

THE INNINSIDER

A PLACE LIKE HOME



INNSIDER TOPICS

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The Children's Inn at NIH



ZILLY'S CORNER

MELISSA DELL'OMO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE CEO

Hi, dear friends of The Children's Inn! I hope everyone had a nice summer. I enjoyed the sun-soaked, leisurely days, but now I'm eagerly awaiting the crisp autumn days ahead—fall is my absolute favorite season! One of the many joys of autumn for me is going for long walks on the NIH campus, crunching through the leaves, and keeping my eye out for deer! I also cannot wait for Halloween and to dress up as something fun. I'm still brainstorming costume ideas, so if you have any clever suggestions, please don't hesitate to swing by the front desk and share your creativity with me. I still come to The Inn a few days each week, so please be sure to stop by the front desk and say hello. I love seeing my friends and getting belly rubs and treats!

Until next time, woof, woof!



RESIDENT SERVICES UPDATES

The goal of the Resident Services Team at The Children's Inn is to promote a homelike environment of support and understanding for families of The Inn, demonstrating an ability to cope with and offer comfort to people in acute personal crises. We aim to provide customer-centered services and information to make the transition seamless for families throughout their stay at The Inn.

Garden Club

KALLI MAYS- HEALTH & WELLBEING COORDINATOR

As part of Garden Club, our children learned about pollinators and why they are important for producing fruits and vegetables. We discussed the many kinds of pollinators including bees, birds, bats, and butterflies. To conclude this topic, we thought it would be fun to have some of our own butterflies at The Inn. Over the course of a few weeks, we were able to observe the lifecycle of a butterfly. Quickly, all but one started to form their chrysalis. A few days later, our last caterpillar climbed to the top of the habitat and made its chrysalis. Meanwhile, as they formed their beautiful wings, the children participated in activities including a caterpillar craft, paper-mache cocoon, and “stained glass” butterflies! At the end of August, we said, “Bon Voyage,” and released our beautiful Pink Lady butterflies.



RESIDENT SERVICES UPDATES

Summer Concert Highlights

HAJA KUMALAH

RECREATION COORDINATOR

This summer we hosted four summer concerts for families. The Summer Concert Series program started in June with a concert performed by Shelby Blondell, combined with the opening of our refreshed playground!



In July, we held a carnival-themed concert, complete with caricature artists, games and prizes, an arts and crafts table, and more.

Our annual August concert featured yard activities, a face painter, a balloon artist, and the performance group 123 Andres. The performance duo was adored by families, who spent the entire evening getting up and moving to bilingual music and dances.

Our most recent and last summer concert was held in September. Performer Osama Malik and his daughter closed the Summer Concert Series at the conclusion of our back-to-school-themed week. Families participated in activities including spin art, first aid stations, photo booths, and performances that kept everyone occupied all night.

Summer concerts have been a wonderful addition to our summertime activities. Even though it only happens once a month, families eagerly anticipate a night of celebration and camaraderie on the playground. Families attended and actively participated in all three shows. It appealed more to the family because each concert had a different theme and activities. Although it's sad to see the end of the summer, families are glad to have enjoyed music at this wonderful place like home.

RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: YATTA & ELLIS

OLIVIA DIETRICH- RESIDENT SERVICES MANAGER



Meet Yataa and Ellis, one of our long-term families. From the moment Yataa arrived at The Inn on Mother's Day, she has shown an eagerness to be involved with families and our staff.

Whether it's through participating in the many activities and programs we offer or ensuring our community snack station is stocked for families, Yataa loves to give back and spread love to all. Yataa has been attending our art class and was interested in giving back to The Inn.

Recently, she jumped on the opportunity to participate in a painting class. Yataa had never painted before but felt encouraged to try by our art teacher, Dave. Yataa explained that she would have never believed she could take on a project like this without the support she received from The Inn.

"The facility is amazing, but it's also the staff – the support, love, and care," said Yatta. The staff sees you coming, and they give your child a hug. You become family. It's not just the materialistic support; it's the spiritual support, the constant love."

ACTIVITIES

- **In-person/ Virtual Bingo:** Families at The Inn can log on to Zoom or meet in the multipurpose room to play BINGO, win great prizes, and meet a local Montgomery County Police Officer. Fun for the whole family!
- **Virtual Exercise Classes:** Join fitness instructors Ashley and Stacy for cardio strength workouts/yoga that you can do from the comfort of your room. All you need is a yoga mat.
- **Activities with Debra:** Every Monday you can hang out with volunteer Debra and play board games!
- **Happily Hungry:** Join the Family Programming Staff and Danielle in the E kitchen and learn how to cook quick, easy, and healthy recipes.
- **Soccer for the Future:** Join soccer instructor Hannah out on the Sport Court every Tuesday to learn and play soccer with others! No experience is needed!
- **Art Lessons with Dave:** Join Dave in the A/B Kitchen every Wednesday and learn tips and tricks on how to paint, color, and draw like a professional!
- **VisArts Field Trip:** Families can sign up to attend a field trip to VisArts to create unique fused glass art
- **Off-campus Field trips:** Be on the lookout for fun off-campus field trips, and be sure to sign up to attend!

