



Photo by Jim Cameron of Mystic Photography

The Maddalones' Family Values

COVER STORY

By Jenna Caputo

Even as a child, Joyce Maddalone knew she wanted to someday have a big family. Originally from New Jersey, she and her sister grew up playing sports and actively participating in her church activities. Joyce became a nurse, married Hank and moved to the Capital District to build their own home and start their life together.

Hank owned a construction company when they were first married and then took on a great job as a nuclear power plant project manager, which took him all over the country, and left Joyce with the primary household and family responsibilities. She did finally realize her dream of having a large family. After 55 years of marriage and counting, they have 13 children and now also have 45 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren! Their family had many pets growing up as well, including cats, dogs, bunnies, and even a goose and horse.

Running a household that large obviously could turn into chaos, but Joyce knew that she had to run a strict household revolving around management and accountability. Each member in the household was actively involved with their own responsibilities, as well as helping to take care of each other. Everyone had a job outside of the house as well. The children all had businesses like paper routes, lawn care, snow removal, driveway sealing – whatever they could come up with to earn money. Joyce's nursing afforded her the opportunity to own her own

businesses as well. She was the Founder and Director of Action Nursing Service and Maddalone Medical Supplies before taking on school nursing at St. Paul's and St. John's in Schenectady, as well as conducting assessments for long-term health insurance. She has also participated in four medical missions to Peru and the Dominican Republic, in addition to being a real estate broker for 25 years.

"I just love being with people and helping them," she says. "It's a beautiful ministry being a nurse, if you look at it that way."

During her years as a school nurse, she was disappointed to see so many Catholic schools closing. "I felt a call to start a school to help children and their parents follow the Christian way and be better citizens," she explains. She began the preparations to start her own school here in Clifton Park. It took 18 months to make the necessary arrangements and to develop and receive the New York State Regent Charter. Accredited by the National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools, Mother Teresa Academy opened its doors in 2006. A private, not-for-profit preschool for nursery to kindergarten ages, the school follows an enhanced NYS Curriculum and has recently relocated to a larger, bright and open building with a new playground. The school currently hosts 89 students from all over the world due to the families moving in from Global Foundries and GE.

The rigorous academic full-day program teaches reading,

writing, arithmetic, Spanish, science and social studies, as well as including a Christian component and emphasis on a primary value each month – Responsibility, Service, Trust, Patience, Forgiveness, Acceptance, Love, Caring & Kindness and Respect. The children learn each month’s value through real-life examples of giving back to the community through various projects, such as the Angel Tree and the Backpack programs. They even completed a project that raised over \$1000 for hurricane relief.

They are hoping to someday expand the school to grades 1-5 as well, but funding is their biggest challenge. Since they are not supported by a parish, all school funds come solely from tuition and fundraising throughout the year.



Photo contributed by the Maddalone Family

Joyce’s daughter, Debbie, who has worked at the school from the start, became it’s Executive Director in 2013. Debbie’s daughter, Kristin, is a teacher’s aide there, and her nephew is a student. Joyce is the Marketing Director and continues to serve on the Board along with Hank.

Many of the Maddalone children are still in the area and also own businesses of their own. Joyce’s son, Guy, started working with her in the nursing service, but he is now the founder and CEO of both A New England Nanny and



Photo by Mark Bolles at SuperSource Media

GTM Payroll Services here in Clifton Park. His brothers, Michael and Todd, also work for him. Chris is a developer in the area and runs Maddalone and Associates, a property management and real estate development company based in Schenectady. Jessica is his office manager. James is also a developer, based in Corpus Christi, TX, working on different types of projects from what Chris’s company specializes in. *Remodeler Magazine* voted him #48 in the entire country in his field. Gregory is a figure skating coach and director of a large skating complex in Laurel, MD. Melissa and Cathryn both have their own licensed preschools. Terra is the office manager for Cetex Oil and a brand partner for Cerium, an anti-aging company. Matthew is a Broker with Maddalone Real Estate in Charlotte, NC and Drew is the National Sales Manager in Boston, MA for a veterinarian orthopedic company.

They are a close-knit family that enjoys hanging out together whenever they can, often celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, vacations and holidays filled with laughter and good times. Joyce attributes her family’s success to their “work hard” upbringing. “We did not give allowances,” she says. “They were part of our family and worked together. Their goals were always within reach and God was always with them.”

The Maddalones still work together and are always helping each other and others around them out as much as possible. “I try every day to do something good for someone,” says Joyce. As part of that service, she is extremely active in her community as well as within her family. An active member of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Glenville, she also has been a Rotarian for 26 years, participates on many business committees, serves on the advisory board of the YMCA, is chairman of the Mother Teresa Cancer Awareness Fund, President of the Capital Region Veterans Memorial, as well as others. She was both a Girl and Boy Scout leader for many years and serves as a member of the weekly Prison Ministry at Mount McGregor Prison. Her favorite expression? “When you need something done, ask a busy person.” Featured in *Success Magazine*, Joyce was also awarded the Girl Scouts Women of Distinction Award and recognized by the *Times Union* as one of the 25 People Who Make a Difference in the Capital District.

This life of service and care for others has been instilled in all of the Maddalone family. Joyce is a supporter of the dreams of children and firmly believes that hard work, faith in God and a little guidance can help them achieve any of their life goals. As she says, “When we put our faith in God and follow the path that He has set before us, blessings happen.” ■

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