



# St. Louis Spirit

—FALL 2017—

## Progress Continues on Children's Homes

As the weather grows cold and the leaves begin to fall, we appreciate the beauty that surrounds us, including that of the new Children's Homes nearing completion as the first segment of homes in St. Louis Guanella Village. With the exteriors nearly complete, each home with a distinct color, the focus has turned to the interiors of the buildings. A walk from Home 4 to Home 1 shows the level of progress on each. Home 4 has only stud walls,

while Home 3 is being drywalled. The walls in Home 2 are up and primed. The walls in Home 1 have been painted their earth tones, and all cabinets, closets and countertops are installed. These homes will be truly remarkable!



Home 4



Kitchen in Home 1



Staff workstation in Home 1

## Executive Director's Message

On October 24th, we celebrated St. Louis Guanella's Feast Day. He reminds us that "God will provide," and indeed he has. We continue to move forward according to the original plans for St. Louis Guanella Village.

We are grateful to the many benefactors who supported this year's "Challenge Match" and to organizations such as our local Knights of Columbus councils and the Galicia Caravan of Alhambra which sponsored a golf outing for us this summer benefiting the Legacy Campaign.

The residents of SLC continue to

grow in their personal development. One of the children was reunited with his family, and another was adopted last summer. We have enjoyed a steady influx of new residents, but they also bring new challenges that require increased staffing ratios. As we near completion of the four Children's Homes, our leadership team is working on a plan to provide behavioral therapy services to the children. Please contact Development Director Peggy Cole if you need any information about our newest homes.



If you are interested in joining us for Dream Cruise II in 2018, please notify us immediately. There are only a few rooms left in the block that we have reserved from September 13-21, 2018. Speaking of trips, we thank Azamara Club Cruises

once again for their generous trip donation for the upcoming Fall Dinner Auction at St. Joseph Mercy-Chelsea on November 11th. We also thank Dr. Gabriella Kaplan for her wonderful donation of a trip to Mexico this year. Buon viaggio!

*Fr. Euro Anilari*

# The Far-Reaching Impact of St. Louis Center

*How one Chelsea High School Senior recently helped the residents of St. Joseph Hall feel “Happy, Included, and Important.”*

*By Peggy Cole, Development Director*

“How many people does St. Louis Center serve?” is one question asked on every grant application SLC completes. The question often gives me pause. St. Louis Center impacts many people in addition to its residents, including local high school students who volunteer here. The outcome is often a deeper understanding of the importance of inclusion and experiences that bring people of all abilities together, and the understanding that we are all really much more alike than we are different. In my opinion, these are lessons that can only be learned through experience. St. Louis Center provides these kinds of experiences.

High school students’ participation at SLC also brings the residents joy. One member of the CHS senior class recently did just that.

Parker Doan, like every senior at Chelsea High School, was tasked with taking the Senior Seminar class. One assignment includes conducting a community-based project and reflecting on it in the form of a submitted paper. Parker had met a number of the residents of St. Joe’s Hall through his work with Special Olympics. What he chose to do for his project was to help the residents celebrate the MSU-UM football game that took place on Saturday, October 7th.

Parker understood that the residents would likely not be tailgating and attending the game. He wanted to share with them his enthusiasm for this regional sporting event. To ensure that they would be part of the

celebration, he decorated their home on the morning of game day with banners, balloons, and streamers representative of both teams. He also brought brownies for everyone to enjoy. And he spent time hanging out with and getting to know the residents better.

He wrote in his submitted paper, “They didn’t have anyone to help decorate for the game, so I decided to decorate to make them happy and be part of the event...I felt welcomed to be there.” Parker continued, “The residents of St. Louis Center all have special needs, but I learned that we are all the same people. We enjoy our sports and we have a good time...I will make sure to invite all of my friends next time so they can see how nice they are at St. Louis Center.”

The impact that volunteering at SLC has on local high school students is perhaps best summarized in the last sentence of Parker’s essay, “I think my most valued contribution was that I made them feel happy, included, and important.”

Isn’t that how we all want to feel? Thank you, Parker Doan!



## A Note of Thanks to Paul & Julie

Two of our long serving board members, Paul Frisinger and Julie Ballow, have stepped down from the CAC, and we thank them for their many years of dedicated service. In their place, we welcome Julie’s husband Owen who owns and operates Indian Springs Trout Farm in Jackson and William Lamb, a local attorney in Chelsea.



## SLC Dream Cruise II Sets Sail

According to Fr. Enzo Addari, there has been tremendous interest in our second SLC Dream Cruise taking place between September 13-21, 2018 and traveling along the Mediterranean coasts of Italy, Greece, Montenegro, Croatia and Slovenia. There will be a pre-cruise opportunity beginning September 10th for sight-seeing in Rome and a post cruise pilgrimage in Italy September 21-24th. There will also be a visit to the Shrine of Padre Pio on September 25th. Cruises begin at \$2499 and, thanks to Azamara Club

Cruises, a portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Louis Center. Many amenities are included. For more information contact Cathy Bilinski at Smart Depart Travel (734-789-7165) to make your reservations. Only a few rooms are left!



## Help us Celebrate a Golden Jubilee

Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and Fr. Fortunato Turati, SdC, have served St. Louis Center and the local community for many years and will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their ordination at St. Mary Parish on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Mass, with Most Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea as celebrant. The Mass is open to the public, and a celebration dinner will be held at SLC immediately following. An RSVP is required for the dinner. Please contact Cindy at SLC by December 1st to reserve your spot at 734-475-8430 or [cindyl@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:cindyl@stlouiscenter.org).

## 'Therap' Training for Staff



Thanks to a grant from St. Joseph Mercy Health System, St. Louis Center began modernizing its record-keeping system with "Therap" software training for all direct care staff on Wednesday, August 30th. This training was offered during a two-day period for all SLC staff by the software company. According to SLC COO Deana Fisher, "The new Therap system will record all activities that residents are engaged in through activity logs that will be kept by direct care workers during their shifts. Additionally, the nursing staff will be uploading the health care records of SLC residents so that doctors can be provided with

a full medical history when treating a resident. SLC social workers will input the goals of the residents so that direct care staff can track what is working in their treatment programs. The Therap system is now able to generate demographic information at the touch of a button. Finally, this new system contains a HIPPA compliant email system, tracks employee training, and will move SLC closer to a paperless internal reporting system. We are very excited about what this system will do to improve residential services at SLC."

## Residents Enjoy Man's Best Friend

*By Rick Visel, Program Director*

Joan and Tom Weber have been bringing their therapy dog Anya to St. Louis Center every other Wednesday for the past year. Anya is a five-year-old "Leonberger" who has been training to be a therapy dog since she was nine weeks old. During the past five years, Anya has completed multiple certifications from the American Kennel Club. In March 2017, Anya received recognition from both the AKC and the Leonberger Club of America for completing more than fifty visits.

Twice a month the Webers bring Anya to sit in our lobby so that the residents can enjoy the company of

a therapy dog. At first, many of the residents were intimidated by Anya's size, so they would only say hello to Anya as they walked past. Slowly a few brave residents would pet Anya, but only for a second and then continue on their way. Now after a year, Anya is best friends with all of the residents. They meet in the lobby and take turns sitting next to Anya waiting to pet her. Anya enjoys their attention and is very patient. We would like to thank Joan, Tom and Anya for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend time with the residents. It's a true pleasure to see

smiles on the faces of all who come to spend time with Anya the Therapy Dog.



# Golfers Support St. Louis Center

On Monday, July 10, 2017, the **Italian American Delegates** ← met for their 84th Annual Golf Day at Twin Lakes Golf Club in Rochester Hills to raise funds for their favorite charities. Fr. Enzo Addari was present with residents and staff from St. Louis Center and received a check for \$5,000.



*Sonny Randazzo was congratulated by Fr. Enzo for his team's 2nd place finish.*

Golfers honored the memory of Larry Kranick on Saturday, July 15th. It was a beautiful day for golf, as 25 teams with 100 golfers descended on Pierce Lake



*The family of Larry Kranick enjoyed spending the day on the course.*

Golf Course in Chelsea to play in the 30th Annual **Memorial Golf Outing**. Along with golf, participants enjoyed breakfast, lunch and dinner on the course, and prizes were awarded in several categories to match the golfers' talents. The winning team was sponsored by Raymond James Financial Services and finished at -15.

This year marked the 20th year of the **Dad and Lad Golf Outing** at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Rochester Hills held on August 2nd. The 2017 co-chairs of this outing were Michael Chirco, Salvatore "Sam" Cattone, and Joseph Maniaci. Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC., expressed gratitude saying, "We owe a great deal to the members of the construction trades as well as the local Italian American community who have made it possible for us to continue delivering quality services to our residents." ↑



*Mike Chirco, Mickey Shapiro-who was honored that day- and Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC.*

# Picnics Provide Entertainment and Fun

KofC members from **Our Lady of Fatima** Parish in Michigan Center returned on August 18th for a BBQ and game of kickball. According to Grand Knight Bill Roller, "Our favorite part ← of coming to SLC is our chance to interact with the residents through dinner and kickball."



Keeping the tradition of service to SLC and its residents, Jack Tocco, Jr. continued his father's legacy on August 20th with the **Tocco Family Picnic**. The Tocco Family brings a large group of friends every summer to provide lunch and entertainment for SLC residents on a Sunday afternoon in August. The picnic begins with the meal. The fun continues after lunch with cotton candy and snow cones, along with balloon creations and temporary tattoos provided by Peek-a-Boo the Clown. The Tocco Family and their friends enjoy making everyone smile. ←



Members of St. Louis Guanella Council #3092 of the **Chelsea Knights of Columbus** returned on the evening of August 31st to spend time with the residents of St. Louis Center and provide them with their annual end of summer barbeque. With fall temperatures in the air, the Knights and Ladies provided one last cookout for everyone as school began and summer ended. SLC residents thoroughly enjoyed the fun on the last night of August. ↑



# A Favorite St. Louis Center Summer Pastime

Friday, July 14, 2017 was a special night for the MI Knights of Columbus who live near the Ohio border, as 300 members gathered at Fifth-Third Field in Toledo for a ball game between the **Toledo Mud Hens** and the Columbus Clippers. The Knights invited 22 residents and staff members from SLC to attend this exciting game, which ended in a Clipper's victory 14–8. Tickets and meal vouchers were generously provided to SLC by Temperance, MI Council #8902.



On August 11th, thirty residents and staff members from SLC received V.I.P. transportation from Chelsea to Lansing, MI on a Dean Transportation bus to enjoy the annual Vocations Night hosted by the **Lansing Lugnuts**. Surrounded by priests and nuns from throughout the Lansing Diocese, SLC's residents watched a tight game, which the Lugnuts lost to Lake County by a score of 6 – 5.

The **Detroit Tigers** Foundation provides game tickets to special fans during the course of every baseball season, and this year the residents of SLC were able to enjoy a major league ball game at the end of the season on the evening of Saturday, September 23, 2017. SLC received 40 tickets for residents and staff to attend a game against the Minnesota Twins.



# Car Enthusiasts Flock to St. Louis Center

Beautiful weather and cars were the topic of the day at the 5th Annual St. Louis Center Car Show held on Sunday, September 17, 2017. An estimated 125 classic cars, new cars and everything in-between traveled to the rolling grounds of St. Louis Center to place their cars and trucks on display. This year's judges were headed by Jean Jennings, former editor-in-chief of Automobile Magazine, who headed a group of seven other automotive



experts to evaluate the entries. W4 Country 102.9 FM radio from Ann Arbor was on hand for a live remote broadcast, and the "Best-in-Show" winner was a 1957 Chrysler 300C owned by Wayne Kutschinski of Ann Arbor.

## Receive Newsletter by Email

If you would like to help us reduce our postage costs, send your email address to: [kellyf@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:kellyf@stlouiscenter.org) and we will send the newsletter electronically.

# Legacy Campaign Update

—PREPARING FOR MOVE IN—  
FALL 2017

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

## Legacy Campaign Committee Closing in on its \$10M Goal!

As of October 31, 2017, a grand total of \$9,500,000 in gifts and pledges has been raised, leaving \$500,000 to raise by the close of 2017 in order to meet the original \$10M campaign goal. If you would like to help SLC meet this goal, please contact Peggy Cole, Development Director, at 734.475.8430 or at [peggyc@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:peggyc@stlouiscenter.org).

With funds raised to-date, St. Louis Center has accomplished the following Legacy projects:

- Built the Family Welcome & Orientation Center (2011)
- Built the Special Needs Playground/Park (2012)
- Made improvements to the main building as well as to St. Joseph Hall (2011-2017)
- Completely renovated Fr. Guanella Hall to become the Center's first assisted living home (2014)
- Completed architectural design and civil engineering for Phase I of the Village (2014-2017)
- Laid the infrastructure for Phase I (2015-2017)
- Built four Children's Homes in the Village (to be opened in 2018)
- Completed preliminary designs of Village Cottage Homes, Family Homes, and Fitness Center (2016-2017) in preparation for the next phases of construction

Seeing the Legacy Project come to fruition is extremely gratifying yet humbling. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

## Children's Homes Nearing Completion!

In late Spring 2018, the children who reside at St. Louis Center will move into their brand new homes in the St. Louis Guanella Village. A grand opening date will be announced in the next edition of this Update.

These four homes comprise the first segment of housing in the Village. The homes have been designed to help the children learn to live as independently as possible in calm and secure surroundings. The children will benefit from the homes' diffused natural daylight, full spectrum LED light fixtures, acoustical windows, controlled views, simple interior detailing and finishes, and thoughtful interior color palettes. The homes are environmentally appropriate and energy efficient. Whenever possible, natural building materials, including zero- and low-VOC paints and flooring, are being used.



We are excited that the children will have their own bedrooms and bathrooms as well as an activity/sensory room – complete with a pendulum swing! - ample back yards, back patios and front porches, along with many other beautiful spaces and features.

Thank you for supporting the construction of these homes!

## Wellness Programs are also part of the Legacy Project...

In addition to completing many construction projects, St. Louis Center has also created new wellness initiatives as part of the Legacy Project. Since 2012, several programs have been launched, including fitness, music therapy, adaptive movement, and gardening (2012-2017). In fall 2017, with support from St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital's Community Health Improvement Council, St. Louis Center began offering transportation to adults with I/DD residing in Chelsea and surrounding communities to and from fitness classes at St. Louis Center. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Caitlin Blomquist, Fitness Specialist, at 734.475.8430 or email her at [wellness@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:wellness@stlouiscenter.org).

A huge thank you to all of the individuals, foundations, organizations, businesses and corporations that have made all of this work possible!



## Spotlight on Legacy Project Donors

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

The Galicia Caravan of the International Order of the Alhambra made a \$10,000 gift to the Campaign in summer 2017. The International Order of the Alhambra was formed in 1904 to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Galicia Caravan was chartered in 1949 and is one of the largest Caravans in the Great Lakes Region. In summer 2017, its members held a golf outing. Proceeds were donated to the Legacy Campaign and received the \$10,000 challenge match. Thank you members of the Galicia Caravan!

We thank Masco Corporation for its extremely generous donations of cabinetry and paint to the Fr. Guanella Hall renovation project in 2014 as well as its most recent donation of Merillat® cabinets, Behr® interior and exterior paint, and Delta® faucets needed for the four new Children's Homes. Masco Corporation was founded in 1929 and today is a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of branded home improvement and building products. Masco was originally headquartered in Taylor and recently moved its headquarters to Livonia, Michigan.



# MASCO

## Village Planning Beyond 2017...

Planning for Phase II of the Village is well underway. This construction phase will include two Cottage Homes for adults with I/DD, and homes for families. Family Homes will be rented or leased. The Legacy Campaign Committee will continue to raise capital funding beyond 2017 in order to continue to develop the Village. For information about the Family Homes, please contact Peggy Cole.



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## Upcoming Events

**Fall Dinner Auction**  
November 11, 2017

**Federazione Abruzzese del Michigan  
Federazione Siciliana del Michigan  
Christmas Party**  
December 2, 2017

**50th Anniversary of Ordination  
Fr. Joseph & Fr. Fortunato**  
December 16, 2017

**Tocco Family Christmas Party**  
December 17, 2017

**Italian American Club of Livonia  
Guardian Angels Dinner Dance**  
April 29, 2018

For more information,  
please visit our website:

[www.stlouiscenter.org](http://www.stlouiscenter.org)

## In Memory of our Friends

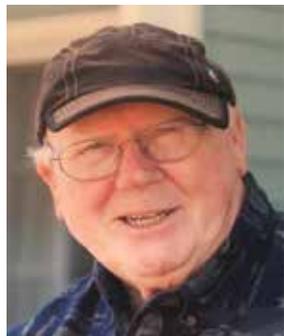
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Margaret Mynning  
Leonard Swistak  
Mary Lou Williams

**Tom Herron** was a remarkable man of many talents and did a great deal of work behind the scenes to assist St. Louis Center and the Servants of Charity through the years. He passed into the Lord's care at age 89 on August 25, 2017, and his Mass of Christian Burial was on August 29, 2017 with Rev. Dr. William J. Turner and Rev. Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC., concelebrating.

Tom had a distinguished career in education for 40 years in the Flint area before retiring to Chelsea in 1992. He spent many hours assisting Fr. Joseph in editing Servants of Charity publications and was a regular attendee



at St. Louis Center daily Masses. He was also enrolled in the Pious Union of St. Joseph and was a Guanellian Cooperator. He leaves behind his wife, Yvonne, of 57 years, and four children and their families. Tom and his great wisdom will be missed by all. Eternal rest grant unto him and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen.

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