

My Memories of Rose-Mary Center

by Holly Menzie

I have many special memories of my four years working as director of development at Rose-Mary Center. Most of these memories did not involve direct work with the residents but, rather, work on the periphery – conducting the annual fund, educating the community, planning fundraising events, and orienting new staff members and volunteers. In all of these efforts, the mission of Rose-Mary was paramount – I always pictured the faces of the children and adults we served whenever I ventured outside the Center doors.

Following are my thoughts, which are in random order as I remembered them:

Releasing balloons in the courtyard following the death of one of the children. Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the new Super K-Mart, with one of the children coming up on the platform with me; he was so proud. Playing the keyboard in the chapel when one of the sisters retired; Bishop Pevec conducted the service. Singing with the Northcoast Gospel Review at the dedication of the Multi-Sensory Room; Bishop Pilla conducted the service.

Spending two different days at Villa Maria looking up information about the history of Rose-Mary in preparation for the 75th anniversary celebration. Seeing the abundance of gifts that arrived for the residents each Christmas. Welcoming the Journey of Hope cyclists and being speechless because they were so good-looking! Conducting an orientation session for volunteers representing the Catholic and Mormon faiths. Participating in a service at a nearby church when several of the students were confirmed. Selecting special dressed bears from the Salvation Army each Christmas.

Giving countless presentations about Rose-Mary during United Way campaigns for companies around Cleveland. Reverse raffles. Singing Angels concerts. A basketball game involving Cleveland Browns players. Golf outings. “Beary Merry” Christmas craft fairs. Christmas bazaars in the multi-purpose room. The “garage sale” behind the Grasselli home. Casino Night in the gym. A Catholic Charities conference in Florida, where Pat Colombo and I were presenters about adult day care. Weeding through the many boxes of donated books that were stored in the meeting area of the Delaney home.

Roller skating with the children. Planning and conducting worship services with Ray Daull in the chapel. Learning sign language in classes conducted by Beth Tirpac. Helping to plan the 75th anniversary celebration, and dodging all the bees buzzing around the food during the event. Touring the second and third floors of the Grasselli home for the first time. Putting “lungs” in Rescue Annies for CPR classes. Birthday parties in the children’s dining room. Picnics at Lake Farmpark. Dances and graduation ceremonies in the gym.

Most of all – being part of a wonderful “family” composed of residents, families and staff members who live the mission of Rose-Mary in everything they do. My four years there were a special part of my life. Happy 100th Anniversary, Catholic Charities!