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George Blaha greeted the SLC residents and staff after the Pistons game.

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Spring 2018

St. Louis Spirit

Looking Ahead to New Beginnings

There are many milestones in history.

For St. Louis School, its creation in 1960 was a milestone, and so was the IDEA Act passed by Congress in 1975. Shortly after the Act was passed, St. Louis Center's students with I/DD began attending local public schools. In 1984, St. Joseph Hall was built for young men over 18 years old, and Fr. Guanella Hall was built in 1988 to accommodate a more acute population. In 2001, adult women entered the program, and in 2010 we began our first capital campaign. Finally, in 2014 we created an assisted living program in Fr. Guanella Hall.

Now in 2018, we have reached another milestone as we prepare to dedicate four new Children's Homes in the St.

Louis Guanella Village. The SLGV allows us to maintain our identity while meeting the changing needs of persons with I/DD and their families.

Changes in staffing and programming as well as building upgrades have resulted in an increased number of residents, now holding at 60. This higher number brings a new challenge to our budget, as more staff is needed to care for them.

Low U.S. unemployment levels coupled with an aging population nationally, make it difficult to find enough staff.

We are putting together the finishing touches on the Grand Opening of the St. Louis Guanella Village scheduled

for June 12th, and we hope that many of you can be here to join us. Our focus will remain on serving the aging population and families with loved ones with I/DD to care for.



THANK YOU for what you do for St. Louis Center, making it a living monument to God's love for humankind, but especially for people with I/DD and their families who rely on all of us for hope.

We appreciate your past financial contributions and those you are planning to give in the future. May God reward your generosity in helping St. Louis Center thrive and offer quality programs based on love.

Fr. Euro Ashlari

Recent Events



On Thursday, January 25th, members of the SLC **"Aktion Club"** were called to order. Two new members were inducted, offering more residents the opportunity to give back to the community. (1)

"Pasta Dinner with the Priests" is an outgrowth of November's Fall Dinner Auction. On Thursday, February 8th, the Servants of Charity hosted nearly 50 people for a memorable dinner prepared by the SLC kitchen staff.



February 27th was the 4th annual **"SLC's Got Talent"** show. The residents and community members each had one minute to show the three judges their talent. Over 75% of the residents participated. Prizes were awarded in Singing, Dancing, Comedy and Freelance talent. (2)



SLC residents went to Little Caesar's Arena for a **Detroit Pistons** game on February 28th. Thirty residents and staff, all guests of Pistons play-by-play television announcer George Blaha, were invited to the floor of Little Caesar's Arena at the end of the game for handshakes and photographs.

To read more about these events and see more photos, please visit our website: stlouiscenter.org



Cooking with Kierra

Every Thursday while the Day Program participants go out to deliver Meals on Wheels, Kierra, a direct care worker, stays at SLC with one or two of the residents to cook lunch for them. The residents are learning basic cooking skills as they prepare lunch with Kierra's assistance.

This program began in January and so far the menu has included spaghetti with meatballs, chef salad, BLT sandwiches and chili dogs. The residents look forward to their time with Kierra. She thoughtfully prepares the menu, gathers the ingredients from the main kitchen and gently guides them through safe food handling procedures. It also helps that she plays soothing music to help create a calm atmosphere.

"I really like cooking hot dogs and helping out in the kitchen," said Mike. Kierra enjoys cooking and is glad to teach the residents. (4)



Special Needs Forum

One of the strategic goals of St. Louis Center is to become a resource of information and support for local families in the community who have children or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The

third seminar was presented on Thursday February 22, 2018 with twenty-one people in attendance. Deana Fisher, MSW and COO of St. Louis Center, spoke on the topic of "Coping with Alzheimer's" in adults with I/DD. Next, St. Louis Center parent Judy Greenbaum discussed "Accessing the 'Systems' Maze," in an attempt to support families in their pursuit of adequate public funding for their loved ones. The families that attended expressed gratitude for presenting this critical information. (5)

News

Village Grand Opening

As spring approaches and we inch closer to dedicating the new Children's Homes, the construction pace quickens as finishing touches are being completed. We are pleased to announce that the Grand Opening Celebration on June 12, 2018 will include a ribbon cutting ceremony and special Mass and blessing by Bishop Emeritus Carl Mengeling of the Diocese of Lansing.



Project Movement

The next phase of the Village will include "Family Homes" for families with loved ones with I/DD and "Cottage Homes" for adult residents. These will be built in response to the many requests we are receiving. A proposed fitness center, chapel, rectory and retail shop, are being planned for a later phase. More fundraising is required for these dreams to come true. (See page 6 for more details.)

Run for the Rolls

Run for the Rolls committee members paid a visit to St. Louis Center to present a check to the Fitness for Life program from the proceeds from the annual race which was held in August. (8)



On Wednesday, March 14th, the SLC kitchen staff prepared a **St. Patrick's Day** feast for the residents. They enjoyed some traditional Irish foods and 'green' themed drinks and desserts. Lucky the Leprechaun paid a visit spreading bits of gold to everyone. (6)

Easter Sunday was a fun-filled day at SLC. This year 33 residents received baskets after the Easter Liturgical celebration. Some of the residents went out for an Easter egg hunt on the playground. They were so excited to search the grounds for the prized-filled eggs. (7)



Agency Partners Tour St. Louis Center

The Michigan Federation for Children and Families, known as "The Federation," is an advocacy group that provides foster care and adoption services for children in Michigan.

As a provider of residential services for children in foster care, we benefit greatly from our membership in the Federation. In the past few years, the Federation has worked tirelessly advocating the legislators and the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the per diem rate for both residential and private foster care providers.

On March 2nd, six members of the Federation who represent other residential programs around the state gathered at SLC to learn about our programs and to see the plans for St. Louis Guanella Village. They were very impressed with the new children's homes and expressed surprise at the state-of-the-art homes in development. (9)



Upcoming Events



THE ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LIVONIA'S
—2018 Guardian Angel—
Dinner-Dance
TO BENEFIT ST. LOUIS CENTER

Sunday, April 29, 2018 at

You Can Be a Guardian Angel just by attending the event.
Admission \$70 per person

The ITALIAN AMERICAN BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER of Livonia
39200 Five Mile Rd., Livonia MI 48154
(743)953-1137

For tickets or questions, please call IACL representative **Mary Galasso** at **(248)308-2116** or **Joe Yekulis** at SLC **(734)475-8430**.

More details can be found at:
stlouiscenter.org/news-events/fundraising-events/iac-guardian-angel-dinner-dance/

OUTDOOR KITCHEN • GOURMET FOOD • CRAFT BEER • CIGARS • WINE • VALET • LIQUOR • MUSIC • BOWLING

RANDAZZO FAMILY PRESENTS THE 4TH ANNUAL MEN'S SOCIAL FUNDRAISER

★ THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2018 ★

SAVE THE DATE

ST. LOUIS CENTER IS A PRIVATE NON-PROFIT RESIDENTIAL FAMILY LIVING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE AT RANDAZZO LOCATION AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR THE DAY OF THE EVENT. CASH ACCEPTED OR MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. LOUIS CENTER.

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St. Louis Center

invites you to support children and adults with developmental disabilities through this raffle.



Enjoy Alaska's two greatest sights **Glacier Bay National Park** on a **Royal Caribbean** cruise along with magnificent **Denali National Park**. Airfare included.

Drawing to be held on
JUNE 25, 2018
at the
GOLF & GLORY OUTING
(need not be present to win)

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$25 EACH OR 5/\$100

Send checks made payable to "St. Louis Center," 16195 Old US Hwy. 12, Chelsea, MI 48118
Call 734-475-8430 or visit stlouiscenter.org for more information.

See next page for more information.

St. Louis Guanella Village Update

—SPRING 2018—

In this Update, we share with you our most significant fund raising and project developments.

Project Movement & Funding Priorities

Design & Construction

Architectural and civil engineering work on family (shown bottom right) and cottage (shown bottom left) homes continues. Construction documents have been prepared. We anticipate that the construction of these homes will begin in 2019, after additional infrastructure work is completed. The architectural design of a Village staff and leasing office is well underway.

Fund Raising - Capital

Following the January 2018 completion of the \$10M Legacy Campaign, St. Louis Center is developing a capital formation plan for Phase II construction. Additional capital funds will be used to construct the following: remaining infrastructure, Cottage Homes for adults with I/DD, Family Homes, Village staff and leasing office, fitness center, retail space, chapel, priests' residence, and plaza.

Fund Raising - Annual Residential Support

St. Louis Center's 2017-18 budget is approximately \$4.6M. The Center must raise more than \$1.4M in contributions from private individuals, foundations and corporations and through fundraising events in order to meet the cost of care. As of the close of February 2018, SLC has raised approximately 60% of this \$1.4M goal.

For more information on how you can help, please contact:

Peggy Cole, Development Director, at peggyc@stlouiscenter.org or (734) 475-8430



June 12
4PM

You're Invited to a
GRAND OPENING
in the Village



Join us to celebrate the opening of four new, specialized Children's Homes, the first homes in the St. Louis Guanella Village, an inclusive community. The new homes were intentionally designed to set a new standard of living for the youngest in our care. Our block party will feature open house style tours of the homes, reimagined street carnival food, and fun for all ages.

Program

- 3PM Special tours will be provided to MDHHS and private agency staff
- 4PM Mass
- 5PM Blessing & Ribbon Cutting
- 5:30PM Open House, Food, & Games

RSVP

Kindly RSVP no later than **Friday, June 1, 2018** to:

Cindy Lesser

(734) 475-8430

cindyl@stlouiscenter.org

Event Major Sponsor



Upcoming Events

Randazzo Men's Night

Thursday, April 26, 2018
Randazzo Fresh Foods Market

Guardian Angel Dinner Dance

Sunday, April 29, 2018
Italian American Club of Livonia Banquet Center

Village Grand Opening

Tuesday, June 12, 2018
St. Louis Center

Golf & Glory Outing

Monday, June 25, 2018
University of Michigan Golf Course

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org

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James Best

The St. Louis Center family extends its sincere condolences to the family of James Edward Best. Jim and his wife Sharon were devoted to St. Louis Center in many ways, and served on the St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council for many years during the 1990s and the early 2000s. Jim passed away at the age of 71 on February 14, 2018 at Arbor Manor in Jackson. Along with his service to the CAC, Jim was a member of Knights of Columbus Council #9301 at St. Mary Star of the Sea and organized a yearly Christmas party for SLC residents. Jim is survived by his wife, two daughters and three step-children. His Mass of Christian burial was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Eternal rest grant unto him, and let perpetual light shine upon him.