

The Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), formerly the Archdiocesan Annual Fund Drive, is an annual effort by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to spread the Gospel through informing and engaging the faithful with important regional ministries that benefit thousands of people throughout nineteen counties in western and southwestern Ohio. We invite you to share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to participate in the life of our local church through these ministries.

ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Give thanks for God's gift of communication by supporting the liberating work of St. Rita, which provides children with the specialized education they need to hear and be heard. Day and residential services at St. Rita School are assisted by your gift to the CMA.

This is just one of the ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. To find out more, visit www.CatholicAppeal.info.

**Always
Everywhere**

Give Thanks

GIVING FAMILIES HOPE: Nicole and Julia's Story

Julia is only three years old, but already an inspiration to many. Whether she's working to complete an activity in the classroom or outside running around with friends, her tenacious spirit is felt. It's a spirit that no doubt grew from her mother's own heart.

When Julia was born with CMV, doctors said she would never be able to do much of anything. Her mom, Nicole, however, had different plans. After Julia was diagnosed with moderate to intense hearing loss, Nicole scheduled a tour of St. Rita School. Ironically, Nicole had been volunteering at St. Rita Fest since she was a child. "I always knew about St. Rita Fest, but never really knew what went on inside the school itself," she says. "When I found out Julia was deaf, I knew it was time to learn more about the school I had always volunteered for."

Nicole quickly made plans for Julia to begin her education as an infant in St. Rita School's LOFT (Language Opportunities for Tots) Program. "I believe St. Rita School has changed Julia's life," says Nicole. With every milestone that mother and child experience, she remembers the discouraging words from the doctors who didn't believe in her daughter. "Sometimes I just wish I could go back to those doctors who tried to take my hope, and prove to them that they were wrong. I want them to see all the things that Julia has accomplished."

Nicole will never forget the day Julia's teacher, Ms. Jen, excitedly told her that Julia recognized the alphabet. She remembers the first day Julia sat up by herself and the day she began scooting around independently. "I am so grateful for St. Rita School. I know Julia has teachers and other people there who love her like I do."