



"Know that we will always be here for you" - Hephzibah Day Care Supervisor, Rose Mary Carroll



It was a bittersweet moment in the cafeteria at Beye School on a warm evening this August. The Hephzibah Day Care staff had decorated the room with balloons and streamers to celebrate the accomplishments of their students who were graduating from the program – and heading into middle school.

Many, who started as Kindergartners, had the benefit of longtime relationships with the Hephzibah childcare workers. This was evident in the sentiments expressed during the evening.

The party featured pizza, cupcakes, soda and plenty of fond memories as family, staff and students discussed the profound impact Hephzibah's Day Care Program had in their lives.



Staff worked hard to make this graduation special

"I liked how the staff always took time to help me with my homework ...plus the awesome field trips" said graduating day care student Amy Smith* who added, "I'll really miss the staff most of all." *name changed

Parent Cabrini Watson noted, "Hephzibah's day care has been a tremendous experience for me as a parent and for both our children. I hope that future parents and children get to have the wonderful experience we have had."

"You may be graduating from the program but please keep in touch," said Day Care Supervisor, Rose Mary Carroll, who has worked with our children for over 25 years. "Stop by if you need anything, or simply want to visit. Know that we will always be here for you."



Congratulations to the new Day Care Alums!

Many graduates have taken this to heart. According to program director, Jan Maxson, "a large number of day care alums return to the program as staff volunteers when they enter high school. Because they received so much from the program, and had such a positive experience, they want to give back."

For over 36 years, Hephzibah's Day Care program has offered this legacy of support and caring for the children and families in our community, and we plan continue to help for generations to come. Learn about [Day Care](#).



Thank you to the Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest for their support of a transition program, From Hephzibah to Beyond, that focused on preparing our graduates for the middle school experience.

Hephzibah's Day Care Program: an Important Community Resource That We Should All Support

Unsupervised time after school is a well known hazard for young people according to Hephzibah Executive Director, Mary Anne Brown.

The Day Care Program offers a safe, enriching after school environment for the younger children. Students who are in fifth grade learn about community resources for after school activities: information that is crucial when they graduate from the program and enter middle school. These lessons lay the foundation for habits that help reduce crime and boost academic achievement -- important keystones for well adjusted young people and a healthier community.



Since 1974, Hephzibah has provided quality day care for children whose parents are working, going to school or completing career training. Today our nationally recognized, award winning Day Care Program offers a nurturing, enriching and dynamic daycare experience for all Oak Park children from kindergarden through 5th grade. The fun and learning continues after school and full time during the summer months.

Each year, Hephzibah's Day Care program serves more than 600 children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Our fees are assessed on a sliding scale to ensure every family in our community has access to quality day care - regardless of income.

Of the 600 children in our Day Care Program, one-hundred and fifty to two hundred youngsters from struggling families have had their tuition underwritten in part by a substantial grant from United Way. This year United Way announced that they were changing their funding guidelines and would no longer support Hephzibah's Day Care Program.

Fortunately the Community Chest of Oak Park and River Forest came through at the last minute with \$75,000 grant. We are incredibly grateful for their support.

Many Oak Park families are still struggling economically, their children still need a safe place to go after school, and supporting education is the best way to ensure a healthy and bright future for our community.

If you would like to make a donation to support Day Care tuition relief for those who need it, please contact Molly Philosophos, Director of Development at 708.649.7158 or mphilosophos@hephzibahhome.org



Help Raise \$25,000 for Our Reading Academy!

EMC Insurance Company, one of our corporate partners, is celebrating 100 years of giving by having a contest. The four non-profits with the most votes by October 8, 2011 will receive \$25,000.00, each.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/EMC-Hephzibah> to cast your vote DAILY!!!

Hephzibah's Reading Academy Program is designed to help traumatized children develop their literacy skills. Learn more about our [Reading Academy](#).

Donate Today!

Our Mission: Hephzibah enhances the lives of children and families through a continuum of innovative programs including: [Group Homes](#), [Foster Care](#), [Family Support](#) and [Day Care](#).

Upcoming Events

Hephzibah Donut Day
The Oak Park Farmers Market
Pilgrim Church at Lake & Elmwood
7 am until sold out
THIS Saturday! Sept. 3rd 2011

The Oak Park Auxiliary Bake Sale -
The Oak Park Farmer's Market
Pilgrim Church at Lake & Elmwood
7 am until sold out
Saturday, Sept. 10th 2011

GE Golf Tournament at Catigny!
Save the date! 10th Anniversary!
Rated 4 ½ stars in Golf Digest's 2004
"Best Places to Play"

For Information, Contact Pauline Sharpe
at: 708.649.7161 or
psharpe@hephzibahhome.org
Sept. 20th 2011

Sponsor Hephzibah's Ironman!

Visit [The David Goss Ironman Page](#).
Help David support Hephzibah!

Next time you shop at Target, Check out the [Hephzibah Wishlist Registry](#).

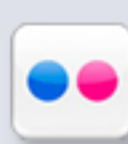
Thank you to Hephzibah friend **Joan Winstein** for this wonderful suggestion!

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