinkel
Charles F. Curro
Ms. Jacqueline F. Curro
Richard Eisele
Mrs. Doris Schindler
Joseph and Rosemary Ernst
Mrs. Anne M. Ernst
Jo Ann Fath
Mr. and Mrs.
James H. Bittner
Elizabeth J. Flynn
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hedges
Ned and Mary Rita Foy
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Foy
George Galbraith
Mrs. Mary Appelmann
Karen Grob
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert T. Reckers
James Hargrove
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert T. Reckers
Kyle Harsch
Mrs. Ginny Beemer
Kenneth Hofman
Mrs. Betty J. Kilcoyne
Donald C. Hoffrogge
Ms. Ruth A. Vennemann
Louis V. Honnert
Mr. and Mrs.
Lawrence R. Babel
Patricia Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Tim O’Leary
Rita Maria Kasselmann
Mr. Richard M. Binzer
Donald Klemann
Mrs. Jeanette M. Mather
Bud and Cecilia Klenke
Mrs. Karen Smith
Richard D. Klinger
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs.
Lawrence R. Babel
Mr. Thom Mariner
Robert Koester
Steve and Judy Cox
Russ Maddux
Mrs. Alexandra Maddux
Pete Marshall
Ms. Ruth M. Hellmann
Ms. Janine Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Young
Chris Mayer
GE Foundation
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert L. Mayer
Annette R. Mohrhaus
Mrs. Eileen Gangloff
Ms. Judith L. Ketz
Mrs. Anna M. Mueninghoff
Sally Monahan
Father Chet S. Artsysiwicz
Ann Morrison
Ms. Mary J. Massarelli
Arthur B. Pranger
Mr. and Mrs.
Daniel J. Vonderhaar
Shannon Rings
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Bird
Ora Roberts
Mr. and Mrs.
Jack Helffer
Edward Rosselot
Mr. and Mrs. Ian S. Edwards
Mick Sharkey
Mrs. Anne M. Ernst
Donald A. Shumrick
Mrs. Honora F. Shumrick
Frank Simek
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hedges
Donald Simmons
Mrs. Mickey A. Palmieri
Virginia Thaman
Mr. Frank T. Thaman
Paul Theobald
Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Ertel
Rosemary A. Tuttle
Mrs. Anne M. Ernst

In Thanksgiving of
Michael T. Glenn
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael T. Glenn
OLA School Friends
Mrs. Mary Ellen Trischler

December

50th Wedding Anniversary
John Degurski
Ms. Rita Gotowala

Birthday Greetings
James Carr
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kohls
Joe Ploeger
Jeanie and Wayne Hedges

Christmas Remembrance
Jack Betsch
Mr. and Mrs.
Henry Meyerrose
Juanita Cooper
Father Ronald C. Cooper
Douglas Hitt
Mrs. Margie L. Hitt

In Honor of
Anne Flake
St. Rita

November

Anniversary of Death
Paul Hartkemeyer
Ms. Mary A. Hartkemeyer

Birthday Remembrance
John J. Morrison
Ms. Mary J. Massarelli
Mary Yvonne Napier
Mrs. Paula Downs

Christmas Remembrance
Shannon Beemer
Mrs. Ginny Beemer

In Honor of
Anne Flake
St. Rita
Kevin M. Hall
Mr. Timothy Walker
Lora Widman
Mr. Christopher G. Hoff

In Memory of
Joyce Appelmann
Mrs. Mary Appelmann
Helen Beckman Family
Mrs. Lou Traut
Patricia M. Benken
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael Cappel
Mr. and Mrs. Max Rusche
Patricia Borchers
Mr. and Mrs.
Clarence Siefing
Stephanie I. Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Brooks
Julie Currie
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burwinkel
Charles F. Curro
Ms. Jacqueline F. Curro
Richard Eisele
Mrs. Doris Schindler
Joseph and Rosemary Ernst
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Jo Ann Fath
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James H. Bittner
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Kyle Harsch
Mrs. Ginny Beemer
Kenneth Hofman
Mrs. Betty J. Kilcoyne
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Ms. Ruth A. Vennemann
Louis V. Honnert
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Mr. and Mrs. Tim O’Leary
Rita Maria Kasselmann
Mr. Richard M. Binzer
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Mrs. Margie L. Hitt

In Honor of
Anne Flake
St. Rita

In Memory of
Orabelle Roberts
Mr. Dan Hoffman
Ms. Nikki Robinson
Fred Scheper
Mr. William J. Petrie
Charles Smith
Mrs. Mary Appelmann
Mike T. Sumida
Mr. and Mrs.
Michael T. Eismann
Mary Wallenhorst
Ms. Julie Sanders

In Thanksgiving of
Andrew T. Fogarty
Mr. and Mrs.
Andrew T. Fogarty

Special Intention for
Diane Bechtold

In Memory of
Orabelle Roberts
Mr. Dan Hoffman
Ms. Nikki Robinson
Fred Scheper
Mr. William J. Petrie
Charles Smith
Mrs. Mary Appelmann
Mike T. Sumida
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Michael T. Eismann
Mary Wallenhorst
Ms. Julie Sanders

In Thanksgiving of
Andrew T. Fogarty
Mr. and Mrs.
Andrew T. Fogarty

Special Intention for
Diane Bechtold

DREAM. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

St. Rita School for the Deaf • The Silent Advocate • Winter 2019

Memorials continue on page 8
Celebration of Life, Ellen Brigger

June 28, 1947–December 4, 2018

ON DECEMBER 4, 2018, St. Rita School for the Deaf lost a beloved faculty member, Ellen Brigger. Many years ago, Ellen came to St. Rita looking for a place for her son to learn and she never left. Ellen taught at St. Rita for over 20 years and prior to teaching, worked in the cafeteria. She had a deep love for her students. Her passion for teaching and helping students reach their goals was evident in and outside the classroom. Ellen’s dedication and love for the school and the students showed on a daily basis and in her long hours of work. Ellen started the Apraxia Program at St. Rita, incorporating programs she created or changed to fit the needs of the students who did not have a voice. She was one never to give up especially when it came to her students. In July 2016, she was named Educator of the Year in the Cincy Magazine. Ellen’s work ethic, smile, expertise and experience will be truly missed by the St. Rita community and beyond.