



St. Louis Center

—2015—

ANNUAL REPORT



St. Louis Center is a caring, residential, family living and learning environment providing for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Instruments of God's Love



Dear Friends,

St. Louis Center received so many graces and blessings in 2015 that summarizing the year is not a simple endeavor.

The expansion vision has stirred many wonderful reactions and has brought new people into the St. Louis Center family. To all, I want to say 'thank you.' Through you, the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been enriched and their dignity has been proclaimed and nurtured.

The Legacy Campaign, which was launched in 2010, is accomplishing its goals and has exceeded initial expectations. Because of this, many new supporters became involved in 2015, taking the Center to a new level of excellence.

Silveri Architects and Midwestern Consulting were hired to conduct architectural and civil engineering work on the St. Louis Guanella Village. A.Z. Shmina Construction has been reviewing Village preliminary construction plans.

A number of residents were reunited with their families or adopted, a top priority of the Center that aligns with the priorities of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. We continued to work with State officials on the growth of specialized services for residents and visited other agencies to collect useful data and other information for programmatic growth.

A new fund raising event was carried out by the Randazzo family and the "Evening with Eva Evola and Friends," which benefited St. Louis Center, took place for the second year. Jack Tocco, Jr. continues his late father's legacy of supporting the Center.

Thanks to Norm Neuman, Cathy Bilinski of Cruise Planners, and Marianne Hessler of Azamara Club Cruises, a new method of fund raising came to life in 2015. Close to sixty people enjoyed a Mediterranean cruise that raised funds for the Legacy Campaign.

Thanks to grants received, we were able to start music therapy and adaptive dance programs and take our gardening program to the next level. In 2015, we also celebrated the 100th anniversary of St. Louis Guanella's death. St. Louis Center is part of the legacy that Fr.



Trustees of the Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation and their spouses attended the 2015 Fall Auction Dinner at the invitation of Will Johnson. From left: Don Rumelhart, Fr. Enzo Addari, Judy Dow Rumelhart (Vice President/Trustee), Del Dunbar (Trustee), Nancy Dunbar, and Will Johnson.

Guanella left the world. He founded the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. Another branch of his legacy was carried out on September 19, 2015 when 65 lay people from Chelsea and surrounding communities made their promises as Guanellian Cooperators, thus completing Fr. Guanella's vision of charity.

These milestones are always signs of the graces we receive for being instruments of God's love for all.

Thanks and blessings,

FATHER ENZO ADDARI, SdC
ST. LOUIS CENTER ADMINISTRATOR



Fr. Joseph Rinaldo visits schoolchildren in Bangalore, India.

CARE GONE GLOBAL

The religious community that works and resides at St. Louis Center is deeply devoted to its mission, which spans twenty-four countries. St. Louis Center has been in existence since 1960, but the work of the Servants of Charity dates much further.

The order of the Servants of Charity, also referred to as the Guanellians, is a Roman Catholic order of priests and brothers who have pledged their lives to the care of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations. This congregation was established by St. Louis Guanella in 1908 in Como, Italy. Fr. Guanella wrote, "The whole world is your homeland," a call to his confreres to establish their missions worldwide.

There are now over 500 Servants of Charity priests and brothers who have taken this to heart and work across four continents. Their work is divided into seven provinces. Fr. Joseph Rinaldo serves as Treasurer of one of these provinces, the Divine Providence Province (DPP).

Pictured above is Fr. Joseph engaged in activities with children enrolled at the Don Guanella Evening School in Bangalore, a city in the Indian state of Karnataka. The school is operated by the Servants of Charity's Guanella Preethi Nivas seminary.

The Guanellians recognize and live by the guiding principles of their Founder: each human being has innate value; the treasure of a person is in his or her heart; each person is considered worthy of respect, esteem and love; and creating family spirit is the central element of work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

KATHI NEUMAN: ADVOCATE & POWERHOUSE

Who is this powerhouse of a woman, a self-starter who never takes no for an answer when it comes to obtaining her goals? Kathi Neuman, a lifelong advocate for children and adults with special needs, has over the past forty-five years spearheaded improvements in federal, state, and local government services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in both Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Kathi was a board member of the Association for Community Advocacy (ACA, formerly known as the Washtenaw Association for Retarded Citizens) for over twenty-five years, and for eight of those served as its Chairperson. Her fingerprints are all over much that has happened in Washtenaw County to support children and adults with I/DD and their families. In 1996, she was honored when United Way of Washtenaw County chose her to receive the "Heart of Gold" Award in recognition of her many accomplishments at ACA.

For the past thirty-three years, she has been an active member of the St. Louis Center (SLC) Community Advisory Council. Kathi focused her attention on forging meaningful relationships with local support organizations, thus helping SLC accomplish its goals. She has been an active member of SLC's Fall Auction Dinner Committee for the past fifteen years and has chaired it for the past eight. Under her leadership, this event has become very successful and has raised over \$1M since its inception.

Kathi grew up in Pennsylvania and met Norm in high school; they married in 1969. They had a daughter, Christine, who was later joined by Joe. As Kathi said, "God knew that Joe would need loving care and life-long support."

"Norm and I were his chosen parents and we thank God for giving us Joe, who is a very special gift."

"When you have a child born with a disability, you really don't know what the future holds. We were actually encouraged by our doctor to have Joe institutionalized, but Norm and I said 'No way.' We were committed to helping Joe live a normal life."

Kathi dedicated herself to learning more about Down Syndrome and its impact on the families it affects. She wanted to better understand her son's needs in order to support him and help others understand and accept everyone affected by I/DD.



"I joined the local ARC in 1971 right after Joe was born. When Joe reached school age, I got together with others to start a grassroots effort to go to Harrisburg, PA to help support and implement Federal Bill 94-142 that guaranteed education for students with special needs," said Kathi. "We were parents who demanded that our children be allowed to have the same educational opportunities as all other children."

After moving to Ann Arbor in 1982, Joe was enrolled in the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) and Abbott Elementary School. Shortly after enrolling, Kathi found that the school district's policies regarding the provisions of equal education to children with I/DD needed improvements. She initiated contact with Michigan state legislators, thus starting her journey to protect the civil rights of children with special needs.

It was at a Special Olympics event being held at Eastern Michigan University that Kathi and Norm first met Fr. Enzo Addari. They were immediately drawn to the mission of the Servants of Charity priests and became involved at St. Louis Center.

Fast forward thirty four years. St. Louis Center is in the midst of its biggest development since 1960, the Legacy Project to develop St. Louis Guanella Village. Kathi's experience-based ideas have been incorporated into SLC's vision. "The Legacy Project is an amazing opportunity for SLC to expand its services to aging people with I/DD and their older parents; this is a whole new demographic," said Kathi.

As a mother who faced the unknown head-on, advocate, and idea leader, Kathi has helped ensure that St. Louis Center has a bright legacy.

JANET BIRK: MOTHER & CAREGIVER

"Seek a place that is nurturing and that you feel good about," advised Janet Birk when asked what advice she would give to families seeking to place their loved one in a residential care setting.

Dean, a long-time resident of St. Louis Center, is Janet's son. Janet was the 24/7 caregiver for Dean until he was able to attend a day program at the age of eight. As a part-time registered nurse, Janet met his needs as best as she could. She settled in Dexter with her family for 25 years, worked at several hospitals in the region, then at the Chelsea Retirement Community.

Janet found it difficult for her family to fit in with families who did not experience the same challenges.

She found hope and encouragement from her extended family, her work, and her church. Her faith has been a stronghold for her.



Janet says that Dean's two siblings were talented and involved in their brother's life while they were growing up. She continued, "It was not easy for the other two children, but they developed the appreciation that people with disabilities are also important people in the world."

St. Louis Center changed Dean's life and hers for the better. "Since Dean has been at St. Louis Center, I have had the opportunity to recapture my life." Janet now pursues her interests including involvement with the Chelsea Area Garden Club. She introduced St. Louis Center to the Club several years ago; this relationship was a catalyst for St. Louis Center's Take Root gardening program.

"The staff takes good care of Dean. I love it and Dean loves it. When I pick him up, he looks good. He is happy. They are giving him the attention he needs and likes," said Janet.

Both Janet and Dean's siblings feel that his future remains at St. Louis Center. Though he likes to visit Janet, he is happier at St. Louis Center, his home.

"He has evolved from being a person who is very secure in his family to a person who is secure and feels at home at St. Louis Center."

DEAN

Dean's mother loves that her son is "sweet and innocent, much like a little child."

She describes him as someone who loves people. "He is a people watcher and loves to observe those he loves doing things. He's mostly a spectator to life." Dean enjoys music from the 1970s, including Lawrence Welk, John Denver, and Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Dean is anxious when he is in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. This makes change difficult for him.

Aware of Dean's anxiety, his mother was surprised to realize that shortly after Dean had moved to his new home at Fr. Guanella Hall, he felt very comfortable returning there after a weekend spent with his mother in their home.

His mother continued, "He likes his new caregiver,

Cassidy. When he was home for Thanksgiving and I told him it was the day to return to St. Louis Center, he perked up and said, 'Cassidy will be there.' I told him, 'We don't know who will be working there today. It might be someone else.' He said, 'Cassidy will be there.'" Upon arriving, Cassidy was there. "I left relieved and lighthearted seeing Dean enjoying being there. It's a great blessing to have kind people caring for Dean," said his mother.



Dean's mother is beyond thankful for the care provided to her son. "How wonderful that God, in his gracious, merciful care for us, provided such a warm, safe and welcoming place for Dean. Thanks and praise to God and all who make St. Louis Center so special."

JACK TOCCO, JR.: FAMILY & FAITH BREED SUCCESS

It's been over 26 years that the Tocco family of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan has been vested in supporting St. Louis Center. That relationship began with family intertwined with faith.

Jack Tocco, Jr.'s father and mother, Jack Sr. and Toni, instilled in Jack Jr. and his seven siblings their Catholic faith, to be close with one another, and to have respect for their elders. Relatives lived close, allowing for the Tocco children to play with cousins and friends often.

School was a struggle, but Jack persevered in his career thanks to an upbringing that encouraged determination and hard work. He owned a few companies, worked in the waste hauling business, opened and sold the hauling company Wasteco, Inc., and is now the founder and CEO of Quantum Waste Solutions, Inc., a waste brokerage firm.



Jack met his wife Teresa when he stood up in his cousin's wedding. They married and went on to have two daughters, Maria Antonietta and Nina Vincenza. Jack and Teresa maintained the same set of family values and are proud that both girls graduated with honors from the University of Michigan. Maria is attending medical school at Wayne State University and Nina is pursuing a career in business.

While Jack's family and business were growing, Jack Sr. was asked by a cousin to visit a place for boys with intellectual and developmental disabilities called the St. Louis Center; the Center needed support. This marked the beginning of the Tocco family's commitment to St. Louis Center. Jack Sr. worked tirelessly to raise funds by recruiting other individuals and corporations to contribute. Their efforts continue on Jack Sr.'s behalf.

Prior to Jack Sr.'s passing in July 2014, Jack promised to carry on the work his father had started at St. Louis Center. Making good on his promise, Jack, with the help of family, relatives, and friends, sponsors the annual Tocco Family Picnic and Tocco Family Christmas Party for residents and staff.



Jack's involvement has spawned the St. Louis Center Car Show and the Randazzo Family Men's Social fundraiser. Jack also serves as an executive officer of the Italian American Delegates, an annual St. Louis Center donor organization.

"I am proud to say that all of these events have been and continue to be successful and fulfilling labors of love," said Jack. "I truly have been blessed to be a part of such a special experience and I thank God for steering my family to the St. Louis Center all those years ago."

RICK VISEL: LEADING & BUILDING TRUST

Rick Visel has been St. Louis Center's Program Director since 2009. According to Rick, his areas of focus are promoting the Center's mission, employee and resident development, and coordinating resident activities. But don't let this short and modest list fool you; Rick keeps schedules on point and is tremendously respected by all. His skills were honed during his career with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

"After retiring, I felt I owed the citizens of the community my continued services. The County had invested a lot of time and money mentoring me to hold several command positions. I felt those skills should not go unused," said Rick.

Compassion and willingness to learn are skills and traits he looks for when hiring employees to care for the residents, because their work goes beyond physical care. Rick aims to have a trusting relationship with staff; otherwise, they may not ask for assistance or vocalize concerns related to training.

Rick's commitment to promoting an environment of trust extends to his work with the residents. In order for the home in which they live to feel family-like, some of the responsibility begins with them. The residents must be trustworthy and respect their home and all of those who reside in it.

"They must be willing to care for one another, live in a family environment by doing chores and sharing the TV and other resources. Residents need to be held accountable," said Rick. "Each resident needs realistic and attainable goals so to not be discouraged..."



This approach seems to be successful because residents respond to Rick's direction and seek it. "We are a family. I try to treat each of the residents equally and not show any favoritism...I have enjoyed every minute of my work. The residents are so friendly and respectful that at times it is hard to know who is helping who," he added.

Rick knows that he has done his job when a resident leaves St. Louis Center but remains in contact with him. "One of the residents who could not write sent me three pages of squiggly lines on a piece of paper. I sent him a Christmas card with a note inside. I got a letter back from his caregiver one week later thanking me for writing back," said Rick. "He mailed out several letters to his friends and I was the only one who wrote back. She told me how happy he was to have gotten a letter in return."

Rick always goes the extra mile, whether by giving compliments or motivating others. If you see him, maybe send a compliment his way!

JANET BEST: CARING & TEACHING

"This is the hardest job I've ever had, yet ... I love my job!" says Janet Best. "I can see that my efforts make a difference in the lives of our residents."

While "shy" and "sweet" are adjectives that could initially describe Direct Care Worker Janet, her big heart is what vibrantly shines through. It is clear that she genuinely loves her job and even more so the residents who are in her care.

Janet has been an employee at St. Louis Center for about eight years. Prior to arriving, she was a school teacher in the Philippines. Like a teacher, she sees the value and potential of those she cares for and does everything she can to help them thrive. She views every day at her job as a set of accomplishments. Teaching a resident to read a book, write their name, or assisting them in bathing are important to her, but occasionally she takes on much bigger tasks such as assisting someone who has difficulty eating, bringing the enormity of her job into perspective.

"Our residents are all different individuals. When I look into their eyes, I can see that they can all feel and give



love," she said. "As a woman of faith, my job gives me personal satisfaction and spiritual well being."

Fighting back tears, Janet couldn't help but become emotional over the realization of how important her work is and what makes it worthwhile. She said, "It is very gratifying to me to have a parent thank me personally for caring for their child, others telling me that I am their child's favorite worker, a resident giving me a flower or a drawing, or simply telling me that they like me."

STEVEN

There are few things more frustrating than trying to communicate with someone who doesn't understand you. Now, imagine not being able to say anything yet understand everything that is being said to you and around you.

Both are a day in the life of Steven. "Steven would like everyone to know that he understands everything they are saying, but he doesn't have the verbal ability to respond. He tries his hardest to communicate through gestures and limited speech," said his mother.

This can make it difficult for others to get to know Steven. So let us share with you what he cannot.

He has a wonderful sense of humor, telling knock-knock jokes with the use of a tablet. Steven loves to help others and can't get enough of his beloved family cat Cujo. Shopping is something he looks forward to, especially going to the Dollar Tree! Riding on a train and riding his bike are Steven's preferred modes of transportation.

"Even though Steven loves spending time with Cujo at home, after a visit he loves going back to St. Louis Center to return to his many friends there," said his mother. "The sound of his friends greeting him by name, excited to see him, is something that we never thought possible."

Steven has been at St. Louis Center for about 5 years. His mother said, "It became apparent to his father and I that Steven was an active, growing young man who needed the help of a small village to help keep up with his exuberant and energetic pace." He quickly adapted to his second home, St. Louis Center, which she describes as a blessing to Steven and their family.



GOING PLACES, GIVING BACK

One of the most frequently asked questions about St. Louis Center is what the children and adults who reside here do with their time...and there is no quick way to respond.

They go to school, work, and they volunteer. They do homework, organize their bedrooms and living spaces, and engage in hobbies and health and wellness activities. They enjoy being with their family members and friends. The residents of St. Louis Center enjoy field trips, shopping, listening to music, watching movies, and just hanging out.

There are many individuals and organizations whose donations make it possible for them to take part in community activities like the prom at Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center, Toledo Mud Hens and Detroit Tigers games, the Shrine Circus at St. Mary Pinckney, Ballet Chelsea's Nutcracker, and many others.

In 2015, members of the St. Louis Center Aktion Club, a Kiwanis-led leadership development club comprised of interested residents, raised close to \$960 through the sale of Christmas cards they designed. Profits supported Kiwanis International's Eliminate Project.

Twenty-five individuals attended Special Olympics at

Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant in May 2015, thanks to our staff as well as parent volunteers Christine Okler and Tatiana Pocsatko.

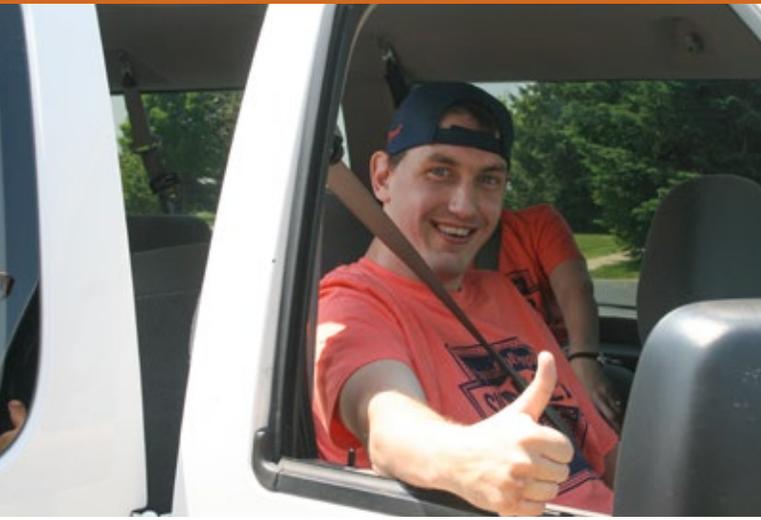
Chelsea High School's Student Council chose St. Louis Center as recipient of funds collected from a post-football game 'lantern launch' in late October. Several residents joined CHS students on the field after the game and participated in this event. Many of the high school students knew the SLC residents by name, a testimony to the residents' place in the fabric of Chelsea community life.

MANY THANKS

Not only did everyone at St. Louis Center go out in and give back to the community in 2015, but also many individuals and groups came to visit us, sharing their talents, smiles, and laughter. Others organized fund raising and other events. We appreciate all of them, from St. Andrew Church, Saline and Knox Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor to several Knights of Columbus councils such as St. Louis Guanella, Chelsea and Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center, Toys for Tots, the Abruzzi Federation, Sicilian Federation, the Tocco Family and Friends, and many more.

SLC residents participated in Chelsea's Run for the Rolls in August 2015. Proceeds supported the Fitness for Life program. Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley addressed the crowd before the race and acknowledged St. SLC for helping to build the field of fitness for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





MATTHIAS

Always smiling, waving, and offering high fives, Matthias' enthusiasm and abilities overshadow his disabilities by a landslide.



Matthias' developmental disabilities, hearing impairment, and inability to communicate verbally are footnotes to what an amazing person he is.

It is important to know that Matthias was born in Brazil but has been living in the United States since 1989. He possesses enviable communication skills. He knows Brazilian and American Sign Language and understands spoken Brazilian Portuguese and English.

Matthias has always been one to face new challenges head on. Being born with little muscular tone did not hold him back; one of his favorite things is competing in the Special Olympics. He has won a large number of gold medals and trophies in track and field, bowling, and standing broad jump. In 2002, Matthias was chosen from thousands of candidates to be a torch bearer for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games when the torch came through Detroit. This was an honor, indeed!

His abilities and accomplishments are impressive, to say the least.

"We love Matthias' great enthusiasm, honesty, generosity, and unconditional love for his family," said Matthias' parents. Many individuals he encounters know that he is a very proud uncle of Liam and twins, Elizabeth and Ethan, about whom he loves to sign. It is also important to note that Matthias is a very avid Michigan football fan and watches all of their games!

Matthias' parents are very proud of the person he has become and have seen him mature since being at St. Louis Center. They know he is happy because he signs, "I like St. Louis Center because I have a lot of friends!"

This year, we would like to recognize the University of Michigan Men's Basketball Coach John Beilein for visiting with his team in June. One highlight was watching D.J. Wilson and Kameron Chatman lift one of the youngest residents up to dunk the ball. The team's third visit to SLC included 90 minutes of drills and fun followed by autographs. Residents, staff, and guests received Michigan basketball t-shirts for signing, thanks to a donation from the M-Den.

"Company C," the Chelsea High School musical theatre troupe, visited SLC in the spring and performed a medley of numbers from their 2015 show, Back to Broadway.

On Halloween, St. Louis Center held its very first Trunk or Treat for the residents; candy and other treats were distributed by the enthusiastic and supportive car, SUV and truck owners and their friends who took the time to celebrate Halloween in this very special way.

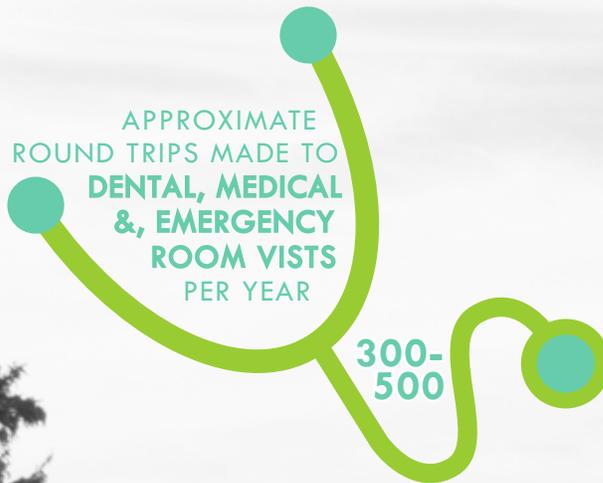
Chelsea Chicks Care is comprised of fifth and sixth grade girls from Chelsea who want to make a difference in their community. In 2015, they visited SLC on several occasions, socializing with the ladies who reside at Our Lady of Providence, making jewelry, and designing Christmas cards.

We thank all of our volunteers and supporters for bringing laughter, joy and opportunity to the children and adults who reside at St. Louis Center.

ST. LOUIS CENTER BREAKDOWN BY NUMBERS



ST. LOUIS CENTER FILLED ITS FLEET OF VEHICLES WITH AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF
5,600
GALLONS OF GASOLINE THIS FISCAL YEAR



ST. LOUIS CENTER'S ELECTRIC BILL TOTALED APPROXIMATELY
\$42,145
THIS FISCAL YEAR

RESIDENT FACTS

43

Adults
19-65 yrs.

9

Teens
11-18 yrs.

1

Youth
5-10 yrs.



AUDITED FINANCIALS

St. Louis Center's comparative financial statements for the fiscal years July 1 - June 30, 2014 and 2015.

Support & Revenue	2015	%	2014
Agency Payments**	\$1,979,849.00	52%	\$1,957,801.00
Contributions & Grants	\$540,027.00	14%	\$462,028.00
Fundraising Events	\$556,430.00	15%	\$415,613.00
Other***	\$717,633.00	19%	\$643,767.00
Total	\$3,793,939.00	100%	\$3,479,209.00
Expenses*			
Program Services	\$2,562,349.00	66%	\$2,287,005.00
Management & General	\$978,939.00	25%	\$937,191.00
Fundraising Projects	\$131,975.00	4%	\$115,416.00
Depreciation	\$184,140.00	5%	\$184,140.00
Total	\$3,850,403.00	100%	\$3,523,752.00

* Figures are based on audited financial statements and do not include in-kind contributions.

** Special one-on-one care adds to agency costs.

*** Due to construction on campus, St. Louis Center realized an increase in Net Assets, which is reflected in other revenue.

counties of origin

20 washtenaw

17 wayne

4 jackson

3 oakland

2 macomb

1 ingham

1 kalamazoo

1 saginaw

1 st. clair

1 st. joseph

1 van buren

1 out of state

2

new admissions

2

reunited with family

2

moved to county of origin

2

respite provided

1

adopted

As of
Dec. 31, 2015



PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

One goal of the Legacy Project is to grow more enrichment programs for the residents of St. Louis Center, programs that help build mind, body, and spirit. The Center's goal is to also offer these programs to individuals with I/DD living at home or in group homes in Chelsea and surrounding communities.

Fitness for Life, organized in 2011, kicked off SLC's health and wellness programming. In 2015, St. Louis Center launched Inner Rhythm, a music therapy program, and further established its Take Root Gardening program. Also in 2015, Ballet Chelsea began providing an adaptive dance class at Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living.

Thanks to a grant from the Wilkinson Foundation, St. Louis Center began Inner Rhythm in January. Jaime Merritt, music therapist and founder of Harmony Garden Music Therapy Services, offers classes late in the afternoon twice a week for interested residents. As word spread on campus that the classes were fun and interesting, attendance grew. "All of us love music. I like playing the drums and the maracas. It makes me feel good. It makes me feel better," said one participant. Importantly, all of the participants can successfully engage in music even though they have difficulties in other areas. For example, one participant without verbal skills is motivated to sing even though he does not speak.

Thanks to the leadership of Jane Thompson, President of Ballet Chelsea, residents enjoyed weekly adaptive dance classes provided by professional instructor Catrina Choate. Catrina's classes are designed specifically for SLC residents and incorporate the development of new movement skills with a wide range of music styles that together get the participants moving, thus increasing their metabolism and improving their coordination.



"I like exercise. We use movement to build muscles. It's more like dancing," said a participant in Catrina's class.

Take Root Gardening bloomed in 2015 with funding from the Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation, the Anderson Foundation, and the Chelsea Area Garden Club. A seasonal Gardening Specialist led residents in gardening activities in the Tranquility and vegetable gardens, as well as in new gardens at Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living. Through Take Root, residents of St. Louis Center are purposefully using plants and gardens to promote their physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being. "Gardening makes me feel better," one participant shared, "I learned how to water the gardens and checked on them twice a day to see how the plants were growing. When I went home on weekends, I gardened there, too."



THE LEGACY PROJECT: OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS

St. Louis Center celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010 and in the same year launched the Legacy Project. Through this Project, SLC is making a life commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and guardians. The Project is a response to two major challenges: 1) the aging of people with I/DD and their caregivers; and 2) the need to renovate and modernize St. Louis Center's existing homes and common spaces.

The Legacy Project is a 10-year effort comprised of a series of renovation and new construction projects as well as the development of new health and wellness programs. The Legacy Project will culminate in the construction of the St. Louis Guanella Village.

Major Capital Projects Completed

Family Welcome & Orientation Center, 2011
Special Needs Playground/Park, 2013
Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living, 2014

New Programs

Fitness for Life, 2011
Take Root Gardening, 2013
Tech 101, 2014
Inner Rhythm Music Therapy, 2015
Adaptive Dance, 2015

The Legacy Campaign

The Legacy Project is being funded by the \$10M Legacy Campaign. The mission of the Legacy Campaign Committee is to create a future in which every resident with special needs is provided a continuum of life-long care in a faith-based residential community that provides a safe, comfortable, and family-like environment in which the individual's right to self-determination and personal decision-making, along with the need for dignity, respect, tradition and spirituality are honored.



LEGACY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chairs: Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC and Norman Neuman, Jr.
Campaign Advisor: Joe Fitzsimmons

Andy Abro
Percy Bates, PhD
William Broucek
Jerry D'Adamo
Gary DesChenes
Larry Doll
Michael Fox

Anna Giammarco
Judith Greenbaum, PhD
Frank Grohnert
Lisa Herrick
Daniel Johnson
Willard Johnson
Kenneth Klovski

Rosalino LoDuca
Donald Nadeau
Michael Nadeau
Tom Nowatzke
John Rademacher
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
Fr. David Stawasz, SdC

Robert Trudell
Rev. Dr. William J. Turner
Kenneth Unterbrink
Bill Wagner
Donald Walker



Legacy Campaign Goal: \$10M
Funds Raised as of 12/31/15: \$6.2M

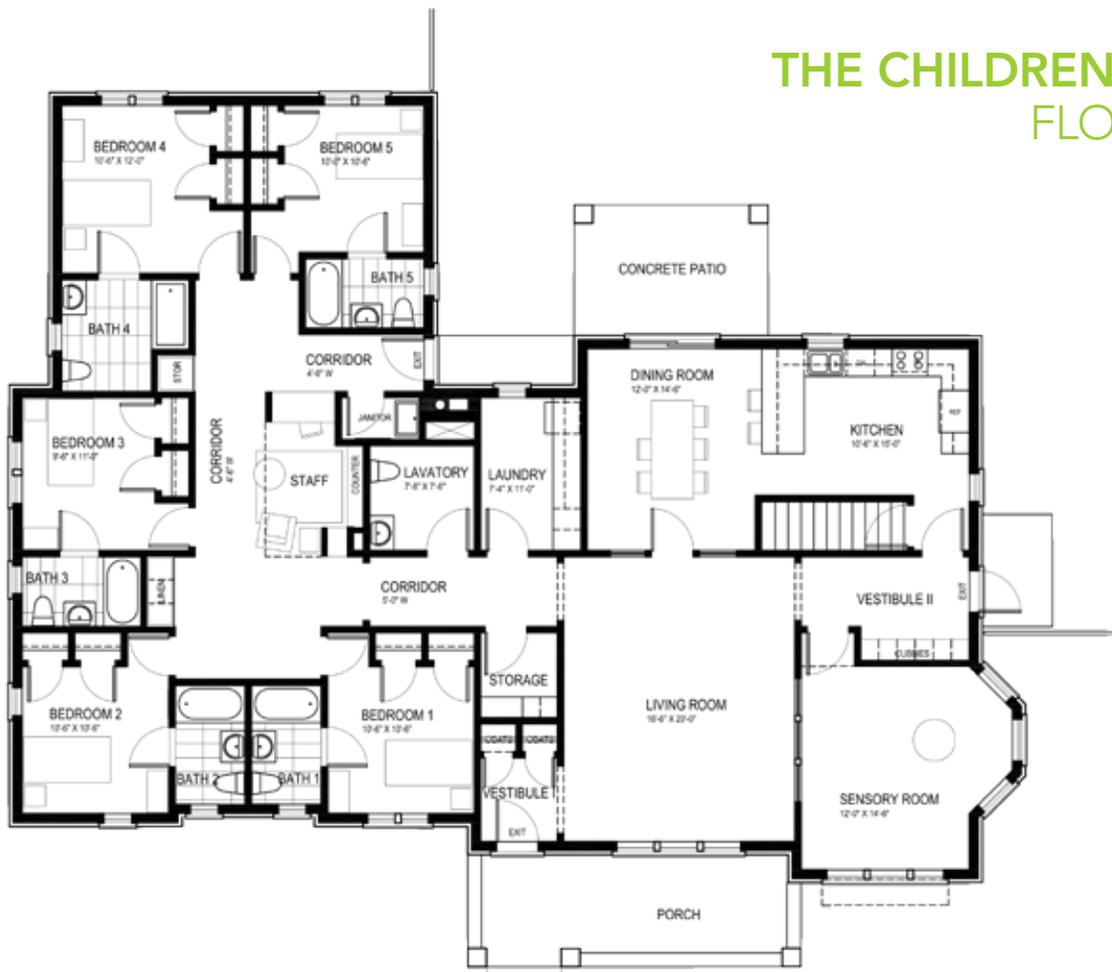
THE ST. LOUIS GUANELLA VILLAGE

The St. Louis Guanella Village came into sharp focus in 2015 after several years of fund raising, research and planning. St. Louis Center received a generous five-year commitment from the Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation to construct new homes in the Village for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Towsley Foundation has been at the forefront of support for creative solutions to health care challenges for many decades. The Foundation's endorsement of the Village project announced early in 2015 set architectural and civil engineering work in motion.

Architect Marco Silveri worked diligently on the children's home design and led focus groups among staff and residents who made recommendations. With the growing number of children across the State of Michigan with Autism Spectrum Disorder needing residential and treatment services, the design of the children's homes also takes into full consideration their highly specialized needs.

With design input from the clinical staff of Eastern Michigan University's Autism Collaborative Center, drawings of the children's homes were further refined, with special attention paid to the creation of a soothing yet stimulating environment. We look forward to watching the children enjoy their new homes with amenities that will help provide them the very best beginnings.

Together with staff of Silveri Architects and MCI Engineering, St. Louis Center stayed on schedule and submitted its Preliminary Site Plan for approval in late December 2015, anxious to lay the Village infrastructure beginning early Summer 2016 and follow immediately with the construction of the children's homes. We thank Andy Shmina, President & CEO of AZ Shmina Construction and President of the St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council, for managing the Village project.



THE CHILDREN'S HOME FLOOR PLAN

WILLARD H. JOHNSON: A LIFETIME ON THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

If you ask Will Johnson, long-time supporter and close friend of St. Louis Center, why the Center's Legacy Project is important, he will tell you that with it St. Louis Center is taking the 'road less traveled,' a reference to the timeless poem by Robert Frost. A member of the SLC Community Advisory Council since 1986 and Legacy Campaign Committee since its formation in 2010, Will has done his research. He will explain that most individuals born in 2014 and beyond with intellectual and developmental disabilities will outlive their parents. "The Legacy Project provides an opportunity to do something that has not been done and to do it in the private sector," he offered.



To know Will Johnson is to appreciate that his journey has been one filled with innovation and firsts. Will arrived to Chelsea in September of 1975 from Ballston Lake, New York to become the first CEO of the Chelsea Community Hospital. He remained there until he retired in January 1998. During his tenure at CCH, now St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, he helped to essentially rewrite the definition of a community hospital.

Under Will's leadership, Michigan's first employee-sponsored childcare center was built. "There were no other employer-based centers in Michigan at the time. We did it because it was the right thing to do." Will materially changed the Hospital's benefit program to reflect the needs of its then largely female workforce. Chelsea Community Hospital was the first Michigan hospital with a dedicated Ambulatory Surgery Center (1974), the first to develop an inpatient Head Pain Program (1978), and the first to open a residential Substance Abuse Program (1981). In 1994, Chelsea Community Hospital was named one of the Top 100 Hospitals in the United States by HCIA, Inc. in its first national survey.

Will met Fr. Joseph Rinaldo in the early 1980s. A fast friendship developed and Will joined the Community

Advisory Council. Thanks to Will, in 1988 St. Louis Center began to offer its annual auction dinner in the Hospital's dining room, the food and venue donated by the Hospital. Will muses, "Feed people and they will come."

Will's formation took place in northern New Jersey. "Circumstances forced me to grow up quickly," he explains. At 14, he took a full-time summer job working for a construction company that had a contract with Bell Laboratories, the scientific arm of AT&T. Will walked one mile from his home to catch his daily ride to work. Some days he would carry two golf clubs with him, hoping to play at Bell Lab's three-hole course after work. He remains an avid golfer. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in History from The College of Wooster in Ohio and his Masters Degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Michigan. Some may say that Will has been lucky, but he would reply, "Luck occurs when preparation intersects with opportunity."

Will raised four children in Chelsea and is the grandfather of eight children aged four to 17 (pictured with him on the following page). Cultivating a culture of caring and leadership among them and among Chelsea's youth is one of Will's passions. In 2015, he endowed St. Louis Center's first scholarship to a college student whose parent, grandparent, or guardian is employed by St. Louis Center.

Will Johnson is a teacher who encourages others to look at things in a new light, find creative solutions to unique challenges, constantly strive for improvement, and be bold. His life work has been inspired by the author George Bernard Shaw who wrote, "Some men look at the world as it is and ask why; I prefer to dream of things that never were and ask, why not?"

The next time you are in Chelsea and heading downtown on Main Street, look to your right as you pass the town 'rock.' Just a few steps north of it, you will see Will Johnson Drive, a testimony to the profound impact he has made on the Chelsea community. Fittingly, the road leads into the hospital campus.

We thank Will Johnson for a lifetime of service to Chelsea and his work with St. Louis Center on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



DEANNA WALKOWICZ: ADDING A MOTHER'S TOUCH

The ladies who live at St. Louis Center reside at Our Lady of Providence (OLP) Hall at Father Guanella Hall and embody a family, thanks to the staff. Although there are no official "house mothers" at St. Louis Center, Deanna is as close as it comes, as the ladies trust, respect, and listen to her.

Deanna began her work as a Direct Care Worker in August 2011. "I was looking for a career change. I was down and out and jobless for four months. I was hired the same day and have loved my job from day one and am thankful for it every day," she said.

Ready for the challenge, Deanna has taken her responsibilities very seriously. She works to keep her ladies safe, make them feel loved, and meet their every day needs. In the words of some of them...

"Deanna is special, playful, and is good with all of the residents," said Cathy.

"Deanna is a good friend," said Linda.

"I like that she praises me when I do good," said Lisa.



"Deanna is a nice and helpful person," said Sarah.

The special care that Deanna provides for the ladies of OLP is apparent and appreciated by their parents and guardians, too. She finds that the parents and guardians show her love and respect because they are grateful for the care she provides and she communicates well with them.

"I think St. Louis Center has existed for so long because families have needed a safe, loving home for their loved ones when they are unable to care for or provide for them," Deanna said.

An example of this was on Thanksgiving. Deanna drove one of the ladies to be with her ill mother and family. Her mother has been unable to visit regularly. "I thought it was very important for her to be with her mom," Deanna said.

Being away from family can be tough, and Deanna does what she can to make the transition easier. When one of the ladies first moved to St. Louis Center, she struggled when it came time for her family to leave. "I hugged her tight as she cried and I ensured her that she was okay and that they would be back. It broke my heart to see her so sad, but I was happy to be there for her," said Deanna.

LORI

Sipping a cup of coffee while looking at a good book is the way to Lori's heart, as these are her favorite things to do.

Her room at Father Guanella Hall is beautifully decorated with pictures of her loved ones, medals and awards, and pretty things that were curated with the help of her mother.

Lori's mother describes her as being affectionate. "I love her contagious giggle, especially when she giggles over the phone," she said.

If there was one thing Lori would want others to know about her, it's that she likes to be given useful and meaningful tasks so she feels needed and important.

Before moving to St. Louis Center, Lori lived at Our Lady of Providence (OLP) Center in Northville, Michigan. The Center closed in 2002 and Lori moved home, living with her family in Saginaw until 2005, when she moved to St. Louis Center. She was reunited with several of her OLP peers who had also moved to St. Louis Center.

Her mother describes this move as the best decision and choice they could have ever made. "Lori is more social and truly enjoys being with and doing things with her housemates and peers. Here, she has friends!" said her mother.





BE A SAINT FOR ST. LOUIS CENTER

St. Louis Center seeks to raise funds for three priority areas:

- 1. Residential Support:** Raise \$1.5M in general operating each year to provide for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of children and adults with I/DD.
- 2. Capital Support:** Meet the \$10M Legacy Campaign goal and realize St. Louis Center's vision of creating a full continuum of care for people with I/DD.
- 3. Endowment:** Ensure the highest quality of services, for decades to come, by growing the St. Louis Center endowment trust to \$40M.

How to Support St. Louis Center:

St. Louis Center is grateful for the gifts of all types and sizes it receives from its supporters.

Outright Gifts make an immediate impact and are the most popular way of supporting SLC financially. These gifts include:

- Cash Donations made online at www.stlouiscenter.org, in person, or by mail
- Gifts of Stock and Securities
- In-Kind Gifts of Foods and Services



Planned Gifts are special kinds of gifts that support St. Louis Center financially while potentially providing significant benefits to you. Examples include:

- Wills or Trusts
- Life Income Gifts
- IRA Charitable Rollovers
- IRA or 401(k) Beneficiaries
- Life Insurance
- Real Estate

The IRA Charitable Rollover is now Permanent!

In December 2015, the President signed legislation that indefinitely extends the IRA Charitable Rollover with no expiration date. A growing number of individuals are supporting St. Louis Center in this way. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a qualified gift from your IRA.

The IRA Rollover:

- Allows donors 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000

from their IRA to charity each year.

- Is a tax-exempt distribution. Qualifying individuals can make charitable gifts using pre-tax IRA assets rather than taking a distribution, paying income taxes, and using after-tax assets to make a charitable gift.
- Can be used to meet all or part of an IRA required minimum distribution.

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St. Louis Center
 16195 Old U.S. Highway 12
 Chelsea, MI 48118
 734.475.8430
www.stlouiscenter.org

 www.facebook.com/stlouiscenter

 [St_Louis_Center](https://twitter.com/St_Louis_Center)



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