

Where do the dollars go?

A series of articles on how our local communities benefit from donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

John Paul II Center

Bishop's
Annual
Appeal
Faith • Hope • Charity

The John Paul II Center for Special Learning – supported in part by funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal -- is the only Catholic school in Berks County that provides a comprehensive educational program for children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

That's important to parents like Joseph and Carol McCullough whose son Patrick is a second-year student there. Patrick has Down Syndrome.

"Patrick was in public school for eight years, but he needed a better educational situation," said Carol McCullough. "Also, the religious component to the curriculum at the John Paul II Center is very important to us."

Patrick is having a much better experience now, she explained. He studies religion, science and social studies, he has many more friends and is happier overall.

"Socially it's been very beneficial," she said. "The older kids help the younger ones, and he's able to participate more fully in activities and in such things as music therapy and art therapy."

"Patrick and I would like to thank donors to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, because without that funding, the students would not be able to participate in so many activities that are beneficial and fun."

