



S·P·I·C·E

SPECIAL PEOPLE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION®

ST. Catharine Parish • Spring 2016 • Issue 15



SPICE success both inside and outside of classroom.

Casey King is a member of St. Catharine Parish and a sophomore at Bishop Hartley High School. Casey not only is excelling in all areas of her Hartley experience, Casey is doing this while hearing impaired. SPICE is honored to be able to help make it possible for Casey to attend Hartley, but Casey is truly the one to be commended.

Casey was born a very healthy and happy baby. Typical behavior, especially pre-walking, raised no real concerns. When Casey was about 10 months old, she started getting ear-infections. This was also the time we started to notice that though she would do whatever you asked if you were looking at her, she did not respond to someone calling her name from another room. Her lack of response to her name was attributed to the conductive issues from the ear infections. After a successful surgery and ear-tubes that alleviated the conductive issue, Casey still was not responsive to her own name. After it became evident to her pediatrician that there was a greater issue, a sedated Auditory Brain Stem (ABR) was performed at Dayton Children's Hospital. On September 12, 2001, we found out that Casey Rose Choson King had a profound bilateral hearing loss...Casey was Deaf.

Dear SPICE:

To be completely honest, attending a Catholic school has treated me way better than I had ever envisioned. It is an absolute honor being a part of the Class of 2018 at Bishop Hartley High School. SPICE has been very generous and helped not just me, but also my family, to pursue a Catholic Education. Another friend of mine who also has a profound bilateral hearing loss could not get a Catholic education that she wanted because of the limited support given. It is a privilege to have SPICE supporting me to strive to be the best I can be. My grandma has been repeating the statement "Everything happens for a reason through God." I believe that is true.

*Casey King
Bishop Hartley Class of 2017-18*

On the way home from Dayton Children's Hospital, Casey's father made a statement that still resounds today: "She is no different today than she was yesterday; we just understand her better." Casey was not going to follow a typical path, but we were determined to help locate opportunities as she was likely going to function in a largely hearing world given she was the only deaf person in the family. After spending four years in the City of Columbus Schools Hearing Impaired Program at AG Bell and Huy Elementary Schools, Casey was mainstreamed into our public school system. Casey remained there through middle school, though she asked several

times if she could go to St. Catharine's School. Though we wanted to give her that experience, it was cost prohibitive; but, we made her the promise if she wanted to attend a Catholic high school we would give our best effort to make that happen. Casey started to attend Hawk-to-Be nights and pressed us to let her become part of the 2018 Bishop Hartley High School Class. Casey was so focused and committed, we were hopeful that others would see her potential. When we approached SPICE to assist us with providing interpreting service they did not even flinch...they made a multi-year commitment that has proven the connecting piece to providing Casey this opportunity. Casey and the entire King Family are both grateful and humbled by the goodness of providing assistance to this "special" special needs student! We would never have anticipated that SPICE providing interpreting services during Casey's public school religion class would lead to supporting her at Bishop Hartley. SPICE has truly helped Casey grow as a young Catholic woman. Casey, now a sophomore at Bishop Hartley, is a Bishop Hartley Ambassador, a Victory House Representative, and a varsity soccer player...winning first-team all-CCL and second-team all-district awards her sophomore season. Casey has been selected for the U.S. Deaf Women's National Team and will be competing in the Deaf World Cup in Italy this summer. As parents of a talented young woman, we are happy for her academic and athletic achievements; however, we are most proud of the appreciative and supportive nature that has developed with her opportunity at Bishop Hartley High School. For this life-long asset we are ever grateful to SPICE for helping our daughter achieve a dream.

Sondra and Tom King, Casey's parents

Thanks for all of your support, prayers and for sharing our vision. SPICE has been bringing an awareness to St. Catharine and beyond for over fifteen years, and we thank you for putting SPICE in your life!

Bob & Mary Ginn Ryan, Co-Founders

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Above: Justin Santorsola receiving the iconic green jacket from Jim Mackessy.

Another successful St. Patrick Dinner Benefiting SPICE!

Each year gets better than the last! Once again the St. Catharine's gym was filled with wonderful people with such big hearts! The entertainment was fantastic and the food catered by Chef Gary Allwein was perfect. The Hooligan's, Columbus Police and Fire Pipe and Drum Corp and the Richen-Timm Irish Dancers along with St. Catharine's Irish Dancers performed and were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Jim and Peggy Mackessy for so many successful St. Patrick's Day parties! Justin and Marin Santorsola have so graciously volunteered to be Chairs for this yearly event.

We hope you'll join us next year for some more Irish fun! Mark your calendars for March 11, 2017!