

ISSUE

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QUARTLY JOURNAL  
OF MARYVILLE  
ACADEMY

Rebuilding lives • Rekindling spirits • Renewing hope



## Children, families reaching their fullest potential

*Continued from Page 1.*

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## Pets, children need one another for development

*Continued from inside*

is part of the curriculum at the Jen School – living, breathing lessons in social and emotional development. “They’re learning to care for something other than themselves,” Anne explained. And when the boys try to get a flighty puppy to listen and behave – and then have to deal with it when it does not – well, that’s part of the curriculum, too. “They experience frustration when the puppy doesn’t listen to them,” said Anne. “And then we can tie it back and say, ‘How does that feel for us when you don’t listen to us?’”

Three Jen School boys visited Hoffman during lunch one winter day. The dog nipped their fingers, so Anne explained that they had to redirect such behavior right from the earliest days. The puppies are more adoptable when they learn boundaries. It’s your job to train him,” Anne told the boys. “He wants to give you puppy kisses. But when he does that, you have to redirect him and give him a toy.” Jeffrey, another Jen School student who got to play with Hoffman, said he enjoys visiting the puppy. “I’m happy when I get to play with him - and I like his toys,” he chuckled, as Hoffman absconded with the stuffed alien.

Like the kids, staff members often find their way to Anne’s office when she is fostering animals. And also like the kids, the staff may more readily discuss classroom worries with a puppy in their lap. And then there’s this fact: more than one of the previous Jen School foster puppies now lives with a Maryville staff member. When Hoffman is old enough to be adopted, Anne has a certain Maryville staff member in mind to take in the pint-sized pup. When that happens, everybody wins. The puppy finds a home, the boys can stay in touch with it, and Anne can take in another unwanted puppy that needs extra care and love before it can find a permanent home.

Not all of the dogs can be placed with Maryville families, of course. But even the pets that find homes outside of Maryville provide valuable life lesson. “We tie it back to the boys,” Anne explained. “The puppy will be going to a new placement, and some of the boys will be going to a new placement, too. They understand what it’s like.”

\*Not his real name.

## Professional Development

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THE VOICE OF MARYVILLE Issue 00 JUNE 2015

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MARYVILLE

## Upcoming Events

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SINCE



“Pull out quote”

Caption

## Join us for the annual 5K Family Fun Run/Walk

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Saturday, May 9  
at 9:00 a.m.

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## A message of gratitude from Maryville's Executive Director

**Sr. Catherine M. Ryan, O.S.F.**  
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## Volunteer Highlights

For Catholic Schools Week, the 260 students at the St. Vincent Ferrer School in River Forest raised more than \$650 to buy basic supplies for the children of

the organizers of the effort. "They were buying socks and toothbrushes – things our kids

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"We wanted this to be from a child to a child." Although St. Vincent previously has raised money for various organizations, this was the first time that Maryville was the beneficiary. "Our main goal was to find an organization that benefited children," Andrea explained. "We wanted this to be from a child to a child."

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## Puppy and boy volunteer to save one another

The teenaged boy cupped the tiny puppy with one hand, cuddling him close.

Sporting ears that protruded like radar dishes and liquid brown eyes that seemed to take up half of his face, the Chihuahua pup nestled in the teen's hand. Jeremiah\* cradled the tiny pup – "Hoffman," by name – to his chest, and quietly confided a difficult situation he was facing. Six pounds of fragile but friendly fluff responded by bestowing puppy kisses before offering its coup de grace – a yellow chew toy in the shape of an alien.

Jeremiah was won over.

But she also fosters unwanted special-needs puppies for the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society. It is a volunteer commitment she took on after training one of her own canines as a therapy dog. She often brings the little fosters to her office at the Jen School. Boys who display good behavior and an interest in animals may be rewarded with puppy time.

But the truth is, puppy time is more than just a behavioral motivator. It also

— *Continued on back page*

## We are grateful for the generosity of our donors

### Thank you for helping to transform the lives of Maryville children and their families

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## SUCCESS STORIES

Transforming lives, one child at a time

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## WISH LIST

Items to enhance our children's lives

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