



St. Louis Spirit



Fall 2019

Donors attend dinner in the Village ...



P2

Fall Auction almost here...



P3

Residents cruise the Clinton River ...



P4

Golfers tee off to benefit St. Louis Center ...



P5

New Video

shows daily life at St. Louis Center...



P6



The structures are ready for interior crews to work throughout the winter.

Progress Continues in the Village

Once all of the necessary approvals were received for Phase II of St. Louis Guanella Village, it was off to the races to get as much done as possible during the remainder of the construction season.

Things are moving at a fast pace. Starting with the infrastructure, Mario Stante and his crew made quick work of the landscape with their earthmovers and other huge machines. After the drain tiles were in place, additional roads were paved, curbs and gutters were established, and foundations were poured. Now the exciting part to see is that the basic structures are

now up for the Administration Building and the two Cottage Homes, a single family home and a duplex. In conjunction with the fast paced building that's going on, a generous donor has provided us with a matching grant of \$555,555.55, which you will read about on page 2. We hope many of you will be interested in helping us to achieve this match, as we continue to "Grow into the Future."

\$555,555 Matching Gift Program

See page 2 for details.

Special Needs Forum

Informed Trauma Training Initiative

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
7-9 pm at St. Louis Center

See page 8 for details



Double Your Year-End Gift

\$555,555 Matching Gift



Since St. Louis Center celebrated its 50th anniversary many wonderful events have happened for its growth.

The St. Louis Guanella Village is taking shape every day; at the present

five new additional buildings are under construction. They should be completed by late spring 2020. Their dedication will be celebrated along with the 60th anniversary of the Center during the summer. This too is another milestone in the history of St. Louis Center (originally called St. Louis School).

Many benefactors have embraced the Center and believed in the vision we had at the 50th anniversary celebration; thus the Center is moving to a new level and model of services. I thank all of you for the goals we were able to achieve through your involvement. They are a monument to God's love for people 'who are precious in His sight' (Fr. Guanella).

Even State of Michigan officials are interested in knowing what we are proposing. They are visiting the Center and making remarkable comments expressing appreciation for what they see, and the plans for the future.

There are many challenges we face every day, especially finding staff that can provide quality services to the people entrusted to our care and thus proposing St. Louis Center's system as a model for the human services field.

I thank you for giving the Center the financial support needed for its operations. One third of the budget relies on donations. Thank you for your generosity and love.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving filled by the graces of God.

Fr. Enzo Ashlari

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



An anonymous donor has agreed to match gifts of cash or liquid assets to help support the operations, programs, renovations and construction that are so needed here at St. Louis Center.

Your donation will help support things like:

- Housing and care, particularly for aging residents
- Programs to ensure that residents remain healthy and active
- Transportation to take residents to doctor appointments and on field trips
- Food
- Utilities
- Upgrades to the original buildings



Qualifying gifts from \$1,000 to \$25,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by the donor as long as the gift is received by **March 31, 2020**. Gifts greater than \$25,000 will receive a maximum match of \$25,000. New pledges made by the March 31st deadline will also be included.

If you have any questions, please contact **Christina Ferris, Development Director**, at cferris@stlouiscenter.org or 734-475-8430.

Deadline for Matching Gifts - March 31, 2020

Dinner for our Donors

On a beautiful end of summer evening Thursday, September 19th, St.



Louis Center hosted a special event for seventy benefactors. William Chassé, State Deputy of the Michigan Knights of Columbus presented a \$25,000 check to Fr. Enzo on behalf of the Michigan State Council.

Upcoming Events

32ND ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION



November 9, 2019

Hors d'oeuvres at 6pm
St. Joseph Mercy
Chelsea



St. Louis Guanella
VILLAGE 775 S. Main St., Chelsea Mi
48118

Tickets are still available
\$100/person or \$175/couple
Visit: tinyurl.com/SLC-Fall-Auction
for tickets and more information or



SCAN THIS
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Advocacy

MI Catholic Conference pays a Visit

As a key policy spokesman for the Catholic Church in Michigan, Paul Long, President and CEO of MCC serves as the voice of the Michigan Bishops in Lansing. On Wednesday, July 10th Mr. Long and his legislative aide Tom Hickson, came to Chelsea for an update on St. Louis Guanella Village and to view the new Children's Homes. He pledged his continuing support for SLC, and offered to be of assistance in any future advocacy issues throughout the year.



Feast of St. Louis Guanella



St. Louis Guanella was born ninth of thirteen children in Fraciscio, Italy December 19, 1842 and was baptized the next day. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1866. He was known for saying, "It is impossible to stop as long as there are poor people to be helped." After years as a parish priest in Sovogno, Italy, he joined the Salesians in 1875-1878. In November 1881, he founded the Daughters of St. Mary of

Providence, and in 1908, he established an order of priests known as the Servants of Charity. With the support of Pope Pius X, he succeeded in building the basilica known as St. Joseph at Trionfale in Rome, and he also established a confraternity of prayer known as the Pious Union of St. Joseph. In December 1912, he journeyed to the US to visit poor Italian immigrants. In January 1915 he rushed to assist the earthquake victims of Abruzzo. He died October 24, 1915, was beatified in 1964, and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI October 23, 2011.

Children's Services Agencies 'Come and See'

On Monday, September 30th St. Louis Center received a special visit from the Senior Deputy Director of the Michigan Children's Services Agency, Ms. Jooyeun Chang, Kelly Sesti her assistant and Janet Reynolds and Kadi Prout from the Michigan Federation for Children and Families in Lansing. Ms. Chang is new to this role and made SLC a priority for her first field visit. They learned the challenges that SLC is currently facing, and went on a tour of the Children's Homes.



Around the Village

Summer's Pastime



Mt. Carmel K of C Council #8902 in Temperance, MI generously provided 22 tickets for residents and staff members from St. Louis Center to attend a Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Game on Friday, August 9th. Everyone enjoyed a great game between the "Hens" and the Pawtucket "Red Sox."

The following week, the Detroit Tigers donated 30 tickets to St. Louis Center for residents and staff to see the Tigers play Seattle on Tuesday, August 13th. Participants enjoyed a great game between the Tigers and the Seattle Mariners.

End of Summer Party



Grand Knight Gerald Brown from Our Lady of Fatima Council #6687 in Michigan Center chose Friday, September 6th for this year's Council BBQ for the SLC residents. We were able to bring in Cliff Farr from Lansing with his Kona Ice Truck for the beginning of the event, and then Fatima Council member Allen Smith inflated a hot air balloon on the football field for the residents and children to play in after dinner. No worries, it never left the ground, but the spirits of our residents soared once they got inside.

On a River Cruise



The Manresa Caravan of Alhambra is always finding ways to create fun for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They invited residents of St. Louis Center on a cruise down the St. Clair River on Sunday, September 29th. Though the weather was rainy and a bit cold, the residents, some who were on a boat for the first time, thoroughly enjoyed the excursion.

Fall Garden Day

Due to rain the Fall Garden Day was postponed to October 6th which turned out to be an amazingly lovely day. The St. Louis Center garden club planted over 200 bulbs that were donated. Anna Ulch, staff member and Garden Club advisor, also helped the residents prepare brownies with peanut butter frosting as a snack. All of the residents thoroughly enjoyed digging and planting. They can't wait to see the crocuses, daffodils and tulips come up in the spring.



Receive Newsletter by Email

To reduce our postage costs, receive the newsletter digitally by emailing: kellyf@stlouiscenter.org

Friends Rain or Shine



On a rain soaked day July 15, 2019, the Italian American Delegates hosted over 200 people at the Twin Lakes Golf Course, and raised enough money to present St. Louis Center with a check for \$7,000. This was the 86th year for this special event, sponsored by the Italian-American community, to raise money for charitable causes in the region.

Lads and Dads Support St. Louis Center

Fr. Joseph, Fr. Franklin, Christina Ferris, and Intern Anna Besseghini accompanied several residents to Twin Lakes Golf Course in Rochester Hills once again for the Annual Dad and Lad Golf Outing on Wednesday, August 7th. This outing is co-sponsored by Mike Chirco, Joe Maniaci, and Sam Cottone. Nearly 200 people were in attendance for golf, dinner, and a short performance by Sarah Saffer who played the recorder after dinner.



A Tocco Tradition

The annual Tocco Summer Picnic was held at SLC on Sunday, August 18, 2019. The “Tocco Family and Friends” from the east side of Detroit brought a feast for the residents of SLC to enjoy, along with a “balloon animal” maker to provide entertainment. Everyone had a great time and a great meal that day.



Members of the Cunningham family who were at the event.

Outing Honors a Lifetime Friend

The 32nd Annual Memorial Golf Outing honored the late Pat Cunningham of Jackson, who died on August 5, 2018. Pat and his family were instrumental in helping shape SLC in the early years. We are grateful to the 100 participants who came out to support us on July 20th.



Montessori Update



Spirit readers want to know how the new Montessori Principles are impacting St. Louis Center...

We continue to have monthly updates with our trainers, Dr. Cameron Camp and Vincent Antenucci, to ensure that we are continuing to grow in changing the culture of our adult homes into one of resident choice and freedoms. As our population ages, we are adjusting to the onset of dementia in some of the residents, and learning how to increase the quality of activities in their lives is important. We have added some activities in the “bus stop” during transition times, so that residents are not just sitting and waiting. This will continue to be a focus for the next year.

New Video



Christine Lindemann decided to produce a new video for SLC to focus on daily life and the future of St. Louis Guanella Village. During the week of May 27th, she teamed with Eraz Horowitz to shoot hours of interviews and “B Roll” film. The end result is a beautiful 4 minute video called “Building a New Future.” Look for a link on the home page of our website.

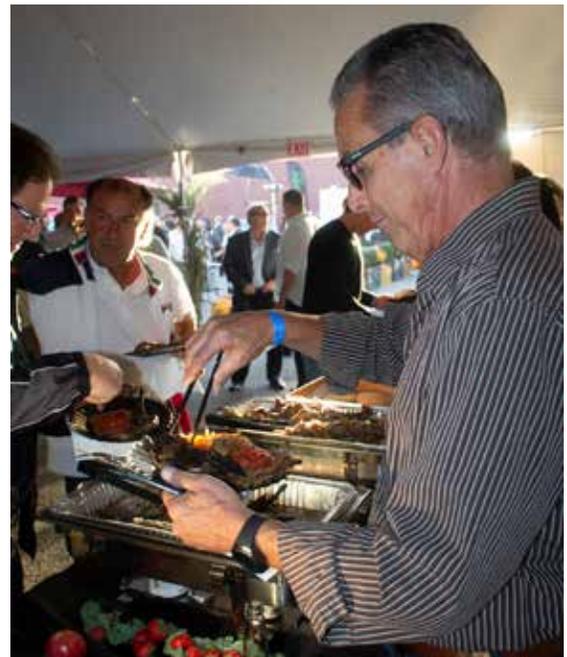
Car Show Supports St. Louis Center

In spite of threatening weather, about 90 dedicated supporters participated in the seventh annual St. Louis Center Car Show Sunday, September 15th. Bubba Cowan from W4 Country made an appearance, and Jean Jennings lead a panel of distinguished judges to determine “Best in Show,” a beautiful 1949 Frazer.



Men’s Night Out

Nearly 400 people were in attendance at the annual Randazzo Men’s Night September 26th. It was a perfect night for the event held at Randazzo Fresh Market and sponsored by the Randazzo family, owners of the market. There was an abundance of great Italian food being made fresh on site, wine, beer and a very popular cigar bar. Fr. Enzo Addari thanked everyone and let them know the importance of their support.



In Memory of Our Friends

Jerry D'Adamo

The first time I met Jerry was when I joined the Italian American Club of Livonia in 1992. Immediately Jerry became a friend, better yet he became more than a friend. For us at St. Louis Center he was a family member for he had espoused SLC's mission and had made it his own mission.

Jerry, son of the late Pasquale and Apollonia D'Adamo, was born in Turtle Creek, PA in 1929.

On July 27, 2019 he went back to the Father's house, where Alice, Richard and Patricia were waiting for him, to welcome him, to be reunited with him.

They were the love of his life!

He suffered a lot - first the loss of his children and then the loss of his wife, but he never, never lost his faith in God, who gave him the strength to go ahead. He was the cherished uncle of David M.

Keifer, the proud grandfather of Nicholas and Gina and the proud great-grandfather of Maya and Gordon.

Jerry's activity wasn't limited to his family. His professional work brought him to travel throughout the States working with different companies, especially in the construction business. He was also appointed by the late Chuck Tangora, then president of the IACL, to be the general manager for the construction of the Banquet Hall and of the Club House for the IACL. But after retiring he discovered SLC. It was love at first sight! Every stone at the Center speaks of Jerry, of his persistence in obtaining things, in fundraising (all of us know that whenever Jerry appeared at the door, he was going to ask for money and never came out with empty hands).



Regarding SLC Jerry has said, "You have no idea how I feel about SLC. I see the residents and I see myself. I lost two children. There is a perspective in what I have wanted to do with my life. Someone asked me about my work with SLC, 'When are you going to hang it up, Jerry?' I told him, "Never.

I want that money of yours!" He laughed, and then he said more seriously, "SLC provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities a great service and we are also helping their families. But there is a lot to be done. How will SLC obtain the money it needs if the people don't give? I have never seen an armored car follow a funeral. You can't take it with you." He has raised more than \$600,000 to help the Center to be competitive, to grow and to offer first quality services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To acknowledge his commitment to SLC and to other charitable organizations as well the help he has given to countless people, Jerry was awarded the St. Louis Guanella Humanitarian award in 2011. "The St. Louis Guanella Humanitarian Award" is reflective of a community member who gives tirelessly to others through spirituality, charity, and selfless good works to make life better for their fellow human beings. We, the members of the IACL/ SLC fundraising committee, were proud to give Jerry this award for the many hours he had spent on the road in soliciting funds to help people. For him it wasn't free for he invested his time and had to face expenses as well.

He was truly a hero for St. Louis Center.

Farewell to a Faithful Friend

One of our resident's favorite activities is playing with the Therapy Dog that visits us weekly. We were saddened to learn that one of the owners, Tom Weber, passed away on September 8th. We are grateful to the Webers, and their beautiful Anya, for the joy they brought us, and we will miss Tom during their visits with us.



Gerardo D'Adamo
Oliviero DeLuca
Evelyn Freiman
Mary Koziol
Arthur Osentoski
Luigi "Gino" Petrucci
Marlene "Boomer" Rodriguez
Kathleen Salopek
Joseph Schodowski
Tom Weber

Upcoming Events

Fall Dinner Auction

Saturday, November 9, 2019
St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital -
Chelsea MI

SLC Annual Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15, 2019
St. Louis Center - Chelsea MI

Lansing Italian Club Fundraiser

Saturday, April 25, 2020
Lansing MI

Italian American Club of Livonia Dinner Dance

Sunday, April 26, 2020
Italian American Banquet Center -
Livonia MI

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org

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Special Needs Forum

Informed Trauma Training Initiative

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
7-9 pm at St. Louis Center

More and more research is indicating that children in foster care have experienced significant trauma. Early childhood trauma has been shown to cause significant brain disorders and the inability to react in appropriate ways when exposed to things that remind them of the trauma. For years, children and adults with I/DD were ignored by the trauma field, as they are often unable to verbally express their feelings. Recent research has shown that children with I/DD can be helped by trained staff on how to respond to their behaviors, and having a trauma informed environment.

It is critical for the community to understand this topic and this seminar will open the doors for their understanding.

SPEAKER: DEANA FISHER, LMSW

Please contact Joe Yekulis, PR Director, at
734-475-8430 for more information or to register.

Double Your Gift



\$555,555 Matching Gift Program

See page 2 for details.



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