Fresh air. A soft breeze. The warmth of sunshine. The smell of spring. Most of us enjoy these outdoor experiences without giving them a second thought. That’s not the case for the residents and respite guests of St. Joseph Home. Among the most significantly developmentally disabled, physically and emotionally, these amazing people — ages 1 to 58 years — live each day in a world where opportunities that many take for granted, such as simply getting outside, are a challenge based on the unique needs that their disabilities require. For people with limitations of movement, vision, hearing, cognitive ability, behavioral difficulties, pain and other challenging conditions, the opportunity to enjoy the smells, sounds, sights and textures of the outdoors is an opportunity to experience the world like most of us do. It’s a huge dose of happiness that’s hard to describe. Currently, the main campus residents and respite guests at St. Joseph Home, and their family and friends, have no place to safely enjoy time together outdoors.

A proposed project called Green Space will afford St. Joseph Home the opportunity to develop 33 acres, enhance our campus and offer an economical means to maintain the land. Most importantly, this project will provide our main campus residents, respite guests as well as their families and friends, access to a quarter-mile walking trail, wetlands, a memorial garden, scenic overlooks and a shelter area. This park-like environment will help residents and respite guests integrate into the community right in their own backyard as well as offer opportunities for the hundreds of volunteers who serve the SJH community through cleaning and maintenance of the space as well as flower/vegetable gardening and, most importantly, spending time with residents enjoying the outdoors. Additionally, the space will provide the broader community with recreational, wellness and educational opportunities.

Staying true to St. Joseph Home’s rich heritage, the Green Space Project promotes the Mission of the Sisters of Charity by nurturing “Care for all of Creation.” Further, the green space is truly a “green” initiative in that it will create a sustainable marsh and wetland area that will not only protect the land and properties surrounding the acreage but also promote the principles on which the community was founded. The Green Space groundbreaking is scheduled for Aug. 9, 2017 with an expected completion date of spring 2018.
Bayley where 32 staff members were recognized on June 8 for milestone anniversaries – working 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service – and bringing Bayley’s mission to life each day.

Close to 600 children and adults of all ages, including residents and Adult Day members, visited Bayley June 23-25 to see a 40-foot train display, running three trains at all times throughout the three days.

Bayley staff at the Fitness Club have added an element of Spiritual Wellness into the daily program – a prayer intention book where members can request prayers for their special intentions. There are several additions each day as members and staff pray for each other. At 3 p.m. each Friday afternoon, staff is also invited to gather for a short prayer and reflection time, promoting healthy mind, body and spirit.

DePaul Cristo Rey High School following the celebration of the school’s third commencement on May 30. The Class of 2017 included 59 seniors. Collectively, they achieved 100 percent college acceptance to four-year colleges; $6.8 million in merit-based scholarships; and 83,000 hours on the job in the Corporate Work Study Program – contributing over four years to their own private high school educations.

Mount St. Joseph University where in early June, the Alumni Association presented Bernadette Lourdes Coutain Plair, ’67, with the Loretta Richards Distinguished Alumni Award. S. Nancy Bramlage, ’67, and Mary Frances Kelly Schmitt, ’67, were awarded the S. Mary Lea Mueller Human Service Award and Catherine Austing Herring, ’72, was given the Alumni Career Achievement Award.

The Mount is offering another summer of art camps for children from grades 1 through 8 with the theme: “Art and Our World: Exploring Ideas” and “Art and Stories: Imagination Creation.” All classes are taught by art education professionals.

The university has signed an agreement with the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis to allow Mount students who have finished three years of undergraduate study to complete their final year also studying law in the St. Thomas program.

Seton High School where the Environmental Science class recently participated in the 2017 Envirothon at Fernald Nature Preserve. The Ohio Area 4 Envirothon is a competitive, academic, outdoor regional team event for high school students that tests their knowledge in five areas: Aquatic Ecology, Current Environmental Issues (CEI), Forestry, Soils and Wildlife. Senior Sarah Telscher said it was both a great learning experience as well as a team bonding experience.

“… Charity is a heavier burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile.”
- St. Vincent de Paul

“Cheerfulness prepares a glorious mind for all the noblest acts.”
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Good News From …