Training the Heart of a Lion for 100 Years

By Jeff Wampler, vice president of marketing and communications, Mount St. Joseph University

On Sept. 14, 1920, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati opened the first Catholic college for women in the state of Ohio. The mission statement of the College of Mount St. Joseph stated that “the college aims to inform the mind, to train the heart, and to stimulate the will so that the result will be a true woman ready to take her rightful place in the social, business, and religious world.” This vision—lived out by the Sisters of Charity, faculty, staff, and alumni who dared to risk a caring response—recently inspired the MSJ marketing team to develop a new concept for the Centennial of the Mount: the Heart of a Lion.

For more than a century, dedication and vision have guided the Mount community’s response to wars, depressions, civil unrest, and natural disasters. Now it has been paramount in helping the University through this challenging year and the COVID-19 pandemic. So many of our alumni, faculty, and staff have risen to each challenge with the Heart of a Lion in ways that would make our founders proud. In particular, students in our various Health Science programs have made valiant efforts to protect the lives of others.

An example is Katlin Middleton, DPT, ’11, who is living out her Heart of a Lion as a physical therapist. After serving in Nepal and at the Naval Hospital in LeJeune, North Carolina, working with active duty sailors and Marines, she now oversees pediatric therapy clinics in Virginia.

The Mount continues to be committed to educating and fostering the development of health care professionals, upheld by our rich heritage of educating and developing nursing leaders. We proudly recognize our more than 4,000 health care alumni throughout the Tri-State, across the United States, and around the world as they go above and beyond the call of duty and bring compassion, caring and dignity to those they serve.

January 2021
Bayley’s priority has always been the health and well-being of those in its care. As the organization remains closed to visitors during the pandemic, commitment to providing emotional and spiritual support to residents and staff has become even stronger. Staff came up with even more creative ideas to bring joy to residents who could not spend time with their loved ones in person over the holidays. This included even more Christmas décor, more Zoom Virtual Visits, music therapy, staff caroling, light therapy, one-on-one activities, and even resident serenades by Rosemary Eagle, a classically trained singer and Bayley’s activity supervisor. Staff also organized a white elephant gift exchange for Assisted Living residents, with gifts and funding donated. Those who live or work at Bayley have had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and all are optimistic about the protection this will provide.

DePaul Cristo Rey High School’s school-wide goal is that every senior, every year will be accepted to college. Despite all of the challenges the pandemic has placed on teaching, learning, safety and health, the Class of 2021 is well on its way to meeting that goal. The college counseling team has worked remotely to support seniors in submitting applications, essays and financial aid forms, and by early January, already 77 percent of the seniors had been accepted to college. That includes Katie ’21 (pictured) who was the first senior with an accepted letter and now has nine more!

During the month of November, Seton High School held a school-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive collection. The effort was coordinated by the Seton Helping Saints philanthropy club, and every student with each mentor group was assigned particular items to bring in. Several students and staff volunteered to help organize and deliver the meals, which ended up being 101 full Thanksgiving meals, including turkeys. These meals were delivered to families in need throughout the Price Hill community as well as to St. Vincent de Paul.

St. Joseph Home was blown away by the extraordinary support from the community during the Christmas season. Through the generosity of so many, the organization was able to give all of its residents gifts to open, decorate the rooms and facilities, enjoy holiday music and have fun with fancy Christmas sweaters! Staff were supported with warm meals and gift cards from their amazing donors. St. Joseph Home is grateful to all supporters providing a happy end to 2020 and looks forward to continuing to provide extraordinary care to the individuals served in 2021.