We love therefore we serve
(AGAPOMEN DIAKONOMEN)

SILVER SPRINGS – MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

Fall 2018
President’s Message

Dear Friends,

In 2019, Silver Springs – Martin Luther School will celebrate 160 years of serving children and families. Certainly, much has changed since 1859 when Silver Springs was founded as an orphanage in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. As the pressures and complexities facing families have grown over the years, Silver Springs has grown too. We continue to evolve to stand ready to meet the needs of children and families when they face hardships. Through our Residential Treatment Program, Martin Luther School, and Community Based Services, we are proud to help more than 2,400 children and families every year.

As part of our recent strategic planning process, we reflected on the principles upon which Silver Springs was founded. We also created a road map to guide us into the future so that we can best help the precious children in our shared community. Although much has changed in 160 years, much has stayed the same. Silver Springs remains steadfast in the belief that all children deserve to feel valued, loved, safe, and capable. As we have since 1859, Silver Springs will continue to help children and families to heal from the most difficult traumatic circumstances, to grow, to thrive, and to learn new skills so they can be successful.

Silver Springs envisions a world in which all children know they matter, are resilient, reach their highest potential, and achieve a stable and bright future.

To reaffirm our commitment to children and their families, we have updated our Vision, Values, and Mission statements that serve as a guiding light in our work. You can find the updated language on the next page.

We thank you, our important partners, for joining with us as we continue to help children, and their families, to build resilience and strength so they can achieve their well-deserved bright futures. We could not do this life changing work without you.

Thank you,

Kristen E.M. Gay, Ph.D.
President/CEO

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AGAPOMEN DIAKONOMEN: “WE LOVE THEREFORE WE SERVE”
Silver Springs - Martin Luther School is a Social Ministry Organization affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and its Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, a member of Lutheran Services in America, and accredited by The Joint Commission. Please direct inquiries about the newsletter to Lynn Unipan, Development Director, Silver Springs – Martin Luther School, 512 West Township Line Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1001; Tel: (610) 825-4440, ext. 206; Fax: (610) 825-3839; e-mail: Lunipan@silver-springs.org.

Visit us on the web at www.silver-springs.org

Artwork on cover created by the children of Silver Springs.

A mosaic of public and private funding makes possible these services to children and families. Silver Springs receives funding through managed care organizations, the Commonwealth and the federal governments. Non-allowable and capital expenses are funded by individuals, businesses, groups, congregations, corporations, foundations, other friends, Lutheran Home at Germantown Foundation, and Silver Springs - Martin Luther School. Funding is received from Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties (and other counties), the Pennsylvania Department of Education, local school districts, the City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services; a partnership in serving children and families in need...
Welcome Aboard

Nefertiri Sickout

Nefertiri, a lawyer with extensive experience supporting vulnerable children in the public and private sector, serves as Deputy Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the City of Philadelphia. “Advancing policy and practice that eliminates gaps in developmental outcomes, particularly for socioeconomically disadvantaged children and families, has always been my career passion,” Nefertiri shared. “It is a privilege to contribute my enthusiasm and experience to the mission and children served by Silver Springs.”

Connie Murphy

Connie has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and building strategic partnerships. Connie currently serves as Executive Vice President of Partnerships and Community Development at Learning Ally, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering students with learning differences to help them thrive. Prior to joining the Board of Trustees, Connie has served as Co-chair of Silver Springs’ Development Committee and she and her family have volunteered to teach soccer skills to the children in residence at Silver Springs. “Silver Springs is an amazing organization with staff and volunteers who care deeply about helping children who deserve a future filled with promise and potential,” she shared. “My family is very happy to be part of the Silver Springs family.”

Our warm welcome to both Nefertiri and Connie!
It is often said that children learn best through play. This philosophy was on full display in both the Residential Treatment Program and Martin Luther School this past summer. “A goal of ours is to expose the children to all sorts of experiences,” explains Kristen Gay, Ph.D., President and CEO. “You never know what will resonate with children or what unique skill and talent they will discover.”

This summer, the residential children engaged in enriching activities near and far. “We plan many fun and educational activities for the kids both on and off campus during the summertime,” shared Chris Riddell, Residential Program Coordinator. A favorite field trip was to cheer on the hometown favorites, the Philadelphia Eagles, at a pre-season practice. “I got to see my favorite players in person!” one boy excitedly shared. Other popular activities included learning to make pizza from scratch and to decorate cupcakes.

The children’s smiles were contagious whether they were getting doused in colorful powder during a fun “Color Run” around campus, dunking their favorite staff members in a dunk tank during a day of water activities, or enjoying a Luau complete with tropical leis and tasty treats. “I think we accomplished our goal,” said Riddell. “The children learned some new skills, experienced new things, and had a lot of fun at the same time.”

Students at Martin Luther School’s six-week Extended School Year Program (ESY) this summer – which includes many Silver Springs residential children – also participated in several fun and enriching activities. “Our goal was for our students to learn that they should always try new things,” explained Kristyn Waters, ESY Coordinator. The nearly 200 kindergarten through 8th grade students continued their academic studies each morning and then during the afternoons delved into activities made available through a partnership with Lavner Camps and Programs.

The boys and girls designed and created objects through 3D printing, built robots that raced around the classroom, created new worlds in the game of Minecraft, designed and sewed their own pillows, and more. Smiles were plentiful around campus whether students were playing soccer and basketball, swimming, making arts and crafts, or engaging in hands-on science lessons. “Science is so fun!” exclaimed one child. “We made slime and bubbles that didn’t pop!” Said another excitedly, “We figured out how to protect eggs when we dropped them from the slide.”

Whether working independently or in teams, as they did on the collaborative “egg drop challenge,” the children were able to explore, have fun, and thrive through the summertime educational and recreational activities. “The ESY program this summer provided new learning experiences for our students and they loved them all,” Waters said. “It was an absolute pleasure and we are already looking forward to next summer!”

Helping Children with Autism

We are pleased to announce that the Silver Springs Community Based Program has received “ABA designation” to provide this specialized service. ABA, which stands for Applied Behavior Analysis, is an evidence-based treatment approach for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. “ABA is the gold standard for treating children with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” explained Melissa Harvey, Senior Community Based Program Director. This designation was provided by Community Behavioral Health (CBH), a Philadelphia managed care organization that Silver Springs contracts with to provide behavioral health services for children and families. “As an ABA provider, Silver Springs is better able to help children learn and improve their social and communication skills so they are more likely to function independently and successfully.” For more information, please contact (267) 297-5170.
“This is the first time I felt like I could talk and share,” expressed a mother who recently participated in the Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) training group at Silver Springs’ location in Mt. Airy. “I have been in a lot of parenting classes and groups before but never anything like this one.”

The CARE group is a collaborative effort between Silver Springs’ Community Based Program and Gaudenzia, a residential program for mothers who are struggling with addiction. CARE is a six-week program to help parents and caregivers to strengthen their parenting skills and relationships with their children. “CARE has been instrumental in helping the caregivers gain the confidence to forge positive relationships with their children using a very manageable set of skills,” explained Tiffany Young, MS, LPC, who led the most recent group.

“A lot of these moms aren’t sure how to respond to certain difficult parenting situations that emerge,” explained Young. The group uses role playing as well as discussion to guide mothers as they learn new skills. “We might talk about what to do, for example, when their child throws a tantrum in public. Through the group, they are able to share about these challenging situations as we help them learn new ways to parent.”

“We are so excited to be able to provide a new, evidence-informed model of treatment that supports parents and caregivers,” shared Melissa Harvey, Senior Community Based Program Director. The CARE group is just one of the ways in which the Silver Springs Community Based Programs can help families and children. For referrals or more information, please call (215) 880-8823.

Please consider a gift to support Silver Springs’ Community Based Programs!

Thank You to the Hogs and Honeys Foundation for Kids for once again choosing the Silver Springs children to benefit from the holiday cheer that you share during the Christmas in July motorcycle ride. Thank you, also, to all of the generous riders for bringing joy to our boys and girls!

Hogs and Honeys Foundation for Kids’ Board members pictured with Lynn Unipan, Development Director (center)
The 11th annual Chefs for Silver Springs benefit dinner will take place on Friday, November 9th featuring Philadelphia’s acclaimed Chef Joey Baldino. We are grateful to the many sponsors already on board and proud to recognize and highlight this year’s Title and Presenting Sponsors – The Vogt Foundation and Nurtured Wealth.

“I support Silver Springs because of the great work they do in changing children’s lives for the better. Silver Springs gives hope and love to children who really need it.”
- Janice Vogt, The Vogt Foundation

“Getting to meet and spend time with some of the children was wonderful. Seeing them smiling and happy is a testament to the work Silver Springs does. Nurtured Wealth’s mission, to empower and educate its clients, fits well with the mission of Silver Springs.”
- Jessica McCurdy, Owner, Nurtured Wealth (www.nurturedwealth.com)

Join Us!

11th Annual Chefs for Silver Springs
November 9, 2018
6 PM to 10 PM
Green Valley Country Club, Lafayette Hill, PA

Featuring Chef Joey Baldino,
James Beard Award Semi-Finalist 2018, Best Chef Mid-Atlantic

Benefiting the programs and children of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School
Tickets and sponsorships on sale now at www.bidpal.net/chefs2018
Congratulations, Dr. Trout!

Congratulations to Dr. Barbara Trout, Ph.D., Clinical Services Director of the Residential Treatment Program, for receiving the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Recovery and Resiliency Award. According to the Department, this annual award “is given to community members, service providers, and individuals who have either demonstrated exceptional personal accomplishment and resiliency, set positive examples for others, or shown outstanding dedication in their support of recovery for persons in pursuit of mental wellness.” Dr. Trout has served as Clinical Services Director for 19 years. She provides supervision and leadership for the social workers and clinical staff members in the Residential Treatment Program who help the children we serve to heal from emotional difficulties they might be experiencing as the result of past traumas or losses. Sarah Kline, LCSW, Senior Residential Program Director, states, “We are very proud of Barb for this well-deserved accomplishment!”

Welcome to Our New Principal!

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Darlene Beasley to Martin Luther School as the new Principal of the Hess Centre! “I look forward to being a support and resource to our students and teachers,” stated Dr. Beasley. An experienced educator who has served as a Principal in the Philadelphia School District, Dr. Beasley comes to Martin Luther School with broad experience in special education. “Dr. Beasley brings wonderful, extensive experience and knowledge, and understands our students extremely well,” shared Joan Plump, Interim Martin Luther School Director and Vice President of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School. “She is a steady, skillful, and gracious presence in the School. We are fortunate to have her with us.” Please join us in welcoming Dr. Beasley to Martin Luther School!

Fun Spring Events

The long winter gave way to a spring full of sunshine and fun events supporting the children and programs of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School. Events included:

The second-annual His and Hers Bingo was held in the Harrison Gymnasium in April, with 94WIP sports radio host, Glen Macnow, serving as bingo caller. Guests won designer handbags, sports memorabilia, raffle baskets, and many more exciting prizes.

Close to 100 people came together in May for the third annual Sarah’s Blessing Gathering at the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club at Wings Field in Blue Bell and raised almost $10,000 to support the Sarah’s Blessing Fund at Silver Springs. This Fund was established to honor the memory of Sarah Grossman upon her passing in 2011 and provides assistance to families served by Silver Springs who are facing unexpected financial hardships.

As baseball season opened in June, more than 60 friends of Silver Springs turned out for our Night at the Ballpark pre-game gathering and stayed to cheer on the Phillies. Guests enjoyed tasty ballpark fare and joined the Silver Springs Children’s Choir to sing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” before the first pitch!

Check [www.silver-springs.org/news-events](http://www.silver-springs.org/news-events) for upcoming events!
Help Make Christmas Merry and Bright!

Help make Christmas great for the Silver Springs children this year!

Here are some of the many ways you can help:

- **Make a financial gift** to Silver Springs in the spirit of Christmas.
- **Suggest friends or family members make a financial gift** to Silver Springs in your honor.
- **Donate gift cards** to help children and families enjoy holiday celebrations at home.
- **Bring an unwrapped present** for a child to Silver Springs between 10 AM and 4 PM, November 26 through November 30.

Questions? Contact Amanda Bryant at (610) 825-4440 x307 or abryant@silver-springs.org.