



Counterclockwise from top:

The evening's theme; Fr. Shane walks to the stage to after being introduced as Honoree by President Jon Burt; Heads or Tails winner Mary Clare O'Malley is named; Director of Transition Darian Stout and "Shining Star" Olivia Scherr, Advancement Director Toody Moffatt, Lisa & Zach Daub, Fr. Don Shane, Donna & Bob Forbes, President Jon Burt.



Celebration 2025:

A SUCCESSFUL NIGHT OF SHINING STARS

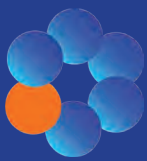
Celebration 2025 was "A Night of Shining Stars" with nearly 500 guests gathering at our new venue, A View West Shores, to help raise awareness and funds for Madonna. Because of our generous community, \$550,000 was raised toward our mission!

This year, we were thrilled to honor Fr. Don Shane, who has celebrated Mass with Madonna students and staff for decades. "Every time I celebrate Mass at Madonna, I have experienced that I truly met Jesus in the innocence and simplicity of the children and their closeness to Jesus," he said. Upon completion of his moving remarks, Fr. Shane was met with a well-deserved standing ovation!

The evening included recognition of Madonna "Stars" from each of our programs, a shout-out to Mrs. Diane Vaiskunas ("Coach V") for her 45 years of service, a very intense game of Heads or Tails led by John Higgins with an assist from Emcee Brian Mastre, and a wildly successful Live Auction featuring the opportunity to purchase tickets to private concert by Finest Hour Acoustic in the Madonna Atrium on February 19, 2026—it "sold out" on the spot!

Guests also heard Madonna President Jon Burt provide updates on Madonna's growth and impact, including the new campus.

A big—and sincere—thank you goes to Lisa & Zach Daub and Donna & Bob Forbes! As this year's event chairs, their leadership helped make this a record-setting occasion with far-reaching impact.



**SR. MARY
EVANGELINE
RANDOLPH, RSM**
Foundress,
1919-2015

MADONNA ABILITY ALLIANCE

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PROGRAMS



A Letter from the President



Friends of Madonna,

As we continue to settle into our new campus in Aksarben Village, we are filled with gratitude for your support and generosity, and we are also reminded the daily activities within our new home represent just a small fraction of Madonna's work.

Each and every day, Madonna's people and programs are in action across our community:

- At three Elementary partner schools – Holy Name, St. Pius/St. Leo, and St. Robert Bellarmine;
- On the field and court of play through our Unified Sports partnerships with Mount Michael and Roncalli Catholic;
- In over 80 Omaha-area businesses that employ Madonna clients, supported by our dedicated job coaches;
- And at countless locations throughout the metro as our students and clients experience community-based learning that helps them maximize their autonomy and independence.

What's New at Madonna

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES, CHECK OUT THESE RECENT EVENTS WITH MADONNA'S MISSION ON FULL DISPLAY!



CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES: We celebrated our graduates and commencers on May 13 in a ceremony held in the Atrium of our new facility. Secondary commencers JB Williams and Caleb Higgins along with Transition Graduates Holden McGuire and Sylvianna Shonk were each recognized by comments from a Madonna staff member as the beautiful sunshine warmed the Atrium!



WELCOME, MRS. DINOVO: We're thrilled to welcome Mrs. Crystal Dinovo to the Madonna family as our new Secondary Teacher! Mrs. Dinovo's experience and enthusiasm will help us continue creating supportive, engaging learning environments where every student can thrive. Please join us in giving her a warm Madonna Ability Alliance welcome!



SEEDS MINISTRY: The Seeds Ministry provides support and catechesis for students and adults with IDD and Autism. Partnering with parish staff and caregivers, the process toward sacrament completion is tailored to each person's unique learning style, abilities, and needs. The sacraments are then celebrated at the family's parish or Madonna's Chapel. Pictured above is Mary Clare, who recently received Confirmation. Learn more about Seeds at www.madonnaalliance.org/seeds-ministry.

You'll read in this newsletter about the many programs and community partners who help our students and clients become their best. All of these moments are shaped by your support.



Your impact is exemplified through the achievements of a school alumnus and current client in our adult services, Sam, who recently celebrated his 10-year work anniversary with his employer! Sam's journey at Madonna started when he was an elementary-aged student. His story is a wonderful example of what's possible with inclusion. You'll hear more about Sam soon.

Our generous community is what makes his and other success stories possible. With your continued support, we'll keep building classrooms and workplaces across Omaha where students and adults of all abilities thrive!

God bless,

Jon Burt

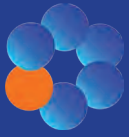
UNIFIED FIELD DAY: Madonna Secondary and Transition students participated alongside the entire Roncalli Catholic High School student body at the first-ever Unified Field Day on August 29! There were around 350 participants for the various activities, which brought everyone off the sidelines and gave every student an opportunity to experience inclusion.

WALKING & RUNNING CLUB: Along with our Director of Activities Sarah Struckman, all adult services clients established a Walking and Running Club this summer! On September 4, participants wrapped the season with a "Race Day" experience, challenging themselves to walk or run 1 mile. The top two finishers ran a mile in 8 minutes, 30 seconds and earned themselves a t-shirt prize! Other clients set goals to walk a quarter mile without taking breaks, and they were able to do that for the first time. Congrats to all!



SPOTLIGHT ON ProjectSEARCH: In May, we celebrated 10 Project SEARCH graduates, and now we've kicked off a new year for the program! Individuals complete a nine-month work training program in partnership with the Monroe-Meyer Institute on the campus of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Graduates work three 10-week internships before earning their certificates. Past Project SEARCH graduates are now employed at 50+ Omaha businesses and contribute to the local workforce in meaningful ways. We are proud of how this initiative shows the dignity and capabilities of those with IDD and autism. If you are interested in becoming a Project SEARCH employment partner, please contact Chris Miller at cmiller@madonnaalliance.org.

FALL SPORTS: Go team! Flag football season has 'kicked off,' with volunteers from Roncalli Catholic and Mount Michael Benedictine guiding Madonna athletes on the field. But Unified Bowling remains Madonna's most popular sport. Madonna has participated in Unified Bowling, which is a branch of the Special Olympics, for the past five years. Madonna has participated in the Special Olympics movement for more than 45 years! We have 60 bowlers on our adult unified team and 30 bowlers on our school-age unified team. Athletes and partners are paired 1:1 and gather once a week after school throughout the 8-week season.



A New Home for Possibility

In January, Madonna Ability Alliance opened the doors to its new campus—a space designed with accessibility, dignity, and community at its heart. This milestone was made possible by the generous supporters and community partners who helped us surpass our \$20 million capital campaign goal. The new building is more than just that—every space was thoughtfully planned and reflects our commitment to ensuring individuals of all abilities can thrive.



Pictured: Archbishop George Lucas celebrated the first Mass and blessed our chapel shortly after building completion in January. The community came together in June to celebrate our new space as Archbishop Michael McGovern cut the ribbon with the help of Madonna alums Cory Wernimont and Mary Clare O'Malley, Scott Heider, and Board Chair Tate Fitzgerald and his wife Denise.

This summer, thanks to a new opportunity through Vocational Rehab (VR) of Nebraska, Madonna received a grant for 4 weeks of funding to help develop job skills. That meant paid internships for six students in our Transition program (ages 18–21).

Each morning was spent in the classroom learning interpersonal and communication skills, before heading to work at Husker Hounds or Inner Rail Food Hall, spending two weeks at each. Our partnership with VR has been ongoing, but this was the first year for the summer program. We had a great time watching the real-world development of each student and the overall community impact! With partners like those at VR, young adults build confidence, independence, and job skills that last a lifetime.

Transition Students Gain Job Skills Through Paid Summer Internships

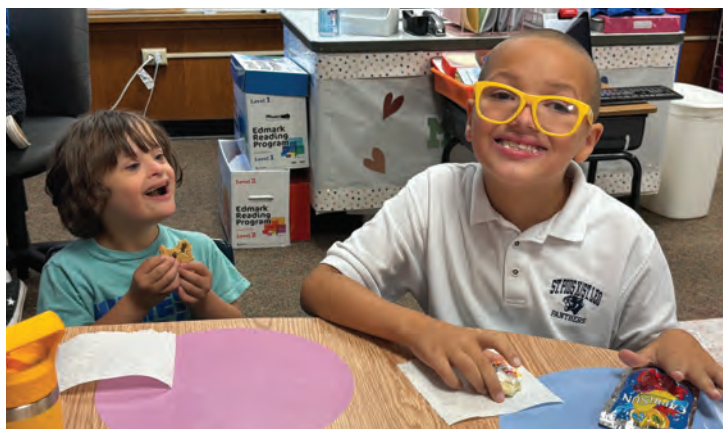


Pictured: Owen Prouse is proud of his work at Husker Hounds. Colin Higgins and Noah Schopp clean up at the Inner Rail.



Sister Evangeline Day

Each year, we honor our Foundress, Sr. Mary Evangeline Randolph, RSM, during September, the month of her birth. This year, we were able to celebrate again on her actual birthday, September 25 with Fr. John Pietramale, Fr. Ryan Lewis, Fr. Don Shane, Fr. Dan Andrews, Fr. Dave Korth, and Fr. Mark Tomasiewicz at St. John Paul II Newman Center's Chapel. Being gathered at this annual Mass, our community provided a beautiful witness to God's love for us all. Additionally, we expanded our celebration across our community this year as Masses were celebrated in Sister Evangeline's memory at our partner schools St. Robert Bellarmine and St. Pius/St. Leo and a rally at Holy Name was held on the same day. Thank you to all who joined us!



Madonnapalooza 16

Almost six months out from Madonnapalooza, we're still buzzing! Back in late March, hundreds of you gathered with Madonna students, alumni, and their families to sing, dance, and support our mission! THANK YOU to Finest Hour for your commitment to this family-friendly bash, and also to the Madonna Council and Junior Council for organizing this annual tradition.



Madonna Golf Classic

The 2025 Golf Classic raised \$115,000 for Madonna students and clients! We had 24 teams for a beautiful day at Champions Run on May 12. We are grateful to this year's presenting sponsors, Arby's and Rotella's Italian Bakery, along with platinum sponsor, CKF. This marks the 23rd year for our golf event and in that time, our community has contributed over \$2.4 million for Madonna. We look forward to seeing you at Champions for our 24th annual event on May 11, 2026.

Pictured: Fr. Ryan Lewis, Rick Bettger, Madonna participant Jordan Oltmanns, Fr. Dave Korth, Jeff Moberg

Memorial & Honor Gifts

Memorial gifts were received for the following. Please remember them in your prayers.

Kay Acquazzino
Mary & John Bathen
Marilyn & Leland Bauer
Danielle Mary Bemis
Cheryl Benning
Pat Byam
Randi Christiansen
Kathleen & Edward Connolly
Irene Cuevas
Andrea Eischen
Nancy Guziec
Colleen Hall
Michaela Harper
Carol Henn
Celestine (Sally) Hofmaier
Mary & Mike McGill
James Mullin
Nancy Nahas
Ursula Obrist
James & Rose Ann O'Donnell
Anne Pluta

James Reinhardt
Tom Sharon
Julie Sobetski
Kathy Sparks
Bessie Svehla
Elsie Thompson
Phuoc Tran
Olga & Jack Trembath
Tessa Cox-Turner
Karen Wall
Peggy & Robert White

Honor gifts have been received to honor the following individuals who hold Madonna close to their heart.

Grayson Daub
Mary Ann & Neill Everitt
Terri & Matt Fangman
Lewis Hasebroock
Cindy & Scott Heider
Toody Moffatt
Mary Clare O'Malley
Sharon & Kevin O'Malley
Fr. John Pietramale
Margaret Schmaderer
Tom Sharon
Kim Sobczyk
Joseph Tran

