



St. Louis Spirit



Winter 2019

31st Annual Auction

at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Chelsea was a true night of giving



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Residents Make New Friends

I've never seen Dawn and Josh so happy..



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Nick Lyons' Visit ...

several family members spoke from the heart about their love for SLC ...



P4

New Grant

We will teach our Direct Care Professionals how to recognize the signs and symptoms of dementia in people with I/DD ...



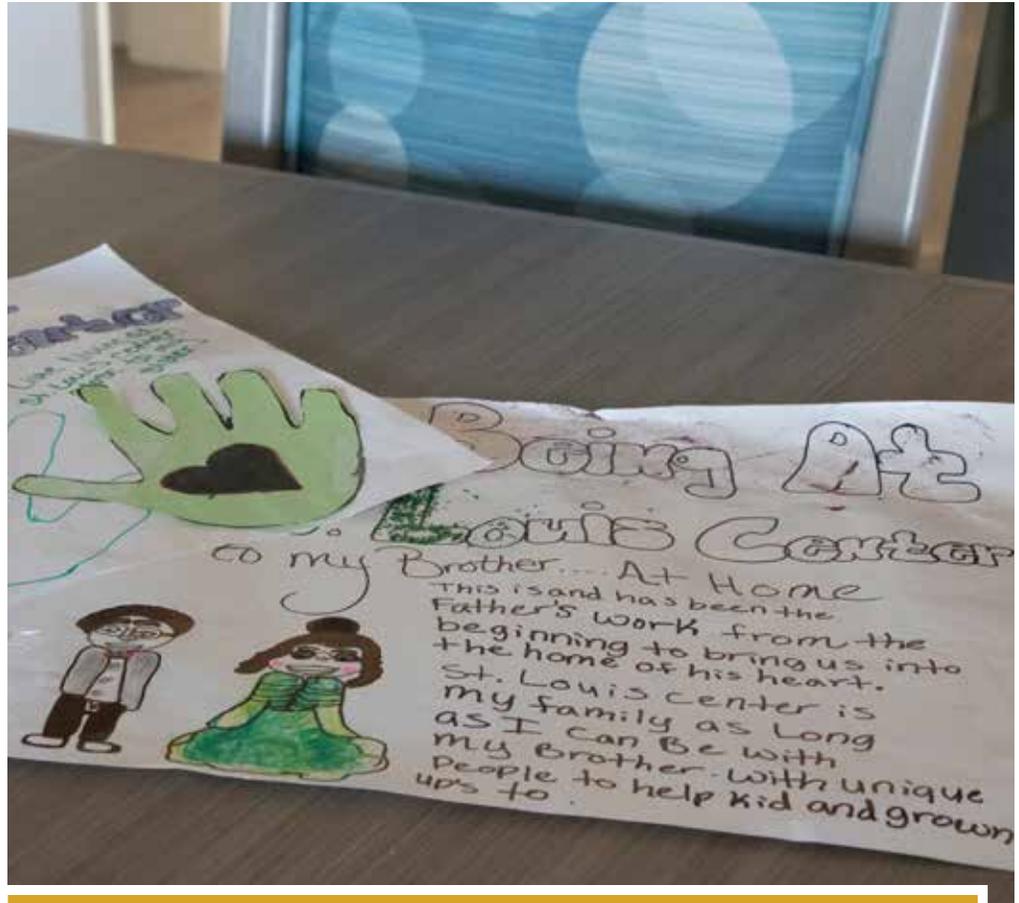
P6

Researchers

estimate 1.5 million American children ages 3 to 17 have been diagnosed with autism ...



P7



Residents Move into Children's Homes

For almost 60 years, St. Louis Center has focused on helping to educate young men with Intellectual and Development Disabilities. As part of that mission, we have cared for hundreds of boys who have come to us through the foster care system and needed a family.

In the past few years, we have noticed a steady increase in requests for us to take in girls with I/DD in need of homes. So this fall, St. Louis Center stepped up to a new challenge—caring for minor girls!!

In the new St. Louis Guanella Village, one of the four new children's homes has been dedicated to young ladies in

the foster care system. In November, we were overjoyed to be able to take in two girls—who also happened to be the sisters of two of the young men we have in our care. In this way, we were able to reunite two families that have been separated in the foster care system for years. Both pairs of siblings are thrilled to be able to see each other every day—whether it's riding the school bus together, eating meals together or playing floor hockey in the gym after school.

We know there will be challenges ahead—but St. Louis Center is happily looking forward to the future.

Around the Village



The season of grace is upon us. We rejoice for it and we wish you all the best. St. Louis Center is constantly blessed by the grace of God

in many different ways through many events and people.

The **Michigan Health Endowment Fund** has granted funds for the formation of staff in dealing with dementia in persons with I/DD. The program, conducted by **Dr. Cameron Camp**, is based on the Montessori approach to education. It will be a two-year activity.

Many important visitors came to SLC this year to learn more about our operations. Staff from **U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow's** office (D-Lansing) paid a visit in July, while **State Senator-Elect Lana Theis** (R- Brighton) toured St. Louis Guanella Village in August. MI DHHS **Director Nick Lyon** and key staff visited in October to learn more about the innovations SLC is bringing to the human services field. **State Rep. Julie Alexander** (R – Hanover) also visited SLC in October, while **State Sen. Mike Shirkey** (R – Clarklake) visited in November. Each paid close attention to the many daily challenges the Center is facing in carrying out its programs of support and care.

The fourth Children's Home opened in November and now three minor girls are living there, bringing the number of residents to 67.

The **Legacy Committee** is starting to work on details for Phase II of St. Louis Guanella Village.

SLC is joining other providers to form "**Together for Choice Michigan Chapter.**" TFC is a national organization formed by residential care providers who look at best practices in serving persons with I/DD and how the different federal/state mandates could be carried out without losing the identity of the organization.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Fr. Enzo Addari

Trunk or Treat

SLC residents enjoyed Halloween at home on October 30th. To make things fun for all of the residents Tom Arbanas, HR Director, organized the 4th Annual Trunk or Treat.



The residents and staff dressed in their costumes to enjoy the event. The evening included a spooky supper courtesy of the kitchen staff, a haunted house created by the supervisors, trunk or treating on the front lawn and Halloween Dance Freeze in the gym.

Fall Auction 'Best Ever'

Through the generosity of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Chelsea and the local community, St. Louis Center held its 31st Annual Fall Dinner Auction on Saturday, November 10th. As the silent auction rolled into the live auction, Azamara Cruise Lines presented Fr. Enzo Addari, with a check from the proceeds of the St. Louis Center Dream Cruise II to Italy in September 2018. Then the State Deputy of the Michigan Knights of Columbus presented Fr. Enzo with a second check from the annual "Tootsie Roll Drive." Fr. Enzo honored George Merkel of Chelsea with a "Legacy" gift, and several corporate sponsors were also acknowledged.



Event Chair Kathi Neuman of Chelsea remarked that, "Everyone who came to this year's event had a great time, and we are truly grateful to the hospital and their staff for their food and hospitality." This year's event was a sell-out.

Superior Visits from Italy

The Servants of Charity Community in Michigan was honored to host Superior General, Very Rev. Umberto Brugnoli and General Councilor Bro. Franco Lain, for a five-day visit Friday, October 19th through Wednesday, October 24th. The purpose of the visit was to provide the new leader of the Servants of Charity with an opportunity to visit St.



Louis Center in Chelsea and the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake, and to assess the operations of each program and visit their new facilities. Fr. Umberto and Bro. Franco were relaxed and comfortable during their stay, and enjoyed the opportunity to visit their confreres in the United States.

Together for Choice Conference

In October, Fr. Enzo Addari, parents Pat Valaer and Andreas & Tatiana Pocsatko, and sibling Evelyn Bowman traveled to Chicago to attend the 2018 Together For Choice Conference. Over 200 representatives from all 50 states were in attendance.

Together for Choice (TCF) identifies federal and state laws, regulations and policies that limit choice and advocates for change in those laws, regulations and policies. TFC meets with legislators and agency officials in Washington and in state capitals to explain the importance of policies and that allow individuals with developmental disabilities to have the same life choices as non-disabled individuals.

The need arose to organize as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services began to implement the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule. The interpretation of the Final Rule, in particular the Settings Rule, restricts the ability of individuals with I/DD to choose certain viable living settings under the assumption that they would “isolate” these individuals from that community solely based on physical location.

TFC member groups from across the country met to network and strategize at Misericordia Heart of Mercy, a home for 600 children and adults with I/DD and a staff of over 1,100. Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, Founder and

Executive Director of Misericordia Heart of Mercy opened the conference. She remarked that Misericordia offers a full continuum of care to God’s most vulnerable people, and that its success is directly related to strong political allies as well as strong family and sibling organizations.

A wide variety of speakers educated us on HCBS Regulations and implementation, grass roots advocacy, employment and residential/housing. Of particular interest to our group was a panel discussion by participants of “Advocating in D.C: Self and Parent Advocate Experience.” Parents and individuals with I/DD from Illinois, Michigan and New York discussed their experiences on Capitol Hill telling their stories and advocating for choice. Their presentation has inspired St. Louis Center staff and parents to organize a “Day at the Michigan Capitol” to tell our stories and advocate for a more inclusive definition of what “community” really means.



Fr. Enzo, Pat Valaer and Evelyn Bowman met David Axelrod, center right.

We were honored to meet David Axelrod, a Keynote Speaker and former Chief Strategist and Senior Advisor to President Obama. His comments regarding the Final Rule were that the size of a residence is a fetish, and that the Final Rule provides for only one choice - the one they will assign for you. This is a voting and civil rights issue. Choice is an important word and all citizens, even the most vulnerable, must have it.

Bowling with Friends

The DTE Energy “Care Force Team,” a group of employees from the Generation Optimization Group, organized a bowling outing for fifteen adult residents of SLC on Thursday, December 6th. Coming together at Ann Arbor’s Belmark Lanes, ten DTE “Care Force” members assisted the SLC bowlers by retrieving their bowling balls and placing them on a handicap ramp for those who were wheelchair bound. According to Direct Care Supervisor Cindy Hoard, “I’ve never seen Dawn and Josh so happy. They were both laughing out loud and having a great time.” After bowling, the residents were treated to lunch.

The outing provided the SLC residents from the Assisted Living Program with an opportunity to interact with members of the community and develop new friendships. Ken Kloviski, who helped organize the outing, said DTE hopes do something similar in spring 2019.



Residents Give Back



Each year the SLC Aktion Club designs and sells Christmas cards as a fundraiser for Kiwanis, the International chapter that sponsors our Aktion Club. The twenty residents active in the Club sold the cards after Masses at local Catholic Churches. This year’s Christmas card sales produced a net profit of \$1,010.00 that will be donated to the Chelsea Kiwanis which intends to use the money to provide children in third world countries with access to tetanus shots. We are very proud of the dedication that our club members provided to make this year’s card sale so successful.

Nick Lyon's Visit to SLC

On October 5th, St. Louis Center was honored to host Director Nick Lyon, the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, (MDHHS).

We were delighted to provide a look at SLC from the past, present and future. We shared our recent accomplishments: the opening of Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living and the new children's homes. We discussed our plans for St. Louis Guanella Village and the future ability of families of all types to reside here.

We had several family members speak from the heart about their love for SLC and the peace they have found here, as well as their fears that some ideologies may limit the ability for families to bring their loved ones here in the future. We deeply appreciate those family members that took time out of their day to share their stories.

The current staffing crisis and the need for increased hourly rates to attract and retain quality staff were among topics discussed. Director Lyon and his staff expressed support for our vision of the future and the ability to choose SLC as an option for families of children with I/DD.



Janet Birk greets Director Lyon upon his arrival at SLC.



Farah Hanley makes a point as the group completes its tour of the Children's Homes.



Congratulations!

Governor-Elect Gretchen Whitmer named Farah Hanley, above left, acting department director of MDHHS until a new permanent director is named.

Sen. Shirkey Discusses Policies



Fr. Enzo discusses policy issues with Senator Shirkey.

On Monday, November 26th, Fr. Enzo and the staff of SLC hosted a very important guest for his first visit to the Center to learn about several critical issues that SLC is facing.

State Senator Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) met with staff and listened to the many different challenges SLC faces every day in providing care and support for people with I/DD entrusted to us. Senator Shirkey was very interested in dialoguing with us and expressed an effort to look into these issues from a political point of view.

Through this visit we all learned of the complexity of the issues and that a joint effort is necessary to understand the ramifications of the issues we face. The dialogue was positive and encouraging.

HCBS Advocacy

A Call to Action

As we continue to work to ensure that SLC is able to help families in the future, we are again asking your help. SLC is currently under “heightened scrutiny” by the State of Michigan. In pursuit of the state’s need to comply with the Home and Community Based Final Rule, the state is concerned that a congregate setting isolates people, and they do not have enough freedom and independence.

We all agree that our residents should be encouraged to grow and be as independent as possible, yet one of the requirements of the rule is that individuals with I/DD should have total independence by living in apartments in the community. This will impact SLC tremendously. It is important that safety and ethics not be abandoned in the push for independence.

Please educate yourself on the HCBS rules. The Michigan website that begins the discussion is here: www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/, then search for “Home and Community Based Services Rule”. There are many more resources that you can access on the web. We are asking that you write letters or send emails to your representatives at the county, state and federal levels supporting SLC, and letting them know that we provide a valuable service. The people we serve are well cared for, and have plenty of interaction in the community, but it is done in a safe and healthy manner. Politicians respond best when their constituents ask for help. Tell your stories about SLC and the work we are doing here. They need to know what is at stake.

Deana Fisher, COO – St. Louis Center

Save the Date

Italian American Club of Lansing
Announces

Italian Dinner Night

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall
3815 S. Cedar St., Lansing MI

Tickets: \$20/Adults \$10/Children

For tickets or info, please call Bill at (989)277-2914 or Tony at (517)974-1706

Upcoming Events



Wednesdays
January 23rd
April 24th

For More Information Visit:
<https://bit.ly/2rLJgRe>



THE ITALIAN AMERICAN
CLUB OF LIVONIA'S

—2019 Guardian Angel—
Dinner-Dance
TO BENEFIT ST. LOUIS CENTER

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at

You Can Be a Guardian Angel
just by attending the event.

Admission \$80 per person

For reservations or questions, please call IACL
representative **Sandy Pulice** at (734)930-6597
or **Joe Yekulis** at SLC (734)475-8430.

More details can be found at:
<https://bit.ly/2EtmOov>



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Grant to Support 'Montessori Inspired Lifestyle'

Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO of St. Louis Center & St. Louis Guanella Village, would like to announce that the Board of Directors of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund has approved a grant of \$213,950 to support a program entitled "Montessori Inspired Lifestyle" for Older Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia."

The grant began on January 2nd and runs through the end of 2020. According to Fr. Addari, "The grant will be administered by Dr. Cameron Camp of the Center for Applied Research in Dementia (C.A.R.D.), located in Cleveland, Ohio, who believes that the Montessori Inspired Lifestyle is a proven, measurable model in which community residents with dementia are viewed and supported as individuals with lives worth living."

Dr. Camp stated, "Like St. Louis Center does, we believe that people living with Alzheimer's and dementia still have much to contribute. Through our partnership, we will work with St. Louis Center's staff to produce the culture change necessary to ensure that older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are engaged and have a feeling of success and accomplishment. We will train and guide their staff in learning how to circumvent deficits in memory and executive function and bolster self-esteem."

Chief Operating Officer Deana Fisher added, "There are several ways that this project will support our caregivers; specifically we will teach our Direct Care Professionals how to recognize the signs and symptoms of dementia in people with I/DD, train them in procedures necessary to create a culture of choice and control for people experiencing dementia, help them to empower the people in their care, ensure that those in their care have a feeling of family and community belonging and independence, and provide residents with access to meaningful activities to interact with others in a learning environment."

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and seniors. More information about the Health Fund can be found at www.mhealthfund.com.



Dr. Cameron Camp

director of research and development at the Center for Applied Research in Dementia, believes that people living

with Alzheimer's disease still have much to contribute to their families, friends and community. The goal of his work is to apply or translate findings from other areas of psychology to his work with Alzheimer's patients.

"How can we connect with the person who is still here?" is the first question Camp asks. "Our focus is working with the strengths that remain: finding the person behind the memory problems, engaging the individual and letting everyone involved have a feeling of success and accomplishment."

"We want to flip the system on its ear — to change people's expectations about what people with dementia are capable of," says Camp. "Our job is to allow this person to be present — to help them, wherever they are in the journey of dementia, to be connected with a community and contribute to the best of their ability."



New Government Report Suggests 1 In 40 Kids Have Autism

National survey results show as many as 1 in 40 U.S. children have been diagnosed with autism, continuing an upward trend.

by Blythe Bernhard | November 26, 2018

Researchers estimate 1.5 million American children ages 3 to 17 have been diagnosed with the developmental disorder, for a prevalence rate of 2.5 percent. The figures published online Monday in the journal *Pediatrics* come from data collected through the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health, a government survey of parents of more than 50,000 children across the country.

As part of the survey, parents were asked if a doctor or other health care provider had ever told them that their son or daughter had autism and, if so, they were asked if the child currently has the condition.

"It is difficult to pin down an exact number. We don't have a biological marker for autism," said Michael Kogan of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration and lead

author of the new report. "We know that in terms of having a major condition like autism, parents are usually pretty good reporters compared to medical records."

In April, the CDC reported from data collection that autism affects an estimated 1 in 59 children based on medical and educational records of thousands of 8-year-olds at multiple sites in the network.

Changes in the diagnostic method and better awareness among clinicians are thought to contribute to the rise in autism rates over the past few decades. But there is also an unknown percentage that could represent a true rise in cases, Halladay said.

"There is a part that we don't know where it's coming from," she said. "There probably is a real increase but we don't know what's causing it yet."

The survey results also show the challenges parents face in getting appropriate care, from referrals to specialists to finding family-centered care.

"Parents of children who have autism spectrum disorder are quite frustrated with trying to get services for their children, even compared to kids with other emotional, behavioral and developmental disorders," Kogan said.

"Clinicians and the community should take this with other data and say we need to do a better job at making sure we're helping everyone in the family of a child with autism in addition to any other issues that they may have," she said.

*The research is published in the December 2018 edition of the journal *Pediatrics*.*



Transportation Needs

With the aging of some of our residents, it is necessary to add a wheelchair-accessible van to our fleet of vehicles to more safely transport these residents. Please help us fulfill our need to purchase a full size van outfitted with a wheelchair lift. Fill out the coupon at right and remit to:

St. Louis Center,
16195 W. Old US Hwy 12,
Chelsea MI 48118.

*all recurring gifts can be stopped by calling St. Louis Center.

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<https://stlouiscenter.org/giving/give-now/>

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Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Upcoming Events

Dexter Ladies Auxiliary Quartermania

Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Columbus Hall - Dexter MI

World Down Syndrome Day

Thursday, March 21, 2019

World Autism Day

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Guardian Angels Dinner Dance

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Italian American Club of Livonia

Dexter Ladies Auxiliary Quartermania

Wednesday, April 24, 2019
Columbus Hall - Dexter MI

Randazzo Men's Social

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Randazzo Fresh Foods Market - Macomb

Italian American Club of Lansing

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Lansing MI

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org



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In Memory of Our Friends



Nadine Anderson

was born on May 18, 1952 in Jamestown, NY, and during her lifetime she became a strong advocate for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She

married Bob Pierce

in Jamestown in 1974, and they moved to Chelsea with her son, Michael in 1992. According to Bob, "Nadine was the inspiration for the creation of the Saturday Morning Challengers bowling program in 1995 at Belmark Lanes in Ann Arbor," the residents of SLC have been some of the beneficiaries ever since. Nadine died peacefully from "EPP," a rare genetic disease, on August 24, 2018.

Nadine Anderson
Morton Collins
Herman Coval
James Falahee
John Gagneur
Nicolo "Sam" Genovese
Paul "Bud" Hankerd
Msgr. Vincent Howard
Vito Iafrate
Suzanne Marie Kaminski
Martha Louise Kazmierzak
William King
Betty Lesser
Dorothea Madigan
Franklin Morris
Fr. Francis Mossholder
Celeste Julia Renzi
Antonio "Tony" Stenta
Maria "Toni" Tocco
Joseph William "Bill" Ungar

Maria "Toni" Tocco passed away November 25, 2018 at the age of 84. She was the beloved wife of the late Jack; loving mother of Vito (Kim), Dr. Angelo (Cheryl), Dr. Rosalie (Dr. Brian) Bradley, Jack (Teresa), Nino (Michele), Vinnie (Conrad) Klooster, Toni (Ralph) Dallier and the late Maria (the late Jon) Miller; proud Nana of 17 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren; and sister of the late Vincent Meli, Sam Meli and Angela Lucido. Toni is remembered by all for her

kindness, generosity and unwavering, giving spirit. She had the unique ability to make every one of her children and grandchildren feel special. She will be forever in our hearts.

