

Volume 6 • 2023 • Issue 2

Soul

CELEBRATING
15
YEARS

SHEPHERDS COLLEGE® MAGAZINE





GROWTH

An opportunity & an obligation

by Tracy N. Terrill, EdD, President of Shepherds College

Have you contemplated the extent to which God emphasizes growth? God's Word establishes an expectation that we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Jesus' Great Commission communicates that His followers should make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) to grow His Kingdom. And while we know little about Jesus' childhood, Scripture informs us that *Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men* (Luke 2:52), as though an awareness of Jesus' growth is all we need to know of those years.

At Shepherds College® (SC), we are choosing to pursue growth, which we simply define as "impacting more lives," specifically the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and those closest to them.

THE NEED IS EXTRAORDINARY

Throughout Shepherds' 65-year history, our organization has served an underserved group – people with IDD. This group is underserved in the sense that their needs extend well beyond the services that are available to them. For example, a conservative estimate suggests that in the United States, 150,000 students complete high school each year who would be a fit for Shepherds College. Last year, we celebrated our largest recruiting class - 40 first-year students. Approximately 150,000 candidates per year, and we serve 40 of them. Even when you factor in programs similar to SC, this group is profoundly underserved. So, the need to impact more lives is extraordinary.

THE PROGRAM IS PROVEN

As Shepherds College completes its 15th year, we have witnessed hundreds of students whose lives have been transformed through the SC experience. Our efforts to help students discover and maximize their God-given potential have proven successful. We have seen students grow in their faith, skills, self-confidence, self-advocacy, and desire to pursue God's plan for their lives. Our proven model has impacted students' lives in deep and meaningful ways.

THE VISION IS SHARED

Our organization has a shared sense of the need and obligation to expand the reach of Shepherds College. It is our desire to:

1. increase enrollment on our Union Grove campus,
2. exponentially raise the number of Shepherds College Online learners (online.shepherdscollege.edu),
3. establish SC training programs elsewhere in the country, and
4. collaborate with like-missioned organizations to serve individuals with IDD.

This four-pronged vision for expansion is a plan to maximize the impact of Shepherds College across the world.

THE TIME IS NOW

The time to act on the God-sized vision for the growth and expansion of Shepherds College is now.

This June, we had a team of SC staff, students, and alumni serve God and people with IDD in Brazil as we collaborated with disability ministries in that country.

In July, we took Shepherds College on the road to Texas and Georgia, offering a Shepherds College Preview Experience for individuals with IDD with the goal of establishing an SC training program in both regions in the years ahead.

God is at work in and through Shepherds College, and we are grateful for His provision, protection, and blessing. Therefore, we are compelled to invest our time, energy, and resources to impact more lives. Please join our efforts.

Soar Magazine is published by Shepherds College® and Shepherds Foundation, Inc.

Shepherds College
1805 15th Avenue
Union Grove, WI 53182

262.878.5620



Shepherds College Leadership

President

Dr. Tracy N. Terrill, EdD

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Scott Nash, MA

Vice President of Expansion

Brian Canright, MS

Vice President of Finance

Bryan Tomczak, CPA, MSA

Vice President of Student Affairs

Lori Konopasek, MSW

Associate Vice President of Human Resources

Todd Dunnum, BS

Shepherds Foundation, Inc Leadership

President

Carrie B. Park, CPA

Vice President of Advancement

David R. Tennyck, JD

Associate Vice President of Marketing

Susan M. Griffis



Managing Editor

Susan M. Griffis

Associate Editor

Joy Phillips

Art Direction and Design

Yvonne Tomczak

Printing

Badger Press Photographics, Inc

Contributing Writers

John Andrus, Lucy Canright, Susan Griffis, Alex Hayes, Carrie Park, JoAnn Potter, Dr. Tracy Terrill, Laura Viol

Photography

John Andrus, Scott Ellis, Gigi's Joy Photography, Susan Griffis, Justine Gable Photography, Linda Smallpage, Botique Photographer, Serene Rismeyer-Schroeder, Yvonne Tomczak, Laura Viol

*Various Other Contributors



IN THIS ISSUE

SOAR MAGAZINE | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 2

- 2 President's Message
Growth: An opportunity and an obligation
- 4 Lydia: Growing Into Who I Really Am
- 6 Horticulture
Investing in the Future
- 8 Culinary Arts
PJ Feaver: A Smiling Success
- 10 Step, Cycle & SOAR sponsor list
- 11 A Donor's Story
Why I Give to Shepherds
- 12 From the Foundation
Together, We Grow
- 14 Technology
Austin: 180° of Growth
- 15 Special Olympics
The Growth of an Athlete
- 16 2023 Graduation
- 18 A Note from Home
- 21 Snapshots
- 22 On the Fly
- 22 What's on the Horizon
- 23 Shepherds College Online



Call to schedule your tour today!

262.878.6359

www.shepherdscollege.edu
online.shepherdscollege.edu



LYDIA Growing Into Who I Really Am

as told to Susan Griffis, AVP of Marketing

Lydia strolled into my office, trying to act nonchalantly, but she could barely contain her energy. It emanated from her in waves, finally bursting from her in a wide, open-mouthed grin. Her slow walk to a chair in the corner of the room couldn't disguise her excitement; trembling hands tightly gripping a piece of paper gave it away as she carefully sat down.

"Do you see anything different about me?" she asked.

I slowly scanned her from head to toe, deliberately overlooking the paper. "Mmmmm... nope! You look normal to me - happy and very smiley!"

Lydia tossed her head back and laughed. "I passed my ServSafe test!" She waved the paper in front of her. "I got my certificate! I'm a professional!"

Her joy was infectious. It was a big moment - ServSafe is the leader in food safety training and certification, and the test is challenging - so we celebrated with squeals, clapping, and giggles. Lydia felt successful.

Success wasn't a familiar feeling for Lydia. She struggled with delayed speech and language. She can think of words, but she can't always say them. Lydia put her own words in stories when she was reading aloud. Her parents helped her fill in the blanks at home, but elementary and high school weren't as accommodating.

"I was different than other people," Lydia stated matter-of-factly. "I didn't have good friends in school. People bullied me."

"Why on earth would they bully you?" I interrupted. "Just because you struggle with words?"

Lydia cocked her head and stared at me like I should know better. When I didn't answer my own question, she barked out, "LOOK AT ME!" She waited a moment, then jabbed at her right eye. "Look at me."

Lydia had a pronounced lazy eye. "I was in my own world of bullying because of this," she said with resignation. "It made me different. People would pick on me and laugh at me, and teachers did nothing at all. I learned to fight back with my words. I would say, 'God made me this way! I am happy He did!' I would get tired of the bullying, though, and looked forward to breaks so I could get away from people."

"I didn't think I would ever go to college. I was tired of people and how they made fun of me. But one day, I was at a Joni and Friends camp, and my mom talked to another camper's mom. Her son, David, went to Shepherds College, and she told my mom that it was really good for him. So... I did an overnight! It was my first night away from my parents, and I thought it would be hard, but I did great! I came home smiling from ear to ear."

"Do you know what I love the most about Shepherds College?" Lydia asked, leaning forward in her chair, her grin dominating her face. "The people! Isn't that funny? They. Do. Not. Bully. Me. There is no bullying around me!"

Lydia sat back once again, her expression growing serious. "I didn't have good friends until I got to Shepherds. Here, I'm close to everyone. We all understand each other. We know how hard it can be for people who are different." Lydia pressed the fingertips of both hands together, then exploded them outwards in a dramatic show of jazz hands. "We came here, and we were like broken pieces," she slowly drew her fingers inward and intertwined them, "that somehow all fit together to make a wholeness - one great Class of 2023!"

"At Shepherds College, I didn't hear 'What's wrong with your eye? You look stupid! Hah, hah!' I only heard what God's purpose was for me. He made me this way. He gave me a speech impediment and a lazy eye. He made me different - there is no one out there exactly like me - for a reason!"

"I'm fulfilling my dreams at Shepherds College®. I'm here. I'm safe; no worries. I have people who support me. I love that. I'm so grateful I'm growing into who I really am." Contentment settled over Lydia's expressive face as she clutched her ServSafe certificate of achievement close to her chest.

"I found Shepherds for a reason, and I believe in the dream of 'after Shepherds.' I know there is something out there for me. I'm chasing a dream that *I will catch.*"





Investing in the Future

by Laura Viol, Assistant Horticulture Instructor

When spring makes an appearance on the Shepherds College® campus, few things feel more satisfying than soaking up the warm morning sun after a long Wisconsin winter. The birds are cheerfully chirping, and the horticulture staff and students are out in the garden, thrilled to be preparing the soil to plant.

Every so often during this season, winds sweep across the flat farmland with incredible force. In the past, Shepherds College has lost shingles, siding, and hoop house plastic due to these winds.

How do mere humans combat the forces of nature?

In our horticulture department, we use nature to balance nature.

This past spring, we acquired 75 Norway Spruce through a local tree program—seventy-five little

seedlings with established but bare roots needing to be planted as quickly as possible. One way to complete this enormous task on time was by coming together and working as a team. This massive undertaking was perfect for first-year, second-year, and third-year students to learn from each other. They scouted out the location for the trees and unified to dig holes, mix soil with compost, and re-purpose potting soil before backfilling around the bare roots of each tree.

Once matured, the trees will serve as a windbreak for the garden on the west side of campus and the outlying buildings. Their placement will help to shelter student residential housing, Olson and Glanville Halls, from the afternoon heat of the sun in summer and the arctic winds of winter. The tree line will also capture any drift from nearby farm fields should fertilizer or pesticides be applied, keeping this from affecting students and staff.

When students arrive at Shepherds, many people have already contributed to their journey - parents, relatives, teachers, doctors, IEP teams, therapists, and, possibly, employers. During this special project, all three classes of students worked together to contribute to the success of each other.

It was beautiful watching the teams work side by side! The first-year students were like the little saplings we planted, just getting their roots established. The second-year students showed us how quick growth can happen when those roots are nurtured in an ideal environment. Third-year students are well on their way to realizing their potential and maturing.

Norway Pines were chosen for their ability to grow in the type of soil we have on campus. Their branches are resilient and can bear the weight of heavy winter snow without breaking. These trees

can grow 2-3 feet a year and begin to provide shelter from the winds within a few short years. They are much like our students who have faced difficult environments, relational challenges, and the weight of disappointment yet continue to stand and see victories for their endurance.

Over the next three years, students will support the trees as they establish strong roots by assisting staff in watering them during dry stretches, keeping the area weeded so they aren't competing for nutrients, and mulching.

Nineteen growing students and five staff worked together to get the pines planted and complete the installation. Their contribution ensured shelter for Shepherds College for many years to come.



“PJ is one of those people who leave a positive impression that people remember forever.”
Amy Guajardo, Transporter

by Lucy Canright, Culinary Arts Instructor

PJ came to Shepherds College® with a smile and an eagerness to learn. His contagious grin and cheery attitude didn't come easy. He has poured hard work, sweat, and tears into overcoming incredible obstacles since he was a young child with disabilities living in an orphanage in Thailand. With the loving support of his adoptive American family, he carried that determined attitude into his new experiences at Shepherds College, eager to become the best version of himself while pursuing his fullest potential.

In Culinary Arts class, PJ always tried everything with eagerness. Even if there was a task that wasn't in his most substantial skill set, he liked to challenge himself to get better at it. His culinary skills improved during his second year at Shepherds College. They got even stronger in his third year while working in the Commercial Kitchen on campus and interning at Chick-fil-A in Pleasant Prairie, WI, and Oakfire Pizza in Kenosha, WI, for his Occupational Experiences (OE).

His OE Supervisors and Job Transporter had wonderful things to say about his growth!

“PJ is a leader among coworkers and peers. He has grown in his leadership skills while remaining someone everyone considers a friend.”

“His culinary and kitchen skills have grown to the point that he understands the flow of the kitchen and rarely has to be told what needs to be done.”

“PJ is someone you can trust. I can leave a task and do something else, knowing he will be doing a good job.”

Chick-fil-A is a very fast-paced kitchen environment which was overwhelming for PJ initially, but the more confident he grew in this environment, the more his supervisors saw him soar. Jason Miley, the owner/operator, spoke highly of PJ:

“PJ always brought a smile to work that was infectious. I do not state that lightly. If you meet PJ, he can change the dynamic in a room simply with his smile. It is almost like a superpower in that he can take a very stressful environment and defuse it simply with his demeanor and smile. Our team loved working with him and was always excited when scheduled with him. His unique personality and skills will maximize the operations where he works. He is an amazing person and an incredible asset to any team.”

“After college, I would like to get a good job,” shared PJ. “I would love to get a front-of-house job because I love greeting and serving people. Some skills I learned at Shepherds College that I would use at a job are knife skills and making salads (and making them look nice!). I would also like to be a prep cook in a commercial kitchen.”

Despite the many challenges PJ has faced in his lifetime, he chooses to demonstrate a positive attitude. He attributes his growth and success to Jesus. With his ever-present smile, PJ said, “Jesus has always taken care of me and put the right people along my path.”

PJ A Smiling Success





Thank you to the Gold, Platinum, and Food sponsors of our 2022 Step, Cycle & SOAR fundraising event! You've made a difference in the lives of our students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Platinum Sponsors

- Community State Bank
- Keim Family Charitable Fund
- Weston Bridges
- Wisconsin Vision Associates (WVA) – Burlington

Gold Sponsors

- Thrivent – Burlington
- Square One Heating & Cooling – Burlington
- Haman Assoc., Inc. dba Culver's of Racine

Food Sponsors

- Chick-fil-A – Pleasant Prairie
- Crumbl Cookie – Pleasant Prairie
- Skogen's Festival Foods
- Thrivent Financial Shoreline Group

If your business would like to sponsor a future fundraising event to help support the students of Shepherds College®, please contact Alicia Miklavicic-Franz at afranz@shepherdscollege.edu.



Why I Give to Shepherds

A Donor's Story

by JoAnn Potter

Justin is my friend, and he has always stood out as unique. As a child among his peers, he was gregarious when they were unsure and funny when they were awkward and self-conscious. Among adults, Justin was comfortable and outgoing, unassuming and vibrant. He was, and is, always an interesting companion, a deep thinker with a vivid imagination, and a thoughtful conversationalist. He made us laugh. He challenged our ideas. His enthusiasm for life and expectation of the good that God was bringing rarely waned. It took a long time to understand the parts of him that weren't quite as obvious.

Justin's parents are professional educators, so they could see what we did not. For all his apparent gifts, certain kinds of cognitive calculation eluded him in ways that would make his family question his ability to live a successful independent life. His parents homeschooled him as far as they could but knew that wouldn't be enough. By the time Justin reached his late teen years, they didn't know what to do next. They knew they had to prepare him for adulthood but didn't know how.

That's when they heard about Shepherds College®. A young man by then, Justin was eager to begin to take hold of his own life, and Shepherds showed him and his family the way. Shepherds showed Justin the next steps at an intentional, measured pace that combined

challenge with empathy and practical training in an effective combination. Like the rest of us, there were some things Justin would never be good at, but the instructors at Shepherds College spotted and took advantage of his natural technical talents and added the life skills and independent living experience he needed. He bloomed under their guidance.

Justin graduated in 2020 with a certificate of completion in Technology. I got my first closeup of the Shepherds culture and mission at his graduation ceremony and saw that Justin was far from alone. As it turns out, Shepherds College has been a conduit for success for young people like Justin for a long time, the only one I've ever seen. Today, Justin is writing and producing radio plays, has a resume of successfully held jobs, and has a driver's license. Many folks would have said he would never have gotten this far, but he did, and now no one, including himself, doubts how far he can go.

And that's the inspiration of Shepherds College. They not only hope and pray for a young person's ability to reach beyond their grasp – they put arms and legs to the job and show them the way. Shepherds looks up, finds the star, and points the way to follow it.

I support Shepherds College because their vision is real, and it works. I support them because of Justin.



TOGETHER, WE GROW



by Carrie B. Park, CPA, President of Shepherds Foundation, Inc.

Together, we empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to grow and thrive!

Graduation is such a special time of the year on campus. It is time for us to celebrate the many accomplishments of the students, the dedication and loyalty of our faculty, and the proud smiles and tears of family and friends. The students from the Class of 2023 persevered through many defining moments. They started their education during a pandemic, experiencing a first year quite different from other classes before them. Through it all, they grew individually and in their relationships.

"Before Shepherds College, I didn't fit in at school. People bullied me for being different. I didn't have good friends until I got to Shepherds. Here, I'm close to everyone. We understand each other. We're like broken pieces that somehow all fit together to make a wholeness – one great Class of 2023!"
— Lydia, Culinary Arts, Class of 2023

As we celebrate what God has already done on campus, we also celebrate what God continues to do in bringing us more students each year. The Class of 2026 is set to be the largest first-year class in our 15-year history. Praise be to the Lord!

I had the privilege of touring with a prospective student and her teacher this past spring; a student that had a strong desire to attend Shepherds College when she graduates in 2024, a student that has already defined many moments in her life, and a student that without scholarship funds will not be able to attend Shepherds College. As she was leaving that day, she made a point to look at each of us in our eyes, shook our hands, and said, "See you in 2024." In my heart, I made a vow to make sure that we would see her in 2024!

Her story, like many others, and her perseverance to push through all barriers to attend Shepherds fuels me in what I have the honor of doing at Shepherds Foundation in raising funds to support the work of Shepherds College, including raising need-based scholarship funds. Over 54% of our student population receives scholarship funds to attend Shepherds College. Over the past 15 years, 116 students have dreamed of attending, and we had scholarship funds available to award so that money would not deter them from enrolling.

We need you to continue to invest in the lives of students at Shepherds College. So, I am inviting you to partner with us in powerful ways. Please consider these options:

Invitation to Partner with Shepherds College®

1. Give to the annual scholarship fund
2. Pray for the faculty, staff, students, and alums
3. Plan your gift legacy to Shepherds College in your Estate Plan
4. Share the mission and work of Shepherds College within your sphere of influence

Scholarship Funds Needed: \$1,500,000

Your gift enables us to educate young adults with IDD in one of our three accredited programs, strengthen their faith and empower them to grow in their independence through graduated responsibility with full accountability inside our Appropriate Independence™ approach.

Options in how to grow your current impact and bless future students

- **Gifts of Appreciated Securities** allow for an immediate impact by contributing long-term appreciated securities while saving taxes!
- **Qualified Charitable Distribution** allows for an immediate impact while satisfying your required minimum distribution while saving taxes!
- **Charitable Gift Annuity** allows for a lasting impact on the mission of Shepherds College while providing an income stream for your life!



To learn more about how to financially partner with Shepherds College, please call a member of the Shepherds Foundation team at 414.587.2476 or email dtennyck@shepherdscollege.edu.



focused and on task. He needed help with motivation and initiative. Sometimes, he would get frustrated, and his team spirit would suffer. But, by the end of the school year, Austin found joy and satisfaction in his work. He stayed positive and focused on the tasks at hand.

By the second semester, Austin had improved so much that he was privileged to be selected to work for a brand-new Occupational Experience site, Ion Education (ion-k12.com). Ion Education works with school districts nationwide to track the progress of every student in each district. The company knows it's easy for school districts to notice which students are wildly successful and which are failing, but so often, some students perform just enough not to fail. Because these students aren't "problem kids," they fall through the cracks, and the schools aren't successful in educating them. Ion Education gives each student a "credit score," allowing school districts to quickly and easily assess which non-failing students are overlooked or neglected. Austin and another student were assigned to work on the back-end of Ion Education's software to help in this process.

It was a joy to hear from Austin's supervisors about how well he was doing on the project. Austin stayed focused, working state by state through every school district in the country. The supervisors had to unexpectedly prep his work further in advance because he was getting through all the school districts in a state faster than expected!

Austin progressed so well in his technical abilities and interests that when he had downtime, he enjoyed learning about animation. He enjoyed it so much that he breezed through two entire Adobe Animate textbooks in one school year!

While all of our students grew tremendously this year in the Shepherds College® Technology Department, Austin's growth was unmatched. As instructors, we are not only proud of the growth in our students, but also thankful for the impact they are making in our community.

AUSTIN

180° of Growth

by John Andrus, Lead Technology Instructor

This year in Technology was a delight as an instructor. All three classes showed significant growth. There were first-year students like James, who showed tremendous growth in focus and diligence over the year. David, a 2nd-year student, showed an intrinsic motivation to dedicate himself to improving daily. Finally, the entire 3rd-year class, Daniel, Austin, Lilly, Jonathan, and Peter, worked remotely for local technology companies most of the year and did fantastic jobs. Their ability to adapt and grow was amazing! Each student worked on a different project, from database assignments to internet research to Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

One class member's growth was exceptionally notable, not because of quality, attitude, or speed but because of his emotional and professional advances over the school year. Austin started the year requiring reminders to stay



The Growth of an Athlete



by Alex Hayes, Director of Logistics & Activities

At Shepherds College®, we participate in Special Olympics. Through Special Olympics Wisconsin, our students engage in athletics throughout our state and region against other programs that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). While reflecting on our bowling, basketball, soccer, and track teams from the year, we can easily see our student-athletes' growth.

Bowling requires precision and resilience, two skills that can be easy for some students but difficult for others. It is remarkable to see students overcome challenges and grow in skill and confidence in this sport. One student, Maggie, overcame physical challenges and utilized accommodations to be an integral part of our bowling group. Maggie worked hard and desired to grow, so she ceased using a bowling ramp accommodation to work on strengthening her skills. Witnessing her challenging herself this way was extraordinary, and even more remarkable was that we did not see a decrease in her scores!

Basketball is our most popular sport, with nearly half the student body participating. Playing basketball requires teamwork, communication, and coordination. These skills are crucial on the court and in life. Through basketball, our students learn to work together and

rely on each other. These relationships carry over into every part of the Shepherds College program. Basketball coach Jeremy Goedeke shared, "One thing I noticed was the growth of some student-leaders on my team. Two athletes were tentative to speak during games and practices, but with some encouragement, they demonstrated tremendous growth in leading by example and speaking up during drills, practices, and huddles."

We are kicking off our Soccer and Track & Field seasons at the time of this writing. Between these two sports, over half of our student body engages in weekly practices as they prepare for upcoming tournaments.

In Track & Field, our students have been working hard to develop their skills in running, jumping, and throwing events. These activities provide opportunities for students to showcase their individual abilities, which can sometimes be overlooked in team sports.

These athletic opportunities teach our students many lessons about teamwork, competition, communication, and perseverance. We are proud of our students and their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and thrive as they represent Shepherds College in Special Olympics competitions.



Congratulations

Class of 2023



Lilly winner of the Justin Duran Weyns Character Award



A NOTE FROM HOME

Alex,
we love and honor your many accomplishments! God gave you strength to navigate life, to develop new talents, and to persevere. He guided you to be family-centered, and to share your heart. You're a chef, a magician, and a jokester but most of all you're a Blessing! Congratulations on your Shepherds College Graduation.
The Rowan Family



Lydia,
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. — Proverbs 3:5-6

Congratulations & much love,
Dad, Mom & the whole family

Dear Noah,

You made it! We love you and are very proud of you. Remember anything is possible. Congratulations and best wishes.

Love Mom, Dad, Nathan, and Lauren.



Kennedy, we are so proud to be your family! We've watched you grow into a beautiful, kind, loving daughter/sister. You've had many challenges come your way but overcame each one. Now look at you... you just graduated College! **YOU TRULY ARE AN OVERCOMER!**
Big Hug, Big Kiss
Love, Mom, Dad, Taylore, and Nicolette

To Lana on your graduation - We are so very proud of you! You have shown remarkable determination to reach this milestone. Always remember that with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Keep shining your light and inspiring others. We know that you will continue to achieve great things. May God bless and guide you always.

Love from all your family!



Lillian,
You know how bad I am at sentimental things (and also how much I rely on Dr. Seuss' wisdom) so here goes...

"Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and twice as beautiful as you've ever imagined." — Dr. Seuss.

We love you and are so proud of you! — Mom



Congratulations Austin!
You have grown so much these past three years; we couldn't be more proud. So happy you believed in yourself and demonstrated the independence we knew you had. We're excited to see what's in store for your bright future. You're pretty sharp ♪###
Without music, life would B-Flat.
You ROCK!
Love Mom, Dad, Ajay



Congratulations to Bradley and the Class of 2023!

We're proud of your accomplishments and look forward to your future successes!!

With love, The Clayton Family

"Let God grant what is in your heart and fulfill all your plans." Psalm 20:4



To our beautiful Bethany!
You did it! We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. You have graduated from college loving Horticulture and with new life skills. May you flourish and bloom as you step into the future. Your kind heart and love for Jesus are virtues to be celebrated. YOU are valuable and precious!
All our love, Mom & Dad
Proverbs 31:10

Rebecca,
"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13) has been one of your life passages. Your experience at Shepherds College has demonstrated the truth of this passage time and again. From the acceptance celebration at your birthday party to this amazing graduation, Jesus has made all things possible.
Your family is so proud of you!

Congratulations Katie!

We are so proud of all you have accomplished! Always remember: "God's got you, we've got you, and YOU got YOU!" We love you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Sam, and Holly





Congratulations, Andrea!!

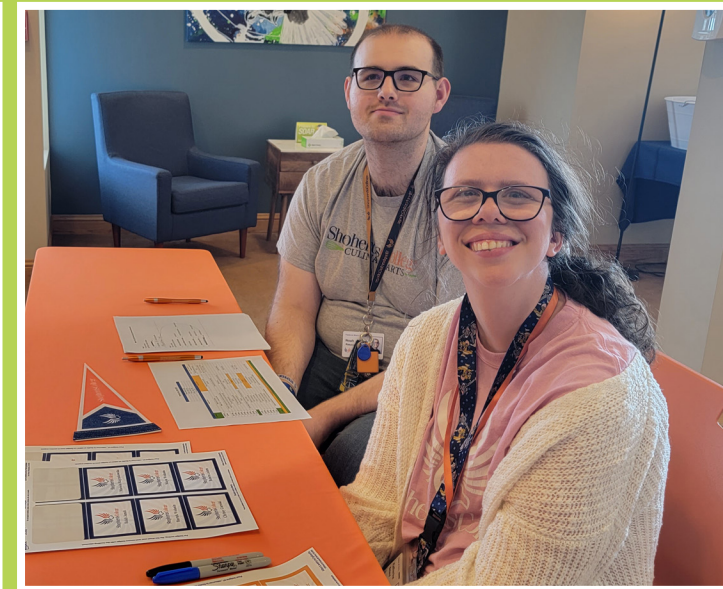
We are so proud of your accomplishments at Shepherds and of the woman you have become. Keep trusting the Lord.

Love, Dad and Suzann

Chase! Our family is very proud of you; leaving home, out of your comfort zone to develop new friendships and experiences while earning your certificate in Culinary Arts at Shepherds College. We are overwhelmed by your achievements and excited for your journey through life as you dream big! "Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age and dreams are forever." "If you can dream it, you can do it" — Walt Disney



Peter!
Your hard work and determination for the past 3 years have brought you to this moment. We have believed in you your whole life and are proud of you for this achievement. You are ready to begin the next chapter in your life with courage, sureness, and faith. Spread your wings and fly, son.
Love, Mom and Dad.



Daniel,
Congratulations on graduating from Shepherds College! We pray 2 Timothy 1:6-8 for you: "fan into flames the spiritual gifts God gave you, for God has not given us a spirit of timidity but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord." We love you and are praying that you will THRIVE in the next chapter of your life!
Dad, Mom, Jonathan, Sam, Anna, Eliza, & Lydia

Congratulations, Jonathan!

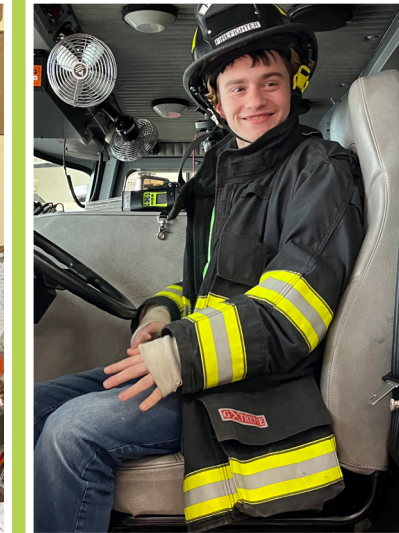
"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9



"We are so proud, PJ — of your hard work and the blessing you are in Jesus to Shepherds and to Brazil! We can't wait to see what the Lord has ahead for you. Prayerfully cheering you on,

Love, Dad, Mom, Samuel, Ellie, Kelsey

"Confident . . . that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."



SNAPSHOTS

On the Fly

Quick Notes



In July, a team from Shepherds College comprised of staff, students, and alum traveled to Brazil with Joni and Friends to work with churches to serve people with disabilities.

The most impactful part of the trip was to see our students serving others with special needs. It is the ultimate fulfillment of our mission.

Thank you to the generous donors that supported the SC mission team.



Mark your calendars! **October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month.** Join Shepherds College as we celebrate people with Down syndrome and make others aware of their abilities and accomplishments. Consider signing up for a Buddy Walk, volunteering with a local advocacy group, or performing a random act of kindness each day of the month – 31 acts of kindness to honor our loved ones with Down syndrome!



September 22 to October 14, 2023
Shepherds College Fall Greenhouse Sale
Mums and so much more!
Fridays: 1p to 5p
Saturdays: 10a to 2p
Watch our Facebook page for more details.



Invest in the lives of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities by donating to our annual scholarships. Every dollar makes the hope of an education leading to an empowered and fulfilling life possible. You can ensure your donation has an immediate impact by giving online at www.shepherdscollege.edu and clicking on the Donate button.

Thank you!

what's on the horizon

All dates are subject to change or cancellation. Please call the Shepherds College® office at 262.878.5620 to confirm college events.

August 11-12, 2023

Orientation Weekend for 1st-yr students

August 18, 2023

Move-in and Orientation for 2nd & 3rd-yr students

September 4, 2023

Labor Day – no classes or OE

September 22, 2023

Shepherds College Preview Day

**September 22, 2023 –
October 14, 2023**

Shepherds College Fall Greenhouse Sale

October 7, 2023

Open House

October 20, 2023

Student Retreat

October 27, 2023

Shepherds College Preview Day

November 10, 2023

Shepherds College Preview Day

November 23-24, 2023

Happy Thanksgiving! No classes or OE

**December 14, 2023 –
January 15, 2024**

Christmas Break

**December 25, 2023 –
January 1, 2024**

The Shepherds College campus is closed

ShepherdsCollege® ONLINE



When you learn in an environment designed specifically for you, you thrive!

Amazing courses built for you, include:

Budgeting

Time Management

Job Skills

📅 Access any time!

🕒 Work at your own pace!

📍 Work from anywhere!

Are you a young adult wanting to use your skills and gifts to fulfill your purpose?

Look no further! We've designed a virtual learning environment for you!

Want to learn more?!

Visit online.shepherdscollege.edu.
Use code SOAR to access a course for FREE!

Our Mission

Because people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have unrealized God-given potential, Shepherds College provides a uniquely designed learning environment for our students to discover and maximize that potential, so they each are empowered to lead a fulfilling life.



www.shepherdscollege.edu
262.878.5620

VISION '21-'31

The Power of One

- 10 Years
- 100 Online Courses
- 1,000 Graduates
- 10,000 Annual Learners
- 100,000 Lives Influenced
- 1,000,000 In Annual Endowment Earnings

...the result of each of us impacting one life every day.



Shepherds College[®] admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.