

St. Louis Center



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.



ANNUAL REPORT

2016



Pictured: Rosalie Tocco-Bradley, PhD, MD, Chief Medical Officer of St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston Hospitals, with Fr. Enzo and several St. Louis Center residents.

DEAR FRIENDS,

St. Louis Center has been blessed with another year of grace by the Lord.

I want to thank all of you for embracing St. Louis Center and promoting its cause and mission in order to open the hearts of society. People from many walks of life have taken this task upon themselves.

I am pleased to share with you that the Legacy Campaign goal for 2016 was met thanks to very generous donors and the hard work of the Legacy Campaign Committee.

The construction of the St. Louis Guanella Village infrastructure began at the end of October 2016. The ground breaking ceremony was held on September 29, 2016 and more than 250 people were in attendance. Around the same time, three priests from India, members of the Servants of Charity religious Congregation, joined St. Louis Center to help continue its mission and advance the Center into the future.

New residents were enrolled in St. Louis Center's programs. Some residents from the Children's Program, after proper formation, care, training and education, were reunited with their families.

We continue to offer respite services to families for weekends and extended school breaks.

New programs were offered to residents including Adaptive Movement and delivering Meals on Wheels. Throughout the year, residents enjoy participating in the Saturday Morning Challengers bowling league, fitness classes at the Chelsea Wellness Center and at St. Louis Center, Special Olympics, basketball tournaments, bible studies and Sunday religious services.

Members of the SLC Aktion Club, a Kiwanis initiative, became an integral part of the community through their volunteer work and sale of Christmas cards.

We are grateful to St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital, to its staff and its CEO, Nancy Graebner, for making a significant IT grant to the Center to move from a paper record-keeping system to an electronic format.

The Knights of Columbus State Council has shown its generosity and love for St. Louis Center by committing itself to a 10-year pledge to the SLC Legacy Campaign. I want to say thank you to all the Brother Knights and their families for endorsing the Center through the Tootsie Roll Drive and for promoting the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

While Village construction is underway, St. Louis Center staff members are preparing for the future by holding monthly meetings to plan for service delivery in the Village and other needs.

Many new people have contacted St. Louis Center, showing interest in its cause and the vision for the future.

Thank you for being the benevolent hand of God for the Center, its residents and the families that are served.

May God bless you all.

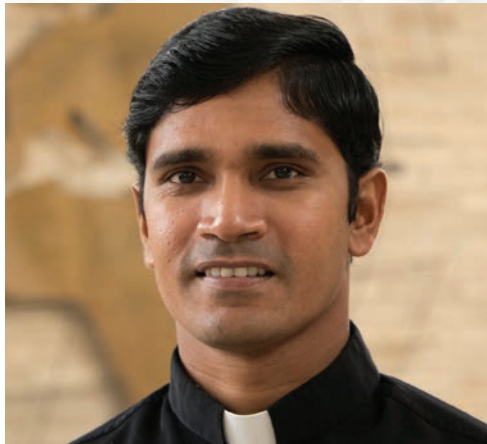


Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC
Executive Director

Fr. Leo Joseph Xavier



Fr. Amal Rayapillai



Fr. Franklin Michael

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE FUTURE

In our ever-changing global society, the Servants of Charity have been successful at remaining at the forefront to provide, in the words of their Founder, St. Louis Guanella, “Bread and Lord” to those who are in need. In each of the 24 nations where they are caring for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), the Servants of Charity offer loving services for children and adults entrusted to their care.

As St. Louis Center works to expand its vision and makes a life commitment to people with I/DD, the Servants of Charity are preparing young priests from other countries to follow in the footsteps of SLC administrators who built then led the Center for over 56 years.

Three priests from India arrived at St. Louis Center in fall 2016 to help ensure a quality future for St. Louis Center. Fr. Leo Joseph Xavier, Fr. Franklin Michael and Fr. Amal Rayapillai are quickly becoming familiar with life in the United States and the culture of care at SLC. To further prepare themselves for their work at St. Louis Center, they will each be pursuing a graduate degree. With mentoring and support from the senior priests, these young men will be well-positioned to provide future leadership for the Center.

GINNY WHEATON: A ST. LOUIS CENTER TREASURE

Ginny Wheaton is St. Louis Center's longest serving employee, making her family and a St. Louis Center treasure.

Her warm, friendly smile has greeted residents, staff, and guests for 36 years. When she began, Ginny worked in dietary and housekeeping, then she became the kitchen supervisor. She is now an assistant in nursing and bookkeeping. Her role here has changed, but she remains an asset to St. Louis Center.

Ginny is also an important part of the Chelsea community. Many know Ginny from her work supervising food services every year at the Chelsea Community Fair. Her home cooking and kindness are tough to beat and have kept fair goers coming back every summer.

Her prominent role in the community makes it hard to believe that Ginny isn't a Chelsea native. She was born in Cheboygan and lived there until she was six years old. Her father was a fisherman and worked at a paper mill; her mother was a housewife. They moved from Cheboygan to the Irish Hills and lived on the south shore of Wampler's Lake. She graduated from Onsted High School. In 1965, she moved to Chelsea with her husband and daughter Shelley because Ginny was working in Jackson and her husband was working at the Rawsonville Ford plant. "Chelsea was in the middle," she explained.

Shelley and her son Jared live with Ginny in Chelsea. Ginny's son Jeff and his wife Amanda live with their children Zachary and Victoria near Ypsilanti.

How it Began

Ginny started working at St. Louis Center in August 1978 when her neighbor, Pat Wood, who worked at St. Louis Center, was looking for a two-week replacement. At that time, Sr. Lucy Nigro, a member of the Order of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, was in charge of the kitchen and housekeeping at St. Louis Center. Ginny reminisced, "Sr. Lucy told Pat that she had to find somebody to work for her while she was on vacation. So I came to St. Louis Center for two weeks and Sr. Lucy wouldn't let me go. I ended up staying here for 36 years!"

Ginny has become known for her magic in the kitchen, but when she began her work extended into the residents' homes as well. "When I first started I also did housekeeping for Sr. Lucy because we didn't have work crews back then. I usually had to come in at 5am and we'd fix the kids a hot breakfast three days a week. Then we had lunches to make, so it was always busy in the morning. We used to feed everyone in what is now the bus stop area."

Ginny retired from her position in dietary and housekeeping, but fortunately for us, she is back in her new role!



ST. LOUIS CENTER

43 Adults
19-66 yrs.

7 Teens
11-18 yrs.

1 Youth
6-10 yrs.

Fast Fact

The new
children's homes
are projected to be
complete fall 2017.



2 New Admissions

1 Reunited with Family

1 Moved to County
of Origin

1 Discharged

2 Moved from
Children's Program
to Adults' Program

Fast Fact

St. Louis
Center has
over 80
full time
employees.

AUDITED FINANCIALS

St. Louis Center's comparative financial statements for the fiscal years
July 1 - June 30, 2015 and 2016.

Respite was provided
to 3 people for
52 weekends
in 2016.

Fast Fact

Support & Revenue	2016	2015
Agency Payments	\$2,433,263.00	\$1,979,849.00
Contributions & Grants	\$596,385.00	\$540,027.00
Fundraising Events	\$501,185.00	\$556,430.00
Other	\$585,218.00	\$717,633.00
Total Support & Revenue	\$4,116,051.00	\$3,793,939.00

Expenses*	2016	2015
Program Services	\$2,793,251.00	\$2,562,349.00
Management & General	\$984,520.00	\$978,939.00
Fundraising Projects	\$220,703.00	\$131,975.00
Depreciation	\$251,284.00	\$184,140.00
Total Expenses	\$4,249,758.00	\$3,857,403.00

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

**counties
of origin**

ingham 1
jackson 3
kalamazoo 1
macomb 2
midland 1
oakland 3
out of state 1
saginaw 1
washtenaw 20
wayne 18

walking
52



community
spin
104



basketball
90



dancing
90



floor
hockey
90



senior
exercise
78



music
therapy
104



**Hours of Fitness &
Wellness in 2016**

therapy
dog
24



SATURDAY MORNING CHALLENGERS

"Saturday Morning Challengers" is a name that is often heard at St. Louis Center. It doesn't take long to realize that it's much more than just a bowling league in Ann Arbor. It is *the* place to be on Saturday mornings.

Belmark Lanes has been hosting the league for people with special needs in Washtenaw County since 1995. Thanks to Bob Pierce, the Executive Director of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, and his wife Nadine Anderson of Chelsea, the league is still going strong. Bob and Nadine began the league because of their experience using bowling as a physical outlet for their son Michael, who has special needs.

Bob directed youth programs for bowlers when he lived in Virginia and Ohio. Bob said, "We knew bowling and I was very active. Mike enjoyed it too, so I realized that there was no other activity where you could be at any level physically and still participate. Regardless of being sightless, wheelchair bound, having cerebral palsy, or any other disability, anyone can come out and bowl."

Mike was a freshman in high school when his family moved to Chelsea. Nadine's background as a special education teacher meant that they were all too aware of the looming "cliff" that comes with turning 26, aging out of the public education program.

"Once you leave the public education bubble you are alone. Suddenly you're 26 and you're out on the streets. So we had a desire to provide some kind of recreational opportunity for people with special needs. That's how we started, and we are in our 21st year now," said Bob.

St. Louis Center became connected to the Saturday Morning Challengers through Steve Daut, former Finance Director at St. Louis Center.

"We shared this common passion for getting our population out there doing things, and through Steve we made our first connection with St. Louis Center and brought the residents in to bowl with us. It was pay as you go. At Steve's suggestion, we joined together to create a sponsorship opportunity, and today SLC is our primary sponsor. St. Louis Center is our 'energy sponsor.' They provide so much energy for that league; it's unbelievable!" explained Bob.

The group started with 16 bowlers from throughout Washtenaw County and has since blossomed to serve 125 registered bowlers who occupy about 30 lanes each Saturday, 32 weeks a year.

Thanks to the Saturday Morning Challengers, the residents of St. Louis Center live for bowling. Their interest has spilled over into the Special Olympics where the majority of participants compete. The Saturday Morning Challengers has become a form of training for the summer games.

Pierce's feelings about St. Louis Center are strong, and he's hopeful for the future. "What I see happening out there is magic. The environment is one of caring, compassion and understanding with engagement and involvement. The residents that I interact with know that it's their home and their world. They feel very comfortable in that environment. Stanley is like a rock star there, along with guys like Lee. You've expanded your bubble out into the community, and I'm grateful for that. It's part of what we're trying to do with our Challenger's program."

He continued, "St. Louis Guanella Village thrilled me when it was first introduced. What I've seen is the next humane and correct step in how we need to serve our I/DD community. For me, the Village concept is leading edge and the wave of the future; the Village will give parents options. It's very unsettling when you have an only child and no other family around. St. Louis Guanella Village will provide a family for those in need."





PAYING IT FORWARD

Having the ability to prepare a home cooked meal can often be taken for granted. Assisting someone who can no longer do so can give us a deeper appreciation for something that seems like less of a need and more like an overlooked routine. St. Louis Center residents had their first taste of this in 2016.

Early in the summer, residents began participating regularly in the Meals on Wheels program by delivering hot meals to local,

elderly people. Three days a week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, about seven residents with St. Louis Center staff travel to the Chelsea Senior Center where the Senior Center's Meals on Wheels volunteers distribute the meals for delivery. Residents are responsible for seven to nine individuals' meals each day.

Mary Erskine, the Senior Nutrition Program Site Coordinator, said, "It's a joy to have the SLC group support Meals on Wheels. They are a

great asset to the program and have formed friendships with our seniors. They really care about people on their delivery route and will express concern when someone is not on their route for the day."

Despite not typically cooking their own meals, residents of St. Louis Center who are involved in the program understand the responsibility they carry – and are dedicated. A St. Louis Center employee who has been involved with the program from the beginning, Ashley Bertke, has observed that "the residents love going. Every morning they remind me, 'We have meals today at 10:30am, right?' They love helping the people who need help." Their days become more about giving back versus focusing on their own needs, needs that are so often met through the kindness of others.

Likewise, meal recipients seem to enjoy the deliveries, too. "We have had the same homes, so the people on the route know the SLC residents, and the residents know them," said Bertke.

Robert Walker is another SLC employee who has assisted residents with deliveries. He saw how seriously they take their delivery role when he went along for the first time. "A resident was able to help navigate to the houses," he commented.

They love helping so much that in 2017 they will be increasing their deliveries to five days a week!



DAWN



Dawn is the only child of a mother who taught her the true meaning of love and self-sacrifice. She was born with Down Syndrome and her mother, "Mama Judi" to Dawn, was her constant advocate, ensuring that her needs were always met. This led her to place Dawn at Our Lady of Providence (OLP) in Northville.

Dawn was very happy there. Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP, fondly recalls that Dawn loved going to workshop training and doing whatever tasks Noreen, the trainer, asked her to do. Sr. Margaret Mary said, "Dawn is easy to assist. She is close to God." She was always excited to go home for a visit, but also just as excited to come back to OLP and her group of friends, as Judi called them, her 'soul sisters.'

Our Lady of Providence in Northville closed, but Dawn was eventually reunited at St. Louis Center with her 'soul sisters' in 2006. She settled comfortably into her new room at Father Guanella Hall. She enjoys coloring, listening and dancing to music, bowling and going shopping. The outings are a new accomplishment, because for the longest time Dawn would not ride in a van. Recently Deanna, a direct care worker, has been able to convince Dawn that she will have a lot of fun if she'll go along for the ride.

Lisa, a friend and housemate, truly understands Dawn and is usually around to help cheer her up if a cup of coffee doesn't do the trick. Lisa says, "She is my sister and I totally love her. When she says she wants to go home, I tell her 'this is your home, this is our home.'"

Dawn's mother passed away last year. She misses her Mama Judi very much. When she gets sad, Lisa and the other ladies are there by her side. "I know how to make Dawn laugh," said Lisa. Her friends remain close to her and remind her of how important she is to them by showing her love that her mother always longed for her to have.

ANTOINE



Outings. They're what has become Antoine's favorite pastime at St. Louis Center. He has been living at St. Louis Center for 17 years, experiencing all it has to offer.

Self-described as athletic, Antoine especially enjoys attending the annual Detroit Pistons game (followed by going on the court and taking pictures). He is also a devoted bowler, but not just for fun, as he competes in the Saturday Morning Challengers League and in the Summer Special Olympics in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. During the warmer months, Antoine can also be found shooting hoops outside of St. Joseph Hall "on the hill."

When Antoine's not moving you can bet that he will be watching a good game show like Family Feud, the news, or a talk show. During the week, he works at Goodwill in Chelsea sorting donations. His roommate Lee said that he is a good and helpful worker.

Since meeting Antoine "a long time ago," Lee says that Antoine talks a lot more. "We're good friends. He jokes around with some of the other guys." Lee also describes Antoine as being "kind and clean."

Antoine would like others to know that he cares for other people. "If they don't feel good, I pray for them. We do that with Fr. Enzo in the chapel on Sundays – pray for people."

He enjoys the simple things in life. When asked what he would choose if he could have anything at St. Louis Center, he responded with "more paychecks to get money for pop."

SISTER BONDS

The relationship between sisters can be a unique and fascinating connection. The relationship between Sharon Werner and her sister Cathy, a resident of Our Lady of Providence Hall, is one of those unique sister relationships.

Sharon

Sharon and Cathy grew up in Jackson, Michigan. Cathy was the oldest of five and Sharon, the middle child, is three years younger than Cathy. As a result of their mother contracting the German measles during her pregnancy with Cathy, Cathy was born legally blind and deaf in one ear. She has since lost her hearing in her left ear and continues to wear a hearing aid in her right ear. At four years old, Cathy began attending the residential Michigan School for the Blind and Deaf in Lansing. Sharon reminisced, "Cathy came home every weekend; she rode the Greyhound bus home. My mom and I would check out books at the Jackson District Library while we waited for her bus to arrive each Friday afternoon. On Sundays, we ate dinner at 3pm because we always took Cathy back to school after dinner. To this day, my family eats Sunday dinner at 3pm."

Cathy and Sharon have two brothers and a sister. The three girls shared a bedroom as children. Cathy taught Sharon sign language. At night they practiced and communicated in the dark. "When we were in bed, I would sign to Cathy. She would feel my hands and say the letter I was forming. Sharon missed her sister when she was away at school. Their bond was a tight one.

Sharon said she always knew that Cathy would eventually live with her and her husband, Carl. After their mother passed away in 2007, Cathy remained at home with their father in Jackson, but it became clear that Cathy needed more care. So Cathy moved in with Sharon and Carl in February 2009.

But Cathy needed more support and daily enrichment activities than they could ultimately provide. Sharon has worked full-time for 35 years as a paralegal. As she explained, leaving Cathy all day was difficult, "She was home alone so much and I was so far away." The youngest of Sharon and Carl's five children was still living at home when Cathy moved in. Demands on their time were great. Sharon felt they needed an alternative residential setting for Cathy. But the decision to find such a home for her was not easily made. Sharon found St. Louis Center, which she said was the "best option" for Cathy. "As I researched, I found that there was very little geared toward the developmentally disabled."

Cathy became a resident of Our Lady of Providence Hall in 2012. Sharon spoke of how difficult it was to leave her at St. Louis Center, "I cried when I dropped her off, but I knew that she would be safe. I had a peace of mind. The adjustment was difficult for Cathy at first, but I kept reassuring her that I would always be there to take care of her." Sharon continued, "When I found St. Louis Center, I never worried that I would have to find another home for her. But I still

struggled." She often wondered if their mother was okay with her decision to place Cathy at SLC.

But she was reassured by a close friend of her mother's who told her that her mother "wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

Sharon spoke highly of the care provided by Cathy's direct care staff, calling one of the staff members "an angel sent by mother" and "heaven-sent."

In 2014, St. Louis Center opened Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living. Our Lady of Providence Hall (OLP) is part of Fr. Guanella Hall. With Sharon's help, St. Louis Center secured a generous donation of cabinetry and paint from the Masco Corporation for that renovation. She recalls, "When it opened, I could not have been more proud. I am so proud of Masco and of St. Louis Center. I was never so proud to be a Masco employee." She added, "I can't think of a better place to give because you know your funds are going to a good cause and you will feel good about your gift." Recently she personally thanked Richard Manoogian, Chairman Emeritus of Masco, for the Company's generosity and philanthropic endeavors.

Her advice to people who are searching for a residential setting for their loved one is to talk with someone whose child or relative lives there, talk with the staff, and visit before a decision is made.

Sharon continues to take Cathy to all of her medical appointments; she is highly organized when it comes to Cathy's care. Cathy stays with Sharon and Carl on the weekends. And Sharon consistently assures Cathy by saying "I will always take care of you."

Cathy

"My sister Sharon helps me with my problems," said Cathy. She takes me shopping sometimes and she takes me to the doctor. Cathy reminisced on her childhood and her relationship with Sharon, "Sharon and I used to play games; it was a long time ago. We played dolls, we played in the snow, and we went to the park. I taught her how to finger spell. She didn't know and she wanted to learn. She was concerned. If I didn't know what she was saying, she finger spelled or she wrote it on paper. It's hard to finger spell, but she's trying."

If spoken to slowly and clearly, Cathy understands most of what is being said or asked. She is very good at reading lips. She explained that she learned how to sign at the Michigan School for the Blind, a school she loved. But it was difficult leaving home at the young age of four. "When I started there, I would cry. I couldn't talk that much until I was six. They put me in a deaf-blind class. The staff was good and I made a lot of friends. They could talk to me."

Cathy is cared for primarily by two direct care workers named Deanna and Jessica. She said, "I like them. They help me work on my goal, which is exercising." In 2015, Cathy began volunteering

at Chelsea's North Creek Elementary School through an arrangement made by SLC social work and program staff who endeavor to provide many individualized, community-based experiences for SLC residents.

Cathy misses her mother and she worries about her family, "My family is my main concern. I worry about them when I'm here."

Her new friends at Our Lady of Providence seem to be helping to fill the void in her life. Cathy spoke of a best friend she had while at the Michigan School for the Blind. Now she has a new, second best friend, a fellow resident of OLP, Linda. "I try to talk with everyone at St. Louis Center, but they can't understand me. But Linda can," said Cathy.

She returned to talking about Sharon, "I lived with Sharon after I lived with my dad...Sharon understands me. I don't want anything to happen to her. She worries about me a lot and I don't want her to worry. When I talk with her at night, she always tells me 'I love you' and 'Don't stay up too late.'"



PERCY BATES: A HISTORY MAKER SUPPORTING ST. LOUIS CENTER

Attending school is a major part of the lives of St. Louis Center residents aged 26 and under. Many people fought to not only make special education mandatory, but also to make it work. Percy Bates, PhD, a member of St. Louis Center's Legacy Campaign Committee, is one of those people. Dr. Bates is a Professor of Special Education and has been with the University of Michigan for 52 years; currently, he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in special education. He and his wife of 54 years, Cheryl, have two children and four grandchildren.

At UM, he has held several leadership positions, including Assistant Dean of the School of Education and Chair of the Department of Special Education. For twenty years, the University of Michigan operated a center dedicated to desegregation; Dr. Bates directed it for all 20 years. He edited Effective Schools: Critical Issues in the Education of Black Children and wrote an article on school desegregation entitled, "Can we Get There from Here?" Nominated by the UM Faculty Senate, Dr. Bates also served as UM's Faculty Representative to the NCAA Big Ten Conference for 22 years, a volunteer position responsible for overseeing the academic progress of student athletes. He also served as President of the national Black Coaches' Association.

His enduring commitment to the field of special education is part of its history. In 1979, at the age of 48, Dr. Bates was appointed to the U.S. Office of Special Education and served as the Deputy

Assistant Secretary of Special Education under President Jimmy Carter, who Dr. Bates described as "warm, kind and gentle." In this Office, Dr. Bates "got a chance to see where the glitches in the system were" and worked specifically to improve the referral system, diagnostic work and mainstreaming. Prior to this appointment, he was active in a number of national associations. He was nominated for this position by the Council for Exceptional Children, the premier national association for special education professionals.

Dr. Bates moved to Michigan from Pensacola, Florida when he was 13 years old. He finished high school in Hamtramck, Michigan, and from there was drafted into the Army. When he returned, he began his undergraduate studies at Central Michigan University. He majored in biology, minored in sociology and psychology, and earned a teaching certificate in general science. He also took courses in special education and did an internship at a local church tutoring elementary age children with special needs. He worked with a young girl with a brain injury and his task was to help her learn to tie her shoes. On their final day together, she put her foot up to show him something he described as "similar to a bow." He continued, **"The look on her face told me that there was a difference between my interest in this field and my curiosity. That expression grabbed me; (working with this population) felt like something I was meant to do."**

Dr. Bates recounted that at that time, Detroit had a "massive shortage" of special education teachers. He earned temporary certification in special education and taught there for three years. As a special education teacher, he wondered how his students got there and was concerned that pathways to special education "didn't make sense." So he earned his masters degree from Wayne State University and became a school psychologist "to correct a perceived ill in the system." Working in Ypsilanti, he was part of the research team that conducted the renowned High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, a highly influential, breakthrough study proving the astounding impact of early intervention in shaping the lives of young children. "It was a big, important study," he said in his soft spoken, self-effacing manner.

Dr. Bates went on to earn his doctorate degree from the University of Michigan in 1968.

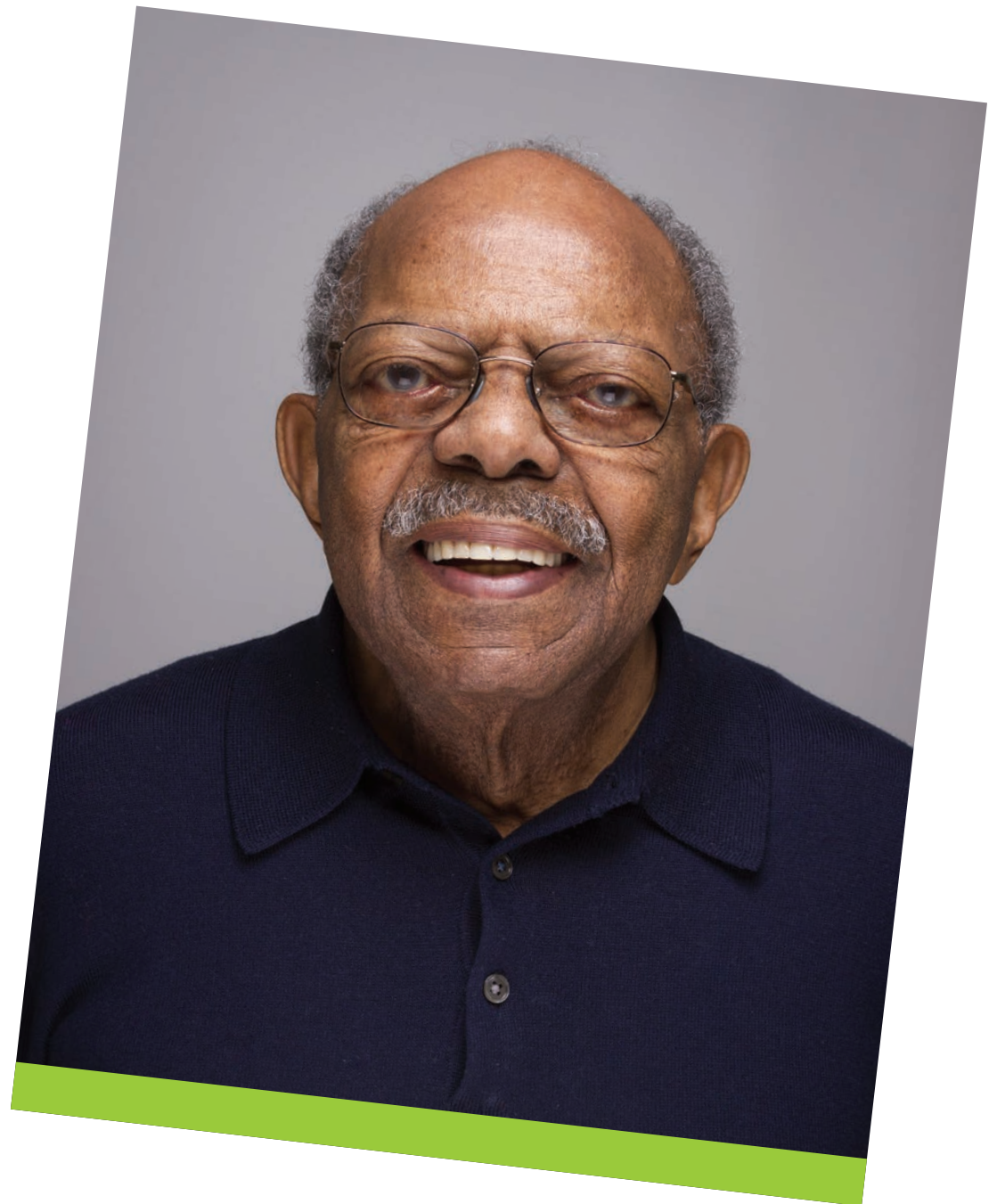
How did he become involved with St. Louis Center? He answered, "My professional background always connected to organizations related to people with special needs. I have always been involved, including in Special Olympics." At the original Our Lady of Providence home in Northville, MI for women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, he connected with fellow Legacy Campaign Committee member Dr. Judy Greenbaum. When that home closed and its residents moved to St. Louis Center, his interest, along with Dr. Greenbaum's, shifted to SLC.

One of the biggest challenges he sees on the horizon for St. Louis Center is marketing. "There will have to be a lot more branding of SLC. We're moving in that direction, but we will need more." He added that the family orientation of the Village in particular will require a great deal of marketing. "People have to be convinced that SLC has something better for them."

And what advice does he have for parents of young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are starting on the path of formal schooling? He replied, "No matter what your situation is, you have to work together with others to get the best education for your child. Regardless of whether or not anyone tells you how far your child can go, no one really knows. You have no idea how much a child can develop from where they are at the given time. Will my child be able to go to college? You can't say no. **Parents have the right to believe that there is a place for their child.**"

There is a great deal that Dr. Bates has to be proud of in terms of his illustrious career and there are no signs of him slowing down. He revealed that he is most proud of his appointment as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Special Education and his appointment to the Secretary's Committee on Title IX, Gender Equity, under George W. Bush.

But he quickly added that being the grandfather to four granddaughters also makes him very proud. "My grandchildren call me 'Papa.' Only the best grandfathers get promoted to 'Papa.'"



THE LEGACY PROJECT: PROGRESS REPORT

St. Louis Center is making a life commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) through the *Legacy Project*, comprised of a series of renovation and new construction projects as well as the development of new health and wellness programs. St. Louis Center's *Vision for the Future* is to provide for children and adults with I/DD in an integrated setting that will allow for a full continuum of care.

The construction of the St. Louis Guanella Village, the culminating construction project, began in 2016. The Village will provide residential care and other opportunities for children and adults with I/DD and for families caring for loved ones of any age with special needs.

The Legacy Project is being funded by the \$10M Legacy Campaign

Campaign Goal:..... \$10M

Funds Raised as of 12/31/16:\$8.4M

In September 2016, St. Louis Center received two generous challenge matches totaling \$550,000. Much progress was made in 2016 on the successful completion of these matches which expire on June 30, 2017.

St. Louis Center is appreciative of and welcomes challenge match opportunities.

Major Capital Projects Completed:

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

St. Louis Guanella Village Construction Projects that Began in 2016:

- Village infrastructure (grading, utilities, wastewater treatment system, streets, lighting, landscaping)
- Four homes for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities

LOOKING BEYOND THE CHILDREN'S HOMES: COTTAGE HOMES FOR ADULTS, A FITNESS CENTER, AND FAMILY HOMES

Since 2010, St. Louis Center has been planning the Village with an eye on fresh, innovative ideas that solve complex social and economic challenges. The Center is focused on design that will uplift Village residents, strengthen social connections, promote health, encourage learning, and enhance a sense of safety and belonging. St. Louis Center's Village planning work encompasses many aspects of the housing and care experience, including architectural design, community-building, regulation, and affordability, among many others.

Village design work will continue in 2017 with the design of five Cottage Homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and the design of single-family homes (see below) and townhomes for families caring for loved ones of any age with I/DD.

Also in 2017, the design of the Village Fitness Center will continue. The Fitness Center will provide Village residents the space necessary for them to work with qualified fitness and other staff to achieve and maintain optimal physical health.



Rendering of the rear-view of a Village family home

THE ST. LOUIS GUANELLA VILLAGE CHILDREN'S HOMES

Childhood is a critical period in human development. St. Louis Center's goal is to promote the healthy growth of the children entrusted to its care. These children have diagnosed intellectual and developmental disabilities that include but are not limited to Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Cognitive Impairment and others.

The Village Children's Homes, designed by Marco Silveri of Silveri Architects, have been designed to follow the maturation of the children and, with the support of trained staff, help them gain the capacity to trust, to love, to play, to learn, and to work – in calm, secure, and environmentally-friendly surroundings.

Universally-designed features of the homes go well beyond ADA compliancy; each home is entirely barrier-free. The homes' design is energy efficient with maximum provisions for the highest quality of indoor air. A unique sensory room in each home will allow for individual or group activities or therapies.

Key features of the Children's Homes include:

- Four 3,000 square foot homes with five bedrooms, each with a private bath and ample closet space
- Family style floorplan including a modern dining room/kitchen, living room, activity and sensory room, laundry room and partial basement for storage
- Front porch, patio, and backyard
- Use of natural building materials, soothing color palette, and ample windows to create a sense of calm
- Use of paints with low-VOCs and linoleum flooring that do not release harmful chemicals
- Design that takes sensory hypersensitivity issues, common in children with I/DD, into consideration through appropriate interior colors, controlled views, diffused natural daylight, full spectrum LED light fixtures, acoustical windows, sound attenuation interior partitions, and simple interior detailing and finishes
- Safety and security ensured through controlled access to the exterior, a secure backyard, safe and appropriate detailed furnishings, centrally monitored spaces, safety glazing and egress



Front view of a Children's Home



Backyard view of the Children's Homes

A HERO FOR ST. LOUIS CENTER

Mr. Jerry D'Adamo is a true hero for St. Louis Center. A supporter since the early 1990s, he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through personal solicitations in support of the Center. Jerry received St. Louis Center's Humanitarian of the Year award in 2011 for his tireless contributions to the betterment of society. He is a member of SLC's Legacy Campaign Committee and an honorary member of its Community Advisory Council.

When asked what the key to successful gift solicitation is, he replied, "You have to be humble; humility pays off." He continued, "I sit with someone for a long time and if he agrees to give \$200.00 and I know he can give more, I say, 'If you can help a little more, I'd be appreciative...' It's how you approach someone," he explains.



Jerry's approach to fund raising is also creative. For fifteen years after he had retired, he borrowed office space from a corporation where he made phone calls, wrote letters, and sent faxes in order to secure donations to St. Louis Center. "I should start charging you rent," the CEO told him in jest. "In fund raising," Jerry explains, "you have to use your head."

In 1995, a dinner dance in support of SLC was inaugurated at the Italian American Club of Livonia. In 2016, the event celebrated its 21st year. At that first dinner dance, Jerry and his beloved late wife Alice met Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and the couple's work on behalf of the Center began. Jerry served on the Community Advisory Council for 17 years, and his wife was always by his side. "If it hadn't been for her support, I couldn't have done it. She is why I was so successful in my career and in my work for St. Louis Center...she never stopped me from doing good things for people and I did whatever I could do for St. Louis Center. I renovated the gym and replaced windows and tile flooring." They visited the Center as often as they could; Jerry enjoyed playing basketball with the residents. "I made a promise to Fr. Joe that I would always help," he added. "And if I had lived closer, I would have been even more involved."

Jerry is from a small town in Pennsylvania called Turtle Creek, near Pittsburgh. "There were 25,000 people in the town and I knew every one of them." He credits his mother for his gregarious nature. "My mother was always friendly with people."

Jerry moved to Michigan after high school and

lived with his aunt and uncle in Dearborn. His first job as a young adult was working for Masco. "I was one of the leaders in the factory. I could sharpen a drill with my eyes closed." He married Alice when he was 20; they were married for 62 years. They had two children; sadly, both passed away. Yet Jerry and his wife were blessed with two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

In the 1950s, he started his first construction company. "Alice kept all the books," he said, always crediting his late wife for his success. Throughout his remarkable career, he built 800 units of low-income housing and high rise apartment buildings among other numerous, extensive projects. "I know how to build," he commented humbly. He also built Angela's Hospice and the Italian American Club of Livonia.

Regarding SLC, he said, "You have no idea how I feel about St. Louis Center. I see the residents and I see myself. I lost two children. There's perspective in what I have wanted to do with my life." He continued, "Someone asked me about my work with the Center, 'When are you going to hang it up, Jerry?' I told him, 'Never. I want that money of yours.'"

He laughed, then he said more seriously, "St. Louis Center provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities a great service and we're also helping their families. But there is a lot more to be done. How will St. Louis Center obtain the money it needs if people don't give? I've never seen an armored car follow a funeral. You can't take it with you."

STEPHANY MUSZYNSKI

Change can be intimidating, but from it can come growth and new insights. Stephany Muszynski, St. Louis Center's Social Work Supervisor, has learned this from her experiences as a child and most recently in her journey to St. Louis Center. Stephany moved from California to Texas, Nevada, Arizona and Montana before her family settled in Michigan when she was 15 years old.

Stephany graduated from Ann Arbor Huron High School, earned an associates degree at Washtenaw Community College and a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University. She began her work career as a social worker for Heartland Healthcare Center Canton nursing home where she assisted patients and their families to coordinate care as they transitioned either home or to long-term care. She remained at Heartland for four years, but left as Director of Social Work when she took the opportunity to work at St. Louis Center.

The long-term residential setting which St. Louis Center offers appealed to Stephany and she has discovered how rewarding and relaxing it can be to establish and maintain relationships with clients and their families. Her role as the Social Work Supervisor has given her the opportunity to expand her experience as a social worker and to follow her passion for working with the elderly.

It is St. Louis Center's family-oriented atmosphere that is most appealing to Stephany. The residents of St. Louis Center live in homes. Their needs are being met and they are given the opportunity to

engage in activities that bring them together.

"For those who don't have families involved in their life, we are their family," said Stephany.

Looking forward to St. Louis Guanella Village, Stephany said, "I have great hope that the Village will provide a more home-like feel, making residents more at ease and helping them to truly feel like they are living in a community."

The Village will bring change throughout St. Louis Center, especially in the Social Work Department. Stephany is confident in the strength of her team and feels that its transition to offices in the heart of the Village will provide the opportunity to

better meet residents' needs because the social work staff will be physically closer to them, thus allowing for interactions on a more familial level.

"I enjoy every situation when I see the residents being really good friends and neighbors," mentioned Stephany.

Stephany is building and moving forward along with St. Louis Center. She plans to pursue a Masters Degree in Social Work which will help hone her skills as she leads the Social Work Department toward the Village model of care. Since her arrival, it is hard for her to imagine being anywhere else.





MARY GALASSO: AN ACCOMPLISHED FRIEND – ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LIVONIA

Mary Galasso is an accomplished woman whose Catholic faith has guided her through the years. With faith and family most important to her, she has used her talents to help provide for her family members while making significant contributions to the Italian American Club of Livonia (IACL), St. Louis Center, and St. Colette's in Livonia, her local parish. For many years, she has been the Chair of the IACL Dinner Dance, which benefits St. Louis Center. At that event, she has presented many St. Louis Guanella Humanitarian Awards. Now it is her turn for recognition for her commitment to the advancement of a better society.

Mary was born on January 3, 1938 in Detroit to Ray and Catherine Doemer and lived in what she recalls a "forsaken old farm house" on the near east side. As Mary explained, that house was all her family could find after her father, a WWI veteran, returned from the war. Mary idolized her father, whom she said was very special to her and always there for her. She attended St. Rita Catholic School and is very proud of her Catholic education. Mary met her husband Mario Galasso at the local "Five and Dime Store," where she worked after school. They married on October 6, 1956, soon after she graduated from high school. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

After the initial loss of their first child, Mary and Mario raised three sons, Michael

Raymond, Mark Anthony, and Raymond Matthew. They have seven grandchildren. But along with raising a family, there was more for Mary to accomplish. She had made a promise to her father years before that she would eventually go back to school and obtain a college education. Knowing that she was good with numbers, she attended Schoolcraft College, graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1969 with majors in accounting and business administration.

Mary's work life was both extensive and interesting. She worked for Michigan Bell Telephone, then became an office manager for Stainless Equipment. She left there after her last child was born, worked at National Extruded Metal Products, then grew interested in legal work and was employed by four different Detroit area law firms. Mary retired from legal work in 1997 after 15 years at Colombo and Colombo, and along with three friends, Mario and Mary enjoyed a land/sea cruise to Alaska.

In 1977, she and Mario joined the Italian American Club of Livonia, and by 1994, she was appointed to its Board of Directors by Tony Greco. This was also when she became involved with St. Louis Center, drawn by her strong faith to the Center's charitable work. She reminisced on her first visit, **"My faith has always guided me to be kind and generous to those with disabilities, and my heart went out**

JEROME

to the residents of the Center the first time I visited. Al and Pat Zangara, two long-time supporters of the Center, made a big impression on me and I jumped on the bandwagon..." She continued, "My Catholic faith has guided me to be humbled by the fact that I have always done so well while there are others who suffer so much." Mary went on to become President of the IACL, serving for eight years as the first female President of the Club.

Mary was humbled by her nomination for the St. Louis Guanella Humanitarian Award in 2017 and said, "It's a very special honor, but I haven't done what others have done. All I do is work so the Center can realize its plans for the future. I see the wonderful priests there who have given up their lives to serve the Lord. I wasn't expecting this award, but when Fr. Enzo said, 'You've been chosen,' I could only say yes."

Jerome is one of a kind – with a history to match.

What makes his situation so unique is that he was one of St. Louis School's first students in the early 1960s and returned by chance. Jerome was born in Detroit and at age 12 was accepted into St. Louis School, which was then a year-long, residential school. After three years, he returned to live with his parents, Clifford and Josephine, in Romeo. He worked with his father on their chicken farm selling and delivering eggs. He also sold Red Wing Shoes house-to-house. Jerome attended school in the Anchor Bay School District; he eventually earned his GED through the Fair Haven School District.

Jerome's talents shined in the choir at his local Catholic Church and as a member of the Knights of Columbus. Jerome plays the organ to this day. If he is told a birthday one time he will remember it, and he has exceptional skills with directions.

Jerome spent the majority of his adult life in Romeo. By 1996, both of his parents had passed away. Family friends and neighbors named Norbert and Michelle promised Jerome's father that they would look after Jerome after he died. Michelle offered Jerome a job helping her clean houses and took care of him for the next seventeen years in her home until she passed away in 2013.

According to Michelle's daughter-in-law Denise, "Norbert and Michelle built an apartment for Jerome in their basement...Michelle made all of his meals and cleaned his clothes, but he was a big help to them too, because he was able to drive. He would run errands to the grocery store and help

with yard work and snow shoveling. Jerome used to drive a Ford Escort, and he had three trucks over time.

His red Chevy truck was crushed by a tree in a wind storm, and eventually, because of his health, the doctors decided he shouldn't drive anymore."

Denise continued, "Before Michelle passed away, I made her a promise that I would take care of Jerome. So Norbert Jr. and I started trying to find him another place to live. I couldn't personally care for him anymore because of my own medical condition, so it was hard for me. He stayed with me quite a bit and was in two other places. Then God somehow sent me to St. Louis Center. Jerome kept telling me that they had closed (St. Louis Center). Then one night at 2am, I woke up and started Googling. I found St. Louis Center and learned that it was still (providing) residential care, so that's how I made contact."

Denise said, "He still comes over during holidays and is a part of the family. He's very active and just needs repetition and guidance."

When Denise brought Jerome back to St. Louis Center in 2015, she looked on the wall, saw a class photo from 1962 and said, "Jerome come here and look at this." Jerome was featured in the photo. She knew he was home again. **"It's been a great fit and St. Louis Center has been so wonderful to him. You've taken him in with open arms, and it gives me a lot of peace knowing that he is being taken care of so well there."**



We appreciate each one of our supporters

Your generosity makes it possible for St. Louis Center to provide individualized care for the children and adults who reside here and to develop future projects that help meet growing needs.

There are many ways to show you care

Outright Gifts make an immediate impact and are the most common ways of supporting St. Louis Center financially. These gifts include:

- Cash Donations – personal check, credit card authorization, money order or bank draft
- Gifts of Stock or Securities – offer a charitable deduction to you, the donor, and eliminate your capital gains tax liability
- In-Kind Gifts of Goods and Services

Matching Gifts increase your gift by making use of your company's matching gift program.

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

- Will or Trust – name St. Louis Center in your will or trust. You can make significant impact without affecting your current finances.
- Life Income Gifts – gifts that name St. Louis Center as a beneficiary while you or your loved ones are paid an income. These can include the Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Trust, or others.
- IRA, 401(k) beneficiary - name St. Louis Center as a percentage beneficiary of your retirement plan account. This requires only a simple change of beneficiary form.
- Life Insurance – name St. Louis Center as a beneficiary of your fully paid or new life insurance policy.
- Real Estate – commercial buildings, residential property, or land

If you would like to learn more about creative ways to support St. Louis Center or for referrals to financial advisors, tax attorneys, or estate planning attorneys within St. Louis Center's community of supporters, please contact Peggy Cole at (734)475-8430 or peggyc@stlouiscenter.org.

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Kenneth Unterbrink (pictured with Fr. Enzo), Michigan Knights of Columbus State Deputy, is a proud supporter of St. Louis Center. Kenneth and his predecessors have led the Michigan Knights of Columbus in decades of giving. The Knights have gifted thousands of dollars to St. Louis Center to help enable a richer life for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



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