



**MARIAN  
EDUCATIONAL  
OUTREACH**  
Belong. Learn. Succeed.

Holy Cross Hall  
520 S. Bennighof Ave. • Evansville, IN 47714  
Phone (812)402-6700  
[www.meoforkids.com](http://www.meoforkids.com)

*Marian Educational Outreach is a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville committed to providing opportunities for students with unique learning needs to reach their highest potential while remaining in the Catholic school system.*

## New Logo, New Year



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### Marian Educational Outreach is ecstatic to unveil our new logo!

We hope you'll join us in applauding the work of Patti Hall of Hall Communications. We would like to thank her for her patience, hard work and her creativity throughout this process. Above you will find a renovated look that truly reflects our mission. The blue background is a nod to our former logo as well as our Blessed Mother for which our organization takes its name. The two figures represent the holiness of our unique children, their parents, teachers, administrators and donors. The two figures together represent our Blessed Mother and Jesus, any parent & child, any teacher & student and even any mentor & mentee.

## 3rd Annual Board Retreat

With our mission in mind, the board members of Marian Educational Outreach began the new year with a bang on Saturday, July 21st at the Catholic Center. The ongoing plan for advocacy and support for our Diocesan schools were just a couple of things during our successful morning of brainstorming, strategizing and collaboration. We're looking forward to increasing our means of advocacy for children with special needs and their parents, as well as working more closely with diocesan schools to give their unique learners the best possible opportunities for success.

### Save The Date!

Tri-State Idol 2019  
April 6th, 2019  
St. Vincent's Manor

We're looking forward to an exciting year!

— *Chryse*

# The MEO Star

Newsletter for Marian Educational Outreach

Volume 21, Issue 1  
September 2018

## Inspire. Desire, Fire

Dr. John R. Wood, of Dynamic Catholic is coming to Evansville! He will be presenting an exciting diocesan-wide event that will include moments of reflection and prayer entitled:

Extraordinary Mission Presents

# Entrusted

Keeping the flame of faith alive

## September 29, 2018

Good Shepherd Catholic Church | 9am to 1:30pm | 2301 N Stockwell Rd, Evansville  
Tickets \$10

Proceeds benefit Marian Educational Outreach program

Check your parish office for tickets!

Your child is a CHILD OF THE LIGHT, and that light has been ENTRUSTED TO YOU. Come rediscover how Catholicism is the greatest gift we can give to our children and grandchildren, and learn practical ideas of how we can all pass on the faith in the modern world and help KEEP THE FLAME OF FAITH ALIVE!

Child Care Available! Call 812-477-5405 to Register

Featuring author & speaker  
**Dr. John R. Wood**

with musical guest Rachel Ann

INSPIRE  
DESIRE  
FIRE

[www.ExtraordinaryMission.com](http://www.ExtraordinaryMission.com)

Dr. Wood is the author of, "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: 5 Steps to Winning the War Within". It has been one of Dynamic Catholic's bestselling books, with over 230,000 copies distributed. Since the release of the book in 2012, Dr. Wood has spoken at more than 100 parishes and schools across the country, inspiring thousands to embrace the message of the Universal Call to Holiness to reawaken the sleeping giant called the Catholic Church.

Dr. Wood, along with music by Rachel Ann, will be leading attendees on a journey of rediscovery using his latest book, "The Light Entrusted to You."

Come to rediscover how Catholicism is the greatest gift we can give to our children and grandchildren! You will learn practical ideas of how we can all pass on the faith in the modern world, and you will leave inspired and challenged to keep the flame of faith alive for the next generation.

### Entrusted

September 29th, 2018

9:00-1:30 pm

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Tickets are \$10

All proceeds benefit

Marian Educational Outreach

Check your parish office for more information

Or call 812-402-6700 to reserve tickets

Childcare available! Call 812-477-5405 to register

# MEO Idol Rocks the Night Away

By Trisha Hannon Smith, Assistant Editor of *The Message*

For the eighth year, the Marian Educational Outreach Tri-State IDOL Gala provided an evening of entertainment and talent. Three acts performed for the annual talent competition benefiting students who learn differently in the Evansville Catholic Diocesan schools.

“Marion Educational Outreach IDOL has come a long way, and so has our program,” said Beverly Williamson, director of MEO. “We feel so honored to be able to serve the families. MEO is an organization that really is an advocate. We advocate for whatever is best for children with special needs and those who learn differently in the Evansville Catholic Diocese.”

The eighth MEO IDOL, held April 7 at St. Vincent Manor in Evansville, had an audience of more than 275 people and raised \$27,000 during the fund-an-item portion of the evening alone.



This year’s fund-an-item project supports Westside Catholic School’s growing special-education program. With the funds raised at the gala, WCS will begin the process of developing a program similar to what has previously been developed on the east side of Evansville at Annunciation Parish Holy Spirit Campus. Students with special needs will have the opportunity to attend Catholic school and enjoy innovations such as exposure to technology, sensory integration, and access to Minds in Motion labs.

One of the first initiatives of the program would be the addition of a sensory integration room, which allows students to focus and have a space to calm themselves before entering a class or complete an assignment that might trigger anxiety. The goal is to make it possible for families with diverse learners wanting a Catholic education to be successful at school.

# WCS Begins Expansion

Exciting times ahead for the students and faculty of Westside Catholic School! Thanks to the funds raised during Fund-An-Item at IDOL 2018, WCS is able to begin their expansion by implementing a sensory room at both locations.

“Thanks to the generosity of the donors from IDOL, we are working in partnership with MEO to create relaxing and calming, yet stimulating environments that work to develop students’ sensory needs. We feel truly blessed to be able to create a sensory space at both campuses that can enhance concentration, alertness, and attention for our students,” Westside Catholic principal Kelsey Meier explained. “Our Special Education teachers have been working diligently to develop the perfect space for our students of diverse backgrounds and learning needs.”



Location for Sensory Room at St. Agnes



L-R, Jessica Wilson (teacher), Beverly Williamson, Annie-Rose Keith, Principal Kelsey Meier, Dr. Trent Engbers

Please email at [arkeith@evdio.org](mailto:arkeith@evdio.org) or [kmeier@evdio.org](mailto:kmeier@evdio.org) if you have the items listed around your home and are willing to donate! Having these items donated would allow more of the funds to be used for curriculum-specific resources and overall program advancement.

## Materials:

- black paint
- magnetic and/or chalk paint
- carpet/rugs
- various textures of pieces of fabrics
- foam pieces
- bubble wrap
- sand paper
- large square pieces of wood
- staple gun
- fabric glue
- PVC pipes
- large pieces (drapes) of dark fabric

## Objects:

- therapy swing
- ball pit
- crash pad- large zip-up duvet cover, fill it with pillows & blankets
- tunnels
- bubble tubes
- lighting- battery powered candles, lava lamps, string lights
- relaxing aroma- lavender
- rocking chair
- snuggle space- play tent or blow up kiddie pool- fill with blankets or stuffed animals
- tactile/sensory wall
- hand-held massager
- bean-bag chairs
- noise reducing headphones
- sensory balls (squishy)
- PlayDoh

# Blessings to our Anonymous Donor!

Friday, February 9, 2018 was an exciting day for our program. A plain white envelope, with no return or forwarding address, appeared in the Marian Educational Outreach mailbox. Inside that envelope were twenty “banded” one hundred dollar bills. Needless to say, we were overjoyed to receive such a gift. To you, our wonderful donor, we send our gratitude. Thank you for believing in our work and our mission to promote *Belonging, Learning and Succeeding* for every student, regardless of abilities, in our Catholic Schools.

-Beverly Williamson

# MEO Welcomes New Director

Annie-Rose Keith comes to Marian Educational Outreach from the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. After teaching 7th and 8th grade Social Studies, she says she was “feeling pulled in a new direction.” “I loved teaching, but I wanted to serve in another capacity and directing MEO as it carries its mission forward was the next step.” A UE graduate, Annie-Rose also worked at Camp Ondessonk in Ozark, IL for many years. She and her husband Joe welcomed their daughter, Juliana, in February, 2017 and, with whatever spare time she has, Annie-Rose enjoys playing music and reading. She is looking forward to increasing MEO’s presence in more schools of the diocese and working with donors, principals, parents and teachers to give the unique learners of the Diocese of Evansville the best possible opportunities for success.

