YOUTH FEATURE

“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.”

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.”

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.
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.
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.

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.

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.

“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.

Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation

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

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