



Sean is nourished through a feeding tube while Waldman holds him.

The children of Daystar

“Then your light shall shine like the daystar, and your healing shall spring up quickly.”

-Isaiah 58:8

Daystar, a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph, assists special-needs children up to age 3 through its foster-care and child-care programs. Along with director Mary Erturk, a neonatal nurse, the Daystar staff includes Cheryl Waldman, a trained child-care provider; Sisters of St. Joseph Myra Monaghan, Anne Maura Morris and Anne Nothnagle, who provide foster care; and many dedicated volunteers.

According to Erturk, a growing need for the specialized child care that Daystar provides made an expansion necessary. Construction at the facility, located at 47 Lochnavar Parkway in Pittsford, is expected to be completed by the fall.

Lauren Sample brings her 2-year-old daughter, Nora, to Daystar's child-care program. Nora has a debilitating genetic disorder, and Sample says she feels confident that the Daystar staff can provide her daughter with the care she needs.

“I wouldn't leave her anywhere else,” she said.

Donations to the Daystar expansion may be sent to 47 Lochnavar Parkway, Pittsford, NY 14534. Please note that the donation is specifically for the expansion.



Shaelyn was born 14 weeks prematurely and was hospitalized for four months after her birth.



One-year-old Jaron Thomas naps at Daystar. Jaron suffers from neurological damage caused by his birth.