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“Without St. Rita School, I would never have heard Gemma tell me “I love you.” before she left this world. Thank you for that most precious gift.”

– Rita, Gemma's mom



Gemma's classmates say good bye to their friend with paper bouquets.

Gemma's family generously donated her organs so that 8 other lives could be saved.

St. Rita loses an angel...and heaven gets a Gemma hug

In our last issue, we highlighted the life of one of our students, Gemma. It is with aching hearts that we now mourn the tragic loss of her precious life. Gemma accidentally drowned and passed away on March 17th. While we deeply miss her and grieve that we can't see her smile, we rejoice that she now speaks unhindered to Jesus as she gives him one of her famous Gemma hugs.

She was just beginning the Loft Program and even at the very young age of 3, Gemma was overcoming many obstacles. Diagnosed with Apraxia, Gemma came to St. Rita School with a 10 word vocabulary. Immediately, she began to soar with a growing vocabulary of 50 words, speaking and signing, she was communicating while embracing life. And soon, for the first time, Gemma's parents were able to hear their little girl say, “I love you.”

Gemma could light up a room with her smile! Her joy and enthusiasm was truly contagious as she actively discovered new things in this world. She loved Minnie Mouse and pretending to cook on her kitchen play set, but nothing compared to her stuffed Winnie the Pooh. She carried Winnie the Pooh



everywhere she went and he experienced countless ‘Gemma hugs.’

Gemma will always be known by her hugs. Everyone got hugs — family, school mates, and teachers alike. Her arms were always ready to embrace anyone in a tight, loving hug that would melt the world's troubles away.

The playground is really were Gemma's creativity shined. Gemma had a boundless amount of delight and

Gemma continued on page 3



Graduating to change the world

It is indescribable to watch a student overcome, exceed, and enter adulthood confident and eager to make a difference in their world.

It is hard to believe that graduation is fast approaching us once again. We start the school year each fall with an excitement in the crisp air that fills our seniors with anticipation and energy. Winter soon arrives and always seems to drag on and graduation seems so far away, until the signs of spring arrive. As the sun peeks out, birds return and the earth turns green again, that spirit of renewal reminds us that our students are about to embark on their own new journeys.

Each year is filled with so many incredible moments, but it is inde-

scribable to watch a student overcome, exceed, and enter adulthood confident and eager to make a difference in their world.

As we watch six students graduate this year, I thank you once again for making it possible and invite you to celebrate with us. While our teachers work along side each of our students, you have stood behind them as the backbone of our school. You helped Matthew say his first words, Jenny can communicate with sign language, and Stephen can interact with children his age. You brought

these children up into eager students learning physics, Latin, American History, calculus, and literature. You are sending these precious, young minds into the world to make a difference.

As we celebrate please consider continuing this legacy and support the next graduating class. It is only possible with you. Together let's give our students hope for the future and the ability to change the world by answering Christ's call to love one another.

Gregory Ernst, *Executive Director*



Did you know?

St. Rita School for the Deaf continually strives to meet the unique challenge of educating students who cannot hear. Typically in our country, from the time a hearing child is born, that child is continually being exposed to the English language. They are able to accumulate this learned knowledge about language and will continue to

build upon this with more exposure and formal instruction. When a Deaf child is born, there is no model of oral speech communication on which to base their understanding of the English language. For Deaf, hard of hearing and Apraxic students, English is almost like a second language, and writing is truly challenging and intimidating. These children must receive special instruction in order to develop writing skills and fluency. The key to understanding deaf education is that these children learn through visual and tactile learning experiences. They need every available accommodation in their learning environment to assist in their learning.

Technology has been and continues to be of paramount importance in educating our students. Our students can learn and comprehend just as fast as typical children given the appropriate technology, instruction and learning environment that best supports their special needs. Access to technology engages students and makes them excited about learning. St. Rita School for the Deaf realizes the value in technology and uses improvements in technology to bring more visual programs to the students attending our school. Interwrite School boards, Internet access, projection equipment, I pads and laptops have been added to the classroom learning environments in order to better enhance visual methods of instruction.

Gemma continued from page 1

wonder stored up, and a captivating spirit that drew her classmates into a whirlwind of three year old laughter.

To honor Gemma, our new, almost completed playground will be named after her. Despite the difficult challenges many of our students face, they will all experience the joy of childhood on the playground while wrapped in a 'Gemma hug.'

Please help us commemorate Gemma's legacy and help finish the playground that will give our kids the chance to just be kids. While our students have the tremendous task to overcome communication and

learning obstacles, the carefree play of a child is a priceless gift that cannot be overlooked. Your gift will create a memorial entrance for Gemma, and new, safe playground equipment that children, especially those with Apraxia like Gemma, can use to explore and learn in a world that was once closed to them.

With your help we can reach out to families to unite them with communication — families like Gemma's whose mother would otherwise never hear her baby say, "I love you."

One light does not go out when it is used to light thousands more. It is our hope and dream that 50 years

Gemma will always be known by her hugs. Everyone got hugs — family, school mates, and teachers alike.

from now students and staff will still know what a special light Gemma was to all of us. To help ensure that her memory is never forgotten please use the enclosed envelope and mark it "Gemma" or visit online at www.srsdeaf.org. With your help we can ensure that no one will ever forget our Gemma, her smile, her laughter, and of course her 'Gemma hugs'.

Blast from the Past

An excerpt from a child's journal in our 1936 *Silent Advocate*

by Margaret McClellan

When I was about seven years old my mother was very sick. So my father and mother decided it was best for me to go to a boarding school. We heard about St. Rita School. My father and my uncle took me in our old Ford car. My brother Jack came with me.

It took us two days to get here from Detroit. On the way we stopped over night at a beautiful house. I was very afraid of strangers. I began to cry very hard. I thought I would have to stay with those people. My father stayed with me all night. The next morning we got up early and started on our way. We stopped and ate breakfast in a restaurant. While my father and uncle were eating, Jack and I had a very good time.



Then we started on our way again.

At last we reached St. Rita School. We were glad to get out of the car. I thought this was a hospital and I began to cry because I didn't want to stay in a hospital a long time again. I was in a hospital for a very long time when I lost my hearing.

After a while I stopped crying and we looked through the school. After a few hours my family went

home and I cried again for a very long time. Then I made friends, friends who were like me and I got a new family as well. As time went on I still missed my family but felt so loved and wanted that I missed them less and less. As I am about to graduate I laugh when I think back to my first trip here and I know that I will again will be crying when I take my last trip from here back home.

Brayden's life has changed because of you

Lauren knew about St. Rita School since she was in high school. She was one of the first students at Sycamore High School to take an ASL class as credit towards a foreign language requirement. "Our teacher did a great job of making sure we understood the language, the culture, meanings, etc. and a couple of the field trips were visits to St. Rita School. I didn't realize that I would actually need that base knowledge when I had kids," said Lauren.

Lauren had a very normal, healthy pregnancy with her son, but when Brayden was born and failed his hearing screening, she and her husband, Blake, began to worry. Over the course of three months, Brayden had many hearing tests at Children's Hospital, until his audiologists finally



"I want my kids to become the people they were meant to be and I know that St. Rita School opens doors for them that would otherwise have stayed locked." Lauren, Brayden's mother

concluded that he had mild hearing loss in both ears.

"We didn't know how or why," said Lauren. "Nobody in either of our families has hearing loss so we don't know where this came from. We were completely surprised, and got all kinds of information about hearing aids, tubes, and all the things we could do to "fix" it and went home with spinning heads."

Since Brayden was diagnosed with just mild hearing loss, no immediate action was taken and his condition was just monitored. When he was close to 15 months old, his hearing dropped to moderate to severe loss and that's when Lauren remembered St. Rita School.

"He had been going to a typical daycare until that point and had started biting other kids," said Lauren. "We think it was because he was getting frustrated. Once we placed him at St. Rita School, we noticed him opening up a lot more. He was talking a lot more, he wasn't biting quite as often and was really blossoming."

"I don't think Brayden would be the child he is today

without St. Rita School. I don't think he would have the love of learning he has now and I know he wouldn't be on the same academic level. Since being at St. Rita School his learning potential and communication have skyrocketed. He is 4 years old and currently reading books at a 2nd grade level. His vocabulary is at a 3rd grade level. He amazes me with what he's able to learn and how quickly he grasps concepts."

When Lauren and Blake's daughter Mackenzie was born, she was also found to have hearing loss and there was no question that she would also begin attending St. Rita School.

"I have never once second guessed our decision to send the kids to St. Rita School," said Lauren. "I know in my heart of hearts it's where they are supposed to be and where they can reach their fullest potential. I want my kids to become the people they were meant to be and I know that St. Rita School opens doors for them that would otherwise have stayed locked. They don't need to feel alone, or ashamed, or like an outcast."

"The differences are amazing and extremely noticeable. St. Rita School is a family, it's a community. Everyone knows you, your kids, and really cares about their welfare. All the teachers know the unique needs of the kids and they adjust accordingly. There is no "all voicing" or "all signing" everybody works with whatever communication method the child needs. I'm so, so grateful that such a place exists and that I have access to it."



Because of you, Megan will be attending college in the Fall

It is our pleasure this spring, to be sending off one of our successful, graduating students. Megan came to us six years ago with a wonderful educational foundation, but her local school district did not offer programs for deaf students past middle school.

“The care and concern of the staff has been a true blessing for Megan, and for us.”

Parents Mark and Andrea

“We were told of three choices: mainstreaming locally, Ohio School for the Deaf, or St. Rita School,” said Megan’s parents, Mark and Andrea. “Mainstreaming might have left her isolated and at OSD she would not have been able to come home to her family each afternoon, as full-time residency would have been required. As part of the selection process we toured St. Rita School and liked what we saw and the teachers we met.”

Megan continued on page 8



Don't Forget St. Rita Fest

Friday, July 12, 7–11pm • Saturday, July 13, 4–11pm
Sunday, July 14, 4–10pm



Admission: \$2 / Person

With each admission purchase you have a chance to win:

- **Friday:** Kindle Fire
- **Saturday:** 4 tickets to Jimmy Buffet Concert at Riverbend on July 16, 2013
- **Sunday:** Family Membership for 4 to the Cincinnati Zoo (includes parking)

Free Shuttle Service from Landmark Christian, WalMart–Evendale and GE Aviation

Festival hotline number: 513.772.7005



Purchase your St. Rita Fest 2013 Grand Raffle Tickets!

Please complete the attached form, cut out and mail to us using the enclosed envelope. We will fill out the number of tickets you purchase and enter them into the drawing.

You can also purchase tickets by phone by calling 513.771.7600.

\$50 Per Ticket ★ Only 5000 tickets will be sold!

Grand Prize! Choose one of these vehicles or \$25,000 cash!

2013 Mini Cooper • His & Hers 2013 Harleys Superglide & Sportster
2013 Toyota Highlander • 2013 Jeep Sport • 2013 Honda Crosstour

\$5000 Bonus Raffle ★ \$2500 Early Bird Drawing

Thank you for your generous gift to the children of St. Rita School. Please make checks payable to St. Rita School for the Deaf.

Payment Method: Check Visa Mastercard AMX Discover

Account No. _____

Exp. Date _____

Phone No. _____

E-mail _____

I want to purchase _____ ticket(s) at \$50 ea. = \$ _____

I do not want to purchase tickets, but want to support the children with a donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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.

At the time of this publishing deadline, only 2 months of memorials were available. For a complete listing of our memorials visit www.srsdeaf.org.

January

Anniversary of Death

Harry G. Davis

Mary Lee Davis,
Steve and Glenn

Douglas Hitt

Mrs. Margie Hitt

Barbara L. Matre

Mr. Jack Matre

Paul Plunkett

John Baele
Joseph Martini

Birthday Greetings

Mary Lee Kuechly

Mr. and Mrs.
John Willenborg

Alvin Luers

Mr. and Mrs.
Frank G. Brinkmann

Get Well Wishes for

Frieda Potzner

Mr. and Mrs.
Donald F. Heeb

In Honor of

Saint Rita

Ms. Anne Berwanger

In Memory of

Rita Amschler

Mr. Martin B. Amschler

Patricia Bathalter

Mrs. Mary Ellen Trischler

Anne Bezold

Mark, Margaret, Pamela,
and Scott Messer

Mary Breitfelder

Mr. and Mrs. John Theis

Georgia Christman

Mr. and Mrs.
Edward Kunkemoeller

Merrill Cornellius

Mrs. Jean Bresnen
Mrs. Clarita Gindele

Robert Cornwell

Mr. and Mrs.
Frank G. Brinkmann

Ron Cravens

John and Maryann Murphy

John Curtin

John and Maryann Murphy

Jean DiLorenzo

Dain and Ginny Beemer
Connie and Dan Vonderhaar

Laura Dolan

St. Rita School for the Deaf
John and Maryann Murphy

Ace Emmert

Ms. Pat Wood

Antoinette Eschenbach

Mr. Robert Eschenbach

John Fariello

Mr. and Mrs.
Robert McGraw

George Faris

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norris

George T. Faris IV

Maureen and Charles Faris

Mark Fehrenbach

Jack and Sylvia Ruthven

William L. Felts, Sr.

Ms. Patricia Mollmann

Paul Fleck

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heuker

Rosemary Flynn

St. Patrick Ancient
Order of Hibernians

Donal C. Foley 59th

Wedding Anniversary
Mrs. Janice Foley

Paul Gangloff

Ms. Annette Mohrhaus

Robert Gilreath

Dain and Ginny Beemer
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Swensen

Clifford Gruenwald

Mr. and Mrs.
Edward Heintzman

Anna Gulick

Mrs. Eileen Rebholz

Melissa Petrie Hunckler

Sister John Michael Geis

Verna Jordan

James H. Bittner Family

Arleen G. Keller

Laureate Delta Mu

Jim Kist

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burwinkel

Phyllis and Tim Kreiner

Mr. Paul Kreiner

Tony Laricchiuta

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Amatulli

Mary Alma Lears

Sister Jane Bernadette Leo
Sister John Michael Geis

Arthur Leary

Marge and Tom O'Meara

Charles Lohmueller

Larry and Mary Blessing
Janet Brooks

Mr. Jack Elfers

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Eling
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Endres

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Engel

Janice Foley and Family
Wilma M. Gosink

Hesse Family

Mrs. Joan Hoerst

Mrs. Joyce Hoerst

Mr. and Mrs.

Steven C. Kehoe

Dave P. and Anna M. Kelly

Greater Cincinnati

Handball Association

Dave Kuntz Family

Mr. Eric Lohmueller

Mr. Jack Matre

Ms. Alice McDonald

Mr. and Mrs.

Denny Meyrose

Ms. Theresa M. Muennich

Ms. Barbara Pflanz

James and

Charlotte Reinhold

Ms. Margery Robinson

Robert Samad

Mrs. Deanna Schalch

Mary Schlachter

Cathy and Tom Schwertman

Cors and Bassett

Ms. Dolores Steltenpohl

Reading Senior Citizens

Mrs. Mary Ellen Trischler

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Weil

Nancy Weisbrod

Mr. Patrick H. Weiss

Ms. Diane H. Werner

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Woycke

Cynthia and Robert Zahneis

Mary Jo Matre

Mr. Jack Matre

Paul Molique

Jim and Kathleen Laughlin

John P. Moon

Ms. Julie E. Kleiman

Ray Paynter, Jr.

Amatulli Family

Rosemary Pender

John and Maryann Murphy

Robert Points

Mrs. Dorothy Points

SK Chalmers (Chad) Rea

Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko
Assembly K of C

Miss Betty Rea

George Schadler

Mr. and Mrs.

Dennis Dickerson

Rita Florence Schaffeld

Cincom Systems, Inc

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Blom

Mr. and Mrs.

William Canovan

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Eling

Mrs. Jerome Graham

Ms. Joyce Hoerst

Mrs. Joan McNally

Beth Morton

Mrs. Jeanne Nolan

Schaal Family

Rob and Britt Schaffeld

J.W. and E.L. Stock

Insurance Agency

Fred L. and Anne Straus

Rod and Marie Weeks

Mr. and Mrs.

Norbert Weisbrod

Joe and Charlene Wicker

Louis (Butch) Scherra

Mrs. Mary Nieman

Elizabeth May Schmidt

From Her 50 Grandchildren

— and their families

Robert Stiens

Ms. Ruth Uecker

Ed and Cheryl Stratman

Ms. Jan K. Katz

Lois Streicher

Mike and Debbie Cappel

Paul Witterstaetter

Ms. Gertrude Polking

Mimi, Jake and**Sydney Wittich**

Mr. Jim Beckenhaupt

Special Intention**Saint Anthony**

Ms. Diane Bechtold

February

Anniversary of Death**Nina Groh**

Mr. and Mrs.

Edward Heintzman

Paul Groh, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs.

Edward Heintzman

David Hartman

Ms. Jean Hartman

Louise McClelland

Connie and Dan Vonderhaar

Richard Robinson

Mildred Robinson

Kathryn Schrand

Mr. William Quinn

Robert Sheldt

Mrs. Mary Sheldt



Birthday Greetings**Nancy Blaut**

Mrs. Ruth Blaut

Angela Hermes

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hermes

Alvin Luers

Ms. Gretchen Osner

Mr. and Mrs.**Aaron Nieman**

Mrs. Mary Nieman

Sr. Bernadette**Marie Shumate**

Mrs. Clarita Gindele

Emma J. Speeg

Mrs. Margie Howe

Get Well Wishes for**Nancy Blaut**

Mrs. Ruth Blaut

Trish Fatheree

Terry and Betty Folzenlogen

Mae Osterhage

Harold Beyer

In Honor of

Keaton Greening

Mr. and Mrs.
William Craig

Saint Rita

Ms. Anne Berwanger

In Memory of

Elizabeth (Betty) Alley

Mrs. Barbara J. Alley
Terry & Jeremy Alley

Carole Allgyer

Mr. Donald Allgyer

Gary Baird

Jerry and Jeanne Kohls

Margaret (Peggy) Berning

Ian and Mary Lee Edwards
Mrs. Margaret Wais
Ms. Pat Wood

Margaret Betscher

Jim and Margaret Betscher
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert McGraw
Mr. and Mrs. Al Schneider

Anne Bezold

St. Ignatius Senior Citizens
Mary Hollstegge
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Hollstegge
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Knolle
Ms. Jean G. Mackie
Karen and Ralph Unger
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Willing

Dan Blaut

Mrs. Ruth Blaut

Mary Ann Boh

Connie and Dan Vonderhaar

Michael Bok

Mr. and Mrs.
Edward Kunkemoeller

Unice Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Bengel

Carl Buse

Mr. and Mrs.
Richard E. Beerman

Patricia Grace Castelli

Mr. and Mrs.
Roger Friedmann

Mary Margaret

(Margie) Chastang
Mr. and Mrs. George Knapp

Maria Cipollone

Ms. Anna Maria Rocchio

Gerald and

Katherine Clough

Ms. Deborah C. Stanton

Kyle Dallmann

Ms. Sandra K. Thornton

Roger Davey

A.O.H. County Board
St. Patrick Ancient
Order of Hibernians

Charles Dwight

Connie and Dan Vonderhaar

Shirley Everett

Bob and Barb Hotopp
and Family

Rita Ristaneo Gentile

Pasqualina M. Turner

Helen Getz

Jim and Margaret Betscher

Tom Giebel

Mrs. Johanna Quinlan

Howard Goldberg

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Grimme

Marilyn Graf

Jim and Margaret Betscher
Ms. Anna M. Graf

Barbara Gregory

Mr. and Mrs. Al Schneider

Emily Grillot

St. Rita School for the Deaf
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heuker

Jim Hammans

June and George Gibeau

Eleanor A. Harig

St. Rita School for the Deaf
Joyce and Larry Babel
Katherine Dietrich
and Family
Sally Eastman
Sister John Michael Geis
Mr. and Mrs.
Tom Hammelrath

Sister Jane Bernadette Leo

Mr. Jeff Moore
Tori Moore
Beth and Jon Powers
Ms. Dolores Steltenpohl

Joseph M. Hellkamp

Mrs. Marilyn M. Olberding

Esther M. Henderer

Bill E. and Joyce A. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown
Kim Connors and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Fortner
Mr. Dave Henderer
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Henderer
Charles and
Marian Ostholtzoff
Jerry and Stacy Schappacher
John and Donna Steiger

Jerry Hess

Jerry Ullett

Imogene Hoffman

John and Maryann Murphy

Richard Huebner

Mrs. Ruth Huebner

Kent Jones

John and Maryann Murphy

Robert and Jean Kaelin

Mr. John Noonan

Mary Beth Kaplan

Mrs. Ruth Huebner

Veronica Kautzman

June and George Gibeau

Larry Kunkemoeller

Mr. and Mrs.
Edwin Strotman

John Laricchuita

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Amatulli
Mr. Frank Milillo

John (Jack) Lauck

Mrs. Mary Nieman

Rose Mary Lehan

Dr. Donna M. Mather

Tom Lindsay

June and George Gibeau

Charles Lohmueller

Alma Sliter and Family

Barbara London

Mr. Tom Mahaney

Bob Louis

Mr. and Mrs.
Gregory Haverkos

Carl Maag

Joe and Mary Appelmann

James V. Magee, Jr.

A.O.H. County Board
St. Patrick Ancient
Order of Hibernians

Joseph Malloy

Mrs. Eileen Rebholz

Tim Malone

Mr. James Malone

Michael Thomas

Mansur, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs.
Steven Compton

Mary Ann May

Mr. and Mrs.
Joseph Deidesheimer
Mr. and Mrs.
Steve Eichelberger
Dick and Barb Feldmann
Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Goins
Mr. Carl Goodin
Mike and Bev Jostworth
John and Suzi Lampe
Vince and Judy Lasita
Jerry and Diane Levin
Lou and Mary Marx
Ms. Phyllis J. Morgenroth
Napolitano Family
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pahner
Ms. Phyllis R. Pohlman
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Roth
Patricia and Bruce Santoro
Mr. and Mrs.
Douglas W. Seitz
Paul and Janet Sink
Ms. Lisa Wagner
Ms. Kathleen Whitton
Ms. Charlene Wogenstahl

Maureen Meiring

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heuker

Carol Ann Miller

Mrs. Ruth Huebner

Virginia Moffett

Dr. and Mrs.
Stanley Hastings

June Monhollen

Mr. and Mrs. John Long

Fr. Juan Montoya

June and George Gibeau

Rose Mary Mullen

Jack and Sylvia Ruthven

Anthony Nieman

Mrs. Betty Hogeback

The Flach Family Of Florida

Margie Flach

Pamela Pavey

Purcell High School —
Class of '56

Leroy (Bud) Rakel

Mr. and Mrs.
James Thamann

Henry Reder

Connie and Dan Vonderhaar

Ray Revis

Alice and Gene Hedges
Charles and
Marian Ostholtzoff

Nancy Richie

Mr. and Mrs.
Richard E. Beerman

Marie Riga

Ms. Mary Ann Vennemeyer

Ruth Rischmann

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Weber

Francesco Rocchio

Ms. Anna Maria Rocchio

Angela Rosselot

Ian and Mary Lee Edwards
Stuart Edwards
Ms. Pat Wood

Rita Florence Schaffeld

Mr. and Mrs.
David M. Kinninger
Mr. Richard Savors
OH Facilities
Construction Commission

Frank A. Schatzel, Sr.

Ms. Helen M. Popolin

David Schmidt

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schmidt

Cindy Kay Schneider

Ms. Debbie Skala

Sr. Marianne Schroeder

Sister Bernadette
Marie Shumate

Dr. Donald Shumrick

Mr. and Mrs.
Richard E. Beerman

Tom and Steve Sliter

Mrs. Linda Bird

Richard G. (Dick) Staudigel

Mr. and Mrs.
Robert R. Grunkemeyer
John and Maryann Murphy
Sean Murphy
The Pharmacy Staff of
Shriners Hospital for
Children—Cincinnati

Gladys Stohlman

Ms. Mary Ann Vennemeyer

Tom Tierney

St. Patrick Ancient
Order of Hibernians

Gerald E. Toney

Joyce and Larry Babel
John and Maryann Murphy
Beth and Jon Powers

Clara Vonderhaar

Le Pavillon Hotel
St. Rita School for the Deaf
Joyce and Larry Babel
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Boh
Mr. J. Charles Busam
Ms. Elizabeth Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs.
Rodney L. Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Eling
Ms. Carol R. Faulhaber
Sarah A. and
Grayson Fitzhugh
Sister John Michael Geis
Ms. Faye Haag

Ms. Rebecca R. Haag

Ms. Shirley Haag
Robert and Nancy Hagner
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Hinssen
Ms. Joyce Hoerst
Mrs. Kathryn A. Kronick
Mr. and Mrs.

Charles Krumpelman
Mr. and Mrs.
Kenneth R. Krumpelman
Mr. and Mrs. Laub
Dr. Alan Laub

Sister Jane Bernadette Leo
LE Pavillion Hotel
Scott D. and

Debbie V. Loucks
Mr. and Mrs.

Wesley T. Loucks
Mrs. Lois E. Martin
Mr. Charles McCafferty
Mrs. Joan McNally
Mr. and Mrs.

Thomas E. Mischell
Morgan Families

Arthur and
Mary Ann Naltner
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Noll

Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Piening
Dot Hall Piper Family

Beth and Jon Powers
Wayne R. and Kim A. Rahe

Mr. Robert Ruffing
Ms. Kate M. Schmitt

Mr. D. Tim Shipp
Ms. Ruth M. Small

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Smith
Mr. and Mrs.

Roger W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Teska

Mrs. Barb Vineyard
Edward and Alice Vockell

Mr. and Mrs.

Charles Vonderhaar
Connie and Dan Vonderhaar

Don and Wilma Vonderhaar
Mr. Ralph Vonderhaar

Robert and Carol
Vonderhaar

Mr. Edward D. Weber
Mrs. Mary Weitzel

Mr. Joe Winhusen
Ms. Elizabeth Wright

Dr. and Mrs. Steve Wunder
Ms. Karen A. Wurmser

Mr. and Mrs.

Tom Zestermann

Ray Weber

Mrs. Jo Zeilman

Jacob Witt

Mike and Debbie Cappel
Ms. Gertrude Polking

Rose Woelfel

Joe and Mary Appelmann

Prayers for

My Grandson

Doris and Walt Herdeman

In Remembrance of

David Hartman

Ms. Jean Hartman

Irene Kuehnle BD

Jerry Ullett

Robert Osner

Ms. Gretchen Osner



DREAM. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

Megan continued from page 5

Six years later, Megan is now graduating and ready to take her next steps in life. “The teachers and staff at St. Rita School are beyond great,” said Mark. “Everyone is very caring and wants to bring out the best in Megan. St. Rita School provided Megan with the best environment — total communication for learning. While Megan can communicate with non-signers using her hearing aids, the ability to interact in class with the teachers and students directly (versus through an interpreter) enhanced her learning. She was able to have a social life and communicate with her peers just as any other high school student. If she had been mainstreamed she would have had to communicate through an interpreter with her classmates. She is intending to attend college in the fall and we’re not sure she would have been as well-educated and ready if



she had mainstreamed.”

“I plan to attend a computer camp for the deaf and study computer programming at Gallaudet,” said Megan, whose favorite class at St. Rita School is physics and her hardest classes have been Latin. “I will miss the liveliness the school has! Some of my favorite moments are when I got to be the Lion mascot

and at the prom last year.”

“The care and concern of the staff has been a true blessing for Megan, and for us,” said Mark and Andrea.

“The teachers, without them, we won’t be able to learn and to grow,” said Megan. “There is nothing that is as important as our teachers, not even the President.”