

# Little Flower

# NEWSLETTER

A Publication for Friends of Little Flower Children and Family Services of NY

Fall 2018

## YOUTH FEATURE



"Incorporate my dream with the opportunity" – this has come to be Princess's mantra, the rule she has lived by the last two years since entering foster care. Princess, 17 years old, came to Little Flower after having suffered neglect at home. She remembers what it was like to fend for herself. "I had a job to get paid, to feed myself and to buy my necessities [. . .] or help my mom pay the bills." But after two years in care, her sights are set on her future.

Princess has been able to explore the options available to her and has been working admirably to build the future she sees for herself. She has been fortunate to live in two foster homes in which the families have provided a supportive environment that has allowed her to grow. In her current foster home, she feels safe and connects with her foster parent.

When she needs that extra bit of support, she can always count on her Little Flower therapist. "I really admire my therapist; he's really helped me through some hard times. Sometimes I feel like I don't have friends to talk to or a parent or someone who understands what I go through and how stressed I am. But when I talk to my therapist my problems just doesn't seem like problems anymore."

Having created some stability, Princess is able to focus on her goals. She is on target to graduate from high school in January and is looking forward to attending culinary school, something she couldn't even fathom two years ago. "Getting into foster care gave me a career choice with culinary arts. I didn't know what I wanted to do until I got here."

**"I feel more focused and confident now...The Emergence Project gave me the opportunity to meet new people and it taught me so many things I needed to know as I enter adulthood."**

Princess has taken advantage of the resources and access provided through the programs and services offered by Little Flower. "The PYA [Preparing Youth for Adulthood] program has been really helpful. I'm doing a lot of stuff that I would have never thought I would have been doing if I was still living with my mom, like driving, that was out of the question for me[. . .]and getting my passport. And just being a part of The Emergence Project. That was a good opportunity for me; it opened a lot of doors."

The Emergence Project (TEP) is a new Little Flower innovative youth development program for young adults between the ages of 16-21 in which youth participate in workshops led by business professionals from industries such as finance, communications, law and entertainment. Participants learn resume writing, public speaking and interview skills; interact with business professionals and learn how to perform in a professional setting; and are placed in paid summer internships in Manhattan upon graduation.

Of the business people she was meeting, Princess said, "I thought they were going to be boring, but they were actually very interesting. They were open and up front and related to us seriously. I wasn't expecting that. Being involved in the conversation and being able to share my opinion made me feel more mature."

During her six-week internship at Tradeweb, an international financial services company, Princess found the business professionals and college interns she worked with supportive and welcoming.

"I feel more focused and confident now," she remarked of the experience. "The Emergence Project gave me the opportunity to meet new people and it taught me so many things I need to know as I enter adulthood."

Her advice to her peers in care is to say yes to offers to participate in new and different experiences. "You never know what it might lead to."

It's that same advice that drives and motivates her; she's ready for the next stage in life, ready to transition to adulthood.

## Message from the Chief Executive Officer – Corinne Hammons

Here at Little Flower, the holidays are a special time. We kick-off the season with our Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, November 30th and our annual visit from the LI HOGs on Sunday December 2nd. While spreading holiday cheer, the season gives us all the opportunity to celebrate achievements and goals reached, and to thank the staff, caregivers, family members and clients who have continued our mission of turning caring into action. And most of all, it gives us a chance to say thank you to all of you who help us achieve this mission through your support.

Your gifts have helped young people like Princess find her voice and hope and plan for the future; they have helped support our efforts to make sure that all children find their forever home; and they give us the opportunity to provide stability and help for our individuals with developmental disabilities to live their best lives. We rely on our community network of dedicated donors, advocates, families and staff to meet our current goals and to plan for the future. Your support is fundamental to the continued growth and promise that Little Flower offers for that future. Thank You!

Sincerely,



Corinne Hammons  
Chief Executive Officer



## STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO FOREVER FAMILIES

Celebrated in November, National Adoption Month brings attention to the children in foster care waiting to find their forever families. Little Flower is hard at work all year long connecting families and youth in need of loving and safe homes. Our efforts were recently recognized by the Administration of Children Services (ACS) as we achieved 117% of our yearly adoption target. Tasked with finalizing 41 adoptions, we exceeded that goal by finding 48 children their forever families, placing us third overall in NYC for reaching and surpassing our target.

We are also implementing *Wendy's Wonderful Kids*, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, which uses a Child-Focused Recruitment Model that is up to three times more effective at serving children who have been in foster care the longest, including older youth, sibling groups and children with special needs. With the Foundation's support, we hope to build upon our success of connecting children in need of love, safety and stability to families opening their hearts and homes.

Little Flower is proud to have been chosen as one of two Foster Care Agencies to pilot an ACS program geared toward finding kinship homes, like relatives and close friends, for children in care. "The substantial difference kin placement can make in a child's life requires that we continue to seek out opportunities for these types of loving homes and I am excited to work on implementing strategies to increase each child's chance of success that can be shared across the system," said Chief Executive Officer, Corinne Hammons.



Corinne Hammons, Janet Greaves, Julie Farber,  
ACS Deputy Commissioner, Alissa Deakin



Forever Family

# Recent Events

## 2018 Annual Golf Classic

"[Little Flower] empowers me with more than just essential life skills. I have grown tremendously and been able to share my creativity with others. The Little Flower community has embraced me, and given me hope," shared Ronald, a two-year Culinary Arts program participant, as he addressed 120 business leaders at the September 17th annual golf classic at Engineers Country Club.



Ronald, current Little Flower youth



Little Flower Golf Committee

The Golf Committee, led by **Howard Nolan, COO, BNB Bank**, and **Frank Tosto, SVP Alliant**, joined forces with honoree **Peter Egan Armstrong, Partner at Nixon Peabody** and raised \$155,000 to benefit Little Flower's programs and services.

Special thanks to top sponsors, **Alliant Insurance Services, Atlantic, Tomorrow's Office, BNB Bank, Cook Maran & Associates, Executive Cleaning Services, Kevin Seaman, Esq., Swezey Oil Company, Nixon Peabody, and Mercedes-Benz** who sponsored the hole-in-one.

## A New Home for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Little Flower's program for individuals with developmental disabilities grew with the opening of new Individual Residential Alternative (IRA), Rose House, a home in Bayside, Queens. Residents can access programs, services and specialized care in a nurturing, goal oriented and safe environment.



L-R Rep of Councilmember Barry Grodenchik, Rep of Assemblyman David Weprin, Rep of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Senator Leroy Comrie and Corinne Hammons

The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by *Senator Leroy Comrie* and representatives from the offices of *Congresswoman Grace Meng, Assemblyman David Weprin* and *City Councilman Barry Grodenchik*, along with the residents and staff.



Staff with the residents of Rose House

"We are honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve this group of individuals. In continuing our mission to turn caring into action to help all those in need, Rose House has been added to our residential portfolio of homes throughout NYC, Nassau and Suffolk counties providing residential care for this special population" stated Chief Executive Officer, Corinne Hammons.

## THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDERS!

### LONG ISLAND REAL ESTATE GROUP

Little Flower received \$41,555 from the Long Island Real Estate Group (LIREG) to fund an professional-grade kitchen on the Monsignor John T. Fagan campus in Wading River so that 120 children and staff can eat healthy, delicious meals and our teens can participate in top-notch vocational training in the culinary arts.



L-R Carrie Sackett, Richard Herzback, LIREG Co-President, Corinne Hammons.

### Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation

36 youth diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder will receive increased direct care thanks to a \$5,000 grant.

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, November 30, 2018, 4PM-7PM 4th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting**

Monsignor John T. Fagan Campus, Wading River, NY

Come together with Little Flower youth, residents, staff and the Wading River community as we mark the beginning of the holiday season with our annual tree lighting!

For more information call 718-875-3500 ext. 5640 or email [thielenc@lfchild.org](mailto:thielenc@lfchild.org).

**Sunday, December 2, 2018, 12:30PM-3PM Long Island Harley Owners Group Annual Toy Run**

Monsignor John T. Fagan Campus, Wading River, NY

Join us as we spend the afternoon celebrating 32 years of the LI HOG's Annual Toy Run.

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 6PM-7PM The Emergence Project Graduation**

NYC Flagship, 630 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

## THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Your holiday donation allows over 2,000 people who are the most marginalized and invisible in our New York City and Long Island communities to have a sense of connection and belonging. It helps grow tools for building stable and successful future lives.

Our Christmas appeal is embedded within this newsletter (envelope enclosed) as part of sharing and showing the impact of your support in transforming lives.

This time of year we look forward to coming together with family and loved ones to celebrate life and community. For many of those we serve, Little Flower is their family and community.



**We hope that you will include Little Flower in your holiday charitable giving. Your support truly makes a difference!**

**Yes!** I want to give the gift of hope to the children, families and adults of Little Flower:

\$2,500    \$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    other\_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer to call in your donation: 631-929-6200 ext. 7171,  
Tim Prezlock, Development Associate

If you prefer to give online: [www.littleflowerny.thankyou4caring.org](http://www.littleflowerny.thankyou4caring.org)

If you prefer to mail your donation:  
Development Office, 2450 North Wading River Road, Wading River, NY 11792