

**GOES VIRTUAL!**

# MEMPHIS 5K runs FOR autism

benefiting THE ANGEL PROGRAM

## **YOUR SUPPORT BENEFITS LOCAL CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM AND ENSURES THE ANGEL PROGRAM CAN ENDURE**

The Memphis Runs for Autism 5K was created in an effort to raise funds for the ANGEL Program at Holy Rosary and the children it serves on the autism spectrum. **In 2020, the event goes virtual, and we hope we can count on your support!**

In seven years, the race is not only the program's largest one-day fundraiser, but it has become a celebration of community, awareness, and acceptance. With your support, we can expand the program's reach for the benefit of the lives it can and does impact every day.

Proceeds from the Memphis Runs for Autism 5K directly fund need-based scholarships for families eligible for ANGEL Program support; operating expenses such as competitive salaries, ongoing training and health care benefits for teachers and therapists employed by the ANGEL Program; and technology and equipment upgrades.

The event is made possible in part by friends and family of Cathy Pinter, former Holy Rosary teaching assistant and ANGEL Program supporter. In her memory, they chose to honor her through volunteer work and fundraising for The ANGEL Program. Your support will help ensure Cathy's memory lives on through the enrichment of the ANGEL Program.

The ANGEL Program fulfilled Holy Rosary School's vision of including all children in classroom education, regardless of their learning ability. Designed to offer year round, individualized education in an inclusive classroom setting, the ANGEL Program is the only of its kind in the region to provide the highest quality support available, based upon the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), in an inclusive classroom setting. A 4:1 student-teacher ratio is maintained throughout the day.

Both ANGEL Program students and their typical peers benefit from working side-by-side from an early age. Their regular interaction results in increased

independence and improved confidence, with peers gaining compassion for and acceptance of their differences.

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States. In 2018, a study by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) reported that about 1 in 40 children has been diagnosed with autism. With the prevalence of ASD diagnoses increasing year over year, having the ANGEL Program in the heart of Memphis is more important than ever.

