

PACT to celebrate, honor birthplace

Phyl T. Macomber is coming back to town to join in, and honor, the 125th anniversary celebration of her birthplace, St. Joseph's Center

Phyl, author of "The Power of T.H.E. P.A.C.T.," will present a program on the teaching framework on April 25 at Marywood University. Portions of the proceeds will benefit the center.

A retired speech-language pathologist, **Phyl** completed a fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital's Kennedy-Krieger Institute in 1988. Now an award-winning national speaker, author, developer, curriculum strategist, AT specialist and trainer, she developed the curriculum framework, called T.H.E. P.A.C.T. — Technology Helps Easy and Practical Adapted Curriculum Teaching — which is being successfully used in regular education, special education and related service settings throughout the United States and Canada. It is a four-step, color-coded systematic teaching framework, founded on language-based research and is aligned to the Common Core Standards.

Now a resident of Vermont, **Phyl**, originally from Old Forge, is the daughter of **Leonard** and the late **Bertha Totaro**, who adopted her from St. Joseph's in 1961.

"As a treasured family memory, **Phyl** holds dear to her heart her mom sharing that the reason they adopted her was to 'make a difference.' This family principle has been the driving force in **Phyl's** quest to better serve others in life — with the name of her company being Make A Difference Inc., to honor both of her parents," according to a release from the center.

Watching St. Joseph Center's annual telethon during a visit to her dad last summer, "**Phyl** was amazed to learn that St. Joseph's was now a center for children and adults with special needs — a very full-circle moment in life for **Phyl**, given her longstanding work with special needs populations," the release says, adding, "**Phyl** felt



Discussing **Phyl T. Macomber's** April 25 presentation of "The Power of T.H.E. P.A.C.T." at Marywood University and cosponsored by and benefiting St. Joseph's Center, are, from left: **Jill Schroth**, Marywood director of continuing education, Marywood University; **Phyl**, and **Sister Maryalice Jacquinot**, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Center. A portion of the proceeds for the 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. program in Nazareth Hall will benefit the center. For details, call Ms. Schroth at 340-6061.

compelled to make a contribution to her birthplace and, last fall, visited St. Joseph's for the first time since her adoption to suggest that she donate time by offering one of her seminars on T.H.E. P.A.C.T. to serve as a way to raise money for St. Joseph's Center."

Center President and CEO **Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, I.H.M.**, notes in the release, "**Phyl** speaks of the responsibility to make a difference. She learned this from her mother and has made it an important part of what motivates her personally and professionally. The research that **Phyl** has done, combined with her

years of experience making a difference in people's lives, will come together as she presents the very informative and useful program, T.H.E. P.A.C.T."

Phyl also is donating 50 percent of the profits of her entire book series on T.H.E. P.A.C.T. to ovarian cancer research in honor of her late mother, who died from the disease in 2007.

"We are honored that **Phyl** has decided to offer this presentation in our area and to do so in a way that supports the ministry of St. Joseph's Center," **Sister Maryalice** added.