



A 'Taste of Chelsea' P2



Golden Jubilee P3



Legacy Campaign Update P4

Jordan enjoyed visiting Santa at the Tocco Family Christmas Party . P3

Winter 2018



St. Louis Spirit

Looking Ahead to New Beginnings

At the end of 2017, we were blessed in so many ways, beginning with the 50th Anniversary Ordination Celebration of Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and Fr. Fortunato Turati who have served us faithfully during the past 50 years.

The celebration took place on Saturday, December 16th at Chelsea St. Mary Parish for the Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a banquet for 300 people at St. Louis Center. Most importantly, we remember the sacrifice that both have made in their lives to the priesthood and for their service to the needs of persons with I/DD and their families for over half a century. We thank all of you who celebrated with us on that special day.

On November 11th, the Fall Dinner Auction took place at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, and the 2017 Auction reached its highest revenue total in 30 years. We are grateful to everyone who made it such a meaningful event, especially Kathi Neuman, her great Auction Committee, auctioneer Joseph Merkel, and SJMC.

Many groups, families and individuals came to SLC to celebrate with us during the Christmas season, and we are grateful to all of you for bringing joy into the lives of the residents.



We are proud to announce that we have reached our \$10,000,000 Legacy Campaign fundraising goal. We are now planning for the next phase of fundraising and construction. We believe that we will be able to dedicate the new Children's Homes in early June.

The next Special Needs Family Seminar is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. We are pleased to continue to provide a resource for families who need help.

Fr Euro Ashlari

October Events



Approximately 200 people attended this year's **Taste of Chelsea**. According to Sarah, an SLC resident, "My favorite part was eating the different foods. I liked the music a lot too." (1)

Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Michigan Center served the residents breakfast during an early morning get-together called "**Pancakes and Pumpkins**." (2)

"**Trunk or Treat**" was held at SLC Wednesday, October 25th. Supporters gathered to pass out goodies to the residents. Employees set-up a haunted house and the kitchen staff provided Halloween treats.



From Deana's Desk

On March 1st, I will finish my first year as COO at SLC. I have learned so much in the past year, and I hope to use my new knowledge to improve services. Here are some of the things I am working on:

- We have contracted with an Applied Behavior Analysis therapist to work with our children with autism. Although the children may not be with us long before they transition back to their families or to permanent homes, we can improve their quality of living by working on their communication skills every day.
- I have completed the train the trainer program for Dementia Capable work with People w/IDD. I will be implementing a training program with our social workers and direct care workers to help us identify the early stages of dementia in our senior population.
- CARE, our accreditation body, will be at SLC April 12-13, 2018. We have done a lot of preparation work with our policies and plans.
- We are working hard to prepare to launch services in the Village once it opens in early summer.

I would love to hear from you if you have ideas on how we can improve any weaknesses at SLC. I can be reached at deanaf@stlouiscenter.org, and my extension is 205.

Deana Fisher, LMSW



The second **Special Needs Forum** was held on Thursday, October 26th. The forum was attended by family members who have loved ones with I/DD interested in hearing about Home and Community Based Services, the decision-making process concerning guardianships and power of attorney, as well as long term financial planning. (3)

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



Fall Auction Celebrates 30th Year

The 30th Annual SLC Fall Dinner Auction was held at St. Joseph Mercy-Chelsea Saturday, November 11th. According to Chairwoman Kathi Neuman, "This was one of our biggest turnouts, and we had a lot of great bidders here to support our cause. We are grateful to everyone who came out to support us tonight." Fr. Enzo Addari presented Judy Merkel an award for generous support from the Merkel family over the years. (4)

December Events

A Golden Jubilee

A joyous celebration took place at St. Mary Catholic Church and St. Louis Center on Saturday, December 16th as Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and Fr. Fortunato Turati each celebrated 50 years of service in the priesthood. Bishop Boyea celebrated Mass and offered a special thanks to Fr. Joseph, Fr. Fortunato and the Servants of Charity for their many years of service to the Diocese of Lansing and to people with I/DD and their families. At SLC following Mass, a reception and dinner was catered jointly by Moveable Feast and the Chelsea Grill. (5)



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On Saturday, December 2nd, the **Federazione Siciliana del Michigan** provided a delicious Italian meal and a visit from Santa Claus. (6)



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U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program brought gifts of toys and song on Thursday, December 7th. (7)

Jack Tocco arrived to spread Christmas cheer with his friends on Sunday, December 17th, for the annual **Tocco Family Christmas Party**.

Special Needs Forum Securing the Future for Families with Special Needs

**Thursday, February 22, 2018
7-9 pm at St. Louis Center**

Many families of children or adults with special needs have a difficult time navigating the future for their loved ones, and advanced planning can ensure a positive quality of life for years to come. In this seminar, our guest speakers will address two important issues: coping with Alzheimer's disease in persons with I/DD and the importance of parent advocacy in accessing government services. Please join us for an informative evening of education and information sharing among parents dealing with these important subjects.

SPEAKERS:

DEANA FISHER, LMSW: Coping with Alzheimers

JUDITH GREENBAUM, PHD: Accessing the "Systems" Maze

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

Children's Homes: Pieces Completed



The St. Louis Guanella Village Children's Homes are nearing completion. Each home's features include five bedrooms, a kitchen/dining room, a living room, a sensory/activity room, and an open work space for St. Louis Center caregivers.

Interior progress: walls have been painted, trim is being installed, bathroom floor tiling is nearing completion, cabinets are installed, and the finished flooring is currently being installed (8)

Exterior progress: curbs, sidewalks, and driveways are poured; street lighting is installed, safety fencing surrounding the backyards and the retention pond are installed; and the waste water treatment system and generators are installed (9)

St. Louis Guanella Village will continue to grow with the addition of cottage homes for adult residents and single family homes.



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Legacy Campaign Update

—WINTER 2018—

In this Legacy Campaign Update, we share with you our most significant Legacy Campaign and Project developments.

St. Louis Center Reaches \$10M Legacy Campaign Goal!

St. Louis Center is proud to announce that the Legacy Campaign fund raising goal of \$10M has been met, thanks to the generosity and support of over 500 private individuals, foundations, corporations, businesses, and organizations. The Campaign was announced in 2010, the year of the Center's 50th anniversary, and fund raising began in earnest in 2011. This Campaign was the first formal fund raising campaign in St. Louis Center's history.

What has resulted from your generosity? Positive and lasting change. Innovation in the delivery of housing and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Renovation. New construction. Partnerships. Friendships.

Thanks to all of you, we are carrying out our visionary goals while also maintaining annual sustainability.

We also thank our Campaign Chairs, Fr. Enzo Addari and Norman Neuman, for spearheading the Campaign as well as over 25 Campaign Committee members who helped to raise these funds.



Fund Raising 2018 and Beyond

As we celebrate this huge milestone, we are also planning for the future. An estimated \$10M in additional capital revenue will need to be generated in order to more fully build out the St. Louis Guanella Village. Operating and endowment funding will continue to be raised as Village construction moves forward.

Preparations Underway for Children's Homes Grand Opening Celebration and Move-In

Don't miss the next newsletter! A date for the grand opening of the St. Louis Guanella Village Children's Homes will be announced. We look forward to sharing these beautiful homes with everyone that helped to make them a reality!

Spotlight on Legacy Project Donors

In this edition, we spotlight two of our many wonderful Legacy Campaign donors.



We thank Doan Companies Concrete for its extremely generous donations of material and labor toward the St. Louis Guanella Village project. The Chelsea-based Doan family entered the concrete business in 1970. The company has been family owned and operated since then and delivers a very broad range of concrete and construction solutions.

The FCA Foundation, the charitable arm of North American automaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles US LLC, awarded a \$10,000 Motor Citizens grant to the Legacy Campaign. St. Louis Center received the grant in recognition of the volunteer time FCA US Chelsea Proving Grounds employees have provided to the Center. Thank you to the FCA Foundation for recognizing the importance of volunteerism.

Planned Giving: EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

Planned gifts to St. Louis Center make an impact. Please consider being a part of this growing circle of donors by making a planned gift. Some ways to give include:

- Bequests (by Will or Trust)
- Stock Gifts
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Accounts
- Charitable Gift Annuities



TO HELP STRENGTHEN OUR FOUNDATION:

Peggy Cole, Development Director, peggyc@stlouiscenter.org or (734) 475.8430

Upcoming Events

Pasta Dinner with the Priests

Thursday, February 8, 2018
St. Louis Center

Special Needs Seminar

Thursday, February 22, 2018
St. Louis Center

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

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org

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Antonio "Tony" Vittorini

Tony was a friend to everyone he met. He was very fond of St. Louis Center and its mission. He was the State Secretary of the Michigan Knights of Columbus and would have become the next State Deputy on July 1, 2018. Tony attended many events at St. Louis Center, and most recently he attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Fr. Joseph Rindaldo, SdC, and Fr. Fortunato Turati, SdC, on December 16th. He passed into the loving arms of Our Lord on January 2nd, leaving behind his loving wife Sue, two sons and daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. The most important thing in his life was his family with service to his church and community following close behind. Tony gave his all in everything he did, and he touched many lives as a result. He will be truly missed by all who knew him. Eternal rest grant unto him and let perpetual light shine upon him.