Since 1971, Adelphoi has been transforming the lives of children and families in need of hope and healing.

But we would not be here without our generous supporters, like you, who have chosen to dedicate their resources to ensure that the youth we serve receive the best possible care and opportunities. We know when our kids get the help they need, they are better prepared for their future, remain out of placement, and are able to live independently.

So as we embark on our 50th anniversary, we hope you will join us in celebrating this legacy with a year of reflection, resiliency, and renewal.
Adelphoi’s journey may be still evolving, but the seed of the program began fifty years ago through the efforts of one passionate and resolute man with a dream. In 1971, Father Paschal Morlino, a parish priest at Saint Vincent Basilica in Latrobe, responded to a request for help for troubled boys by opening a group home.

“I became aware of a difficult situation in Westmoreland County when the Children’s Home in Greensburg was closing,” said Father Paschal. “Mrs. Anna Schuck who was in charge of social services at Latrobe Hospital and a dear friend of mine suggested that I develop a program to take in and help children who have problems and no place to go.”

Schuck pressed Father Paschal to help children affected by the closing of the local children’s home. He found a small run-down house on Mission Road in the Lawson Heights section of Unity Township and began renovating it. But he was not alone in his efforts. He called upon neighbors and friends in the community who willingly stepped forward for what they believed was a noble mission. “At the time,” Fr. Paschal noted, “I had nothing, I had not two nickels to rub together, so I just started talking to people and telling them what I was trying to do and I’d have to say the community response was phenomenal... people helped me with loads of bricks and gravel, we fired the house up, we painted and we cleaned.” With the help of many volunteers, Adelphoi completed the home and took in its first youth in 1972.

Once that first home was completed, the program continued to grow. In 1976, Fr. Paschal was relocated to a new parish and so a new Executive Director, Jim Bendel, was hired. Jim had been involved in the initial planning of the organization through his association with Fr. Paschal. “We had lots of conversations about his dream, way back in 1970 before it even began,” Jim noted. “Keep in mind he didn’t know at the time where it was going to go, he just had a dream.”

1971 – Fr. Paschal creates Adelphoi
1972 – First youth referred by the courts
1974 – Applies for first grant
1976 – James Bendel becomes Executive Director

- Greystone House and Laurel House open
- Foster Care begins
- Adelphoi House becomes a Village
Through the efforts of Fr. Paschal, Jim Bendel, and many others, that dream kept growing and expanding. In 1976 Adelphoi added foster care to its programming, and in 1981, its first private school opened. Today Adelphoi has grown to 21 group homes and an extensive network of community-based programs, education services, foster care and adoption services, and mental health and diagnostic services provided to over 1,000 children, youth, and families on a daily basis and more than 2,500 each year. In the past 50 years, Adelphoi has served over 60,000 youth.

While still headquartered in Latrobe, the agency has expanded geographically to offer services to youth and families from over 60 counties throughout Pennsylvania and currently employs over 700 people.

Since its inception, Adelphoi has been recognized numerous times by prestigious organizations throughout the state including “Employer of the Year” by the Business and Professional Women’s Organization District 3 and “Program of the Year” by the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission a record 8 times, more than any other provider in PA. Adelphoi has also been named “Agency of the Year” by the PA State Foster Parent Association and Adelphoi foster parents were also named “Pennsylvania State Foster Family of the Year” on five separate occasions.

Adelphoi looks forward to another 50 years of excellence in programming and quality care for children, youth and families in need. The organization will continue its remarkable journey just as it always has, with the assistance of friends, neighbors and community.

1978
- Supervised Apartment Living begins

1979
- Derby House opens

1980
- St. John’s Church donated as the Paschal Center Office

1981
- First female group home, Oakview House, opens
Friends,

As an organization built upon the vision of a Benedictine monk from Saint Vincent Archabbey and rooted in the support of the local community, we spent a lot of time last year thinking about our impending celebration of half a century of service and dedication to kids and families. We planned, organized and scheduled a year-long compendium of activities and events that would allow us to ring in 2021 celebrating our accomplishments with our community of supporters and commemorating the legacy of positive transformation for over 60,000 kids and families throughout our history.

And then COVID hit.

Like the rest of the world, we had to quickly adapt and change how we operated on a daily basis, including how we approached the provision of therapeutic services, education and congregate care. We swiftly adopted the necessary protocols and procedures to keep our kids and families safe. We social distanced, mandated masks for all staff, offered work from home options when possible and provided a vaccine clinic for staff and foster families on our campus. We canceled our in-person events, and relied on technology to unite us. Together, we moved through this global crisis, and, together, we are beginning to emerge on the other side.

While the past year has been difficult, it doesn’t surprise me that Adelphoi was able to carry forth its programming without missing a beat to the communities who need it now more than ever. Throughout our history, Adelphoi has risen to meet the challenges that lie before us. Our organization is rooted in the strength, compassion and resiliency of our staff, who show up every day under the most difficult of circumstances in a beautiful demonstration of their commitment to serving others. We continue to adapt and change our delivery of services as the needs of children and families change, but one thing that is unwavering is our mission: to transform the lives of kids and families who are most at risk.

Today, 50 years into our journey, we are poised to imagine a future that is bright with promise. Our trials have only solidified our determination and resiliency to withstand any challenge in the name of assisting those most in need in our communities. With your support, we have been able to overcome and are continuing to forge a new path of quality care that includes evidence-based programming, data-driven decision making and innovative solutions for kids and families.

This 50th anniversary edition of the “Adelphoi Star” serves as a look back at how we started, what we’ve overcome, and a glimpse into our future. Reflection, resiliency, renewal.

Best,

Nancy Kukovich, CEO

Foster Parent Sandra Barnaby

Nancy Kukovich, CEO

1983
- Miller Home opens
- Anchor House opens

1984
- Raphael House opens

1985
- Hilltop Home opens
- Day Treatment begins
- Youth Action Services (YAS) wins JCJC “Program of the Year”

1986
- Tito Center donated to Adelphoi by Tito Family
- Adelphoi named “Program of the Year” by Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC)
As Adelphoi celebrates 50 years of service to youth and their families, this milestone anniversary offers us the opportunity to renew our commitment to not only providing quality, cutting edge solutions to the kids and families we serve, but to also maintaining our role as a thought leader within our industry.

If we have learned one thing for sure over the last year, it is that the only constant is change—especially the kind of change that brings about challenges unlike any we have faced before.

Because of these challenges, we have renewed our commitment to the words of our mission as we put them into action each day by offering outcomes-based solutions through a continuum of treatment and education services that provide a foundation of hope for the future.

Recently, staff representatives from all over our organization joined together with kids from several of our group homes to participate in a collaborative art project entitled "Stepping Into The Future" to decorate stepping stones in celebration of our 50th anniversary that will be displayed on our main campus in Latrobe.

The days working on the project were filled with fun, laughter and creativity and, in the end, it proved to be a true metaphor for how we view success at Adelphoi.

In the simplest of terms, when our staff and kids are provided with the resources they need, they are able to work as individuals and as eventual partners who then produce an enduring, beautiful shared result.

This is exactly the type of experience and outcome that we hope every child and every staff member achieves during their time with us.

Although the Adelphoi that was first founded in 1971 may look different from the one it has matured into today, we have always remained committed to transforming lives, one child at a time, a commitment that is enthusiastically renewed as we enter our next 50 years.

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**1989**
- First Substance Abuse Group Home, McKee Home, opens
- Adelphoi reorganizes into Adelphoi Village and Adelphoi Inc.

**1990**
- Margaret Home opens
- Main Campus land acquired
- Adelphoi Village named one of the top 5 programs in the US by the National Governors’ Association

**1991**
- Adelphoi named “Program of the Year” by Washington County Children and Youth Services
- Colony Home opens
- Adelphoi Village Private School opens at Vincent Center

**1993**
- Monastery Run opens
“Adelphoi staff were flexible in working with the family’s schedule and were knowledgeable of the youth’s behaviors and how it impacted the family unit.”

– John, Children and Youth Care Caseworker

“Since I’ve been through Adelphoi, they’ve done nothing but help me. They have all the services including partial hospitalization, residential and more. Thanks Adelphoi!”

– Kaden, Adelphoi Youth
“This program saved my son and saved his life. He was lost and broken, but now, his growth has been amazing.”

– Tina, Mom of Adelphoi Resident
Frustrated, and struggling with her mental health, 12-year-old Aayla felt like she had nobody on her side. Feeling lost in a public school, her family made the decision to enroll her into Adelphi’s Partial program. After a year, and doing well, she returned to her original middle school, but started to fall back into the same patterns and began to struggle again.

With that struggle came a recommendation to attend the Adelphi Ketterer Charter School, but she was initially hesitant. She had already failed a grade and was behind. Her family knew that something needed to change, so Aayla enrolled in the Charter School hoping that this would be the change that she needed. It turned out that it was exactly what Aayla needed.

“The Charter School gave me the structure that had been missing,” said Aayla. “The teachers understood that I wanted to do better, but just needed a little bit of guidance and structure. They didn’t give up on me.”

Aayla says that she remembers her teachers telling her “you can do this.” She worked daily to learn coping skills that she still uses today. She also worked to recover academic credits and was able to graduate on time.

“One of the biggest things that I was able to realize while at the Charter School was that I have potential and I can achieve my goals. I also have a lot more self-worth. My past does not define me,” expressed Aayla.

Since graduating from the Charter School in 2017, Aayla attended the Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) with the help of the Adelphi Promise and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Fine Arts in May. The Adelphi Promise is financial aid and support for students who successfully complete an Adelphi program. It provides up to 2 years of tuition at one of ten affiliate community colleges in Pennsylvania.

Aayla also was awarded a full-tuition scholarship for Indiana University of PA where she will attend in the fall to study digital design. Her dream is to be a freelance animator, and she is excited about the opportunities that she will have.

“I was dumbfounded, surprised and very grateful – almost a sense of relief,” said Aayla, describing her feelings when she found out about the scholarship. “Now I can focus on getting a job and not worry about paying back school loans.”

Aayla was awarded the scholarship from the All-USA/All-PA Community College Academic Team which is sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group, Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the Coca Cola Foundation. It is awarded to students who excel academically, demonstrate intellectual rigor in their course of study show academic growth and potential, and use their two-year college education to better themselves, their schools, and their communities.

Aayla represented Westmoreland County Community College for the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team awards and was also named WCCC Outstanding Student of the Year.

Aayla was nominated for the All-PA Academic Team by Lynna Thomas, Special Populations Counselor at Westmoreland County Community College. Lynna works as a mentor to the Adelphi Promise students who attend WCCC.

“Aayla is a student that will make the most of every opportunity that is provided to her, and she is so worthy of this honor. I have looked forward to nominating her for this award for quite some time now; she has always been a student that came to mind when I thought about this academic team. She represents all that is great about ambition, growth, opportunity and the community college experience. I am so proud of her, and humbled to have been a part of her journey,” expressed Lynna.

Aayla is excited about her future and credits her family, especially her mom and grandfather, her best friend, the staff of WCCC, and the Adelphi Charter School for supporting her. “They are always my cheerleaders.”

“The Adelphi Promise is an opportunity that a lot of kids would take full advantage of the opportunity, they will see how far they can go in their future.”

– Alex, Adelphi Promise Scholarship Recipient, Westmoreland County Community College

★ AAYLA ★
Before Adelphoi, Bob didn't have many healthy relationships with friends and family. He would often hang out with friends that were a negative influence on him. His life consisted of trying to push the limits of what he thought was wrong and what was actually wrong. Bob needed structure and guidance from Adelphoi to bring him to terms with the reality of the decisions he was making.

"Adelphoi gave me opportunities of leadership, accountability and responsibility. Through situations such as being a home manager for a week, keeping myself accountable for negative behavior, tasks such as schoolwork and treatment work, I had things to focus on, which in the long run, carried over into my daily routine 12 years later. From these opportunities, I often seek leadership positions instead of being a follower. I am more self-accountable and pride myself with integrity through both my work and personal life. I find taking responsibility easier knowing that I have the willpower to follow through and the determination to get tasks and jobs finished."

Adelphoi also showed Bob that there were people that understood what he was going through and wanted to offer guidance to help him make better choices that would lead to a more productive and healthy lifestyle.

"Adelphoi helped me by showing me that I wasn't alone in my thinking and decision making. They gave me the opportunity to not only recognize my actions but also help me understand why I would act out in certain ways and gave me tools to follow and learn from so I had a better chance of not repeating my negative behavior."

After Adelphoi, Bob jumped right back into high school as a 16-year-old freshman. He completed high school on time and pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Commercial Music Technology from California University of Pennsylvania.

"After I received my undergraduate degree, I went back to California University of Pennsylvania to pursue a Master's in Business Administration. After 2 more years of school and through the help of Adelphoi's scholarship programs, I was able to pay for and complete the required curriculum in order to receive my MBA in 2018. The programs and services at Adelphoi that I received made a difference in my life because I am now fully aware of my life and my actions. I can easily identify things like seemingly unimportant decisions and high-risk situations that I couldn't recognize before Adelphoi. From the programs at Adelphoi, I've learned about understanding my behavior cycles and how to identify my problem areas. I have also learned about urge control and empathy. These two things have impacted my life the most because I use them every day. Having the self-control to stay away from temptations and releasable behaviors as well as recognizing and having empathy for the people that I hurt or could have hurt keep me more self-aware and help me to live a healthy and responsible life."

Today, Bob's life is completely different from his days before Adelphoi. He currently has a successful sales position with a plastics supply company and is engaged to be married this fall.

"This year has been my 12th year since completing treatment at Adelphoi. Almost every day I find myself doing or thinking about the lessons that I've learned from this program. Adelphoi has taught me that all of my actions will never only affect me. The way I handle every life choice for the rest of my life will affect my family and the people around me."
Our goal with this platform is to help decision-makers within the child welfare, behavioral health and juvenile justice systems match children with the right program the first time so that kids don’t cycle through multiple placements or programs and experience better overall outcomes.”

— Mark Mortimer, COO

While Adelphoi may have started as a single group home in 1971, throughout its growth the organization has not shied away from exploring new ways of providing care that is rooted in evidence-based practices. As the availability of data has expanded in recent years, Adelphoi has leveraged that data to invest in and support interventions and innovative solutions that demonstrate success among its target population of youth and families.

One of those innovative solutions is FirstMatch®. FirstMatch is a software platform developed by Adelphoi. FirstMatch solves a unique problem for youth in the child welfare, juvenile justice and behavioral health systems who are often matched with programs that do not meet their specific treatment needs. Currently children are placed in the right program for them only 34% of the time and often cycle through multiple programs before finding one that works. This happens because selecting the right treatment program for kids in child-serving systems is challenging. Clinical information is often complex and the time to make those decisions is short. When counties and providers make the wrong decisions, kids who experienced disruptions in care have poor outcomes.

FirstMatch uses predictive analytics to match youth with the right treatment program the first time, significantly increasing the chances of a successful outcome. When a child’s information is entered into FirstMatch, the tool uses an agency’s historical outcomes to recommend the best program for that particular child.

Adelphoi began using this platform for the more than 900 residential referrals that are made to Adelphoi each year in 2020. But that was just the beginning. Recognizing the broader implications of this research and its usefulness for treatment decision-makers, Adelphoi has evolved FirstMatch into a multtier platform suitable for use by providers, county and state organizations. FirstMatch leverages data to predict the most appropriate match between youth and program, resulting in the best likelihood of success for that child post-discharge, while also offering users a broad-based admissions tracking and management tool.

Since the development of the tool, Adelphoi has worked with the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Staunton Farm Foundation, and an anonymous foundation, which have provided support for the scaling and rollout of FirstMatch to other providers as well as state and county entities. FirstMatch offers organizations across the country the ability to leverage their own data to make appropriate treatment matches for their children. Child-serving entities can provide their clients with

Father Paschal with Joan & Blair Kucinski, former CEO

Sweeney Home (formerly Laurel House)
the most appropriate match within their ecosystem of services. Ultimately, this leads to the reduction of multiple placements, youth spending less time in the system, a reduction in youth and family trauma, and overall better outcomes for children, families, and providers.

**FirstMatch** has significant implications for the entire child welfare, behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems. A broad adoption of **FirstMatch** will allow counties and states to reduce the number of placements, therefore offering significant savings to an overburdened system. Adelphoi estimates that in Pennsylvania alone, a 7% reduction in the number of kids that need second placement will lead to approximately $30 million in annual savings. This will allow counties and states to decrease caseloads and reinvest in critical programming, including more funding for essential prevention and aftercare services.

**FirstMatch** is just the first step in Adelphoi’s innovation journey. Through collaborative partnerships with forward-thinking funders, Adelphoi hopes to continue to leverage new technologies to offer innovative solutions that have the potential to improve the delivery of services to children and families.
For 50 years, Adelphoi has been one of Pennsylvania’s leading providers of youth and family services. We serve youth who are at-risk, abused, neglected, delinquent, and struggling with academic or behavioral issues. Most of our youth and families have some involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Adelphoi continues to be a leading provider of services to youth and families after 50 YEARS

2900 kids and families served annually

Helped over 60,000 kids and families since 1971

Adelphoi Promise helped over 443 youth make college a reality

Program Completion Rate for 2020

81%

Remain-Out-of-Care Rate for 2020

86%

Services in over 30 locations in PA

1971 1

2021 21

Adelphoi Group Homes

700 Employees

Serve youth from 64 Counties in PA

14th Largest Service provider in Pittsburgh Region