

# The Giving Gazette



December



## Snowflakes

By: Victoria (age 12)

Snow is something that we see often in winter. As most people know, snow is made from tiny bits of ice called snowflakes. Snowflakes start out as tiny particles of debris, pollen, or dust high up in the atmosphere. When the temperature is below freezing, bits of water vapor cling to the particle, which then freeze onto the snowflake, creating ice crystals.

Different shapes of snowflakes are caused by water vapor freezing in different formations, which depends on the temperature and humidity. The creating and falling of a snowflake can take anywhere from minutes to hours for it to fully form and reach the ground.



**Happy Holiday Baking!**



**So far this year, we have raised \$2,104 for the American Cancer Society and \$100 for the Toys for Tots!**

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## Joey's Little Angels Interview w/ Mr. Angiolino

This past month, I was fortunate enough to interview Mr. Angiolino, the Dean of Students at Notre Dame High School and the proud founder of Joey's Little Angels, where we discussed the story, impact, and future aspirations of this wonderful organization.

Joey was born 15 months after Mr. and Mrs. Angiolino's first son, Nicholas. When Joey was about 5 or 6 months old, they discovered a small bump on his back. Eventually, Joey was diagnosed with Hurler Syndrome, which is a very rare genetic disease. This diagnosis forced Mr. Angiolino and his wife to leave their teaching jobs and go to North Carolina, to Duke University Hospital to seek treatment for Joey. Unfortunately, Joey ultimately passed away at 15 months old.

Mr. Angiolino started this nonprofit organization, with the mission to support families with a child undergoing medical treatment. 'Joey,' obviously comes from Joey's name. 'Little Angels' comes from Angiolino, which means 'Little Angels' in Italian.

During Joey's time in the hospital, their motto became, 'Motivation, Perseverance, and Strength.' This is actually an acronym for Joey's disease, mucopolysaccharidoses. Those 3 words represented their motivation to get Joey better, to rise above, and the incredible strength it took to do what they did.

Mr. Angiolino told me that they would have gone to the other side of the world to try to save Joey's life, because, in his words, "When you become a parent, your purpose in life is to live, while we live, for our children. And we would have done anything for him. He gave us the strength and also our faith was very big in getting us through a very, very difficult time. When he was sick, and ultimately when he passed away as well."

One particular moment changed his perspective on life forever. When he was at the hospital—he and his wife would switch 'shifts' of who was in the hospital—Joey's heart stopped. It was a traumatic experience, and to make it worse, he was there without his wife. That was the day that Joey took a turn for the worse.

But in the lowest of lows, Mr. Angiolino was able to truly appreciate the doctors and nurses not only for fighting so hard for all the innocent kids who were suffering, but also for supporting their family through a very difficult time. He said, "It made us feel like we wanted to give back to those people when we were going through such a traumatic time."

The Joey's Little Angels Toy Drive started 14 years ago. It is the biggest event of the year for the organization. But when COVID hit, Mr. Angiolino turned to Notre Dame, where he was just a coach at the time. Mrs. Barlow, the current principal at Notre Dame allowed Notre Dame to host a drive-thru toy drive.

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## Joey's Little Angels Interview w/ Mr. Angiolino cont.

Notre Dame always says that service is at their core, which is one of the things Mr. Angiolino loves most about the school and the community. "Joey's Little Angels gives kids an opportunity to give back, you know, for example, the toy drive, we have over 100 volunteers working at our toy drive this year. You know, what better way of helping others and giving back than doing it in Joey's honor, in his name? So Notre Dame's kind of given us a platform to give back. And obviously, when people hear our story, kids hear our story, hopefully they're impacted by it and kind of learn to appreciate the little things in life."

To date, Joey's Little Angels have donated over half a million dollars away to families with a child suffering from leukemia, an amputee, or cancer. This year, the organization is going to hit 60,000 toys donated to bring smiles to children's faces. Their goal is to reach \$1 million total given away and 100,000 toys. "that's 100,000 smiles that Joey's brought to kids who are fighting through the darkest times, to their lives, and if his life is able to impact those in a positive way, then we're doing what our intentions were from the beginning, is helping other people."

The toy drive is always the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Student volunteers will host kids that Joey's Little Angels have helped. This year, I was able to take part in it. Students dressed up as characters to greet the kids, served food, did face paint, and collected toys.

In Mr. Angiolino's eyes, it is the most important hour of the year.

The toy drive gives to the kids *and* the volunteers, offering them a new perspective on life. It shows them that they have the opportunity to go to Notre Dame and live a healthy life.

Mr. Angiolino says, "I'm a firm believer in the secret to living is giving, giving back to other people, giving back to children, families, helping other people is the greatest thing you could ever do for anyone... Giving your time to help people is ultimately the greatest gift in life."

***Help Joey's Little Angels achieve their goals! If you are interested in donating to support this worthy cause, click [this link: Joey's Little Angels](#). Donation options include check and venmo. Don't forget to email [givinggazette@gmail.com](mailto:givinggazette@gmail.com) with the amount that you donated. Let's make a difference!***

By Lilly Bifulco (age 14, NDHS freshman)





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## Thanksgiving Day Float

By: Artie, IV (age 10)



I made my Thanksgiving float Yankees themed. I love baseball! The Yankees are my favorite baseball team. I am a fan because my family is all Yankees fans. My float is Yankee Stadium.

To design my Yankees float I used a wheel and axle for the base. I put a shoebox on top of my monster truck which has two wheels and axles. A wheel and axle moves objects across a distance using a round part. To make my float move I attached twine to the front of the truck and pulled it. Twine is a type of rope which is a simple machine. A simple machine has few or no moving parts and it makes work easier. I can make my float move faster or slower based on the force I put onto the monster truck.

My Yankees Stadium float has the base of a monster truck. On top of it is a shoe box that I painted to look like the Yankees' baseball field. I used regular paint with paint brushes and a paint pen. I sprinkled sand on top of the paint to look like the infield. My mom used an Xacto knife to cut two shoe boxes to make it look like the background of Yankees stadium. The smaller box was cut into two pieces and attached to each side of the bigger box. I covered these shoe boxes with white paper and glued the pictures of Yankee Stadium that I had cut out with scissors on it. My mom hot glued the background to the base. I attached twine to the front of the truck. Lastly, I cut tissue paper to make streamers which I glued onto my float and decorated it with Yankees signs.

Two problems came up while I was constructing my float. One was that the pictures I chose were too big. That was easy to fix. I just printed them smaller. The other problem was harder. The background was straight and my sister, Victoria, suggested it should be bent to look like Yankee Stadium. I turned the background around so that the two smaller pieces that were attached to the larger box could bend inwards. Then I taped the background paper to make the shoebox stay in place. Now my float looks like a small replica of Yankee Stadium!



## Roo's Report

**Christmas time!  
Christmas Eve will  
mark my one year  
anniversary with  
the Bifulco Family!  
It's been a great  
year!**



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## Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling  
By Victoria Bifulco

Most people know, or may even sing, Christmas Carols. They are a fun way to sing about either religion or the joy of the holidays. However, the types of carols we know started all the way back in the 14th century, some even dating back farther. Early Christmas Carols were written and sometimes sung by Franciscan Friars.

Despite popular belief, originally there were carols for all times of the season. There were harvesting carols, spring carols, and carols for all sorts of times, seasons, and activities. However, as Christmas was recognized as one of the most joyous times of the year, Christmas carols were largely the only surviving songs of the ones sung in the past.

What is considered to be the oldest surviving Christmas carol is “O Come All Ye Faithful”, which was completed near the end of the 18th century. While there is much debate that “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night” was the first Christmas carol, its tune and lyrics did not come together to create the song as we know it today until the 19th century.

Christmas carols are a rich and popular part of Christmas that we celebrate today, with ages going back all the way to the 14th century and before.