

## Where do the dollars go?

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

# Mercy Special Learning Center

Bishop's  
Annual  
Appeal  
Faith • Hope • Charity

Ask the parents of students at Mercy Special Learning Center in Allentown, and they'll be quick to tell you about the wonderful results they see in their children.

Here are some samples of parent comments about Mercy, one of three schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Diocese of Allentown.

The schools are funded in part by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

"Brody has advanced tremendously in both education and life skills since he has been at Mercy. We don't feel he would get this specialized attention in any other school. Brody is also learning the aspects of the Catholic faith, which we feel is equally as important as his education."

— Marianne Kleckner.

"Mercy provides James with an individual education. He is able to progress academically at his own pace due to a low teacher/student ratio. Not only are academics taught at Mercy, but James is called to grow spiritually and socially, challenging him to reach beyond what his limits are perceived to be. He is encouraged to be as independent as his capabilities allow, and is taught and expected to behave in a socially acceptable manner."

"A Catholic education for James is very important to us. Mercy incorporates the tenets of our Catholic faith into everyday events and provides James with religious instruction at a level that he can understand. Jesus is physically present at Mercy, not only in the chapel, but through the caring actions of the staff."

"Mercy helps me to see James in a different perspective. Sometimes at home, James can be a little bit stubborn and ornery, and after many mornings of this, I can lose sight of the gift that having a child with special needs can be. When I see him on stage hamming for the audience in the Christmas play or with his after-school dance group, it gives me a glimpse into the wonderful personality of this little person, and is a memory that gets me through trying times."

— Nancy Hebert

"Matthew has attended Mercy for three years, and he continues to progress. Matthew is taught in a way that he can understand. He has come to have an enormous love of school and church, which is due in part to the staff. Matthew is also able to receive his sacraments, which are taught in a way he can

understand. He is thriving

tremendously in all ways at Mercy (educationally, socially, language skills, understanding and his behavior)."

— Gretchen Siemon

