

TESTIMONIAL CORNER

Mercy Special Learning Center - Bridget L. Muehlenkamp, Principal



age educational programs. Our Mini Mustang group (ages 18 months to 5 years) is an integrated program. This option serves two purposes. First, it permits the opportunity for our students having intellectual and/or development delays the chance to interact and learn from typically developing peers. Second, it permits typically developing children the opportunity to have healthy interaction to discover the abilities of the children diagnosed with disabilities.

Working cooperatively with parents Mercy Special Learning Center creates an Instructional Plan to fully meet the goals and objectives established for each individual child. Mercy has primary, intermediate and secondary classroom levels working in academic, vocational and life skill settings. At Mercy Special Learning Center, we are challenged to educate students with a wide variety of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Utilizing the appropriate materials offers our students the absolute best chance for success as they move continually forward to meet the goals and objectives established for their Instructional Plans.

The children in our school as well as our Mini Mustang Program all continue to experience success because of the support of the Bill Sugra Memorial Fund of their education at Mercy.

sustains a proud history of educational leadership for children and adults having intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Founded as a program of the Diocese of Allentown in 1954, Mercy is about the education of children and young adults having intellectual and /or developmental disabilities.

As stated by our board member, Sr. Janet Baker, RSM . . . "Mercy must always put the children first and the Diocese has a moral obligation to make sure that we continue this service to the children that have passed through our doors in the past, those who share their lives with us in the present and for all those that we hope to educate in the future". Mercy is accredited by the Middle States Association.

Our student population ranges in age from 18 months to 21 years of age including our Mini Mustang and school



Because we remember

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund
c/o St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103



Friday, August 26, 2011
Green Pond Country Club
Bethlehem, PA



THE BUTTERFLY...

The leaves of autumn are covered by the snows of winter-but the leaves will return in the spring. The waves of the sea break upon the shore and then slide back into the sea to become waves once again. There is nothing in this life that is without its cycle of life, death and rebirth.

The butterfly is one of God's finest images of the gift of new life, emerging from its dark cocoon to its new splendor and glory, beautiful to behold and symbolizing the magnificent mystery of springtime that out of seeming death comes new life.

The memory of Bill Sugra is very much like the butterfly. He loved life and he loved each and every person whose life he touched. He helped us all to emerge from our gray moments by the light he spread with his smile and his caring and his love. Because he cared, he lifted us up.

We chose the butterfly as a symbol on our brochures and letterheads for the Bill Sugra Memorial Fund because of his memory we strive to bring the hopeless to hope, the discouraged to confidence and the depressed to new life.

encourage, support and assist

The Bill Sugra Memorial GOLF TOURNAMENT NEWS

Editor: Erik Ridley Designer: Dave Heffner

SPRING 2011

STARTER'S SHACK

Dear Friends,

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a healthy start to your 2011. Even while the temperatures are still cold outside, we are plowing through and getting ready for the **10th annual Golf Outing on August 26th, 2011 at Green Pond Country Club.**

This year will be difficult for us. It's hard to comprehend that it's been 10 years since September 11th. At times it feels just like yesterday and believe me, we miss him more and more with each passing day. We have so many precious memories of Bill that we hold near and dear to our hearts, but the hardest part is that we can't make any more memories.

He was a special person who brought a lot of happiness to his friends and family. Bill had such a great sense of humor and his laugh was infectious. He could get me laughing just by looking at me with that twinkle in his eye and of course by his remarks.

With the 10th anniversary many things come to our mind involving the number 10, one of which is the 10th annual golf outing. So I just want to reflect on some of these moments that have had such profound meaning.

Bill and I were married on 10/10/70 and what a beautiful autumn day; the sun was shining and the trees were filled with colorful leaves. We were blessed with Billy's birth 10 months after we were married.

When Bill was 10 years old, he really enjoyed being a Boy Scout. He had a superb leader in Ed Ehrlacher, who guided him to be the best he could be. Also around that time, Bill became an altar boy and we can remember with pride the mass in which he was officially installed in the job. It was touching and we can remember the pride he displayed at being able to serve.

Ironically, our son Bill started working for Cantor Fitzgerald on 10/10/00.

Then came September 10, 2001. It was S.J.'s birthday (Bill's friend from St. Thomas More and CCHS) and he was turning 30 years old. His dad, Sam Jarvis, wanted S.J. to have a special birthday with friends and so my husband Bill went to celebrate.

Well, that evening around 7, our son Bill called from New York. He was upset with Cantor Fitzgerald because they had just let his friend Marc go. Marc had worked at Cantor longer than Bill had, and Bill felt badly for his friend. He wanted to quit working for the company. Marc had told Bill that he would stop by tomorrow to pick up his things and asked if Bill could take care of that for him. That day was September 11, 2001.

In the 10 years it has helped us tremendously to be able to give to others in Bill's name and to keep his memory alive. We have given over \$200,000 to various organizations and individuals. Of course, that would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, golfers and volunteers.



Thank you for the strength and support while we continue to honor his memory.



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MEMORIAL FUND MISSION STATEMENT

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund was established in memory of Bill Sugra, a compassionate, caring and loving young man whose life was tragically taken by the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center in New York City.

The purpose of the fund is to encourage, support and assist the needy and disadvantaged to improve their lives during times of difficulty, regardless of location, race, religion, or gender.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Please send contributions to:
The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund
c/o St. Thomas More Church
1040 Flexer Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103
For information:
sugramemorial@cs.com

The Bill Sugra Memorial Fund is a section 501(c)(3) charity and contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you!

Surround yourself with outstanding people:

they are the ones that make you look good.

No parent ever wants their children to be forgotten. I can remember vividly right after September 11th, and for some time to come, that I was fearful to make conversation with people I had just met. Since moms frequently talk about their children, I was frozen in fear that they would ask "How many children do you have?", or "What are your children doing?" I didn't know how I would answer that. But believe it or not, no one asked. Within the past few years if someone asks, I say I have two wonderful children.

A huge part of our success is the people who you surround yourself with. As the saying goes, surround yourself with outstanding people: they are the ones that make you look good. So I need to acknowledge the outstanding people who surround us and have touched our lives.

At this time I just want to acknowledge our wonderful committee. **Chuck Collins** is so caring and has such a generous spirit. **Sam Jarvis** has such love for friends and provides incredible support with his passion and commitment. **Jo-Ann Kelly** is an integral part of our committee with her gift of creativity and willingness. **Debbie Kolp** is so unselfish and helps in whatever way she can. **Tony Muir** has a unique talent mix of wisdom, eagerness, and desire to share his expertise. **Monsignor Murphy** is our earthly angel, whose strength radiates in all he does. These are just a few of the many ways they help us, but their most precious gift is their time, love, and support of our mission to make a difference for those in need.

This year's outing will once again begin with our traditional morning event, which is so dear to us. We will host the kids from the **First Tee Program, Embrace Your Dreams and the Boys & Girls Club of Easton.**

Shotgun start for the regular golf will take place at 12 p.m. We are so pleased to be back at Green Pond with their spectacular staff. They truly take such great care of our golfers and us. General Manager **Roger Zellner**, head chef **Brian Drake** and Club Professional **John**

Kulhamer are so attentive to all of our needs and make our day run smoothly.

We again will have the services of the dynamic duo of **Gregg Blaha** and **Bruce Aldinger**. As you know, Gregg attends to all of the details of the day, while Bruce manages the silent auction. These two men are so dedicated to Billy's golf outing and have become such dear friends to our family.



There also wouldn't be a golf outing without the love and support of our co-chairs **Father Gambet** and **Tony Muir**. We are so blessed to have them on board and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their prayers, guidance and love.



We are hoping to have a few surprises for you with this year's tournament, so please stay tuned until the next newsletter.

On a personal note, we would like to share very touching news from Philadelphia. To honor all the heroes of 9/11, Local 22 the Philadelphia Firefighters' Union is going to unveil a 9/11 Memorial in Philadelphia on the 10th anniversary of the tragedy. This memorial will be dedicated to all the heroes of the Pentagon, Shanksville, PA and the World Trade Center.

The reason we are sharing this with you is that the **Plumbers Union Local No. 690** has purchased a granite paver in our son's memory. Once again the Plumbers Union has touched our hearts with their love, support and generosity.

Speaking of generosity, we would like to welcome **Scott Chevrolet** as the first platinum sponsor for this year's tournament. They are actually our earliest-ever platinum sponsor, having signed on even before the end of 2010. A great big thank you to the Scott Chevrolet family.



In Sugra family developments, we have a few milestones to report. Reagan, AKA 'Little Bits', was christened in March and turned 1 in October. Wow, where did that time go? She



is unbelievable and we are enjoying every moment that we spend time with her. She loves to dance (what a dancer she is), loves books, going for walks and absolutely adores Elmo and her mommy and daddy, too.

Steven and Tracy are awesome parents and as you know Tracy was pregnant. Well, he has arrived: **Tripp William Sell!!!!!!** He was born March 4th weighing in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. and 21 inches long and we are filled with happiness. He is so cute and adorable and everyone is doing well.



Please visit our website at www.billsugramemorialfund.org for information on the golf outing. As always, we invite you to email us at esugra@cs.com with any ideas or information. We would love to hear from you and to highlight you in our newsletter.

We will never forget all of your support and generosity, which has enabled us to help out so many in need over the past nine years. **We treasure each and every one of you.**

God bless,
Bill & El, Steven, Tracy, Little Bits (aka Reagan) & Tripp



Carol C. and Chuck C. Nate S. Carol D.

thanks

to all our family, friends, golfers, sponsors, and volunteers. Without your love, prayers and support we could not make a difference in the lives of those in need. **Because of your generosity** we have been able to give away in 10 years over **\$200,000**. Thank you for continually honoring Bill and his memory.



Darlene E., Carol R., Maureen S., and Donna H. Geri V. and Jen N.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Bill El Tracy Tony Muir Sam Jarvis