



madonna
Ability Alliance[†]

2025 *Gratitude* Report



Mission

Founded on the Christian principle of the dignity of the human person, Madonna's mission is to serve students and adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Autism (ASD), and Other Health Impairments (OHIs) and provide them with a foundation to achieve their full potential at school, work, home and in the community.

Vision

Our vision is for all people with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Autism (ASD), and Other Health Impairments (OHIs) to maximize their God-given potential and thrive as fully included members of the communities in which they learn, work, and live.



Special Education

We believe students deserve an education that develops their strengths & supports their needs.



Adult Services

We support adults with diverse abilities as they build independent, purposeful, and fulfilling lives.



Athletics & Activities

We help youth and adults of all abilities build confidence and friendships through competition.



Family Supports

We support and guide families as they work to access critical resources to support their loved ones.

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Dear Friends of Madonna,

In 1978, through their "Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities," the Catholic Bishops of the United States issued a powerful call to action:

"There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities. We are one flock that follows a single Shepard."

The application to every area of life is clearly implied in their words—there can be no separate family, no separate school, no separate workplace, no separate community for those with and without disabilities. We are one human family, fully formed by our maker, and fully connected by our unique, God-given abilities. Every human endeavor should reflect this truth. Every human endeavor should be unified.



Of all that we have shared with you over the years, our close friends and supporters of Madonna, what follows in this Gratitude Report are among the most important witnesses to the power of our mission to bring together those with and without disabilities to live, laugh, learn, work, and play.

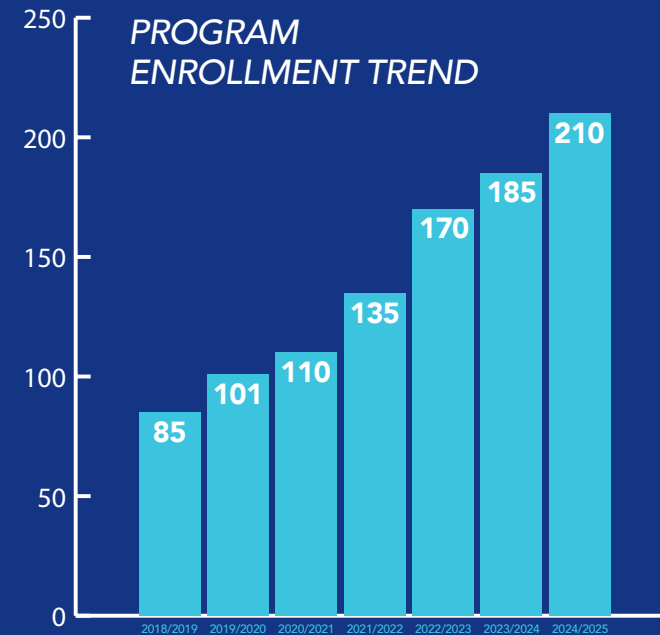
The profundity is in the simplicity. When we step aside and allow those of all abilities to engage and form relationships, we allow God in, and everyone benefits. Is it easy? No. Just as every parent

learns to gracefully "step away" while remaining 100% engaged and at the ready to support their child even well into adulthood; Madonna and our partners execute a difficult and skilled dance with every individual we serve to help them maximize their autonomy while never, ever feeling unsupported, lost, or alone. Is it worth it? Take a look at this report.

We cannot thank you enough for the generous offering of your time, talents, and resources that allow us to carry out our work. In a world that, on the surface, seems increasingly broken and polarized, we invite you to enjoy our 2024-2025 Gratitude Report, which shows how strong our world is when people of all abilities are unified.

God Bless,

Jon Burt
President

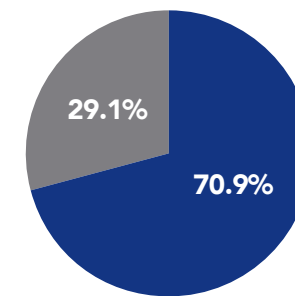


2024-2025 Financials

ENDOWED & INVESTED FUNDS

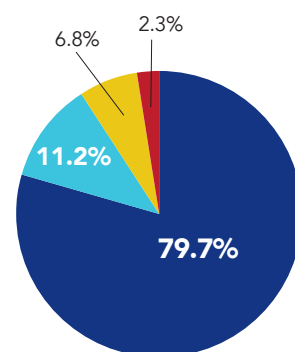
Opening Balance	Net Contributions & Earnings*	Year End Balance
\$3,212,100	\$(2,465,012)	\$747,088

*Net Contributions & Earnings primarily attributed to the capital campaign and new campus project. The new campus is now fully paid for with ZERO debt obligation!



INCOME

Education & Adult Programs	\$ 3,671,128
Advancement	1,506,592
Total Income	\$ 5,177,720



EXPENSES

Human Resources	\$ 3,998,879
Program Resources	561,251
General Administration	341,997
Facilities	113,638
Total Expenses	\$ 5,015,765

NET INCOME

\$ 161,955



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, ON & OFF THE FIELD

Unified Sports as a Powerful Example of Inclusion

For decades, Madonna’s students and adult clients have proudly participated in multiple Special Olympic sporting events. For the past 5 years, Madonna has also participated in Unified Sports, a Special Olympics initiative. In 2025, Madonna’s Special Olympics teams consisted of over 100 athletes and over 50 Unified Partners.

The Unified Sports program brings people with and without intellectual disabilities onto the same team to train, compete, and build friendships rooted in respect and shared purpose. Madonna Secondary students, Young Adult students, and Adult Clients may join Unified teams. The model is simple but powerful: playing together toward a common goal is one of the quickest paths to understanding.

But here at Madonna, the word “unified” means so much more to us. It’s a way of seeing one another—as peers, teammates, classmates, coworkers, and community members whose strengths grow when we grow together. Nowhere is that more visible than on the field, court, or gym during Unified Sports.

Isaak Meysenberg is one of the many Mount Michael students who joined their school’s growing partnership

with Madonna. He said he signed up as a Unified partner expecting to help but quickly realized it was so much more. His Madonna teammates challenged his assumptions, expanded his worldview, and showed what genuine inclusion looks like in action.

Isaak’s involvement began in winter 2025 with Unified Basketball. He remembered showing up for his first practice and feeling nervous about how to interact.

“I decided to ask the Madonna students who their favorite teams were, and pretty quickly, we related over basketball and found other things we had in common,” he said.

Isaak said his involvement has definitely helped with his communications and social skills.

One of Isaac’s favorite memories last year came from the State Basketball Tournament. (His team went 2-0 that weekend!) More than winning, he remembers all the high fives and how happy everyone was for each other.

“It’s this idea that we all have a role on the team. In basketball, for example, we match our abilities and

skills with who we guard, not just partners on partners and athletes on athletes. The games are surprisingly competitive, and we all work together as a team.”

That’s exactly the reason Unified Sports was built—on the belief that people with and without disabilities should have equal opportunities to participate, lead, and excel.

For many participants, it’s the first time they’ve experienced a team where everyone is valued not for what they can’t do, but for what they bring. It’s something Isaak said he hopes more young people can experience.

After basketball, Isaak volunteered again as a Unified Partner for kickball and enjoyed the chance to meet even more Madonna athletes he now calls friends.

What began as an easy way to earn service hours became something deeper: friendship, connection, and a new understanding of what it means to be part of a community.

Isaak didn’t set out to become an advocate for inclusion, but through these friendships with Madonna athletes, he has. At Mount Michael, his peers and teachers have seen how much fun he has after the games and how high Unified Sports ranks among his priorities.

Christy Crnkovich, Counselor and Unified Liaison at Mount Michael, drives the Mount Michael students to and from their Unified football practices. She said on the way back to school after practice, the boys are always in a great mood and sharing with each other about how things went with their athletes.

“They love it. You can see it in how animated and proud they are to be a part of a Unified team.”

Crnkovich also shared that she has witnessed the Mount Michael Unified volunteers interact differently with their classmates thanks to this partnership: “Their words are kinder, they are more open and understanding. Unified Sports opens a door for these young men to experience how to be unified on and off the field.”

Indeed, the more we can all practice acceptance like this, the more unified we will become. And when we do, we all move forward together.



Opposite page: The 2025 Unified Flag Football season was a success! Twelve Mount Michael students played as Unified partners and competed alongside Madonna athletes. This page, from top: Madonna participants pose together at the Unified Bowling end of season. Bowling is Madonna’s most popular Unified sport! Middle: Everyone enjoyed beautiful weather at a Unified Kickball event. Bottom: Isaak, wearing jersey number 9, congratulates his teammate during a Unified basketball game.

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Roncalli Catholic High School and Madonna Students Build Community Through Unified Activities and Learning

For five years, Roncalli Catholic High School has partnered with Madonna Secondary students to create meaningful, inclusive opportunities where every student is welcomed, valued, and invited to participate fully. What began as a handful of shared activities has grown into a vibrant, school-wide culture shift—one that students say is changing the way they see each other, themselves, and what community can look like.

This school year brought some of the most exciting opportunities yet. In Fall 2025, Roncalli launched two new Unified classes: Art 1 and Intro to Instruments, inviting Madonna students into the school day in a deeper, more integrated way.

Akon Mathiang, a senior at Roncalli Catholic, was one of 18 Roncalli students who participated in the Music class during the fall semester. She found herself quickly building new relationships with both Madonna students and Roncalli peers.

Akon admits she was nervous at first. “I didn’t know anyone. I was scared to go,” she said. “But it turned out to be not what I expected—in a good way.”

By the end of the semester, she and Sacloney, a Madonna senior, had formed a special bond.

Sacloney is not usually comfortable being in front of a crowd or performing. During class, if Sacloney needed support, others worked to give her a complimentary beat that was easier to learn or adapted her instrument so she could participate fully. Mostly, it was about encouraging confidence, about working together for a common goal.

When the time came for the end-of-semester concert, Akon remembers Sacloney being nervous before going on stage. She said she shared her own fears and told her she’d be there side-by-side during the whole concert. After a successful show, Sacloney was smiling, surrounded by the support and cheers of other students, too.

“I learned so many different things—about music and about other people,” Akon said. She described the class as a “safe space to just be yourself, a place where everyone was encouraged to try, to laugh, to make mistakes, and to help each other grow.”

The class didn’t just change how Akon saw Madonna students—it changed how she saw her own classmates, administrators, and Madonna staff working together to create an environment of acceptance.

Compared to her other classes, she said the Unified Music Class felt different. “It was more united. Everyone was working together instead of individually. There were more group conversations. People put themselves out there.”

And the impact didn’t stay inside the classroom.



Akon says she has noticed the language students and staff use beginning to shift. She sees students who participate in Unified programs smiling more in the hallways, joining conversations more easily, and showing more social awareness. “People seem more open to forming new relationships,” she said.

A growing sense of community helped set the stage for one of Roncalli’s biggest inclusive events yet: the school’s first-ever Unified Field Day, held in August 2025.

Delaney, another Roncalli senior and a member of the Unified Leadership Council, helped plan the event. She said the goal was simple but powerful: “We wanted something that would get the whole student body involved and excited, something that would show everyone what ‘unified’ really means.”

Opposite page: Around 350 students from both Roncalli Catholic and Madonna’s Secondary and Young Adult classrooms participated in Roncalli’s first-ever Unified Field Day this fall. This page: Akon and Sacloney performed in a concert as part of Roncalli Catholic’s Intro to Instruments Unified Music Class in Fall 2025. The activities brought everyone off the sidelines and gave every student a chance to experience inclusion.



The result was a joyful, high-energy day that brought together Madonna students, Roncalli students, teachers, and staff for classic field day fun. Think relay races, ring toss, egg races, and stations where students of all abilities could participate side by side.

“It was so fun, like the field days you might remember from elementary school,” Delaney said. “We were all together, interacting across different stations. You could feel the energy. Everyone was included.”

Teachers reported seeing students who rarely interact suddenly cheering each other on. Madonna students were participating in games, high-fiving classmates, and showing off their strengths. Roncalli students stepped naturally into roles of encouragement, partnership, and friendship.

For many, it was the first time they had experienced the school community in such a unified way.

Delaney said the day helped students understand inclusion not as a concept, but as a lived experience. “You could see it on people’s faces,” she said. “Everyone was having fun together. Everyone belonged.”

The ripple effects of these experiences—Unified classes, Unified Sports, Unified Field Day, and countless small moments in between—are shaping Roncalli’s culture in lasting ways as they become more aware of the value each person brings to the community.

And if Akon and Delaney’s stories are any indication, the future is bright.



GROWING TOGETHER

How Madonna's Elementary Program Helps All Students Thrive

When Blake Samuels walks into St. Pius X/St. Leo School (SPSL) each morning, he isn't just heading to class—he's stepping into a community that knows him, supports him, and celebrates who he is.

Blake started at SPSL as a first grader. Now in seventh grade, he's part of Madonna's Inclusive Elementary Program, which supports students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Blake was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at age 3 and previously attended a school setting designed specifically for special education. His family hoped he could one day learn alongside his siblings and peers in a more typical school setting. SPSL made that possible.

Blake attends class just like any other student. For reading and math, a special education teacher joins him to provide support. In every other way, he's fully part of the classroom—learning, laughing, and growing with his classmates.

Blake proudly shared that he's earning A's and B's. He said some of his favorite subjects include geography, art, and P.E. He said there have been a few projects he's especially proud of this school year—creating a podcast

episode, completing an egg-drop experiment in science, and working with classmates on group assignments. He says it feels "awesome" to be able to come to his school.

Support That Makes Inclusion Possible

Behind the scenes, a thoughtful system of collaboration helps ensure Blake, and all students at SPSL, have what they need to succeed.

Each week, Miss Maddie Rinkacs, SPSL's special education teacher who serves students in the inclusion program, meets with classroom teachers to talk through supports, accommodations, and strategies. These conversations help teachers anticipate challenges, celebrate progress, and make sure every student is included in meaningful ways.

"Having Madonna's staff there is reassuring, and their support means everything," said Blake's mom, Sherita Samuels. She has had multiple children attend and graduate from SPSL and says the school community has always been accepting and welcoming.

St. Pius X/St. Leo is one of three Catholic elementary partner schools in Madonna's Elementary Program, along with St. Robert Bellarmine and Holy Name. The partnership with SPSL began seven years ago, during the 2019–2020 school year, and has grown steadily ever since.

One of the strongest parts of Blake's experience is the friendships he's built. He describes his classmates as "cool" and "friendly." His friends describe him as funny—with great comedic timing.

Aria Pogge, a fellow seventh grader, has known Blake since first grade. They've shared classrooms for years and now have three class periods together this year in middle school.

"I love seeing Blake succeed and get good grades," Aria said.

Blake grinned when asked about Aria. "Aria is helpful and funny," he said.

Aria enjoys working with Blake on group projects. She and other classmates also help with spelling questions or clarifying directions—simple acts of support that make a big difference. Like Aria, many students have known Blake for a long time and don't hesitate to include him. Aria said she's gotten to know his strengths and abilities and understand how to support him.

It helps that he is comfortable at school and isn't shy in asking questions to figure things out.

Sherita sees that confidence at home, too. "When he feels safe to just be Blake, he learns more because he can ask questions he really wants to ask," she said.

A Culture of Inclusion That Benefits Everyone

Aria says having inclusive special education students at SPSL makes the school better. She tries to be a good example of including everyone and advocating for Blake and others.

"It's great that our school has Madonna students," she said. "It helps everyone learn to be more understanding of each other."

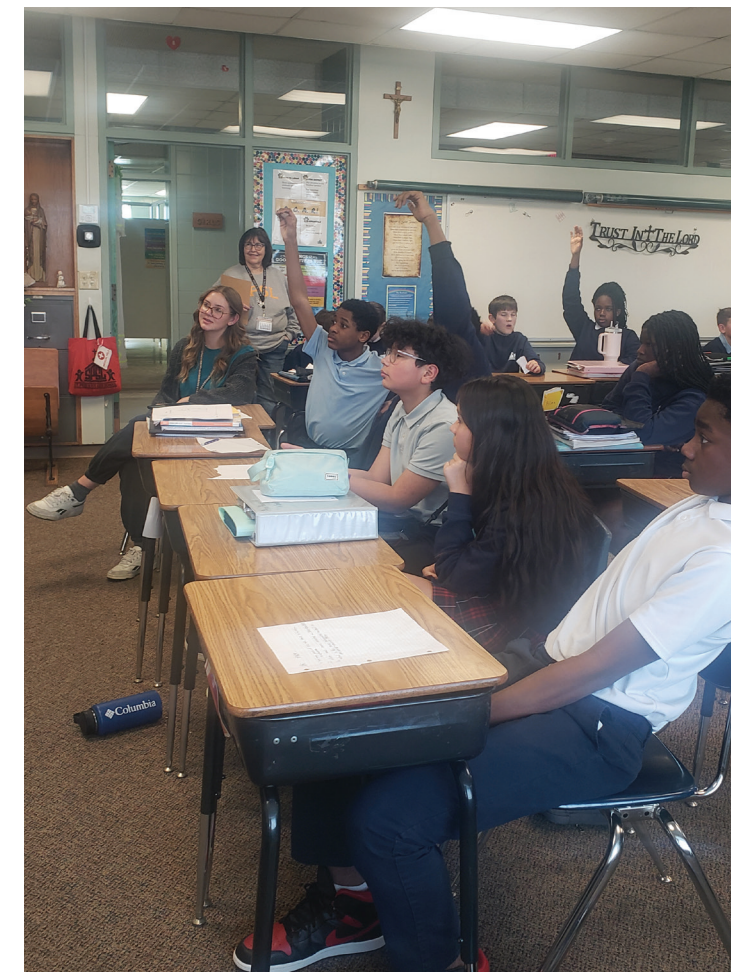
Her commitment to inclusion is personal, too. Next year, Aria's younger brother will join SPSL as a first grader and will be part of the inclusion program. She's excited

to welcome her sibling into a school community where she knows he will be supported and included. Sherita believes that's the heart of SPSL's culture. "The teachers and community are very accepting," she said. "They want every child to feel like they belong."

Blake's story is one of many showing how Madonna's Inclusive Elementary Program enriches classrooms—not just for students with disabilities, but for their peers as well. When students learn side by side, they build empathy, patience, and genuine friendships. They discover each other's strengths. They learn to communicate, collaborate, and celebrate differences.

For Blake, that growth looks like confidence, curiosity, and a school day filled with friends who cheer him on. For Aria, it looks like leadership, compassion, and a deeper understanding of what inclusion really means.

We're looking forward to what comes next.



Opposite page: Blake Samuels and Aria Pogge are in 7th Grade at St. Pius X/St. Leo Catholic School. This page: Blake attends class along with his peers as part of Madonna's Inclusive Elementary Program.

Thank You! The donor names on the following pages recognize gifts received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Proceeds were received through the Annual Fund campaign, sponsorship of events, attendance at events, memorial and honor donations, grants, bequests and general giving.

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We made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact our office with any errors you may notice. We appreciate all who contribute to our mission. Learn more about the impact of your gifts:



The Evangeline Society

The Evangeline Society is a society honoring the work of our Foundress, Sr. Mary Evangeline Randolph, RSM. It is composed of individuals and couples who have made provisions for Madonna Ability Alliance in their estate or who have given a legacy gift in their lifetime. Remembering Madonna in estate plans assures that our Christian mission of affirming the worth, dignity, and independence of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities will continue long into the future.

Please let us know if you have included Madonna in your estate plan or if you would like further information on becoming a member of The Evangeline Society. Contact Toody Moffatt, Director of Advancement, at toody@madonnaalliance.org.



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This page and opposite: Tylajah (Ty), part of Madonna's Employment Program, hard at work at The Newport House, preparing drinks and silverware for resident dining. She hopes to work full-time at the facility in the future.

Newport House

an Immanuel care community

UNIFIED IN THE WORKPLACE

Spotlight on Our Partnership with Immanuel's Newport House

Madonna began a partnership with Immanuel's Newport House in 2024. Newport House is part of the Immanuel Village campus in Omaha, providing skilled nursing and long-term care services. For nearly two years, inclusion has become a regular part of daily life for both Newport House team members and residents.

Corey Hall is Team Lead of Food and Nutrition Services at Newport House. He facilitated the start of the partnership after he was approached by a Madonna family.

Right from the start, Corey was excited about the possibility. He was already familiar with supporting people with intellectual disabilities through his wife's job and his own past employment.

Now, Corey leads a team of approximately 20 staff members, including three current Madonna clients: Tylajah (Ty), Hunter, and Tierre.

The three work at the Newport House as Food Service Associates. As such, job duties include: taking orders, getting drinks for residents, delivering food, clearing tables, and cleaning after meals in the shared dining spaces.

Each of them works varying shifts and hours, three to five days per week. Their primary focus is helping during mealtimes.

Cassidy Spevak, Dietary Coordinator at the Newport House, worked with all three for their employee training. She said the interview and training process was what you'd expect for anyone else.

She and her peers on the Food Services team quickly welcomed each of the new employees into the fold. Cassidy said she has seen an increase in patience, empathy, and teamwork in herself and others since the partnership began.



"It has been nice to see other team members guide the employees from the Madonna program. They all help each other out, and I often hear them all joking around together and behaving as friends," she said.

Ty, Hunter, and Tierre have indeed fit right into the community's culture, according to Corey.

"They are fully integrated into our building. You'll see them interacting with residents and developing positive and meaningful relationships with them, too," he said.

Madonna team members were described as reliable and consistent, and that their presence strengthens the team as they work to provide Christ-like care.

In fact, Corey shared that a process they originally created to support Madonna team members has now become a valuable tool for everyone.

"We put together seating charts for residents that included their drink preferences and other helpful details so Madonna staff could get to know them more quickly. It worked so well that our whole team now uses them. What started as a support for Madonna has improved our overall service," he said.

Team members can now look at a card and understand which residents may need modifications to their food or utensils.

Ty, Hunter, and Tierre are never shy to ask questions to learn more and improve. Their co-workers said each of them always come prepared to complete their tasks.

Corey said he also has quarterly conversations and annual reviews with everyone on his team to further develop their skills and strengths.

"I hope we continue this partnership for many years to come," he said.

We do, too. Experiences like this highlight how inclusion can create a more positive workplace culture for all.



MORE ABOUT MADONNA'S EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Beyond their on-the-job training, Ty, Hunter, and Tierre are also supported by their own Madonna Job Coach. This personalized approach helps match a candidate's strengths and interests with available job opportunities. Madonna's Employment team helps build resumes and practice interviews, as well as provide individualized training during their onboarding and early employment.

Our team also helps plan reliable transportation and helps coordinate with families and community resources so each person can arrive ready to work.

Newport House is one of over 80 local businesses we partner with on competitive integrated employment opportunities.

Common industries we serve include hospitality, retail, healthcare support, office support, facilities, and logistics.

As the program grows, we aim to show how working together not only breaks stereotypes, but benefits businesses with talented, high-quality and loyal employees. Many Madonna clients have become the longest tenured employees on their teams, helping their employers build consistency and continuity.

PREPARING FOR LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL

Young Adult Program Helps Students Gain More Independence

The Madonna Young Adult Program, formerly named the Transition Program, supports students ages 18-21 as they prepare for adulthood — building independence, learning to navigate their community, and gaining the skills they need for competitive employment.



It's a time of life that can feel both exciting and overwhelming. That's why our program is built around our belief that with the right support, every young person can step into adulthood with dignity, purpose, and the skills to thrive.

Every day, students come to class and build the foundations of independent living through hands-on learning that mirrors real life. Students plan and prepare meals, practice budgeting and time management, and strengthen the social skills that help them form healthy relationships.

Career exploration is another cornerstone of the program. Students explore what they're good at, build important workplace skills, and try out different jobs through shadowing experiences. They also take part in on-campus work projects, including managing Madonna's coffee orders, which give them real-world practice. Many train alongside local business partners like Militti Sales & Promotions, gaining exposure to competitive employment and building the confidence to take their next step.

Summer 2025 brought an especially exciting employment opportunity for some of our Young Adults. Vocational Rehab (VR) of Nebraska granted Madonna 4 weeks of funding to help students develop job skills. Six students worked paid internships through the program, along with on-the-job coaching. First, they spent their mornings learning and reinforcing interpersonal and communication skills. Then, off to work! Students worked at Husker Hounds and Inner Rail Food Hall, spending two weeks at each.

Our partnership with VR has been ongoing, but this was the first year for paid summer internship. Staff had a great time watching each student develop—and earn a paycheck—not to mention the overall community impact!

Rooted in Catholic values, the Young Adult program also nurtures personal growth through daily prayer, weekly Mass, and service partnerships with organizations like Siena Francis House and CHI Bergan Mercy. Families walk this journey alongside their young adults, supported by Madonna's Navigation Services, which help them access essential resources and plan for life beyond school.

Above: Owen works at Husker Hounds as part of the Nebraska VR Summer Internship Program. Below: Colin and Olivia learn real-world skills through a partnership with Millitti Sales & Promotions. Students help label and package items like headbands, hats, and gloves that are sold at Hy-Vee and other stores.

Whether students move into employment, adult day services, residential supports, or independent living, the Young Adult Program ensures they are well supported on their path.

Thank You! Below, we recognize individuals and businesses that supported our **signature events** with an in-kind donation between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Events that occurred in this timeframe included the Celebration Gala (August 24, 2024), Madonnapalooza (March 27, 2025), and the Madonna Golf Classic (May 12, 2025).

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Memorials and Tributes

Each year, Madonna Ability Alliance receives gifts to memorialize or honor a loved one. These gifts are meaningful to Madonna as they show the regard the donor has for our important work with youth and adults with disabilities. We are humbled by the confidence that is placed in us to continue our ministry. Below is a list of those for whom gifts were received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

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Celebration 2025 was "A Night of Shining Stars" with nearly 500 guests gathering at our new venue, A View West Shores. Because of our generous community, \$550,000 was raised toward our mission! The event, chaired by Lisa & Zach Daub and Donna & Bob Forbes, also honored Fr. Don Shane for his commitment to the Madonna mission.



madonna
Ability Alliance

Year-in-Review

Every day at Madonna, we share moments of growth, joy, and connection across our programs. From classrooms and job sites to community outings and service projects, 2025 was filled with experiences that strengthened skills, deepened relationships, and celebrated the unique gifts of every person we serve. Enjoy these photos as a look back at the learning, laughter, and meaningful steps that our students and adults took this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Madonnapalooza

April 17, 2026
 A View on State

24th Annual Madonna Golf Classic

May 11, 2026
 Champions Run

Celebration Gala

August 22, 2026
 A View on West Shores



In May, we celebrated 10 **Project SEARCH graduates**, and now 9 are enrolled in the program for this school year. Individuals complete a nine-month work training program in partnership with the Monroe-Meyer Institute on the campus of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Graduates work three 10-week internships before earning their certificates. Past Project SEARCH graduates are now employed at 50+ Omaha businesses and contribute to the local workforce in meaningful ways.



Mikey, a Madonna Secondary student, walked into his new classroom, in the new building, on the **first day of school** in August to a bright future ahead!



Archbishop McGovern helped us celebrate moving into our new building with a **Ribbon Cutting** in June 2025 after 20 years at our old campus!



The **23rd Annual Golf Classic** raised \$115,000 for Madonna students and clients! We had 24 teams for a beautiful day at Champions Run on May 12.



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