

JULY • 2024

A PERSON CENTERED NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER STUDENTS

Edited in the Theresa &amp; Edward O'Toole Foundation Adaptive Computer Learning Center

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Muscle Car Print © Cody Alves 2024

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**

SMSC IS  
**CLOSED**  
FOR THE HOLIDAY  
**THURSDAY**  
**JULY 4TH, 2024**  
Open Friday, July 5

# 5 & Dime

STUDENT COLLECTIVE  
BAGS FOR THE BRAVE

RICK VAN NUIS



Congratulations to Rick Van Nuis from the Senior Program who celebrated his birthday on May 31, 2024. In honor of his special day and Memorial Day he participated in Navy Federal Credit Union's *Bags for the Brave* program, supporting San Diego's military families with gift bags of personal items. Each bag included shaving cream, disposable razors, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and deodorant. Rick completed seven bags with seven items in each bag to represent his age of 77. Rick acknowledged he was inspired by his parents saying, "My mom and dad were both in the military and this is how I can say *thank you* to them for their service." It was a meaningful day for Rick, and he had a lot of fun putting the bags together. His thoughtful gesture will surely be appreciated by local military families!

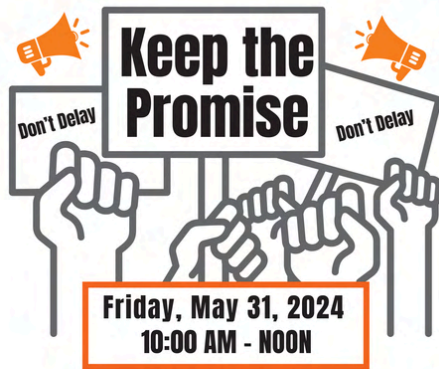


**SMSC / Self Advocacy**



Past and present officers of the SMSC Self Advocacy Board including John Blalock, Cali Williams, and Kristen McClure gave presentations to the El Cajon Rotary Club. Members of the panel each shared their personal success stories and what they like best about the programs they are involved in at St. Madeleine's. Kara Gonzales, ADC Program Manager, also spoke about the programs and services that SMSC offers adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help them pursue their individual interests and talents.





# Keep the Promise

## Political Activism

IS

## SELF-ADVOCACY

SMSC students participated in the *Keep the Promise* rally in downtown San Diego to reject the Governor's proposal to delay \$1 billion in funding for the development disability services system. The delay in funding threatens to destabilize the support systems that people with developmental disabilities rely on to live safely and successfully in their communities.

Adrienne Wright remarked "It was great to go and represent our program. There were tons of people there holding posters. I was shouting, very loudly - keep the promise!"

Lance Rountree was participating too. "We were talking about the need to raise money. They want to cut our support and we need to keep our services funded. People were signing petitions and cars driving by were honking in support. I felt happy to be a part of it but I am not happy about the cuts. We did our part to get our services back on the right road!"

Beth Blair, President of SMSC's Self Advocacy Board went with a group from HGH. She added, "I got to use a microphone to talk to the crowd. It felt good to speak up, it was important to represent the rights of our population."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyAmN83HRDA>

# Student Showcase

## On & Off Campus



Lauren Papworth on Fox 5



CJ Moon in reunion Tee



Bianca Gomez at XO Ranch



Janel Shortes in SMSC Kitchen



Lucas Lemke & Sierra Tipple



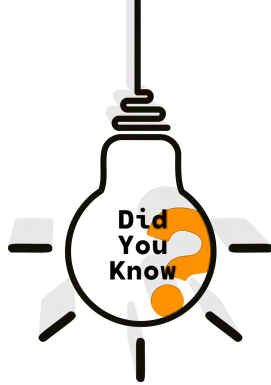
Lashuan Bynes with bunny

HAPPY  
*Independence*  
Day  
★ 4<sup>th</sup> of July ★

**By: Jennifer Catran**

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies. It is observed with various public and private events that celebrate the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the birthday of America, and this year it will be 248 years old. Why is Independence Day so special to me? I get the day off school, I get to sleep in late, and I get to have fun with friends from my group home. I get to wear patriotic stuff, listen to patriotic music, and enjoy eating out with my friends or we can cook a frozen pizza at home. I get to eat a bag of chips, drink a soda, and watch the fireworks on TV. Best of all I get to stay up late! I'm proud to be an American and live in the land of the free. We should always thank our brave service men and women for what they do for our country!





**SMSC**

## **Virtual Classes on Zoom**

Did you know that St. Madeleine's is still offering virtual classes through Zoom? If you are sick, on vacation, have an appointment, are absent, or if you come to campus part time - we get credit when you attend our Zoom classes. One of our students joined our virtual classes while on vacation in Idaho, and another joined while riding in the car on the way to Disneyland!

SMSC has classes every weekday Monday-Friday from 11AM - Noon. Our classes are different each day offering chair exercise, communication skills, hygiene, news, and ASL classes. The week starts with Bingo with Billie on Mondays and ends with Karaoke on Fridays!

Join in on the fun!

Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84994312216>

Meeting ID: 849 9431 2216

No Password

***When you join our virtual classes SMSC continues to receive our daily funding for your attendance. Attendance is the main funding for our program budget every year and when you are not here, it impacts our ability to have quality programs and staffing.***

## **SUMMERTIME!**

### **SMSC students share their plans for summer fun during a virtual class on Zoom**

Watching Happy Days on TV. Visit with sister and twin nieces and Zoom with my brother. I want to join a painting class. - Devon Jenson

My sister is coming down in August for my birthday and we are going out to dinner! Joseph Cabral

Hang out with my sister. - Trevor Mills

Staying home and working on art. - Susan Warin

Staying home and watch Netflix. - Yvonne Leal

Try to get back to SMSC for program. I am currently working on art project at home for Sophie's Gallery. - Rick Van Nuis

Going camping at the beach with my brother. Chelsea Chase

Stay home with my dad, go to the night zoo, and hope to go to Disneyland - Luisa Sottile

Go to the fair to eat food and go on rides and play basketball. - Victor McGill

Watch wrestling. - Eddie Dalfio

Go to Mission Beach! - Brennan Sullivan

Stay home and watch TV. - Deylon Kaul

Go to Camp Able and on a family vacation to Lake Tahoe! - Alise Yamamoto

Celebrate my birthday, go to the fair, go to my brother's house Chino Hills, and then to DISNEYLAND! - Tori Ryan

Volunteering at the fashion show as a greeter and passing out flowers to donors. - Cody Alves

Family is visiting from out of town, went to lunch and a movie for father's day. Saw Bad Boys, in Palm Springs with family. Having BBQ and swimming. - Larissa Ibanez

Relax, continue to focus on health, self advocacy board, and work on office skills with case managers. - Cali Williams



# Summer Games

## Long Beach Regional Special Olympics Swim Meet

### TRITONS SWIM TEAM



#### Kim Holt

Health and Safety Manager

In early June, twelve Triton athletes and three coaches went to Long Beach State for the Special Olympics Summer Games. They stayed overnight and had meals in the Parkside Dorms. On Saturday night they were treated to an evening of dancing, bowling, and hanging out in the LBSU student center. The theme of the weekend was Superheroes and everyone dressed the part for the dance! The Tritons team won many medals and ribbons in both individual and relay races, including a bronze medal for the 4x50 men's relay, a silver medal for the 4x25 women's relay, and the 4x25 men's relay won the Gold! This was a memorable weekend for both athletes and coaches.







46<sup>TH</sup> Haute  
with Heart  
FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

# BON JOUR Couture

**SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 17**  
SAN DIEGO HILTON  
BAYFRONT HOTEL

HONORING  
JOHN SEIBER

HONORARY CHAIRS  
CHARLES &  
MAUREEN KING

HOST CHAIRS  
SEAN & KAREN  
MERCADANTE

SPONSORED BY

The  
Mansour  
Group



THE GUILD  
HOTEL



FOR INFORMATION ON  
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
CONTACT [EVENTS@STMSC.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@STMSC.ORG)

**HAUTEWITHHEART.ORG**

Eiffel Tower © Mark Rimland





# DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

## \$40,000 MATCHING GIFT TO HAUTE WITH HEART FASHION SHOW



**SMSC is the Cadillac of centers.  
It is the best of the best!**

June Rubin honors her sister Linda with a generous gift, and thanks to her generosity, all donations during our Haute with Heart fashion show will be matched and used to fund our programs and services.

*"In my heart, I know that St. Madeleine's was such a positive experience for my sister. So, I decided it was important to give now while I can spread the word and let others know about the center and the respect, kindness, and fun environment they provide for their students. That's why I supported the fashion show, as it creates public awareness of the center and I want encourage others to give."*

***Every dollar you contribute will be matched up to \$40,000!***

Stay tuned for a Special Edition of Sophie's Gazette highlighting the Rubin family and the impact of SMSC on Linda Rubin's life!



Volunteering is an awesome way to change people's lives, and helping others is a two-way street where both parties reap the benefits! Nisrin Halaseh is a new volunteer who came to St. Madeleine's for work experience. She is attending Mesa College for a degree in ASL, American Sign Language, and was referred by her college counselor. Nisrin had never worked with persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but her knowledge of computers was a good fit with our Adaptive Computer Lab. She enjoys working with the students helping them with typing, games, spelling apps, and making computer art. With Nisrin's quiet presence everyone in the computer lab is busy with individual lessons. Student Beth Blair said, "I am happy Nisrin is helping us. I like to learn new things and need her support to practice math on the computer." Nisrin also helps SMSC with data entry, as she tracks consumer volunteer site hours and consumer payroll. She also works in the classrooms when needed.



## Cultural Corner

### Exploring Diversity in Our Own Neighborhood

SMSC Volunteer / Nisrin Halaseh



Growing up in Jordan, Nisrin moved to El Cajon with her mother in 1996. She is fluent in English, Arabic, and ASL. Nisrin wears a hijab, a headscarf to honor her religion, as is traditional for women who are Muslim. Seeing someone wear a hijab was something new to some students on campus, and at first they were curious, but Nisrin was gentle with their inquiries simply stating that she was covering herself. The new experience is now second nature to everyone!

**Thank You!**  
**NISRIN**



# JULY COLORING PAGE

Artist Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Happy Birthday!

Adam Alvarez

Thomas Blue

Monica Burns

Lashaun Bynes

Cody Cable

Gretchen Cameron

Betsy Cory

Madeline Davis

John Donovan

Katie Floyd

Robert Gibson

Daniel Gibson

Samir Hallac

Kelly Hamilton

Megan Hinman

Maevis Hutson

Debbie Lopez

Robert Milan

Trevor Mills

Stephanie Muller

Morgan Mulvaney

Alan Munoz

Lee Napier

Scott Nielson

Jean Poutous

Tyler Rodriguez

Noah Salah

Erika Sheedlo

Brian Shroyer

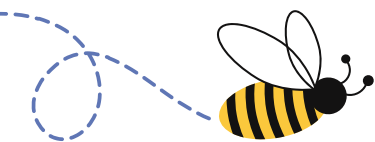
Jacob Sorenson

Erin Teays

Blake Thompson

Yolanda Tkacik

Sofia Zarcone





July 1st Roast beef sandwich and fries

July 2nd Thai chicken peanut pasta salad

July 3rd Cheeseburger, baked beans, and potato salad

July 4th Holiday Closed

July 5th Pizza and side salad

July 8th Vegan pasta, garden salad, and garlic bread \*

July 9th Carnitas Mexican rice bowl

July 10th Philly cheesesteak sandwich and French-fries

July 11th Grilled chicken Caesar salad, and garlic bread

July 12th Pizza and side salad

July 15th Grilled shrimp panzanella \*

July 16th Tinga taco, rice, and beans

July 17th Chicken salad sandwich on a croissant and chips

July 18th Hoisin pork and Chinese greens

July 19th Pizza and side salad

July 22nd Shrimp curry over steamed rice

July 23rd Chicken tenders, fries, and coleslaw

July 24th Stuffed pasta shells and side garden salad

July 25th Southwest chicken salad and fried tortillas

July 26th Pizza and side salad

July 29th Eggplant parmesan over pasta and garden salad

July 30th Glazed pork loin and apple slaw

July 31st Greek chicken salad and pita bread

\* New Menu Item



# Big Kudos

COLEEN BAUCOM PRESENTS-LIZBETH TAPIA



I am spotlighting a wonderful staff in the Senior Department, our Case Manager Lizbeth Tapia. She works really hard getting our daily schedules out, matching our requests for community outings, and seeing that we all are doing what we choose. Everyone in the Senior Department likes her very much! She is a hard worker, she is always busy, and I really enjoy that she is my Case Manager. Lizbeth has been at SMSC for one year and I certainly hope she stays for a very long time. We all should say “thank you” to Lizbeth for the hard work she does in the Senior Department.



ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER

## WE'RE HIRING

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center is a day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities situated in El Cajon, CA on a beautiful campus like environment. We offer excellent working conditions, as well as competitive pay and generous benefits. Come join our team of compassionate, dedicated professionals!

### HOW TO APPLY

Please go to [www.Indeed.com](http://www.Indeed.com) or [www.recruiting.com](http://www.recruiting.com) Applicants may also go to our website at [www.stmsc.org](http://www.stmsc.org), select the contact tab and then employment. These steps will give you access to an application for employment.

### SEND YOUR RESUME TO

[crickey@stmsc.org](mailto:crickey@stmsc.org)

### TELEPHONE

619.442.5129 Ext. 107

### WEBSITE

[stmsc.org](http://stmsc.org)