



**Mater Filius**

5924 S. 36th St.  
Omaha, NE 68107



FALL  
**2020**  
NEWSLETTER

**A Letter from the Directors**

SHARE Omaha has replaced the annual fundraiser of Omaha Gives! that is usually held in May. SHARE Omaha connects donors to non-profits and other agencies to either donate monetarily, volunteer or order items from each non-profit's Amazon wishlist. Please think of Mater Filius, on Tuesday Dec. 1st, for a day of giving to support our moms and our budding scientists!



Mater Filius, Nebraska, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. If you feel called to donate, please send checks or money orders to:

Mater Filius, Nebraska  
5924 S. 36th St.  
Omaha, NE 68107

For your convenience, you can also donate through paypal on our website at: [www.materfiliusne.org](http://www.materfiliusne.org).

*Thank you for your consideration, and God bless you!*



402.933.3466

Dear Friends,

As we all can attest, 2020 has certainly been a year. Like all of you, we have certainly had our challenges at MF navigating a new way of living. But along with the challenges have come many graces. Our early childhood center is bursting at the seams, and by the Grace of God we've been able to add one more level of serving our families for a longer period of time. Our Lighthouse Preschool opened its doors on September 8, 2020. We've been blessed to have SaraJane Woods serve as our new Director and Andrea Dethlefs as our new preschool teacher. Our Mater Filius kiddos attend the ECLC while mom is away at work or school from age 6 weeks until they turn 3. At age 3 they

transfer over to the 'big kid school' at the Lighthouse. We are utilizing the Simply Charlotte Mason curriculum along with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

In both of these programs, our staff has daily contact with our moms, always checking in with them to see how things are going and if they have any needs. They are available for coaching in all those delicate parenting areas.

As an added blessing, if a mom chooses a Catholic education for their child when they go off to kindergarten, we will offer them a scholarship for half of the tuition.

We are very grateful for these wonderful programs allowing us to stay close to our families if they choose. Thank you for all you do to make so many programs offered at Mater Filius possible.

Wishing you and your families great health and a beautiful Fall!

Jim and Julie Mainelli



Teacher Andrea Dethlefs and her Students in The Lighthouse

## ♥ Graduate Program ♥

We discovered rather quickly that just because a mom successfully completes the Mater Filius program doesn't mean she won't need help periodically after she moves on. It became apparent that one person needed to be dedicated to the role of Graduate Mom Program Coordinator.

Enter Rita Sawin! As each mom transitions out of Mater Filius, they write a letter to the Mater Filius Board detailing the positive things they experienced during their stay, as well as what Mater Filius can do better. Their time in Rita Sawin's spirituality workshop always ranks high in their favorites. So it was a unanimous decision to appoint Rita the new Graduate Program Director.

"The graduate program is so important because many of the women we serve lack a support system upon graduation – a circumstance that lead them to Mater Filius in the first place," Rita said. "We are trying to facilitate generational change which is a long-term project. When a graduate has a bump in the road, or even a success, she may have no one else to talk to about it. Many of the women have to come to trust Mater Filius volunteers, and may be wary of trusting new people in



their lives. They know they can trust Mater Filius for reliable help or guidance. I accepted the new role because I truly believe all of the above."

Rita's help has been invaluable to Sarah, a mom who moved out last April with her four children. When Sarah moved out she was learning English, working full-time at Bakers, and dealing with on-line learning with her second grader. She went from living in the Mater Filius cocoon with readily available extra arms to juggling four children on her own.



She needed help, but wasn't sure how to ask for it. But since her two youngest children attended the Early Childhood Learning Center, Annie Murphy, the director, was able to gauge Sarah's stress level on a daily basis. Annie alerted the team to Sarah's obstacles, and Rita stepped in.

"Rita found a parenting class for me and she went with me to Court," Sarah said. "She encourages me when I am down. She talks to me and is so calm. She is a wonderful, sweet lady and I love her so much."

Sarah's obstacles have not disappeared, but the load she carries is more bearable knowing her Mater Filius family continues to support her and her family. All of the graduates are welcome to attend the first Saturday brunch and shopping at the BLU\*tique.



## Knights of Columbus

There are no harder-working men around then the Knights of Columbus when they are on a mission! Fortunately for Mater Filius, NE, we were their mission in September. They cleared shrubs, cleaned out a dirty basement, fixed screens, painted a much-loved swingset, dug out an egress window and so much more! The Knights came from parishes all over Omaha to work together. Their amazing energy and no-nonsense work ethic brought Operations Director Jan Braun close to tears. "I had a wish list a mile long," Jan said. "I thought Rod Hofschulte (the K of C Omaha Region Growth Director) would mark off a few things, but these guys got the work done in two Saturday mornings. We are so grateful for the time they gave us. They accomplished so much!"

We plied them with coffee and donuts in the hope they will come back to see us next spring!



Sara Jane Woods, the director for The Lighthouse, thought teaching preschool was a natural fit after graduating from Creighton University last May. Her time as president of the student Pro Life Club opened her eyes to the possibility of embracing the mission of Mater Filius: To defend life with love.

But was it a stretch to teach after graduating with a degree in Philosophy and Public Health Administration? "It was a natural fit actually," Sara Jane said. "I taught

Catechism to children for five years before coming here, and I love the kids and getting to know their personalities. I love it here even more than I thought I would! It feels like home and everyone cares about each other."

If Mater Filius had a pinch hitter, it would be Andrea Dethlefs. She has worked in every imaginable role during her six years of volunteering. "I work at the Lighthouse Preschool because I think it is the most important time in these kids' lives to learn to love the Lord, themselves, others and learn," Andrea explained. "I want to help get them out of the cycle of what brought their mothers to Mater Filius in the first place. I love preschool age children because they have so much curiosity, honesty, and joy – just what Jesus wants of all of us."



## ♥ A Family Baptism ♥

Congratulations to Jayd and her children, Shaynova, Svetlana, and Jet, on their entrance into the Catholic Church. Over Memorial Day weekend, Jayd and her children entered the Catholic Church at St. Philip Neri. Jayd studied with Rita Sawin and Fr. Mario Rapose while she lived at Mater Filius and even after she moved out.

"I felt that the next step for my family was to enter

the Catholic Church," Jayd said. "As a Catholic mom I believe God is with us every step of the way. That is why I choose Catholic schools for my children to support their success and well-being."

Her oldest daughter, Shaynova, attends St. Cecilia with tuition assistance from Mater Filius. Svetlana attends The Lighthouse Preschool at Mater Filius and Jet comes to the ECLC when Jayd works.



welcome to the world!

