

Chapter 19: Memories



Memories

I loved the training in the Happy Hearts kitchen. I helped rinse the dishes and I took everyone's tray when they were done eating. It was a very fun and enjoyable experience. The fun part was working with the wonderful and helpful staff in the kitchen. I mainly liked getting trained to use the giant dishwasher and having help with the person I was training with. It may have been a little messy and I may have gotten sprayed with the water for rinsing extra food off plates (laughs), but that's why I used an apron and rubber gloves. I will miss seeing all the smiling faces of all of those students at Happy Hearts.

I will miss saying hello to Moe the Happy Hearts principal and was very helpful helping us mop the floor and putting the tables and chairs back when we were done. I hope all the staff and students have had many good years of fun and a good experience to the staff. I will miss you guys and Moe too!



Kayla Pepp

2-23-2018

Hello,

I am Kenny's sister. I remember when Kenny was in Happy Hearts years ago. We were pretty young. My mom and dad and I went to Happy Hearts one morning just to see what Kenny was doing.

Kenny and some of the other boys were washing a bus. Everyone seemed happy at work. They were treated like men at work. And they knew that!

Kenny also still has the Christmas ornaments he made at Happy Hearts for his mother's Christmas presents. One he made was a deer out of wood and looks like Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. The other present he made was a paper Mache bell with sparkled trim.

Every Christmas when we decorate we always put mom's ornaments Kenny made on the tree!

Kenny still talks happy things about Happy Hearts!

Thank you for caring.

Brenda Roberts

3-19-18

When I went to Happy Hearts we used to go to gym. I liked gym. We would go to the YMCA and swim. I started Happy Hearts when I was in kindergarten. Until I was old enough to go to Columbus School of the Blind to learn more skills on being independent.

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I remember going swimming in the gym and eating lunch there too. Mrs. Howland and Barb Scott were my teachers.

Jodi Warren

3-7-18

Bobby enjoyed his teachers, Miss Penny and Molly Matthews. They helped him become the young man he is now. He still talks about them still today.

Robert Prine

2-26-18

Hi,

Our son attended Happy Hearts School from age ten to his graduation at 21 years old. He enjoyed his school. It was in a nice rural country setting- a small school, where everyone knew everyone.

When we took family and visited, everyone took a moment to speak a few words and they were rays of sunshine. Children were friendly and mannerly. It was a close knit, very safe environment. We enjoyed being at the school's Thanksgiving Dinner and eating with our son.

Very pleasant memories. We are so sad the school will no longer be available to our special needs children. We will miss it also for the reason Erving goes to Happy Hearts on Fridays to work in the cafeteria and always looked forward to that. He loved to work with the cooks. They made it into a good time.

Ervin, Fannie and Ervin III (Miller)

I can't remember too much when I went to school. I started school when I was 2 years old. Mom would carry me out to the bus. I cried, but the bus driver said, "she'll be all right."

I loved to jump on the trampoline, play basketball. I loved all my teachers and the staff that work there. My first teacher took a picture of me. Then when I graduated, she gave me that picture. She put it on a little frame. There was a little apple and some other stuff on it. Dad, mom, sister and brothers came to watch me when I graduated. We had cake and ice cream. I still have my outfit. Also, mom came up to have lunch with me for the Thanksgiving Dinner. I wish I could remember more.

Kathy Fisher

We have many nice memories of Happy Hearts School. Marvin started going there on September 5, 1995. He would have been almost three years old. He seemed so small to send to that big bus, but he really enjoyed it and didn't seem to mind the long ride back and forth!

I can't remember all his teacher's names. Meg taught him in the term of 1996 and then Cathy Simon in terms in 1997-1998. Elissa in 1999. Deb in 2000 if I have it right. We had a chance to send him to our local Amish School with a special ed class for three terms, from the fall of 2002 until the spring of 2006. Then after that they didn't have a special ed class there so we sent him back to Happy Hearts again.

Jim Kiser was Marvin's last year's teacher at Happy Hearts and Vicki his assistant.

Marvin graduated on May 27, 2005 and started at Ash/Craft that summer and is still there. He enjoys going there and also enjoys helping at the cafeteria in Happy Hearts School as a substitute!

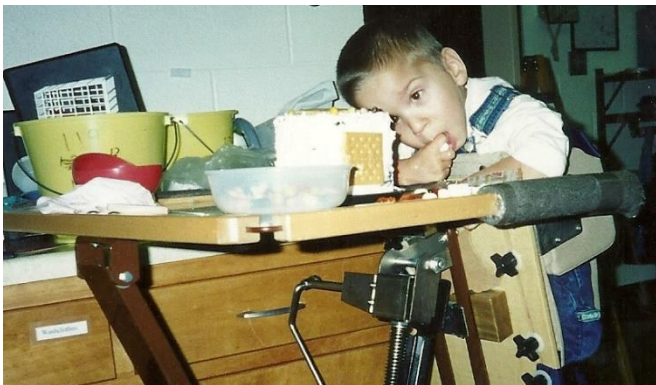
We don't have any complaints of Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft and we want to thank everyone for all the support you gave to make Marvin's days at Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft a great success. You will be rewarded!

P.S. We also enjoyed the thanksgiving Dinners you served and always enjoyed visiting. We felt very welcome, but of course, we didn't visit as often as we would have liked.

Katie Begler

February 28, 2018

Remembering what Happy Hearts is all about...



Remembering Them



These are just a few of the countless people who were involved with Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries for over sixty years. A list of everyone who cared, contributed, nurtured, and whose lives were better because of Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft would fill volumes. Many who aren't named here live where it really matters- in the hearts and minds of the people whose lives they touched. Remembering is not living in the past, it is appreciating the people who made the present and future possible. Let us all remember.

- Tracy Lee Begin was a member of the graduating class of 2001, and she was looking forward to her graduation day. She died on April 12, 2001.
- Paula June Bennear belonged to the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and the Mental Health Board and she worked with Happy Hearts, Ash/ Craft, and other residential organizations. Died June 15, 2008.
- Betty J. Brunell. Involved in Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries. Died July 29, 2001.
- Daniel Brunell. Died October 6, 2004.
- James R. Carlson was born in Ashtabula on November 15, 1964 and lived in the area all of his life. For 41 years he a part of Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries. He loved being with people and visiting. He died on August 20, 2010.
- Juanita A. Horst Clapper managed the cafeteria at Happy Hearts for many years. December 23, 2017.

- Naoma J. Calaway, 68, of Ashtabula died October 12, 2002. Born August 4, 1934, in Alama, West Virginia, to Thomas and Lillian G. Spencer Tennant, she had lived in Ashtabula since 1945. She was employed as a workshop specialist for Ash/Craft. She died on October 15, 2002.
 - Kim David Covert. Graduated from Happy Hearts. Died January 26, 1999.
 - Alison Anne Cowan graduated from Happy Hearts School and worked at Ash/Craft Industries until she retired in 1998. She participated in the musical, Rock Nativity, for several years and knew all of the words and music to the shows that her father and brother participated in as well. She died on February 5, 2005.
 - Maxine A. Custead was born in Conneaut, Ohio on May 15, 1917 and lived in the area all of her life. She graduated from Ashtabula High School in 1935, and married Lawrence Custead in 1936. She and her husband were instrumental in starting Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries and she served several years as treasurer and on the original council. She died January 11, 2015.
 - Ellen C. Dano was employed with Ash/Craft Industries. She died January 31, 2001.
 - Elizabeth J. "Betty" Dickson, worked for 25 years as a bus driver for Happy Hearts School. She was one of the founders of the bowling program at Happy Hearts and often drove the students to Columbus for the Special Olympics. She died on September 6, 2011.
 - Andrew M. Fields, 26, of Conneaut, died on June 22, 1998. He graduated from Happy Hearts School in 1993 and he attended East Conneaut United Methodist Church and Sunday School faithfully each week. An antique car enthusiast, he belonged to the National Studebaker Drivers Club. He enjoyed reading, music, and family get togethers.
 - Stanley L. Gaumer of Ashtabula. He served on the Board of Ash/Craft Industries and was instrumental in developing the Park, for Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft. He died on January 9, 2013.
 - Dr. William T. Hall. Died Sunday, April 7, 1991. He retired in 1981 as Superintendent of the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.
 - Kellis Holley umpired for the Special Olympics at Happy Hearts. Died March 25, 2016.
 - Elsie Hudson. Through the years she served as president, secretary, and treasurer of the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens. She died October 13, 2005.
 - Joseph Hunter was a founding member of Board #169 which was the beginning of the beginning for Happy Hearts School He died June 29, 1995.
 - Patricia Olin Hunter, a registered nurse, and her husband Joseph were founding members of Board #169 which was the beginning of the beginning for Happy Hearts School. She also belonged to the Ashtabula Retardation Council and actively involved with parents of developmentally challenged children. Died June 2, 2017.
 - Jodie Lee Imrie. He worked in the greenhouse at Ash/Craft Industries and taught Sunday School at Bethany Lutheran Church with his mother. He died on May 27, 2005.

- Lucy Anne Johnson taught seven years at Happy Hearts School. She died March 3, 2005.
- Betty Keho. She was active in Happy Hearts School and organized the bowling league. She died June 12, 1994.
- Sandra L. Larko , 21 died July 25, 1992. She would have begun her senior year at Happy Hearts in the fall.
- Anthony John Masters who worked at Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries for many years died on November 29, 2014.
- Edward J. Meredyk died March 4, 1995. He was active in functions at Happy Hearts School where his son attended.
- Larry G. Moroski was one of the original students at Happy Hearts School that his parents, A. Gene and Nadine Moroski founded and started as well as Ash/Craft Industries. He was also one of the first students to graduate from Happy Hearts to Ash/ Craft Industries. He also participated in the Special Olympics. He died March 15, 2010.
- Frank A. Nappi, died Saturday July 19, 1997. He was an Ashtabula businessman and philanthropist who supported Happy Hearts.
- Thomas Nassief was born March 7, 1927 in Ashtabula, the son of Samuel Nassief and Anna David Nassief. He served as an Ashtabula County Commissioner from 1964 to 1980 and during his tenure he supported Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries. He died on March 10, 2015.
- Christina Anne Pearson. Graduated from Happy Hearts in 1993 and worked briefly at Ash/Craft Industries. Her love of country music motivated her to travel to Nashville as well as meet John Schneider of the Dukes of Hazzard several times. She died on September 28, 2008.
- Rodney C. Rowe retired as a field engineer, and then he worked as a substitute bus driver for Happy Hearts School. Died August 6, 2016.
- Sheila Ann Salvato graduated from Happy Hearts School in May 1990 and worked at Ash/Craft Industries for a time. A gifted musician, she played with her mother and aunt for six years and later with the Magic Buttons from Cleveland for nine years. While playing the Magic Buttons Sheila made three recordings and traveled to the Caribbean two times. She was a Bronze Life Time Member of the Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame. She died September 8, 2012.
- Dorothy A. Shumake, Conneaut. She was one of the original staff members at Happy Hearts. She died March 24, 2008.
- Beverly Skarlinski taught for over twenty years at Happy Hearts School until her retirement. She died March 5, 2018.
- Karen Suzi Szabo was born on Christmas Day, 1954, in Elyria, Ohio, the daughter of Paul and Nell C. Grambling Laubenthal. She worked at the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities for more than 29 years until illness forced her to retire. She died on April 27, 2011.
- James Hamilton Michael Taylor II graduated from Happy Hearts school and worked at Ash/Craft Industries. Died November 24, 2017.
- Marta L. Triozzi , teacher at Happy Hearts School. She died in November 2016.

- Woodrow Vernia Utter worked as an operation engineer in road construction and was involved with Ash/Craft for many years.
- Melonie K. Weir. She graduated from Happy Hearts School and worked at Ash/Craft Industries. She died July 24, 2000.
- Joseph J. Zika. He had been employed at Ash/Craft Industries since 1968. He died on December 24, 2000.

Special Stories

Remembering Some of the Original Students at Happy Hearts

(From 1950s Documents)



First Happy Hearts class held in the basement of Elm Avenue Methodist Church in Ashtabula.

Daniel G. Brunell's Story – Mrs. Sisson's Class

Daniel G. Brunell was born August 13, 1948 in Conneaut, the son of Wilho L. and Betty J. Shauberger Brunell and lived in the area all of his life.

He graduated from Happy Hearts School and worked at Ash/Craft Industries in the greenhouse. He was a Boy Scout and a member of Kingsville Presbyterian Church.

Daniel died on October 6, 2004.

Arthur Lee Campbell's Story- Miss Barbara White's class

Arthur Lee Campbell, the son of Raymond J. and Elizabeth J. Deak Campbell, was born in Ashtabula on May 30, 1946 and remained a lifelong resident of Ashtabula. He worked at Ash/Craft Industries, performing maintenance duties, enjoying his job and the friends he made along the way. A man of many interests and hobbies, he enjoyed BINGO, going to the horse races, playing cards with his family and friends, slot machines, cars and motorcycles. He loved any type of music and played the tambourine in his sister's band for a number of years. He died June 4, 2013.

June A. Cichy's Story- Mrs. Bolmeyer's Class

June A. Cichy was born June 11, 1953 to Melvin and Lottie A. Prokop Cichy in Ashtabula, Ohio and lived all of her life in the Ashtabula-Lake County area. She graduated from Happy Hearts School and went to work at Ash/Craft Industries and Deepwood Industries in Mentor.

County music and word searches topped the list of things June loved and she also enjoyed working. She died June 20, 2011.

Daniel G. Custead's Story- Miss Barbara White's Class

Daniel George Custead was born April 26, 1946, in Ashtabula, the son of Lawrence and Maxine Bonnell Custead and lived in the area for the rest of his life. He was one of the original pupils at Happy Hearts School and worked at Ash/Craft Industries. He participated in Special Olympics, especially in bowling and basketball and was an avid Cleveland sports fan. He was a member of the East Side Presbyterian Church. A people friendly person, he was the happiest among family and friends.

He died on December 22, 2008.

Diane E. Dickson's Story- Dorothy Bishop's Class

Diane E. Dickson was born on October 4, 1948, in Conneaut, the daughter of Duane and Elizabeth Barlett Dickson. She graduated from Happy Hearts School and lived at Maples for many years to be close to her friends.

An active person, Diane loved bowling, dancing, going for rides and participating in the Ashtabula County Special Olympics where she won many medals. In her quiet times she liked watching movies like "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "Mary Poppins," and "Home Alone."

Her most memorable vacation happened when she went to Walt Disney World to see her favorite character Micky Mouse.

She attended Kingsville First Baptist Church with her mother in years past and enjoyed being around children, especially babies.

Diane died on October 22, 2014.

Kathryn A. Hart- Mrs. Sisson's class

Kathryn A. Hart was born December 7, 1947, in Canton, Ohio to Leroy and Dorothy Hart. One of the original students at Happy Hearts School, when she graduated she worked at Ash/Craft until she became ill in November 2010.

Kathy was especially proud of awards she won for Special Olympics and bowling. She loved crafts, listening to music, traveling, and visiting family.

Kathy died on April 2, 2011.

Carol Louise Horne's Story- Mrs. Bolmeyer's Class

Carol L. Horne, the daughter of David M. and Generva Patton Horne, was born April 16, 1951 in Ashtabula and remained a life-long resident of the area. She graduated from Happy Hearts school and after her graduation she worked forty years for Ash/Craft Industries. She loved her job and her many friends that she made while employed at Ash/Craft.

A member of Girl Scout Troop #553, she earned many badges and awards. She also enjoyed attending Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church with her friends and they belonged to the "Friendship Class" taught by Inez Gaumer. She also participated in Special Olympics on the track team for many years.

She died on May 9, 2011.

Rena's Hudson's Story- Miss Barbara White's Class

Rena Hudson was born on her mother's 22nd birthday on October 22, 1943, to Myron W. and Elsie E. Hackathorn Hudson in Conneaut. Her family later moved to Pierpont, where she was a life-long resident. She was one of the first students at Happy Hearts School and after she graduated she moved on to Ash/Craft where she worked for over 40 years, never retiring.

She loved working at Ash/Craft where she was named "Worker of the Year." She loved her supervisor and seeing her friends, her bus driver, aides, and everyone working there. She loved family and friends, shopping, visiting and going out to eat.

Rena died on February 1, 2016.

Patricia A. Kapan's Story – Mrs. Bolmeyer's Class

Patricia, "Patty" A. Kapan was born on April 20, 1951 in Ashtabula, the daughter of Joseph and Mildred Benetka Kapan. She lived in Ashtabula County all of her life. Patty and her mother were

the first members of Happy Hearts School in the 1950's. She worked for Ash/Craft and then later went on to work for Greenlight Workforce LLC where she was known as "Half Pint" and retired in 2016. She loved the Cleveland Indians, listening to music and playing with her dog. She was also involved in the Covered Bridge Committee under Betty Morrison's influence.

She died January 23, 2018.

John Pickett's Story-Miss Barbara White's Class

John E. Pickett, the son of Margie Louise Johns and Edward Joseph Pickett, was born on January 15, 1945 in Ashtabula. He graduated from Happy Hearts School and began working at Ash/Craft Industries in 1967, becoming semi-retired in 2013.

As well as being a former member of Boy Scout Troop #24, he belonged to the LEO Club, The Friendship Class of the First Presbyterian Church of Ashtabula, and the Bridge Class of the First Baptist Church of Kingsville.

William Roux's Story-. Mrs. Bolmeyer's Class

William Roux graduated from Happy Hearts School and worked at Ash/Craft Industries for 30 years. He died in October 2000.

Miss Barbara White's Class

Paula Berg, Ashtabula

Arthur Campbell, Kingsville

Daniel Custead, Ashtabula

Melanie Walker, Conneaut

Rena Hudson, Pierpont

Francis McLaughlin, Rock Creek

John Pickett, Ashtabula

Carol Sandfield, Ashtabula

Ross Scibona, Geneva

Wanda Hopkins, Conneaut

Donna Bowers, Ashtabula

Mrs. Dorothy Bishop's Class

Richard Bowers, Ashtabula

Frankie Brown, Ashtabula

Wayne Copeland, Ashtabula

Diane Dickson, Conneaut

Virginia Gregory, Geneva

Rose Mauro, Ashtabula

Barbara Marano, Conneaut

Orville Pickett, Ashtabula

Barbara Weddle, Jefferson

Dorothy Wilkison, Geneva

Nancy Freeman, Orwell

Mary Davies, Ashtabula

Paul DiNickle, Ashtabula

Mrs. Bolmeyer's Class

June Cichy, Pierpont

Carol Horne, Ashtabula

Patricia Kapen, Jefferson

Linda Meinke, Conneaut

Daniel Morano, Conneaut

William Roux, Jefferson

Thomas Utter, Geneva

Robert Von Tesmar, Ashtabula

James Weagraff, Ashtabula

William Barrett, Ashtabula

Sharon Ann Jones, Geneva

James Kessler, Ashtabula

Mrs. Sisson's Class

Daniel Brunell, Kingsville

Rebecca DiNickle, Ashtabula

Michael Forbes, Conneaut

Clair Hadden, Orwell

Kathy Hart, Orwell

Mary Kehoe, Conneaut

John Morano, Conneaut

Larry Moroski, Kingsville

Ralph G. Russell, Geneva

Michael Sabados, Conneaut

Arthur Bunner, Geneva