

St. Louis Spirit



Summer 2021

St. Louis Center serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in an intentional, faith-based community.

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Mellinda Wilson, direct care supervisor, enjoys a concert in the gym with Dean, a resident of Fr. Guanella Hall. See story on page 3.

A New Direction for St. Louis Center

Effective June 21, 2021, St. Louis Center has embarked on a new strategic direction aligned with Pope St. John Paul II's "After Us" program; caring for people with intellectual and development disabilities (I/DD) who are aging.

This concept came about through the creation of St. Louis Guanella Village, consisting of small group homes and single-family homes in an integrated community.

As a result, SLC has elected to discontinue its child care license for children from the State of Michigan. In the future, SLC will continue its long tradition of caring for male and female adults with I/DD. At the end of June, SLC worked closely with the State to ensure a smooth and safe transition of care for the children who remained at the Center.



The recent establishment of St. Louis Guanella Village offers adult residents with I/DD and their family members options, including the opportunity to live on campus near their loved one. Also people without I/DD have the opportunity to live in the village.

SLC is well-positioned for a shift to serving adult residents only, and is now taking applications for community rentals.

16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12,
Chelsea MI 48118
phone 734-475-8430
www.stlouiscenter.org

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Moving Forward!

At the time of the 50th anniversary celebration, the St. Louis Center administration and some stakeholders had a meeting regarding the future of SLC. All came to the realization that something new had to be planned for a new chapter of SLC's glorious history.



After meaningful research, we discovered that aging adults with I/DD are the new chapter for SLC history. This became part of the strategic plan. Thus the idea of St. Louis Guanella Village came about.

The community, all those who believed in this idea and had embraced the SLC vision, got together for the planning of SLGV. Many modern buildings were added to provide new ways to offer integrated residential services. Now, with a single family home and duplex complete, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those without can live next to each other.

A major decision had to be made. It was not a painless one; it was emotional, physical and spiritual turmoil. As of June 20, 2021, we closed the programs for minors. This allowed us to refocus on the original vision of the strategic plan and to dedicate SLC services to an aging population, thus carrying out what St. John Paul II called the *After Us* program.

There are many challenges to be faced with this move, especially the financial ones for a good number of residents need benevolent care, but we know that demand for services for the aging population with I/DD is growing.

It is a new chapter; but following the Gospel, we know that people in need are always with us!

I want to thank the Golf & Glory committee members, volunteers and all the participants for a glorious and successful golf day at the UofM golf course on June 21, 2021, as well all the people who joined us for the dinner at Paesano on June 13, 2021. God keeps blessing SLC!

I ask all of you to keep the Center in your prayers and in your hearts while the Center is going through this major change in the delivery of its services of hope.

Fr. Enzo Ashlari

National Webinar Feature

St. Louis Center is a member of a national organization called "Together for Choice," which is committed to supporting residential choice for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. On April 8th, SLC and the new St. Louis Guanella Village were featured in a national zoom conference. Led by COO Deana Fisher and Public Relations Director Joe Yekulis, the seminar began with the 61 year history of SLC, then detailed the evolution of SLGV as an intentional community, providing a continuum of care for children and adults with I/DD. SLGV is becoming a national care model for people with I/DD. The webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2z8sEgKMfY>

Back in Aktion



Charlie was among the members who helped with the clean up.

After more than a year of remaining at home and doing on campus projects, the St. Louis Center Aktion Club, an affiliate of Kiwanis, was able to go out to the community to offer a helping hand. Eight club members from St. Joe Hall went to the Grass Lake Sanctuary to help with spring clean up on April 17th. They assisted Tom Egan by cleaning up sticks and debris from around the pond. They all

really worked hard, but had a fun time. SLC staff took them out for pizza and pop after all the hard work.

Concert in the Garden

Spectrum, a quartet singing in the barbershop style, performed for residents at Fr. Guanella Hall on May 27th. Spectrum is part of Motor City Blend Chorus of Farmington Hills and consists of Lou Ann Brorovetski (bass), Kelsey Braiden (baritone), Mindy Krueger (lead) and Peggi Starkey (tenor). They were joined by COO Deana Fisher for one song, who also sings with the group. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the music, tapping their feet, dancing and singing along.



Residents of Fr. Guanella Hall enjoyed the concert in the gazebo behind their home.

Keeping the Residents Busy

Laura Rayer, SLC Activities Coordinator, has been busy building relationships with the residents and creating programs to enrich their lives. Laura planned a variety of

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Laura helps Jerome and the other residents complete their projects.

themed crafts. On Earth Day they made bird feeders and for St. Patrick's Day she taught them a little bit about the patron saint of Ireland and the traditions associated with his feast. She even hosted dance parties and small celebrations. On May 18th the residents

of Fr. Guanella Hall were treated to her brand of fun with a pajama dance party including music, fun and snacks. Laura truly enjoys teaching the residents and helping to encourage their independence through the projects that they are able to complete and take pride in.

Local Store Hires Stanley

Family Farm & Home in Chelsea recently hired St. Louis Center resident, Stanley, to help keep the store clean. Stanley was very excited to start his new job on June 16th.

Three job coaches were on hand the first day to help make sure everything went

smoothly. Stanley will be learning about the different types of equipment the store sells, as well as how to take care of the chickens. He also rides the WAVE bus to and from work. Stanley really enjoys his new job and all the new things he has learned, which have given him greater self-confidence and independence.



Stanley on his first day with his new boss, Chris.

CARD Concert

On Tuesday, July 6th, Vince Antenucci and Bryan Stevenson of the Center for Applied Research in Dementia paid a visit to St. Louis Center. They have been working with the staff to develop Montessori Lifestyle at the Center — a method of interacting with residents based on engagement, inclusivity and choice. This time, however, they came simply to entertain with their musical talents. They gave two performances that were well received and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone on campus.



Mark enjoyed the concert so much, he remained beside the stage throughout the show.

Update on Covid-19 Mitigation at St. Louis Center

We are finally emerging from the Pandemic, and very happy to do so! Residents have returned to work, and many other activities that fill their days. Although the State of Michigan has lifted many regulations, long term care facilities such as St. Louis Center continue to need many of the restrictions, as listed below:

- Staff and visitors will still need to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.
- Vaccinated visitors can only take off masks when alone in a room with a vaccinated resident.
- Staff that are not vaccinated will continue to be tested weekly for the virus.
- Visitors will be asked their vaccination status, and if not vaccinated, will be asked to test before entering the homes.
- Residents are encouraged to continue to wear masks at work and other public places. Although 99% of our residents are vaccinated, we recognize that this is not a guarantee against infection.

So, if you are visiting St. Louis Center, we ask that you be patient with us as we continue to keep our residents safe from Covid-19.

Farewell to Joe Yekulis

When I became friends with the late Doug Nadeau and



Fr. Fortunato at a retreat in late 1993, little did I know that the Lord was setting me on a path to support the Servants of Charity and the "Good Children" for the next 27 years. In April 1994, Fr. Enzo invited me to become a member of the Community Advisory Council, and the rest

is history. I served on the CAC for 10 years, and when my political career was over I became the first Public Relations Director of St. Louis Center in 2005.

After 16 years and many great experiences, it's time to call it a career and head into retirement. Special thanks to the Servants of Charity and all of the great people I've worked with through the years. The highlights were certainly the back-to-back trips to Italy in 2010 & 2011; especially the canonization of St. Louis Guanella in Vatican Square. SLC is a special place, and the people here and our supporters throughout the community are like family to me. As I move on in life, I'll still be around from time-to-time at different events as a volunteer. Please continue to support our residents to the best of your abilities, and may God bless you all.

Community Supports St. Louis Center

State Legislators Pay a Visit

On Monday, April 26th, two Michigan State Legislators and a Congressional Field Rep were on hand to visit St. Louis

Center and St. Louis Guanella Village. State Representative Julie Alexander from nearby Jackson County and State Representative Bronna Kahle (from Lenawee County to the south), came to the Center to see for themselves the good

work that was being done to care for the people who call SLC their home. Dustin Krasny, representing U.S. Congressman Tim Walberg, was also present at the beginning of the meeting. Rep. Alexander was very impressed with the new facilities. Rep. Kahle on the other hand, was present to observe SLC to determine what she could do to help with her connections in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Both representatives are key members of the Michigan House of Representatives who have pledged to do what they can to support SLC now and into the future.

Golf & Glory Events

During the month of June, two outstanding events took place in Ann Arbor to support the residents of St. Louis Center. The first was the annual Paesano Tribute Dinner on June 13th honoring Ron Hingst of Howell, MI, Co-Chairman of the Golf and Glory Outing. The second was the 27th Annual Golf and Glory Outing at UM Golf Course on Monday, June 21st.

Fifty people were on hand to enjoy the annual Paesano Tribute Dinner and to thank Ron Hingst for his many years of volunteer service for the financial support of St. Louis Center. Hingst has been critical to the operation of this outing from the beginning, becoming Co-Chair of the event 17 years ago. The theme for the evening was ice hockey in honor of Ron's lifelong passions for the sport. Several family members as well as longtime teammates attended and paid honor to Ron. Piston's play-by-play announcer George Blaha was also on hand, as were Paesano owners Mike and Bridget Roddy who hosted the event.

The 27th Annual Golf and Glory Outing at UM Golf Course then followed on June 21st, with 132 golfers registered to participate. A major thunderstorm occurred the night before and kept motorized carts off the course



The winning team for the second year was the Wirtz Team with a score of 10 under settled by a tie-breaker on the 4th Hole. They were Brian Wirtz, Dan Gallas, Andy Golitko, and Danny Fardig.

until 11:30am. However, participants still enjoyed walking their 18 holes of golf until the carts were available. Golfers also received gifts from SLC and food provided by UM Catering. For the second year in a row, the winning team was the Brian Wirtz foursome with a score of 10 under par. Many thanks to our major sponsors: A.Z. Shmina, Inc., Google, Allied Inc., Bank of Ann Arbor, Chelsea Milling, Edward Jones Investments, Ron and Rosie Emrick, MI Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Mercy-Chelsea, Golling CDJR-Chelsea, J.E. Shirling Co., Midwestern Consulting, J. F. Dunn Enterprises, Alhambra Manresa Caravan, and Nancy Graebner & Mark Sundling.

Well Drilling Grant

The Chelsea Community Foundation, through the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, recently provided a \$20,000 grant to cover an unforeseen well-drilling expense. One of the Center's two primary wells that supplies potable water to its main building, assisted living facility and one residence hall failed earlier this year. The well is critical to the continued operation of St. Louis Center. With the support of the Chelsea Community Foundation, the Center was able to drill a replacement well that will ensure that clean, potable water continues to be available for the campus. Our heartfelt thanks go to the foundation!

Italian Golfers Offer Support

On July 12, 2021, the 88th Annual Italian American Delegates Golf Outing took place at Twin Lakes Golf Club in Rochester Hills, MI, with a large portion of the proceeds

dedicated to St. Louis Center. Fr. Enzo Addari attended the banquet with PR Director Joe Yekulis and residents Antoine and Ken. Fr. Enzo was presented a check for \$5,000 from the group as a charitable donation.



Golfers Honor a Friend

The 34th Annual Memorial Golf Outing took place at Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea, and drew 100 golfers to the event. This year's event honored the late Jerry D'Adamo, and returned to the original format with a shotgun start. The Championship team was the team of Ted Szyal, shooting a low score of 58, while the runners-up were Nadeau Team #5 led by Brad and Ryan Nadeau. A special thanks to all of the golfers, volunteers, hole sponsors and in-kind donors who helped out with this outing.



Website and Donor Updates

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Visit our new website! You will notice many new updates and changes, including the ability to make donations using savings or checking accounts, and to set up a recurring gift on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual

basis. Visit: <https://bit.ly/SLCnewsletter> or scan the code to the right to make your donation today!



Receive Newsletter by Email

To keep you informed about the latest news and events and help us control costs, please share your email address with us today. We do not share your information with anyone else. Email us at slcdev@stlouiscenter.org

A Note from the New Supreme Knight

PATRICK E. KELLY
SUPREME KNIGHT

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

1 COLUMBUS PLAZA
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326

April 22, 2021

Rev. Enzo Addari, SdC.
CEO
St. Louis Center
16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12
Chelsea, MI 48118

Dear Father Addari:

I just wanted to say how much I appreciated your kind words and good wishes upon my election as Supreme Knight.

The office of Supreme Knight is a unique position which brings a duty of service to the 2 million members of the Knights of Columbus and their families. It also requires generous service and fidelity to the Catholic Church. I am humbled by the trust that has been placed in me by our Board of Directors, and look forward to devoting everything I have to offer to advance the Order in its work, which I believe is more important today than ever.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic is a difficult circumstance to begin this work, I believe it is providential that my first months as Supreme Knight coincide with the Year of St. Joseph. I would be grateful for your prayers for me, for my wife Vanessa and our daughters, especially through the intercession of St. Joseph and Blessed Michael McGivney.

Respectfully,

Patrick E. Kelly

Patrick E. Kelly
Supreme Knight

PEK:smf



Patrick Kelly and his wife Vanessa with their 3 daughters after the installation ceremony.

Patrick Kelly was formally installed as Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus on June 11, 2021 during formal ceremonies at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, the former home of Knights' Founder Blessed Michael J. McGivney. Supreme Knight Kelly was born and raised in Michigan, and is now the leader of this worldwide organization of over 2

million men. There are 64,000 Knights in Michigan, and approximately 80 councils that support St. Louis Center annually through the MI Drives. The above letter is a response to Fr. Enzo Addari's formal letter of congratulations.

Upcoming Events

The Randazzo Family presents the 6th annual

Men's Social Fundraiser

The best fundraiser you'll ever attend!
Invite family, friends, and colleagues



\$150/ Ticket
RandazzoMensSocial.com

| Where | When |
|--|--|
| Randazzo Fresh Market Macomb Township (in the back) | Thursday, September 23, 2021 5:30pm until 11:30pm |

All proceeds benefit St. Louis Center

Entertainment: Kitchen • Gourmet Food • Craft Beer • Chips • Mimosas • Valet
Upper • Music • Dinner • NFL Thursday Night Football Game



25TH ANNIVERSARY

—2021 Guardian Angel—
Fall Harvest Fest
TO BENEFIT ST. LOUIS CENTER

Sunday, September 26, 2021 at

The ITALIAN AMERICAN
BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER
of Livonia

More details can be found at:
<https://bit.ly/2EtmOov>



39200 Five Mile Rd. • Livonia MI 48154 • (743)953-1137

You Can Be a Guardian Angel
just by attending the event.
\$80 per person

For reservations or questions, please call IACL representative **Sandy Pulice** at **(734)930-6597** or **St. Louis Center** at **(734)475-8430**.

St. Louis Center Fundraising Event

Thursday, November 11, 2021 8:00pm

Rediscover the Joy of Travel

Join us on SLC's **New England Fall Color Tour** featuring Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

October 16 – 23, 2021

Join with your friends to explore New England's full fall colors.

Round-trip flights from Detroit Metro Airport to Portland, ME.

Learn more by visiting stlouiscenter.org/event/new-england-color-tour/ /event/new-england-color-tour/ email Cathy at cbilinski@mysmartdepart.com or call 734-674-9458 for more information. Space is limited, so register now!



Songs from
Around the World

Honoring the memory of
Johnny Trudell

For the latest updates check the event page:
<https://stlouiscenter.org/event/eva-evola-friends-concert/>

Challenge Match Deadline Extended

A generous donor has offered to provide a \$250,000 match to SLC for all matching donations from \$1,000-\$25,000. We have achieved the halfway point, and the challenge match has been extended until September 30th!

Contributions can be made in a variety of ways:

1. A pledge of \$84/month for 12 months
2. A pledge of \$250/quarterly
3. A one-time donation from \$1,000-\$25,000
4. Stock or securities
5. A qualified minimum distribution from your IRA made directly to SLC which can provide you with additional tax benefits

Please consider making a donation today and help us achieve this significant match!

☐ **GIFT DONATIONS FROM \$1,000-\$25,000 WILL BE MATCHED BY A GENEROUS DONOR!**

Gift amount \$ _____
(Please complete the rest of the contribution form below)



☐ **Recurring Donation** Make a monthly gift and automatically become a member of the **BOSATTA SOCIETY!**

My monthly gift amount \$ _____

Would you like to receive a copy of Blessed Clare's biography and a prayer card? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to be recognized on the St. Louis Center website?
☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ **I prefer to make a One Time Gift**

☐ \$30 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other Amount \$ _____



Benevolent Care

SLC has always proclaimed the dignity of life of any person, especially of people with I/DD. This proceeds from the heart of St. Louis Guanella, founder of the Servants of Charity, whose vision has inspired more than 60 years of loving service to the most vulnerable people in our community without regard to their economic status.

Depending on the level of care, the cost of services to a person living at SLC ranges from \$4,000 to \$8,000 a month. A social security supplement (SSI/A) covers only room and board, which is about 20% of the total. Some residents do have support from their local Community Mental Health organization and a Medicaid waiver program. Many residents do not qualify for this governmental benefit, and apply instead for a small Personal Care Supplement (less than \$10 per day).

The average daily cost of one adult to live at SLC is \$267. Given the limits of financial support from the government, together with the reality that very few families can afford the total cost of care, SLC strives to offer Benevolent Care to cover the difference. More than half of the total costs must be fundraised to provide a dignified level of care, which includes 24/7 supervision, protection, transportation, meal preparation, medication administration, community involvement, and assistance with other activities of daily life.

Your faithful support is what allows us to continue providing the loving care to God's special children. Thank you!

Mail this page to: Development Dept., St. Louis Center, 16195 W. Old U.S. Hwy 12, Chelsea, MI 48118 or
Donate Online at: <http://bit.ly/slcSpiritDonate>

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(MI State Deputy, KofC)

Upcoming Events

Randazzo Men's Social

September 23, 2021
Randazzo Market - Shelby Twp. MI

Guardian Angel Fall Harvest Fest

September 26, 2021
IACL Banquet Center - Livonia MI

Fall Colors Dream Tour

October 1, 2021
Maine - New Hampshire - Vermont

Eva Evola and Friends Concert

November 11, 2021
Andiamo Showroom - Warren MI

Fall Dinner Auction

November 13, 2021
St. Mary Parish - Chelsea MI

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org




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 St. Louis Center

In Memory of Our Friends

Johnny Trudell was a legendary performer who thrived on the Big Band Era of jazz music, and who loved St. Louis Center; performing every year at the annual Tocco Family Christmas Party. He was a trumpet player and orchestra leader, who died at the age of 82 on Saturday, May 28, 2021. On several occasions, Johnny performed at the Andiamo Showcase in Warren, performing with Eva Evola and Dino Valle in benefit concerts to support St. Louis Center. The residents of St. Louis Center loved the Christmas concerts performed by Mr. Trudell. He never missed an event until COVID hit in 2020 and it had to be cancelled. Johnny is survived by his wife Beverly, four children and three grandchildren.



Ramo Salerno passed into the Lord's hands on May 31, 2021. Another great supporter of St. Louis Center, Ramo had recently been elected as President of the Italian American Cultural Society in Clinton Twp. Prior to that, he was Treasurer of IACS from 2018-2020, and had been on the Board of Directors for many years. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Ramo founded Salerno Tool Works on Ryan Rd. in

Warren, and considered his family to be his greatest success. He also had a passion for the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Chairman of the Detroit Area Council for many years.

John Biewer
Patricia Borders
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