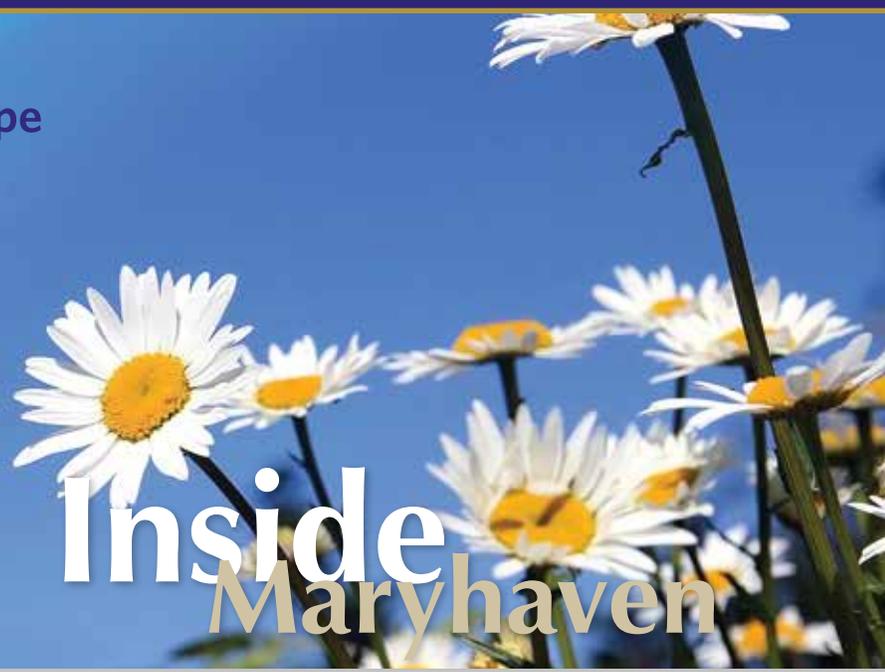




## Maryhaven Center of Hope

Catholic Health Services

At the heart of health



# Inside Maryhaven

## THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM AT THE HEART OF MARYHAVEN FOR 85 YEARS

The histories of St. Charles Hospital and Maryhaven Center of Hope are closely related through the founding Sisters, the Daughters of Wisdom, a french order of nuns who, sponsored by the Montfort Fathers, arrived in Port Jefferson in 1905. That summer the Brooklyn Society of St. Vincent DePaul asked the Sisters to provide a camp for the poor, deprived children of the city.

In 1907, the Brooklyn Catholic Diocese sent twenty-seven children including crippled, blind, and mentally impaired youngsters who formed a nucleus for physical and spiritual care by the Sisters. In the years following the completion of the building of St. Charles Hospital in 1911, the number of children receiving compassionate care was over 300. At times over fifty Sisters filled the many roles as caretakers and educators for these youngsters. Because of increasing demands to accept a larger number of "exceptional children," through the generosity of William Wharton, a building which became known as the Maryhaven School for Exceptional Children was built across the hill in 1930. When St. Charles Hospital, which had specialized in treating polio victims became a general hospital in 1963, Maryhaven began to operate as a separate entity.

The growth in programs to meet the increasing needs of the children in the care of the Sisters and the dedicated,

professional staff has led to the many sites that are now part of the organization, Maryhaven Center of Hope. Today, services are provided throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties and are part of the rich history of Maryhaven for 85 years.



*The dedication of Maryhaven.*

### This Issue:

- Message from Lewis Grossman
- Maryhaven Celebrates 85 Years
- Tenderness and Disability
- Remembering James Harris
- At One with Art
- Miss Creative of Long Island
- The Giving Dolls
- Graduation Gift
- 2014 Honorees
- Mary Ellen Conrad, Scollard Award
- Dennis Hulse, 35 Year Service Award
- Service Awards
- 5k Run

## MESSAGE FROM LEWIS GROSSMAN



At each milestone in the history of Maryhaven, I am inspired to look with gratitude to our past history and with courage and faith toward the unknown future. Since 1930, eighty-five years ago, this agency has worked with determination and commitment for the safety and security of each individual who has been connected to the services offered.

To the founding Sisters, the Daughters of Wisdom, with whom I personally shared these responsibilities in my forty plus years, I am grateful for their dedication and for

establishing a mission that has inspired all of us as we strive "to improve, enrich and respect the lives of people with special needs."

The staff of Maryhaven are people who give generously of themselves in their attention to each individual in the multiple day programs and residences of the agency. Challenges in the provision of services are met as people learn to prepare for new approaches and requirements in finance, regulations and performance.

The articles in this edition of our newsletter, *Inside Maryhaven*, will help to celebrate some of these successes achieved through much hard work and devotion. We will continue to be a strong safeguard of determination to bring needed services to each person in the family of Maryhaven.

## MARYHAVEN CENTER OF HOPE CELEBRATES 85 YEARS!



*Construction of the Maryhaven Residential School in 1929.*

**To celebrate with the entire family of Maryhaven, this is the story that is told on how Maryhaven got to be 85 years old:**

A long time ago in a land far away, a good woman gathered with other good women who prayed together and went out every day to take care of the sick people, the poor people, and the children who were hungry. They opened a place for these people to stay and it was called a Poorhouse.

At that time, the government of the country did not like people who prayed and so the women decided to move to America. They read the Bible and asked God to help them to know how they could help people. They read about the gift of God called Wisdom and so they called themselves, "Daughters of Wisdom."

Soon some of the Daughters of Wisdom came to Port Jefferson. They started a school and then opened a hospital called St. Charles. Many young people at the hospital had a

sickness that made it difficult to walk. In 1930, the Daughters of Wisdom opened a school and home for these young people across the street from St. Charles. Soon the place became known as a safe place and one that was blessed by God; it was named Maryhaven.

That was 85 years ago. In June of 1930, 40 children and 8 Sisters moved into the Maryhaven building. And that's how it started: first a school and residence for exceptional children then a vocational program. Today, Maryhaven now has over 36 unique and diverse programs including adult day programs, vocational programs, residential homes, a residential school for children to name a few. Over 1,600 staff now carry on the work of our founders, the Daughters of Wisdom, diligently serving over 2,200 individuals with the compassion and caring for which the Daughters were so well known.

Thank you, Daughters of Wisdom and Happy 85th Anniversary to Maryhaven!



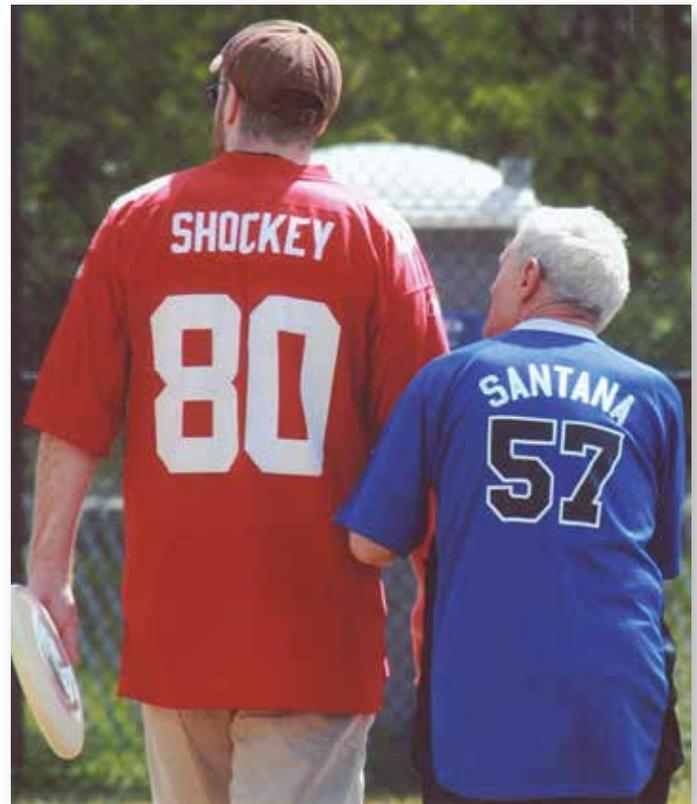
*Aerial view of the Residential School today.*

## TENDERNESS AND DISABILITY - Adapted from Jean Vanier

There is a mystery behind people with disabilities. In many ways they are a presence of God. We see their fragility, their pain, but we can also say that they speak of God. As we enter into relationship with them, they change us. Jean Vanier writes that when he lived in community with the disabled, one resident, Andrew, went to see a cardiologist. When he came back, Andrew told what had happened: "The doctor looked into my heart," he said. Jean Vanier asked, "Well, what did he see in your heart?" Andrew said, "He saw God, of course." A further question from Jean, "What does God do in your heart?" And Andrew said, "God rests there."

That is what all holy people say; it's what Scripture says. God comes to live in our hearts. Etty Hillesum, a young woman who died at Auschwitz said this sort of thing, too. She said, "God doesn't do very much for us now, but we can do something for God. We can give God our hearts because He needs to have places where He can dwell in this world, in a world where He is being rejected."

Being with the disabled can heal us. A psychiatrist was asked, "What does it mean to be human?" And he answered, "tenderness." Tenderness is deeply respectful of the other, not possessing in any way, but giving the other security. The disabled have something to bring to others, something very particular in their kindness, in their affection. It is a great mystery to care for the bodies of those who are so fragile and who don't communicate verbally, but who somehow still



*A Maryhaven staff member and Individual share a tender moment.*

communicate with all their body. Their bodies say, simply, "love me." It is something that rises up from within them and that is what touches us most deeply. It is part of what makes caring for them a mystery and a ministry.

## REMEMBERING JAMES HARRIS AND HIS GOOD EXAMPLE

Angel Guardian, Maryhaven's newest group home, opened in March, 2012 in West Babylon. In a well-ordered large home, individual rooms with private baths are arranged in a semi-circle around the nurses' stations to provide for the best care and attention that is needed. Fourteen individuals from a variety of nursing homes and private dwellings met the criteria for this newest living situation at Maryhaven. Among them was James Harris who was previously living at Our Lady of Consolation Nursing Home in West Islip.

James lived with his large family for a good part of his life and also spent some time at Willowbrook. He was very active in his church, Island Christian Church in East Northport, and there he wrote the story of his life. This was published by the Friendship Unlimited Ministry in their newsletter. He wrote about his faith when he was 25 years old stating that he placed his life in Jesus'

hands because there was so much happening to him that he felt that he was being told something about life.

As he became more physically limited, James grew in his faith. He said at that time, "None of us want to be in these wheelchairs; but it is the only way to get around on our own. People are forced to slow down around us. Maybe they will pay more attention to us now that we slow them down a little bit."

Before his death at the age of seventy-six in March 2015, James wrote, "I thank God for giving me the strength to be in a wheelchair. I'm really blessed to get around like I do. I try to just think about the good times and not the bad." James has been a good example to his family and the Maryhaven staff. He will always be remembered for his faith in God and his positive attitude towards life.

## CARRIE SPRITZER: AT ONE WITH ART

On the walls of the Maryhaven group home on Sills Road in Yaphank can be found some of the art work done by a resident, Carrie Spritzer, who has been working with an art instructor for over a year. The picture included in this article was created by Carrie using art supplies such as brushes, painters' tape, acrylic paint and canvas. The instructor, Joyce Raimondo, has described Carrie as "being at one with the painting."

Carrie began private art lessons in January, 2014 and shows interest and enjoyment in the sessions. She is focused on the topic and it is noted by staff at the residence that she actively participates in the class. Presently, some of Carrie's housemates are also creating art pieces under the guidance of Mrs. Raimondo, author-artist and Founding Director of *Imagine That! Art Education*.

The attention given by Carrie's mother to her daughter's interest and talent for painting, as well as her enjoyment in the process of creating art, led Mrs. Spritzer to contact the art

instructor. She further recognizes that an art program geared toward adults with autism will hopefully encourage Carrie's artistic abilities to flourish.



Artwork created by Carrie Spritzer

## MISS CREATIVE

Meet Maryhaven's own "Miss Creative" of Long Island, Lauren Bianco, who attends our Higher Learning Day Habilitation Program in Patchogue. Not only is Lauren a role model for her peers at the program and an active member in her community, but she can be counted on for a friendly face to all and an invaluable support for her family.

"Miss Creative" is one of the titles earned in the Miss Exceptional



Lauren Bianco, Miss Creative of Long Island

Pageant, an organization created in 2012 to provide individuals with special needs a place to highlight their many different talents. The goals are to promote individualism, highlight true inner beauty, and foster confidence, friendship and charity. Lauren states, "It doesn't matter what your disability is, you can still make a difference. I can be who I am and still be a part of the community."

For her part in the 2014 pageant, Lauren did fundraising to benefit the Maryhaven program where she is a natural leader and spends her days learning life and academic skills and gaining more independence to achieve her goals.

Additionally, Lauren creates her own spot of beauty by photographing wildlife of Long Island's many beautiful natural spaces. She visits Smith Point and Yaphank Lake to photograph foxes, deer, birds and other animals. A photo she took at Yaphank Lake was featured on NEWS 12 by Samantha Augeri! Lauren finds happiness in her hobby and says, "It is very therapeutic."

This past holiday season, Lauren marched in the Yaphank Christmas Parade in her crown and sash. Lauren has gained a sense of achievement on receiving the award of "Miss Creative" and will continue to be a role model for all.

## “THE GIVING DOLL” AT MARYHAVEN

Early this year, fifteen “Giving Dolls” were donated to the children in the Residential Program at 450 Myrtle Avenue, Port Jefferson, N. Y. They are lovely handmade cloth dolls, each one carefully, thoughtfully created with great care. It was obvious



Sister Cathy Smith (L) and Sister Maryaline Zierle (R) with the “Giving Dolls.”

that they were made with patience, love and devotion by the volunteers of “The Giving Doll” program.

The mission of this organization is to “give faith, love, joy, hope and comfort to children worldwide, at times of special need, through the construction and distribution of these handmade cloth dolls.” The Giving Doll was created and copyrighted by Jan Householder in March, 2006, in Ohio. She created the first doll for a friend’s daughter and as the needs became apparent, the program expanded worldwide. In 2011, a milestone was reached when doll 10,000 was delivered to a little girl with sickle cell anemia.

This program began in New York in the fall of 2011 and in three years over 3,000 dolls have been donated to various hospitals and organizations. The children in the dorms at Maryhaven love their new friends as did Sister Cathy Smith and Sister Maryaline Zierle of the Pastoral Care Department, we received this much appreciated donation from the Ronkonkoma chapter of “The Giving Dolls.”

## MARYHAVEN'S 2015 GRADUATION GROUP RECEIVES GIFT

On May 27, 2015 Connetquot High School’s Breaking Boundaries Activity Club presented our new Educational Services Principal, Martin Nelson, with a check for \$900. Club President, Shannon Walsh, was pleased that the monies donated will be used to enhance the festivities of the 2015 graduating class of Maryhaven’s Children’s Services to celebrate this significant event in the graduate’s lives. Thank you Shannon and all the members of the Breaking Boundaries Club; you will always be remembered for your kindness and generosity!



Martin Nelson, Maryhaven School Principal Accepting Gift from Breaking Boundaries Club Advisor



Breaking Boundaries Club members and advisors at presentation of check to Martin Nelson, Maryhaven School Principal

## ANNOUNCING THE 2014 HONOREES OF THE YEAR



**Megan Francoeur**  
Administration  
Transportation  
Dispatcher



**Danielle Jerome**  
Children's Services  
Girls' Dorm  
DSP



**Maurice Luckey**  
Adult Services  
Holbrook Day Hab  
BIT



**Carol Murphy**  
Nassau Services  
Elmont Residence  
DSP



**Patricia Pliska**  
CRS  
Medical Caseworker

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2014 HONOREES OF THE MONTH

### ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION:

Mike Escue, David Woods, Sister Maryaline Zierle, Tara Frawley, Mark Adawy, Denise Redden, Megan Francoeur, Debra Perrier, Diane Brown, Crystal Diaz, Melissa Rosato-Klemm, Bill Chacona

### ADULT SERVICES DIVISION:

Siobhan Grant, Kris Velez, Chris Cubano, Tom Geantasio, Anjili Vaswani, Michelle Horne, Jaclyn Dallacqua, Maurice Luckey, Deven Jones, Linda Bowden, Kristine O'Connell

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION:

Lauren Faberllé, Michael Rundberg, Byron Farquharson, MaryBeth Canders, Rosa Bottoni, Yvalberte Gmelin, Steven Saccente, Stephen Kelly, Deidra Moore, Danielle Jerome, Ryan Jahn

### COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES DIVISION:

Ruth Cruz, Michael Boyle, Jane MacLagan, Leticia Ford, Kerri Warasila, Alexandria Steele, Elizabeth Ryan, Marlyne West, Patty Pliska, Catherine Bauser, Kristen Weber

### NASSAU SERVICES DIVISION:

Nancy Rivera, Duvalier Whethers, Andrea Hope, Vanessa Washington, Daisy Smith, Diane Saunders, Brooke Cassidy, Dimitri Gourgues, Christine Amatuegwu, Nadja Sinkler, Carol Murphy

## MARY ELLEN CONRAD, CHS SCOLLARD AWARD FINALIST

For over thirty years, Mary Ellen Conrad, Director of Maryhaven's Nassau Day Programs and Supported Housing, has developed and sustained programs to meet the needs of individuals with mental health diagnoses as well as developmental disabilities. She is considered to be the "go to" person who is a leader in all aspects of service delivery from initial planning, securing funding, direct supervision and oversight, to program evaluation. Mary Ellen was recently honored by Catholic Health Services for her dedicated ministry and was named one of two finalists for the Scollard Award in January, 2015.

During recent emergency situations resulting from floods and Hurricane Sandy, Mary Ellen took a key leadership role in securing alternate locations for staff and individuals to receive needed assistance and program involvement. Renovations and relocations were handled professionally by Mary Ellen from offering support and consultation to the actual coordination of furniture replacement.

In her long career of dealing with the major problem of housing for the mentally ill, Mary Ellen has been responsible for the planning and execution of additional homes by opening Elmont Community Residence, Valley Stream Community Residence and 31 bed-supported housing programs. These programs continue to be fully operational and are highly regarded by county and state as programs of excellence.



*(L-R) 2013 Scollard Award winner Patricia Fogarty, Executive Division Director, Maryhaven Center for Hope, Alan D. Guerci, MD, CHS President and CEO, 2014 Scollard finalist Mary Ellen Conrad, Maryhaven Center of Hope, 2014 Scollard Award winner Richard Bie, Good Samaritan Hospital, 2014 Scollard finalist Antoinette Jordan, RN, St. Francis Hospital, Nancy Simmons, Executive Vice President and CAO, Good Samaritan, Ruth Hennessey, Executive Vice President and CAO, St. Francis, and Patrick J. Scollard, former President and CEO of CHS and St. Francis.*

Mary Ellen's experience in ministry following the mission of Catholic Health Services at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre, and now Maryhaven, have produced a woman of outstanding qualities that accompany her virtues of compassion and caring.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 35 YEAR EMPLOYEE



*Dennis Hulse, 35 year employee*

The Maryhaven Service Awards of 2015 honored the staff beginning with the person with the greatest longevity, Dennis Hulse, Program Supervisor of the Maryhaven Supported Work Program located in the Yaphank building. In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of their job descriptions, staff members are honored for their ability to exemplify the mission of Maryhaven. While Dennis has seen many changes over the past almost four decades, he has remained true to the Maryhaven mission.

Dennis was interviewed by Lou Grossman and Walter Stockton in 1975 for a position at the Maryhaven summer camp, a position he held for five consecutive summers. This led to his

pursuing degrees in Therapeutic Education and later teacher certification in Physical Education, K through 12.

Several years as a Direct Care Counselor and Supervisor in Children's Residential Services gave Dennis the background for helping young people incorporate respect and appropriate behavior into their lifestyles. Many of them graduated and were successfully employed in the economy of the time.

A change of pace brought Dennis to the newly formed Supported Work Program in Yaphank where his skills and knowledge of regulations became the backbone of the program. Dennis has said, "I just want to help people" and that goal became obvious as he not only has understanding of the regulations, but also has a belief that assisting the individuals under our supervision shall be done in a morally correct manner. Acting within these positive parameters is second nature to Dennis and certainly embodies the views of our founding Sister Congregation, the Daughters of Wisdom.

## MARYHAVEN SERVICE AWARDS

On Tuesday, March 24, 2015 Maryhaven held the Annual Service Awards Dinner at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. This year, 138 employees received recognition for their years of service to Maryhaven. Among the awardees was one 35 year employee, two 30 year employees, twelve 25 year, fourteen 20 year, twenty one 15 year, twenty six 10 year and sixty two 5 year employees. Additionally, Maryhaven also recognized the 2014 Honorees of the Year. Maryhaven is grateful and thankful for these hard working and dedicated employees. They have truly made a difference in the lives of those we serve. Many thanks and congratulations to all of these employees.



*Fran Lamendola-Magnuson, 30 year awardee*



*Linda Bevilacqua, 25 year awardee*



*Rachel Green, 25 year awardee*



*10 year awardees*



*15 year awardees*



*Terryville Day Hab awardees*



*Danielle Pastor with family. Her father (pictured right) retired from Maryhaven.*

## **BIG NEWS: MARYHAVEN HAS GONE SOCIAL!**

Check out the  
**Maryhaven Center of Hope**

**facebook**<sup>®</sup>  
**page**

[www.facebook.com/MaryhavenCenterofHopeLI](http://www.facebook.com/MaryhavenCenterofHopeLI)

We are very excited to share all the  
wonderful happenings at Maryhaven  
with all of you!



Please be sure to “like” and “share” our page  
and stop back for updates on our  
terrific programs, individuals and staff.

**ATTENTION!**  
**To the Maryhaven Family:**  
*You are Invited!*



**Join Us In Celebrating**  
**Maryhaven's**  
*85 Years*

by hosting your own birthday celebration  
in your program or residence beginning in early fall.

## MARYHAVEN'S FIRST ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN!

Imagine this! On Saturday, September 12, 2015, Terryville Road is blocked off beginning at 8 a.m. and hundreds of staff, families, able individuals all wearing the official "Run" tee shirt are registered and ready to follow the designated route to bring Maryhaven into the community and raise funds for programs for the intellectually disabled people we serve!

As an interested reader, you need to know that this 5K Walk/Run is approximately 3.1 miles and you may run, walk, skip, jog, stroll as you choose. A timing company will lead off serious runners and prizes will be given to the winners, the participants, and even for the kids who may be entered in the "Cookie Fun Run" around the Administration building on Terryville Road that will take place before the official race begins.

Registration has already begun and you will find this information at [JustFinish.net/JustRegister.net](http://JustFinish.net/JustRegister.net). Discounts are available for Maryhaven employees, Corporate Teams or a family that reside at the same address, and who sign up to participate. The general donation to enter the "Run" is \$30 and you can claim your special discount at this time .

If you just want to be an observer, a cheerer, a sponsor, you can do that by volunteering to support a runner using the same web site and your credit card!

The culmination of the "Run" will be at the Administration Building on Terryville Road with a super 85th Birthday Celebration. Raffles will also be available for gift baskets donated by the various departments of the Maryhaven programs.

Got a question or an idea or a prize to donate?? Call either Angelique Anzini or Keith Frain at 631-474-1585.



## Join Us at the *1st Annual 5K Run/Walk*

**Saturday, September 12, 2015**  
Maryhaven Administrative Offices  
51 Terryville Road  
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Check In:	8:00am
Race Time:	9:00am
Register at:	<a href="http://JustFinish.net">JustFinish.net</a>
Cost:	\$30.00
Children Under 12:	\$10.00





# Maryhaven Center of Hope

Catholic Health Services

At the heart of health

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## Inside Maryhaven THIS ISSUE:

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- Message from Lewis Grossman
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- Mary Ellen Conrad, Scollard Award
- Dennis Hulse, 35 Year Service Award
- Service Awards
- 5k Run

### MISSION STATEMENTS CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Catholic Health Services of Long Island, as a ministry of the Catholic Church, continues Christ's healing mission, promotes excellence in care, and commits itself to those in need.

CHSLI affirms the sanctity of life, advocates for the poor and serves the common good. It conducts its healthcare practice, business, education, and innovation with justice, integrity, and respect for the dignity of each person

### MARYHAVEN CENTER OF HOPE

As a member of Catholic Health Services, the Mission of Maryhaven Center of Hope is to improve, enrich, and respect the lives of people with special needs. We promote each person's highest potential by encouraging all aspects of growth. We are committed to delivering quality services throughout the individual's life journey. Together, we will make the difference.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Performing Arts Show**  
"Folklore Around the World in 80 Days"  
July 20-24, 27-30, 2015  
For Tickets and Show Times  
Call (631)474-1585
- **5K Run/Walk**  
Saturday, September 12, 2015  
Maryhaven Administrative Offices  
51 Terryville Rd., Port Jeff Station  
For Further Information call: 631-474-1585
- **Friends of Maryhaven Celebration**  
Saturday, November 7, 2015  
Betony Restaurant  
New York City  
For further information  
Call (631) 474-4120 ext. 214

### ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT MARYHAVEN DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON.COM?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Maryhaven Center of Hope whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Sign up for [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com)