Dear Families and Friends,

At Melmark, our mission is to lead the children and adults we serve to the most independent lives possible. We also strive each day to keep our promise to families - a promise to provide the most excellent care possible to individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism and brain injuries. That is why Promises to Keep...The Campaign for Melmark is such an important initiative at Melmark.

Melmark has been a community resource for nearly fifty years, providing hope to families where there was little or none before. Now we turn to you, our community, for your support in helping ensure Melmark’s unparalleled programs and services continue to flourish for decades to come.

Promises to Keep...The Campaign for Melmark is a $20 million capital campaign that will not only build on our legacy as The Home that Love Built but will also strengthen the many resources and amenities that make our programs in Berwyn, Pennsylvania and Andover, Massachusetts the Centers of Excellence they are known as in the field.

Melmark is already making a life-changing impact on hundreds of children, adults and their families. In the pages ahead, you will meet Justin and Mikey, two students with unique personalities and very different challenges dealt to them in life. You will learn about the struggles that brought each of them to Melmark, and you will read about the individualized, evidence-based programs that gave these two remarkable young men the chance to succeed.

You will meet the 2015 graduates of The Melmark School, eight young men and women who, with the support of Melmark’s highly qualified education and residential staff, worked so hard to achieve their goals. Their parents’ joy and pride beamed from the audience during commencement ceremonies.

Also in this magazine, you will learn about some of the remarkable research being carried out between our Pennsylvania and New England sites - research that is reshaping the landscape of care for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and challenging behaviors, not only here in our region, but throughout the country and around the globe. With Melmark’s international outreach efforts, our footprint continues to expand, impacting educators and families worldwide.

Promises to Keep...The Campaign for Melmark presents us with an exciting opportunity to enhance our already strong programs and to continue growing as a thought leader in the field of evidence-based, data-driven interventions that support families in crisis.

I hope, after reading more about the important work being carried out at Melmark, you will join us in this important mission to bring hope to families where there so often was none before.

My warmest personal regards,

Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Bo Fleitas has been a part of the Melmark community for many years. His Uncle Rodney was a resident of Melmark for 43 years until his passing in 2012. As a teenager, Bo visited Melmark and served as a volunteer. After a long absence to go to college, travel, build a career and marry, Bo came back to Melmark to attend his uncle’s memorial service. Following this, he became well acquainted with Melmark’s President and CEO, Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D., and expressed a desire to become more involved with Melmark and to lend his support. And that he has done.

Bo has been a member of the Melmark Charitable Foundation Board since 2012 and lends his guidance, support and expertise in investment management. He also serves on the Cabinet for Promises to Keep... The Campaign for Melmark, assisting with fundraising efforts and other important initiatives. He is fully dedicated to helping Melmark reach our goal in this important endeavor.

Bo is Senior Director, Investor Relations and Business Development for Alternative Energy Development Group, LLC. This organization assists commercial-scale clients in reducing their energy demand and costs, while becoming more sustainable. Bo began his relationship with AEDG in 2009 as a consultant with the specific directive to refine the initial direction and mission of the company through his market intelligence and relationships. In May 2014, Bo joined AEDG in a full-time capacity in his current role. He has an extensive 19-year career in business development, private equity capital raising and institutional sales. He received his B.A. from Villanova University.

Bo and his wife Allison have three wonderful daughters and reside in Devon, Pennsylvania. The Fleitas Family has been part of the Main Line community for many years and enjoys summer stays on Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts and in Mantoloking, New Jersey.

The entire Melmark community is grateful for Bo’s support of our mission to provide opportunities to children and adults with intellectual disabilities - individuals like Bo’s late Uncle Rodney, who enjoyed such a rich and fulfilling life in Melmark’s day and residential programs. The people we serve are always at the center of all Bo does, and he approaches his volunteer leadership role with steadfast dedication and compassion. We extend our sincere thanks to Bo and his family for their commitment to Melmark.
Campaign Leadership Transition

Richard Phillips has served Melmark well over the years, as the Chair of the Melmark Charitable Foundation Board from 2010 to 2012 and, most recently, as the Co-Chair of the Campaign Cabinet. At this time, Richard is stepping down from this role as Co-Chair to focus on the ever growing business of Pilot Freight Services, of which he is CEO. Richard has played a principal role in the formation of the Campaign and has provided substantial leadership support from the start. “I have been and continue to be a fervent believer in the mission and objectives of Promises to Keep and will continue to serve on the Cabinet through its duration,” Richard said. “Given the demands of my work with Pilot at this time, I believe it is best for the Campaign’s success to make way for new leadership.”

We are very pleased to announce that Cindy Peskin, a Melmark parent to Corey, will be joining Denny Willson as Co-Chair for the remainder of the Campaign.

Cindy brings to this role enthusiasm and experience, having served in a variety of roles in fundraising initiatives with The Episcopal Academy. We are grateful for her willingness to serve Melmark at this critical juncture in the Campaign, and our thanks go to Richard for his faithful and long-time service to Melmark and the Campaign.

Foundation Grants Provide Meaningful Support

Melmark has been fortunate to be the recipient of grants from a number of foundations. We are grateful for the partnership of these organizations and for the relationships that Melmark has been able to develop with many of the representative families and administrators.

The Promises to Keep Campaign has received foundation grants amounting to over $2.5 million. We are honored to highlight these fine organizations and their respective gifts.

Foundation Support for Promises to Keep

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<td>The Spray Foundation</td>
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JPB Foundation
Melmark Seeks First Commonwealth Grant for Phase I

As Melmark has moved into active construction to implement major infrastructure improvements to our campus in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, we were made aware of an opportunity to apply for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant. We were fortunate to have principal endorsements of the grant from Pennsylvania Senator Tom McGarrigle and State Representative Tom Killion of Pennsylvania’s 168th District. The request is substantial, seeking $5 million.

To garner greater support for the grant, Melmark hosted a special legislative breakfast on May 18, 2015 and invited local legislators and community leaders. This was an opportunity to bring everyone together, including Senator McGarrigle, several members of the House of Representatives, Delaware County and Newtown Township officials, leaders of the Main Line and Delaware County Chambers of Commerce, as well as parents and board members.

During the program, Melmark parent, Joe Duffey, shared his personal testimony bearing witness to Melmark’s significant impact on his daughter’s life, as well as the lives of all the children and adults we serve, their families and the community at-large. Campaign Co-Chair, Denny Willson, closed the presentation encouraging our guests to lend their full support for this grant.

Promises to Keep...

Promising to Keep Giving by Source

Support of the Campaign comes from many individuals and organizations.

We are encouraged by the support of families and friends and are grateful for every gift that brings us closer to reaching our goal of $20 million.

$10.7 million raised to date

Family Members
Board Members
Foundations
Friends
Organizations and Corporations
Events
Volunteers, board members and Melmark staff gathered at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square on Wednesday, April 15 to celebrate the 2015 Volunteer Awards and to recognize members of Melmark’s Legacy Society.

**Volunteers of the Year:**  
Trisha Burns and Jim Eaton

**Corporate Partner of the Year:**  
SAP America, Inc.

**Community Partner of the Year:**  
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

**Volunteers of the Year:**  
Tony with Trisha Burns of Pilot Freight Services  
Jim Eaton of NAI Geis Realty Group, Inc.

**Corporate Partner of the Year:**  
Phillip Pegg, SAP VP, Business Mgmt. Office, N. America Marketing, with Melmark President and CEO Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D.

**Community Partner of the Year:**  
Dr. Alex Scharko, Missey Thompson and Dr. Raghuram Prasad from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

**The Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society**

In addition to honoring volunteers, we also recognized members of The Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society. This group includes donors who have named Melmark in their will, helping ensure the organization’s ongoing success for decades to come.

*Members of the Paul and Mildred Krentel Legacy Society were recognized during the ceremony.  
To learn how you can make a planned gift to Melmark, contact John J. Schlesinger, CFRE, at 610-325-4792 or jschlesinger@melmark.org.*
We are always amazed by the kind and generous hearts of the many volunteers who make an impact on lives at Melmark. Whether they’re from our community and corporate partners or are individuals who give their time and expertise to support our mission, volunteers are an integral part of the work we do at Melmark. Below are some of the incredible moments created by volunteers throughout our communities in Berwyn, Pennsylvania and Andover, Massachusetts.
Melmark is extremely grateful for the generous support of our families, friends, corporate partners, foundations and volunteers. The partnerships formed with these individuals and groups help us keep our promise to the children and adults entrusted into our care, as well as to their families. Melmark offers a full range of programs, services and resources, opportunities that would not be possible without their support. Below are just some of the reasons our donors and volunteers support Melmark.

“Giving my Sarah a life of happy days with her peers, experiences that teach her new things and knowing she is with staff who treat her with dignity is my primary concern. Choosing Melmark for Sarah is the best decision I ever made. I will be forever grateful for all that Melmark is able to give my child.”

–Donna Carr
Melmark Parent

“I give to Melmark for many reasons, one of those is that I am eternally grateful for the quality of life Jackie has at her home at Melmark.”

–Mary Ellen Royer
Melmark New England Parent and Campaign Cabinet Member

“I am so blessed that my Valerie has a loving, amazing, fulfilling environment in her life. Melmark is AMAZING!”

–Debbie Barksdale
Melmark Parent

“I happily give my time to Melmark through volunteer opportunities. When I come there with my own children, it is such a powerful gift. They get to see that just because someone struggles physically and mentally does not mean sadness. It teaches them that embracing human beings with love and respect will empower them in all aspects of life. Thank you for allowing me to gain so much from Melmark. I am the lucky one!”

–Kim Chase
Pilot Freight Services
Throughout the spring, students from The Melmark School had the incredible opportunity to take privately guided tours of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. During the tours, which were part of the museum’s Bridges Program, David, James and Joey learned about the world’s most famous artists and even had the opportunity to try on armor from the museum’s collection. The students are working on a special art project, drawing from what they learned during their trips to the museum. That project will be on display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art during September.

Corey, a student at The Melmark School, is known for his cheerful attitude and infectious smile. His teachers say he can truly light up a room with his positive demeanor and laughter.

While Corey enjoys class activities like computer work and collaborative projects with his classmates, it is during art class that his smile is the widest. Melmark Art Teacher, Michele Giannakopoulos, says Corey’s personality shows through his work. “Corey enjoys painting and has a unique way of expressing his feelings on canvas,” said Giannakopoulos. “His pieces are beautiful, bright and full of energy – just like Corey.”

Corey’s artwork is featured in the Melmark Traveling Art Show. His piece is one of dozens featured at a rotation of venues throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region.
The Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation and the TD Charitable Foundation made grants to the Chris Maurer Vocational Program at Melmark of $9,000 and $10,000 respectively. This support helps provide 38 young adults with the training and education to gain the necessary skills for meaningful employment. These young adults experience a variety of work and instructional experiences ranging from on campus training programs, to community-based job sampling, to independent paid employment opportunities in the community. Some of the current jobs enjoyed by the participants in the program are: computer recycling, food service, office support, housekeeping and customer service.

TD Charitable Foundation is committed to making a meaningful and positive contribution to the individuals, families, businesses and communities in regions with a TD Bank location. The Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation gives generously in the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania Region to support a variety of charitable causes.

Both foundations have partnered with Melmark and provided financial support to a variety of our programs for over 15 years. We are most thankful to these foundations for their ongoing commitment to our mission.

The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation supports community programming that results in children, adolescents and young adults affected by substance abuse, learning disabilities, mental illness, and intellectual disabilities achieving their full potential. Melmark New England was recently awarded a $320,000 grant from the Foundation to support the start up, development and implementation of an adult day habilitation and vocational program for young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other neurological disorders. This program is considered a pilot in the state of Massachusetts in the delivery of day services for individuals with ASD.

Melmark New England has identified a light-filled suite in a renovated mill building as the perfect site for these services. Administrators are busy fine-tuning the budget in collaboration with the Department of Developmental Services, recruiting staff and putting the finishing touches on the vocational and habilitation programs that will be customized for each individual participating. This project will support young adults diagnosed with autism by providing job skills training and real work experience that could lead to employment in the community. Melmark is grateful for the Tower Foundation’s ongoing and generous support.
Meet Donny, the newest member of Melmark’s Equestrian Program. Donny came to Melmark in April of this year, after the horse’s owner, Jane Condi, passed away.

Jane’s husband wanted to make sure Donny went to a good home and that his quiet, gentle nature benefited others. Friends of the couple worked together to transport the horse to Melmark at no charge.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is about ten years old and is 15 hands tall. He, like other Tennessee Walkers, has a uniquely smooth gait, which will prove beneficial to the children and adults who participate in Melmark’s Equestrian Program.

Riding a horse helps mimic walking and develops core muscles in people who have to work harder than others to walk.

Donny joins Paintball, Job, Arizona, Atta Boy and Troy at the barn.
Justin is an outgoing young man who enjoys greeting people he meets and sharing his love for music, space and astronauts with others. He’s also a hard worker who has shown incredible determination in overcoming the obstacles in his daily life.

Justin came to Melmark just before his tenth birthday, after displaying behaviors that put himself and those around him at risk. These behaviors included aggression toward adults, injury to himself and other disruptive actions. He also lacked the communication skills to appropriately request his daily wants and needs.

Justin entered the Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) at Melmark where a team of behavior analysts put together an individual plan to help Justin learn to react more appropriately in a variety of settings, from home to the classroom. They also put together clear goals to support Justin in the expansion of his vocabulary.

With a great deal of work and with a supportive team at school and home, Justin greatly matured during his time at Melmark. His vocabulary expanded to include being able to communicate both his daily wants and needs as well as more complex feelings such as, ‘I’m frustrated’ and ‘This is tricky’.

After two and a half years at Melmark, Justin recently moved back with his mom, dad and brothers and is now attending school in his home district. Justin’s family is ecstatic to have their son home. “We have our Justin back, and for a long time, we did not think that was possible,” said Donna Mazzella. Melmark Behavior Analyst, Jennifer Hanson, says Donna and Frank Mazzella played a major role in their son’s accomplishments. “Justin’s parents have always been and remain incredibly committed to his success,” said Hanson. She added, “Justin is a wonderful example of the magic that can happen when clinical teams and parents collaborate using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis.”

While at Melmark, Justin accomplished a 95% reduction in aggression, self-injury and disruptive behaviors.
Mikey’s Successful Future

Mikey came to Melmark New England when he was nine years old. At that time, Mikey exhibited challenging behaviors that kept him from achieving goals in the classroom and interacting effectively with those around him.

Because of his inability to learn new skills, Mikey’s opportunities to reach goals were compromised. More important, his limited communication repertoire made it difficult to interact with his family and community. He could not make his needs known to those around him.

Staff at Melmark New England introduced an augmentative communication device to supplement Mikey’s limited verbal language. Today, he can communicate his wants and needs with more complex sentence structures that far exceed his prior one-word requests. He has a “near-zero” rate of challenging behaviors, which has led to increased independence.

Mikey has also developed the skills to perform a variety of vocational tasks including lunch setup in the school cafeteria and buffet setup for up to four people, paper recycling collection within classrooms and offices, and supply delivery to various locations at his school.

Melmark New England Executive Director, Rita Gardner, says it has been amazing to watch Mikey grow and progress, both behaviorally and academically. “As Mikey has grown, he has been introduced to a variety of vocational tasks at school and within his home,” said Gardner. “Seeing his achievements has been incredible, and we know that as a result of his hard work and that of his staff’s, this young man will continue experiencing success.”

The work skills Mikey has learned make him a viable candidate for future vocational opportunities and possibly even a job in the community. Most important, the generalization of these skills has enabled him to be more socially active within his community and family, providing him the skills he needs for a happy, productive life.

“Mikey surprises me each day in some way by showing me what he knows. When I look back to the day he began at Melmark on his ninth birthday, I see an entirely different child. It takes patience and above all else, consistency. I truly feel his team at Melmark knows him as well as I do, and their commitment to his progress and willingness to accept my input has led to Mikey’s success.”

- Aleece Pappas
  Mikey’s Mother
Congratulations to the 2015 graduates of The Melmark School! These young men and women have worked hard to reach goals and gain independence. We are certain their success will continue in the future.

In May, students from The Melmark School enjoyed a trip to Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse in Philadelphia. Smith hosted Melmark as part of its “Play for All” initiative. Kate Zmich, Director of Programs and Fun at Smith, says the program is designed to serve children and families living through adversity by helping them access resources for play. “We strive to make sure children and parents of all abilities and backgrounds can comfortably use this community resource,” said Zmich. “We want all children and parents to learn about and experience the benefits of free outdoor play,” she added. Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse is located in East Fairmount Park and has been providing opportunities for unstructured creative play for children ten and younger for over 100 years.
Melmark’s annual Spring Festival welcomed princes, princesses and an atmosphere filled with magic. This year’s event, titled “Cinderella’s Magical Experience”, included live music by the Chester County Concert Band, horse-drawn carriage rides, carnival-style food and ice cream. The highlight of the day was the standing room only performance of Cinderella by The Melmark Players.

In addition to their performance at the Melmark Spring Festival, The Melmark Players also performed vignettes at ValleyPoint Church in Glen Mills, PA and several full performances on their home stage at Melmark. For photos and video, like us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MelmarkPA.
On June 2, Melmark hosted a reception for family and friends at the Morris House Hotel in Philadelphia. The 35 attendees were engaged and enthused to learn more about Melmark and the Promises to Keep Campaign. Kathleen Mullin and Steve Shanahan, both siblings of adults who live at Melmark, coordinated the reception. Kathleen and Steve shared personal stories of the positive impact of Melmark’s services on the lives of their brothers, as well as their families. Jeff Morrison, member of the Melmark Charitable Foundation Board and Promises to Keep Campaign Cabinet, shared how he, without any family ties to the organization, has found his service to Melmark to be meaningful and personally fulfilling. Melmark EVP and COO, George Linke, Jr., Psy.D, and Melmark VP for Advancement, Ellen Donohoe, also spoke at the event. Melmark’s Office of Advancement will work with dedicated volunteers and family members in Pennsylvania and New England to conduct similar events in the near future.
On June 14, we were treated to a remarkable afternoon of beautiful music by The Spruce Street Chamber Players and Anne Faulkner Schoemaker, pianist. The concert benefited Promises to Keep...the Campaign for Melmark and was held inside The Episcopal Academy Chapel. Nearly a hundred guests attended the concert and reception that followed.

Anne Faulkner Schoemaker is the wife of the late Hubert J.P. Schoemaker, whose eldest daughter lived at Melmark for 28 years before her passing. Anne has remained a close and dear friend to Melmark throughout the years. We are so grateful to her and to The Spruce Street Chamber Players for helping us keep our promise to those we serve.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Episcopal Academy, which donated the stunning space for the concert, as well as our generous sponsors who made the event possible.
Melmark hosted another successful Expert Speaker Series with ten events spanning seven months across sites in Pennsylvania and New England. Melmark New England’s own Helena Maguire and Dr. Nicole Heal led with an eight-hour BCBA Supervision Training. Also in New England, Dr. Greg Hanley discussed teaching toleration for delay and denial. Dr. James Chok and Dr. Jill Harper reviewed training on functional analyses and treatment development, while Dr. Dennis Reid shared expertise on staff training. Julia Fox Garrison presented on overcoming adversity, followed by a book signing of her first-hand account in battling the medical establishment after a paralyzing stroke, “Don’t Leave Me This Way or When I Get Back on my Feet You’ll Be Sorry!”

Dr. Mary Jane Weiss, Melmark’s Executive Director of Research, presented ethical decision making in behavior analysis at both Melmark and Melmark New England. Other Expert Speaker Series topics included staff motivation, collaboration among the care team and an insider’s look at life as a sibling of someone with special needs.

More than 500 attendees participated throughout the 2014-2015 Expert Speaker Series. The program provides extensive training to staff, external professionals and caretakers.

**Suzanne Muench Presents at CHOP Conference**

On Friday, May 8, Melmark Director of Admissions and Family Services, Suzanne Muench, presented at the 39th Annual Regional Conference on Developmental Disabilities, hosted by The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). More than two dozen adults, ranging from individuals who receive services to caretakers and family members, attended the presentation titled *We Matter, Too: Addressing the Needs of the Whole Family.*

Muench, a licensed social worker, also has a brother with special needs. She uses her experience to help guide other siblings and parents as they try to balance attention within the family.

**Sibshops at Melmark**

**Third Wednesday of Each Month**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sibshops are lively celebrations of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of children with special needs. Through games, activities, and discussions, siblings receive support from their peers who may be experiencing many of the same feelings, challenges, and joys of having a sibling with a special need.

For more information, contact:
SuzanneMuench@Melmark.org
Melmark is making a global impact on the ABA community by offering internships and paid positions to international professionals. These opportunities allow Melmark to provide on-the-job experience to professionals in both classroom and residential settings.

At The Melmark School, we welcomed four new staff members from Italy. These professionals came to Berwyn, Pennsylvania after a recruitment initiative in Italy by Melmark’s Executive Vice President and COO, Dr. George Linke, Jr. We were also thrilled to welcome two interns from Germany this past year. These young professionals shared the expertise gained at Melmark with fellow students at their university.

Melmark New England Executive Director, Rita Gardner, and Melmark Chief Clinical Officer, Frank Bird, recently attended an ABA conference in Galway, Ireland, where the two worked to recruit highly qualified candidates who displayed strong ABA skills. Additional potential staff have been identified in Spain and South America through faculty contacts who are fellow members of ABA International.

Melmark helps each international candidate navigate the visa process, secure housing and transportation, and become oriented with the Philadelphia and Andover areas. It’s a win-win for everyone involved. International staff join an already diverse group of employees, with more than fifty countries represented by Melmark staff. International employees are also instrumental in the development and improvement of services for people with intellectual disabilities worldwide.
Promises to Keep
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MELMARK

AbbeyRose  Gio  Brenna  Mason

Raheem  Caroline  Louie  Janet

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