

## OUR HAPPENINGS

Our day-to-day activities and events

### AMASE Choir

By: Matt C

On Wednesday I am excited for the AMASE Choir concert. I have a solo with Katie L. We have nice Christmas songs to sing. I sing with Sterling and Andrea. Flemming is the director. We will all wear nice sweaters. Mom will be there to cheer me on. We have all worked so hard.



*Matt and his Our Place friends at their AMASE Choir concert at Northwestern*



*Matt and Sterling sporting their fancy sweaters for the concert*

## Thanksgiving

By: Tim J

Thursday was Thanksgiving. Mom, Dad, Michael, me and Danny were there. I ate turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn pudding, green bean casserole, bread, stuffing and gravy. For dessert we had pumpkin pie, carrot cake and cheesecake!

## Thanksgiving

By: Natalie F

For Thanksgiving we went to my family's house. We slept there with family like my cousins. After Thanksgiving was Black Friday. People buy stuff. Everything is on sale. People go for the deals. Some deals are like buy 1 get 1 free.

## Thanksgiving Feast

By: Chris P

We like going to the Thanksgiving Feast. We like doing some cooking. I like doing some coloring. We like getting something to eat. We like finding a table. We like finding a seat. We like sitting at the table. We loved it.



*Quinn, Julie, Chris, Woody and Spencer pose for a photo while making their pumpkin pie at the feast*

# Our Place Feast

By: Jason K

We recently had our Thanksgiving Feast at Our Place last week Wednesday. It was really nice seeing everyone there. I saw some old friends like volunteers that used to come to hang out with us. I made the apple pie. I chopped up the apples, put them into the pie crust with the others, and put holes in the top. Afterward we waited patiently to eat. Then each of us got up, stood in line, grabbed our food and then sat down and started eating. Before that Pat's mom Sandy come on the Zoom meeting and said hello to us all. She said Happy Thanksgiving and we told her we miss her son very much. We said good things about him like what a wonderful guy he was and how he was a good person and we liked doing community lunch outings with him and so forth. I enjoyed seeing her. Afterward, we said our goodbyes to his mom and had dessert. It was a wonderful feast and it was nice seeing my Our Place friends and staff members who were there helping out.



*Jessie, Francesca, Jason, and Chip holding up their apple pie right before putting it in the oven*



*Patrick, Jason, and Chris enjoying the Thanksgiving meal they helped prepare*



# Thanksgiving Feast 2022

By: Sean W

Last week, we had the annual our place Thanksgiving Feast. It occurred on Wednesday, November 23rd from 10 am to 2 pm. I arrived a little before 10 am and went to the basement where I relaxed and talked a little to some people. It was nice seeing those I haven't seen in a long while. A bit later, I was supposed to make an apple pie with Jessie and her group but messed up the timing somehow. I instead helped make the cranberry sauce which took a while to cook. It was one of the last things we were waiting on before we ate. Then it was time to indulge ourselves with Thanksgiving food. I got baked macaroni and cheese, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, salad, cranberry sauce, and a roll. It was rather delicious. I went back for seconds on some of those since I was still hungry. After that, it was time for dessert. I had apple pie and a very delicious homemade cookie. To drink, I had water from my water bottle the whole time. Another highlight was seeing Sophie and her sister Rachel again. Both had volunteered in the past with Our Place!! Overall, it was a great experience as always!! Happy Thanksgiving everyone and know I am grateful for you all!!



*Sean with Stacy, Bobby, and Matt at the Thanksgiving Feast*

## My Thanksgiving Week

By: Jennifer V

On Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, I had a Thanksgiving feast with my family and watched movies at home and relaxed.

On Black Friday, sometimes Daddy likes shopping. I stay home and watch movies and have Black Friday dinner with daddy.

# Thanksgiving Trip

By: Katie L

This weekend my family went to Pittsburg for Thanksgiving weekend. I went with my family on a private jet plane. I packed my bags, woke up at breakfast time, got my medicine for my epilepsy, and had time to get ready. I did my morning routine and then went on the plane with my family. We got there at dinner time and we had a family party. We have lots of parties and also saw a hockey game. On Saturday the 26th we went to my mom's sister's house for Thanksgiving Dinner. We had fun! We saw my family and then went to 2 other houses for Thanksgiving dinners. I had mashed potatoes, turkey, carrots, and an ice cream sundae with whipped cream and rainbow sprinkles. We also had a welcome party for my new baby niece named Nora Rose Livingston. She was born in May and is 7 months old. I went with my family and all of my relatives came.

## Halloween Party

By: Natalie F

I was Sonic the Hedgehog for Halloween. I took pictures with people. At the Halloween party I ate food and danced. Other people wore costumes at the party. After the party I went home.

## Weekend

By: Zach W

My weekend was great. We watched the Bears. They lost. I watched the Lakers, and they won 123-92. I also did laundry while I watched. We also went to Home Goods and went to lunch. I got Chipotle. It was good. Then I went to bed.

## Social

By: Travis T

My weekend was great. I went to the Saturday Social and saw my friends. I saw Bobby B. and Jessie. I had a wonderful speech for Bobby B. about him. We are becoming good friends. I really like Bobby B. and seeing him at the socials and at Our Place.

# Halloween Contest

By: Matt C

At Overture I won the Halloween costume contest. I was Napoleon Dynamite. I got an American Express gift card for \$25. I was happy when I got it. It was handed to me before I went home. When I went home I joined Zoom online. At 12 pm I ate lunch at home. I saw Sterling online. I was happy to see Natalie at work.



*Matt in his Napoleon Dynamite costume with his friend Elizabeth*

# Jonathan's Trip to Ecuador

By: Jennifer V

Jonathan and Marina had a fun time on their trip. They had Thanksgiving dinner in Ecuador. Turkey day for them and Ecuadorian-style Thanksgiving feast. It was Marina's first time in Ecuador. She likes it. At the baptism party, Jonathan was the godfather of Chaska. I didn't see yet photos of the baptism party. Jon's host family had a fun time with the visit and the party. Jon and Marina had a fun time in Ecuador.

## NYC

By: Wes G

Two weeks ago I went to New York to visit Claire. Greta went too. We flew in an airplane from Chicago to New York City. We walked around and took a picture near a famous Instagram spot. I saw a huge carousel near the water. It was closed so I didn't ride it. I got mint ice cream. I rode the ferry across the East River. It took us from Brooklyn to Manhattan. It was cool with the city lights. We went to a seafood restaurant and I got pasta.

## NYC Part 2

By: Wes G

Saturday, we drove outside of the city to Hudson Valley. We visited an outdoor sculpture park. It was called Storm King Art Center. There were lots of leaves on the ground. They were orange, brown, and yellow. We had a picnic lunch. I ate a turkey sandwich, apples, and a cookie. I took a tram ride with mom, Claire, and her boyfriend. Dad and Greta rode bikes. We ate dinner in Jersey City. It was across the Hudson River from NYC. I bought a New York City calendar in Times Square.



## Saturday Social

By: Chris P

We like going to the Saturday Social. We like getting something to eat. We like getting something to drink. We like finding a table. We like finding a seat. We like sitting at the table. We like sitting in these seats. We loved it.

## Out to Dinner

By: Mary S

On Friday, November 25 my mom, dad, Aunt Margery, and Uncle Steve went to Bontà Pizzeria & Restaurant. I got Eggplant Parmigiana. I love Eggplant Parmigiana. I got Diet Coke. My mom and dad got Quattro Formaggi. My mom got water. My dad got an orange & blood orange. SanPelligrino. My mom and dad love Quattro Formaggi. Aunt Margery and Uncle Steve got Margherita. Aunt Margery and Uncle Steve love Margherita.

## SGT

By: Katie L

This Monday we started Special Gifts Theatre. We are practicing every Monday night. This show is Fiddler on the Roof. Our performance will be on January 22, 2023, at 2 pm. I got measured for my costumes this week and got my script. I am Mother Baker. I am really excited to be in it and have all my friends and family come to watch me. I love musical theatre and I love being involved in SGT with all of my friends. It is fun to sign ASL for the songs too.

## What I am Thankful for

By: Sean W

My mom and sister  
My family  
Mary  
My Our Place friends  
Our Place  
Lindsey Stirling and her music  
The Star Wars community I am a part of  
For the ability to walk  
A warm roof above my head  
My poetry  
My photography  
Laughter and happiness  
A sanctuary for me

## Work Potluck

By: Mary S

On Tuesday, November 22, I went to a potluck at work. I brought sweet potato cake. I love sweet potato cake and I love potlucks at work. I had fun. I love food. It was nice to be with my boss and coworkers. I hope we will do it again next year or this Christmas. They had blueberry pie and chicken wings and crepes. I love chicken wings and crepes. I am happy that I went there.

## My Gratitude of St. Francis Prayer

By: Jennifer V

I feel more peaceful  
And life is beautiful  
Because more silence  
And seeing nature,  
Act of kindness.  
  
Flowers full of powers  
And night time  
Is darkness  
Of rhyme light.  
  
Brother sun  
Having fun  
Sister moon  
Through woods  
Sitting at the dune.  
  
Bright colors  
Of Francis clothes  
More magic  
Is fantastic.

# A Weekend Whirlwind

By: Sean W.

After a Saturday where the winds howled all day, my mom and I went on a journey to Lake Forest, IL. Personally, I have not been to Lake Forest before and didn't realize how north it is, compared to Wilmette, from Chicago. We were headed to Mary and her parent's house for homemade pizza for lunch! On the way there, we decided to follow Sheridan Rd north. Slowly and steadily we made our way up the Illinois Northshore. Weaving through many hilly areas which were quite pretty. Through Highland Park, to Highwood, and finally past Fort Sheridan. It was honestly quite a lovely drive and we both enjoyed it very much! After about 30 minutes or so of driving, we finally arrived at Mary and her parents' house. Mary and her mom first greeted us at the entrance of the house and led us inside where we met Mary's dad. We brought them some sweet treats which we picked up on our way up. Then we chatted for a bit until we started to prepare our pizzas. I started with some non-stick spray followed by some delicious homemade pizza dough. Then I put on some tomato sauce. I put a

little too much on but it was still yummy! After that came the first round of cheese, red onions, mushrooms, bell peppers, fresh basil, ricotta cheese, and finally another round of cheese to make it all come together. Once we were all done, the pizzas went into the oven. Mary was starving and couldn't wait to eat hers. Meanwhile, I was quite hungry myself. Many minutes later, the individual pizzas were done! It was eating time!! We all enjoyed our pizzas and the salad Mary's mom made on the side!! To drink we had water and grape cider. It was all delicious!! After we finished lunch it was time for dessert: ice cream sundaes!! Sundaes on a Sunday!! I filled mine with half strawberry chocolate chip and half raspberry chocolate ice cream. I topped it off with bananas, whipped cream, some chocolate sauce drizzle, and finally the cherry on top. It was a beautiful-looking sundae if I don't say so myself. A work of art, appraised by many!! We all enjoyed our delicious desserts and the company of course!! It was a great time and a good day indeed! Overall, I am grateful for my friends and family. I can't wait for the next time!!

## Lincoln Park Zoo

By: Chris P

We like going to Lincoln Park Zoo. We like going into the lion house. We like walking by the sea lion pool. We like looking at sea lions. We like looking at the sea lions swimming in the sea lion pool water. We like looking at a lion. We like going into the ape house. We loved it.

## Monday

By: Tim J

I love Mondays. On Mondays I go to Community Lunch and Our Place Press. Today for lunch I went to Chipotle. I had chicken tacos, chips and water. It was really good. I went with Jamie, Matt, Hannah, Zach and Chris. We had a good time today.

## Yoga

By: Mary S

Most of Monday I had appointments with Bella for yoga from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Most of Wednesday I had appointments with Bella for yoga from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Bella and I use Healing Crystals for our yoga statement. I bought two Healing Crystals colors, one gold, and one silver, on Amazon. I like Healing Crystals. I like doing yoga with Bella. The Healing Crystals are helpful.



*The Healing Crystals Mary uses during yoga*



# CULTURE CORNER

Our place for reviews, recipes, special interests and more

## Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

By: Sean W

Last week on Tuesday I went to the movie theater at Old Orchard. The one in the back by Potbelly and Buffalo Wild Wings. My mom and I brought candy to the theater as we saw Black Panther: Wakanda Forever for the first time!! It was a beautiful and moving picture with a respectful and beautiful tribute to the late Chadwick Boseman. The story was really good with emotions and action mixed in throughout the film. This Movie focused more on Shuri, T'challa's sister, who struggles with grief and the rise of Namor and his people from the sea. It is perplexing and yet

stunning at the same time. I thought Namor was a really good villain and character. His abilities are awesome and his struggles with grief reflect Shuri quite well!! As another character from Marvel once said, "what is grief, if not love preserving?" This quote says it best!! And despite it being a longer picture it sure doesn't feel like it. Overall, this film is a must-see for many reasons and I honestly recommend you see it at least once. I give it 5/5 stars!!!

## Disenchanted Review

By: Macey S

I thought the movie “Disenchanted” was really funny and the songs are by far the best. I liked the villain song the best. It’s called “Badder.” I definitely think it is my new favorite villain song because it’s so funny and also seeing Giselle’s dark and evil side was amazing. That’s so wicked and despicable and I am a huge geek of the Disney villains. In my personal opinion, “Disenchanted” is an Oscar-winning film and musical.

## The Princess Switch

By: Mary S

The characters in the show are Stacy, Margaret Delacourt, Prince Edward, Kevin Richards, and Olivia Richards. The actors are Vanessa Hudgens, Nick Sagar, Mia Lloyd, and Sam Palladio. Stacy is organized. Margaret is wise and sweet and impulsive, and genuine. Prince Edward and Kinglike are sweet. Kevin is sweet and helpful. Olivia is nice. I like everything. Prince Edward is like Margaret. Prince Edward is really like Stacy.