



Girard Family and Friends Bring Smiles to Youth at Little Flower this Holiday Season



The Girard Family and Friends hosted their annual holiday celebration for the youth of Little Flower Children and Family Services on Thursday, December 19th. The event, held at Waterview at the Port Jefferson Country Club in Port Jefferson, NY, brought together nearly 40 youth for an evening of dinner, dancing, and the distribution of carefully selected gifts tailored to each youth's wish list.

Lee Montgomery, Director of Residential Programming at Little Flower's Wading River Campus, shared that this event is eagerly anticipated by the youth every year. It provided them an opportunity to connect with one another outside of campus and experience the joy of the holiday season.

Numerous donors, colleagues, and friends from the Girard Family's community supported the celebration, making it a heartwarming occasion for everyone involved. Eva Girard expressed the family's gratitude, saying, "We are happy we can be a part of a little happiness each year. Especially at this time of year, which is so family-focused, to be able to do this for youth is so important."

New Tenant on Wading River Campus



The original Brendan House in Riverhead, New York

We are pleased to share that Little Flower welcomed New Beginnings Community Center Inc. to two buildings near our Wading River campus. Beginning last December, New Beginnings has leased from Little Flower our Bishop's and McSharry buildings located right outside our Residential Treatment Center (RTC) campus. These are buildings that were previously used for residential Developmental Disability services.

We are happy to have found a tenant who is mission-aligned and will be bringing much-needed services to individuals with traumatic brain injury in our community. They hosted a grand opening of their first program at the Bishop's residence on December 15th and will open their programs at McSharry at a later date.

Please read this [article](#) recently written about New Beginnings and their founder, Allyson Scerri, if you'd like to learn more about their work.



National Grid volunteers made our holidays very merry with beautifully wrapped gifts for the children and youth in our programs. We are so grateful for yet another wonderful year of caring support from our friends at National Grid!

St. John's Hosts Holiday Party for Youth



Little Flower's affiliate, St. John's Residence for Boys, hosted a festive holiday celebration for the youth at the residence in Rockaway Beach, New York. They had a blast playing games including Holiday Memory, Extreme Musical Cups (a fun twist on Musical Chairs), Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes, Left-Right Hop, and more. The day wrapped up perfectly with great food, music, and good vibes all around!

Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace Donates Coats for Little Flower Youth



Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace, a [grocery store](#) with locations throughout the New York area, recently partnered with their staff to help support the youth at Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York by collecting donations for winter jackets and essential items. These coats were distributed to the young individuals at Little Flower, providing much-needed warmth and comfort as winter set in.

The initiative began by reaching out to the staff, inviting them to contribute while also sharing Little Flower's important mission. "I am so overjoyed to have been able to partner with such an amazing organization like Uncle Giuseppe's to touch the lives of our young people in this way," said Jennifer Maurici, Senior Vice President of Long Island Programs at Little Flower. "We thank you for thinking of our youth as the seasons change."

Uncle Giuseppe's team was able to fund the purchase of nearly 90 new coats, along with winter essentials and toys, totaling an overall gift of more than \$4,000. A flier for the event reflected the heart of the initiative: "Our goal is to get as many coats and essentials as we can, and in the spirit of the holidays, help bring a smile to their faces."

Historic Photo Corner



From Christmas Show - Dec. 1956

This picture of a confident boy at a 1956 New Year's Party might serve as inspiration for some new year's resolutions. We hope you are walking into 2025 with your head held high and all the confidence in the world!

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