

MIDLAND MESSENGER



2022 SUMMER EDITION

MIDLAND

Gerald A. – A Midland Student Success

Being told you need to send your child out of district (OOD) can be overwhelming and intimidating for parents and guardians. Fortunately, when the Annuzzi family was given this news last year, their local school district recommended The Midland School for their preschool-aged son, Gerald, and things began to fall into place.

“When we were told we needed to send Gerald OOD, I was caught off guard and unsure of my next move,” says Gerald’s mom, Danielle. “Our school district recommended Midland, so we agreed to take the tour. My husband and I left Gerald with his potential teacher, Ms.

Moreno in the playroom while we took a tour of the building. When we first left him, Gerald was screaming. But by the time we finished our tour, Ms. Moreno had him sitting in his own chair in her classroom participating in her lesson. It was that exact moment I knew Gerald would excel at Midland.”

“Excel is an understatement when it comes to the progress Gerald has made in his short time at Midland so far,” says Midland School Principal, Ms. Kristen Massimo. “In the past year, we have been delighted to see Gerald become comfortable here at Midland and his academic progress is remarkable. He is becoming more independent and social each day.”

Gerald’s family says they have also seen an increase in his independence at home since enrolling at Midland. They are most encouraged with how his receptive and expressive language have taken off and now he is more comfortable expressing his needs and wants verbally or through American Sign Language (ASL) and Assisted Communication (AAC).

His teacher, Ms. Moreno agrees. “Gerald made tremendous progress with spontaneous language within the first few months of being at Midland. Thanks to a total communication approach, I am proud to say he has made leaps and bounds in his development and really settled into his routine here.”

Today, Gerald is a happy and thriving 4-year-old preschool student who loves seeing his



Gerald working on his bird feeder with Ms. Moreno.

friends at Midland and his classroom aide, Mrs. Siana. He enjoys learning and coming home to show his mom something new at the end of each school day.

“I’m always told that my son is a sponge and I’ve seen that in action over the past year thanks to Midland,” says Mrs. Annuzzi. “The staff at Midland truly care and go above and beyond for the students. We are so happy to send Gerald to Midland because not only is he safe and well cared for, but he is meeting his full potential socially, emotionally, and academically. He is a success story because of the Midland team.”



Gerald proudly displaying his bird feeder.



A Message from the President & CEO

There is much to be said about the daily stressors we have encountered since March 2020 and continue to face today; as individuals, families and communities. All of us experience the ongoing impact of the public health emergency and other global uncertainties. For Midland's part, we ground ourselves in our mission and focus on the students and adults whom we support. In case you missed it, our Midland community commemorated Say Hi Day on June 11th, in honor of one of our students, Joseph Cinotti. I encourage you to read about this national recognition and celebrate other small acts of kindnesses during these trying times.

Furthering our commitment to enhance and grow our programs, Midland recently completed the process of gathering information from various stakeholders to develop our next three-year Strategic Plan. Our plan contains some elements that are fundamental to our core mission, including new enhancements for the school to build upon and strengthen students' literacy skills. Likewise, this fall, Midland will open a classroom designed for students with visual acuity challenges and we will implement additional wellness components to our curriculum.

Midland's Strategic Plan also encompasses objectives that will have a profound impact on a number of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. These include plans to expand residential opportunities, along with other critically needed services, such as the expansion of day habilitation and supported employment, and the initiation of in-home supports services.

All of our planning focuses us on the future needs of students, adults and families who we serve today. We frequently engage with parents and are committed to actively listening and staying "dialed in" to their concerns.

As we have made our plan, we renew our process of working our plan. This will include some planned focused parent/family forums in the fall of 2022. We hope to see you there.

All of this is somewhat tempered by the realistic and significant challenges of recruiting and retaining a well-trained and committed workforce. Midland has experienced a discernable impact on recruitment and retention that aligns with a national workforce engagement reported to be at a record low of 62%. To be clear, the notion of expanding programs seem to be in juxtaposition to the challenges of recruiting and hiring staff as it creates an inflection point for Midland. While some organizations have adopted a status quo approach, we strongly believe in the need to move forward.

Together, as a community, we will work through these challenges.

Best, *Shawn M. McInerney*

Congratulations Graduates of 2022



From Top Left to Right: Vincent, Sean, Roger, Micah, Naomi, Nadeem. From Bottom Left to Right: Bryan, Blair, Ally, Blake, Alexander proudly take the stage at The Midland School graduation ceremony where 11 Midland students accepted their diplomas on June 10, 2022.



"Just for Joey" Raises Funds and Awareness for Midland

The *Just for Joey Golf Outing* was held on June 25 at the Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes, NJ.

Each year, Tom Bohen, along with his family and team of volunteers, organize this fundraiser to benefit Midland in honor of his nephew and service recipient, Joey who attends Midland Explores and resides in a Midland group home.

"My family and I are thankful for another great day on the course to raise money for a cause that is near and dear to all of us," says Tom Bohen. "This support for Midland goes a long way in helping individuals like my nephew achieve success in education, day habilitation, employment and residential housing."

The event raised more than \$17K for Midland's life-changing programs, brought to life by the words of his proud uncle, Tom: "To bring you up to date on the latest events in Joey's life, he recently moved into a Midland group home after spending the past Covid-altered year at home with his Mom and Dad. For someone who thrives on routine, the changes have been hard on Joey, but he is managing well. He is settling in well and enjoying his new "friends and family." Joey has also returned to his day program at Midland Explores which has brought back the sense of normalcy to his life."

From all of us at Midland, we thank and applaud the Just for Joey team.



Just for Joey organizers Nancy and Tom Bohen with daughters Kaitlyn, Molly and Ally.

Thanking & Recognizing Midland's Community Partners

Midland celebrated National Volunteer Month by recognizing the individuals, corporations and organizations who embrace the Midland mission to help us to better serve our students and adults. During Midland's 6th Annual Volunteer and Community Partner Breakfast held on April 8, Midland honored five individuals and groups deserving of special recognition.

"Each year the Volunteer and Community Partner Breakfast serves to recognize those who go above and beyond to fulfill the Midland mission," says Midland President & CEO, Shawn McInerney. Whether it's employing our graduates, guiding our students during their educational journey, or volunteering time and resources to strengthen our programs, each of our award recipients play an important role in the positive outcomes at Midland."

CONGRATULATIONS

Volunteer Partner of the Year *The Keating Family*

For making a significant, positive impact to the Midland community through partnership.

Corporate Partner of the Year

The Affinity Foundation and Affinity Federal Credit Union

For advancing the Midland mission through valued partnerships in employment, volunteerism and philanthropy.

Employment Partner of the Year *The Ryland Inn*

For providing training, employment, advancement, and community inclusion to Midland students and graduates.

Public Sector Representative of the Year *DeAnna Scott Bound Brook High School*

For embodying innovation, collaboration, and success in partnership with the Midland community, resulting in the enhancement in the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Heart of Midland *Matthew Tegeler*

For embodying the principles of Midland – positive outlook, integrity, collaboration and support to peers.



From Left to Right: Michelle Jansen, Trustee, Affinity Foundation; Erin Witherspoon, Community Engagement & Salesforce Administrator, Affinity Foundation; Karla Wallack, Executive Director, Affinity Foundation; Shawn M. McInerney, Midland President & CEO; Matthew Tegeler, "Heart of Midland" Group Home Resident & Explores Program Participant; DeAnna Scott, Case Manager at Bound Brook High School; Chris Albrecht, Executive Chef, The Ryland Inn; Danielle Gomez, General Manager, The Ryland Inn; Paolo Abad, Sous Chef, The Ryland Inn; Angelo Koziol, Chef de Cuisine, The Ryland Inn; and Courtney Cole-Lovelace, HR and Payroll Specialist, The Ryland Inn.

Save the Date for Midland's Fall Fundraisers

The Midland Golf Classic Monday, October 17, 2022

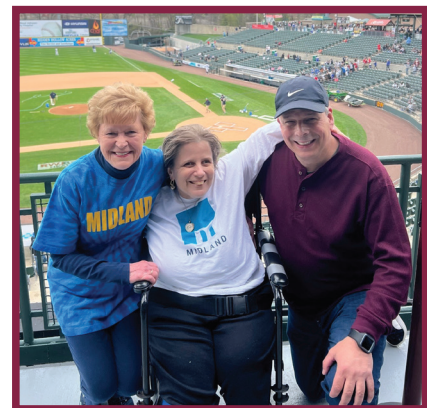
The Midland Foundation will host The Midland Golf Classic at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, NJ on Oct. 17. Join us for a day of world-class golf for a great cause! To learn more, sponsor, or register visit: <https://www.midlandnj.org/events/midland-golf-classic/>.

Midland Goes to the Movies with PNC Sunday, November 20, 2022

Midland Goes to the Movies with PNC will be held at The Morris Museum in Morristown, NJ on Nov. 20 from 4:30 to 9 pm. The event features an independent or limited release film, cocktails, and dinner. Patrons are free to browse exhibits prior to show time. For further information including tickets, advertising, and sponsorships, contact Gail Russell at: russell@midlandnj.org.



While school was closed for Summer break, Williams Company employees pitched in to add to the beauty of Rainbow Land and our campus. A huge thank you to our Williams volunteers!



Barbara Toland, Midland Work Center employee and group home resident (center), poses for a photo with retired Director of Employment Services, Jane Wilkie, and current Director of Employment Services, Bill Liberatore at The Somerset Patriots ballpark where she proudly sang the National Anthem on April 16th.



The Midland Messenger
P.O. Box 5026
North Branch, NJ 08876

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
New Brunswick, NJ
Permit No. 972

SAVE THE DATE



**FALL OPEN HOUSE
THE MIDLAND SCHOOL**

Thursday, October 13, 2022

from 10:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m. at The Midland School.

RSVP TO FINN@MIDLANDNJ.ORG

2022 SUMMER EDITION

On May 21, the community came together to “Move for Midland” and raised funds to support Midland’s special education programs and services.

The 7th Annual Move for Midland Sponsored by PVH Corp. event was held outdoors at The Midland School parking lot from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Over 400 participants including students, adults, volunteers, families and friends danced to the music of DJ Jean Marie of Entertainment with Sophistication and enjoyed food trucks and free games at “The Farm” themed, peer-to-peer fundraising event.

“Once again, it was a total team effort,” says Midland’s Development Director, Gail Russell. “The dedication of the committee, the hardworking volunteers, and the support of the generous donors and sponsors made it a huge success. We owe a huge thank you to all involved!”

“Move for Midland Sponsored by PVH Corp.” was a wonderful day for the Midland community and became a reunion after many long months apart,” says Midland’s President and CEO, Shawn McInerney. We want to give a special thanks to our sponsors, especially Title Sponsor, PVH Corp., as well as our committee and volunteers for making this happen for Midland.”



Move for Midland

Midland Thanks the following contributors for their generosity.

Donations Represent Gifts Received Between February 2, 2022 to April 21, 2022

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$1000 & Over

*Anonymous - Move for Midland
Challenge Grant Sponsor
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Avery
Ms. Teresa Cuddeback
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Deyo
Dr. and Mrs. Adam Heller
Mr. Alex Hilsen
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rehus
Dr. and Mrs. John Tegeler*

\$500 - \$999

Mr. and Mrs. William Cafferty
Mr. Michael Castles
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Colarusso
Mr. Robert Gallagher
Mrs. Amy Kane
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn McInerney
Mr. Robert Pharo
Mrs. Theresa Scheuble
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Tiesi

\$250 - \$499

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Borman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Brail
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Capawana
Ms. Stacey Carr
Ms. Lenore Dunn
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Figueira
Ms. Lisa Hamm
Mr. Matthew Huang
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lohner
Ms. Victoria Melcher
Ms. Susan Pierce
Mr. Lon Sampson
Mr. Brian Tomko
Mr. and Mrs. Rajeev Verma
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Weissberg
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zukowski

Under \$250

Ms. Kim Agrusti
Ms. Jackie Aramburu
Ms. Jean Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bellavia
Ms. Dana Bonsell
Ms. Laura Bush and Mr. Scott Kwiatkowski
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Byne
Mr. Louis Capezzuto
Mr. Wilfredo Caraballo
Mr. Andrew Caraballo
Ms. Lisa Clark
Ms. Kathleen Cohen
Mr. Nicholas Connor
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Cooke
Ms. Dana Cowper
Mr. Peter Curtis
Ms. Suzanne DeGerolamo
Mr. and Mrs. Chirag Desai
Ms. Nishita Desai
Ms. Pratima Desai
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Devaney
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Dharmadhikari
Laxmi Dharmadhikari
Mr. and Mrs. Antonio DiMaggio
Mr. David DiNizo
Mrs. Dorothea DiNorcia
Ms. Alicia Egan
Ms. Jenna English
Ms. Lori Fall
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Farley
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fernandez
Ms. Maureen Finn
Ms. Lynn Fleming
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fox
Tor Froland
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Fulop
Ms. Patricia Gallagan
Ms. Jeanne George
Mr. and Mrs. William Gilleran
Ms. Catherine Gomerige
Ms. Stacey Gravina
Mr. Brian Greda
Ms. Marisa Hayes
Mr. Paul Higgins
Ms. Janice Higgins

Midland Thanks the following contributors for their generosity.

Donations Represent Gifts Received Between February 2, 2022 to April 21, 2022

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Ms. Nancy Hunt
Ms. Karen Importico
Mr. Brian Jaenicke
Ms. Nancy Jamanow
Mr. George Januzzi
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Jewell
Ms. Trish Karlinski
Ms. Samantha Kauffman
Mr. Gregory Kearnan
Ms. Kristine Kingsbury
Ms. Kristeen Kohrs
Mr. and Mrs. John Kuhn
Ms. Ileana LaFever
Mr. Richard Laing
Mr. and Mrs. David Lanka
Ms. Joan Lasota
Ms. Tiffany Layton
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Lee
Mr. Laszlo Lencses
Ms. Saumita Lepre
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Levandowski
Mrs. Joyce Livak
Mr. Paul Loeffler
Ms. Kristi Lombardi
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew LoPiccolo
Mr. Patrick Maguire
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Malyszka
Ms. Smita Maniar
Ms. Vicky Marsh
Mr. Ray Massie
Mrs. Kristen Massimo
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mastroianni
Mr. Jeremy McKown
Mrs. Dorothy McNamara
Ms. Suzanne Mears
Ms. Peggy Miller
Ms. Sarah Morgan
Mr. John Mullen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mullen
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murr
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Niederauer
Dr. John North
Ms. Margaret O'Connell
Ms. Amanda O'Neill
Ms. Irma Pace
Mr. and Mrs. Nirav Parikh

Nilesh Parikh
Ms. Kashmira Parikh
Milan Parikh
Mr. Somil Parikh
Ms. Ketna Patel
Mr. and Mrs. Rousos Petroulakis
Ms. Angelina Petti
Ms. Paulann Pierson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pinkerton
Mr. and Mrs. Artless Poole
Mr. and Mrs. John Quinones
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Rabouin
Ms. Brianne Rabouin-Strasser
Mrs. Nicole Rose-Ort
Ms. Gail Russell
Ms. Maria Russo
Mr. Alan Ruttenberg
Ms. Devon Sampson
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Sartori
Mrs. Cindy Scialabba
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Settapani
Mrs. Diane Seville
Mr. William Sheeser
Mr. Reid Siegrist
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Sigg
Ms. Nancy Slavik
Mr. and Mrs. John Smith
Ms. Michelle Spano
Ms. Santina Spinella
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stenzi
Mr. and Mrs. Daryle Stockwell
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Strasser
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Sumberg
Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Sweetman
Ms. Natalie Swiatek
Mrs. Betsy Toland
Mr. Dean Tomaro
Ms. Kelly Tribuna
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tyson
Mr. and Mrs. Pio Valdez
Ms. Elena Valente
Mr. and Mrs. Ed VanDoren
Ms. Dawn Wilson
Ms. Elizabeth Wisnefski
Ms. Stephanie Yowell
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Zvolanek

* Indicates Midland Champions

Midland Thanks the following contributors for their generosity.

Donations Represent Gifts Received Between February 2, 2022 to April 21, 2022

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, & MATCHING GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

Allan Industries
AmazonSmile
Catholic Human Services Foundation
Cullari Carrico
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts
Maffey's Security Group
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation
Network for Good
Salesforce.org
TD Bank
The Anthony Yoseloff Foundation
The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust
The Lillian Schenck Foundation at PNC Charitable Trusts
The PVH Foundation
The Select Group
The Tarpey Group LLC
The Wawa Foundation
The Williams Foundation
UK Online Giving Fund
Wegmans

SPECIAL THANKS

The Midland School Alumni Association
The Midland School Student Council
The Midland School Sunshine Committee

IN-KIND GIFTS

Bridgewater Marriott
Camp Bow Wow
Cox Printers
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Daniels
Mr. Don Youker
Mr. John Luciano

Mrs. Catherine Hyde
Ms. Elaine Parker
Ms. Janice Higgins
Northlandz
Riverside Inn
The Olive Garden

Midland Thanks the following contributors for their generosity.

Donations Represent Gifts Received Between February 2, 2022 to April 21, 2022

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Claire Storm
Simon Sumberg
Gail Russell
John Kuhn
Kristen Massimo
Terry Zvolanek
Joy Osborne
Melissa Forte
April Trzeciak
Maureen Finn

Don Toland
Teresa Cuddeback

Eric Sigg
Brian Sigg

Eugene Keating
Trish Karlinski

Mary Pavlica
Jean Baldwin
Joan Lasota

Patricia Toland
Teresa Cuddeback

Paul Weinland
Vincent Colarusso

TRIBUTE DONATIONS

Ashley Cooke
Scott Cooke

Brian Stenzi
Peter Stenzi

Danielle Mastroianni
Michael Mastroianni

Dedicated Midland Staff
John Kuhn

George Hoehn
Catherine Gomerige

Jane Wilkie
Lon Sampson

Katie Seville
Diane Seville

Maddie LoPiccolo
Matthew LoPiccolo

Michael Chaillet
Elena Valente

Midland Teachers
Amy Kane

Our Midland Family
Vincent Tiesi

Salvatore DeMarco
Elizabeth Wisnefski

Seany Agrusti
Kim Agrusti

Shawn Fischer
Amanda O'Neill