



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

SPRING | 2022

NEVER STOP LEARNING

Purpose, confidence and growth are principles that have laid the groundwork for an exciting new era at St. Louis Center. Ten residents started a journey in August 2021 that would teach them new skills helping them to have more independence. With the growth of the Village, it was a big dream to have some of the homes for residents who are more independent using more of their skills and less guidance. That dream has now become a reality.

Sheryl Mohr, Social Services Supervisor at SLC, worked diligently to create programming for the residents to learn the skills necessary for furthering their independence. The lesson plan was focused around things people do in a community. Through teamwork, the student residents learned skills that people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) may not normally

know. These skills included tasks such as - making a meal plan, finding and reading recipes, shopping for groceries, making lists, how to mail a letter, laundry basics, fire safety, and many other important things. Each task is set up to be mindful of opportunities that give value and purpose. Graduation means residents are ready to spread their independence wings and start trying things more on their own. This also means they will be able to live in a more independent home. A group of residents has already been trying this



Payge Carpenter,
DCW, helps the
residents practice
signing their names.

concept out. A group of women has moved into "Mike's House" where they are doing more tasks on their own with less guidance. Residents are happy to gain this sense of independence and overall are more joyful.



CARF REACCREDITATION AWARDED



Amy Fielder, SLC Finance Director; Sheryl Mohr, SLC Social Services Director; Deana Fisher, SLC Chief Operating Officer; Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC, SLC Chief Executive Officer and Rick Visel, SLC Program Director, were the key personnel in successfully completing the CARF survey.

CARF accreditation signals a service provider's commitment to continually improve services, encourage feedback, and serve the community.

St. Louis Center was first awarded CARF accreditation in 2006. Every 3 years since, SLC staff has diligently raised the bar on the delivery of services to the residents. The proof is in the survey results and re-accreditation process, the most recent in 2021.

According to the 2021 CARF Executive Summary, "St. Louis Center has many strengths, including its skilled, experienced, team-oriented leadership and staff members; the variety of methods it uses to gather stakeholder input; its effective report preparation; its creative service delivery practices; and the homelike environment provided to residents residing on the campus.



CONTINUED ON PG 2

FROM FR. ENZO

HAPPY EASTER!



The existence of St. Louis Center is a witness to the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord.

Throughout its history and for so many years, St. Louis Center has brought hope to many people and will continue to do so for years to come.

This has been possible because of so many people taking the Center under their wings and helping it to fly high. We are very grateful to you

and give thanks for your assistance in achieving such levels.

The pandemic is not over yet, but the time we have available gives us the opportunity to look at the programs we offer and constantly go back to the drawing board to redesign how we offer services. Now that we are seeing many more needs for the aging population, we are investing a lot to train the staff in order to face these new needs and challenges. Fr. Guanella Hall has truly become what we had envisioned years ago when we planned for the construction of St. Louis Guanella Village. At the same time higher functioning and independent residents are working on independence goals in order to live in smaller houses where, under staff supervision, they will take care of their personal needs, from cooking, cleaning and shopping to recreational activities in the community, just to quote some.



We also continue to envision the future and how to update the existing buildings to be in line with new trends and ways of life, thus the main building will be re-purposed and will become a place for day program activities for the residents who for one reason or another have difficulties in community settings. In addition, plans are underway to upgrade St. Joseph Hall, making all single occupancy rooms giving personalized space to the residents.

We have been able to hire additional staff and admit new residents. Still a lot of work has to be done on this for the needs keep growing day by day, especially in having specialized staff for carrying out the different programs.

All of this is part of the witnessing of the mystery we are celebrating now during spring and the Easter season.

Happy Easter to all.

Fr. Enzo Ashlari



CARF

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

St. Louis Center exercises vigilant health and safety practices to protect the residents and staff members and has conducted continuous services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.... Residents, their families, and other stakeholders expressed great satisfaction with and appreciation for the organization and its services and staff members."

The CARF surveyors reported that SLC continually strives to improve on areas of recommendation from past evaluations and noted that the organization has many strengths.



St. Louis Center is very proud of being awarded accreditation after each survey and strives to meet and exceed any recommendations and suggestions by surveyors in order to offer high-quality services to stakeholders.

SLC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Andrew A. Shmina, Chair
Daniel Johnson, Vice-Chair
Joseph Munie, Treasurer
Donna Hrozencik, MD, Secretary
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Glenn Johnson
William Lamb, JD
George Mallison
Kathi Neuman
Norm Neuman
Tom Nowatzke
Jerry Ruggirello
Don Walker
George Walrath
Vickie Walrath
Walter K. Winkle, Jr.
(MI State Deputy, KofC)



Fr. Enzo enjoyed visiting with Kathi, Joe and Norm Neuman and Fr. Satheesh.

PASTA DINNER

PASTA WITH THE PRIESTS RETURNED TO SLC ON FEBRUARY 24TH, WELCOMING 40 GUESTS TO AN EXCITING EVENING OF PASTA AND FELLOWSHIP.

For over 10 years, the Fall Auction has offered fundraising tickets to the Pasta with the Priests event, which traditionally takes place annually in February. Patrons look forward to sharing laughter and chatting over a pasta dinner that is prepared by the kitchen staff of St. Louis Center. Options included hors d'oeuvres, wine, different pasta options, salad, and jumbo red velvet cupcakes. This year one of the dishes included pasta made fresh from scratch by the talented team in St. Louis Center's kitchen!

The dinner gave guests a chance to

catch up with the priests, share some stories and laughs, and learn a little bit more about progress at the Center. Before the dinner, Father Enzo gave a brief introduction and shared recent updates pertaining to St. Louis Center. Father Satheesh prayed over the meal. Many enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends known through St. Louis Center and other organizations, and even the opportunity to meet new people and get more acquainted with the priests and some of the staff. Throughout the room, stories about life, past travels, the Center and upcoming events could be heard.

After the delicious dinner, a large gift basket was brought into the dining room. Guests had a chance to buy raffle tickets to put their name into a drawing to win the basket, valued at \$200 and containing bottles of wine and other treats. To keep the fun going, they continued drawing raffle tickets for single bottles of wine. Not many left empty-handed!

If you are interested in attending an SLC event, please visit our events page for information on how you can RSVP.



READERS ARE LEADERS

PAST SERVICE PROJECTS AT SLC INSPIRED THIS YOUNG SCOUT TO PLAN BIG FOR THE CENTER AND AHG'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD.

Cassandra Kennedy, an American Heritage Girl from Troop 3498, completed her Stars and Stripes Award project in February. The planning, fundraising, building and installation of three Little Free Libraries was a months long project that will lead to Cassandra receiving the highest honor awarded to a young woman by

the American Heritage Girls. Some of the books that fill the libraries were donated by the Friends of the Chelsea District Library and others through an Usborne book fair that many donors participated in. The libraries were officially opened during a ribbon cutting ceremony at St. Louis Center on Tuesday, April



19th. It is Cassandra's hope that the staff and residents will enjoy reading together and foster a love for books like her own.

To read more about the project, use the code to visit the SLC website.



SLC CARE WORKERS ARE NOT 'SERVICE PROVIDERS,' BUT FIRST OF ALL ADVOCATES FOR ANYONE IN NEED.

- WITH FAITH, LOVE AND COMPETENCE 64



What qualities make a good care staff?

According to Tom Arbanas, SLC HR Director, the qualities he looks for when hiring people for direct care are derived from principles in the spirituality of St. Guanella:

- Faith in the dignity and potential of others
- Realistic optimism
- Simplicity and sensitivity
- Creativity
- Empathy and sharing
- Patience
- Equilibrium and self-control
- Commitment and dedication
- Making a difference in people's lives
- Sense of co-responsibility

If you or someone you know embodies these qualities, encourage them to apply for a position at SLC.

Do you want to apply?

To submit your application visit stlouiscenr.org/work-here/ or scan the code at right.



Joey, Lee, Camille Wertzbar, DCW, and Mike enjoyed sledding together at St. Joe Hall.

PROFILES OF GUANELLIAN STAFF

Kassandra Lewis

Kassie has recently joined the Development and Communications team as the Development and Communications Administrative Assistant! Kassie and her husband, Kameron, live in the Jackson area. She graduated from Spring Arbor University in 2020 with her bachelor's in Communications Studies. Previously working in sales, she is excited to be joining our team at SLC and to be growing her knowledge of all things development and communications.



Alexis Hale, Amanda Bentley and Brenda Shelhart work with Mike and Jaqui to make Shamrock shakes on St. Patrick's Day.

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

As soon as the second shift staff arrived to work at St. Louis Center on Wednesday, February 2nd the guys in St. Joseph Hall began begging them for the sleds. The supervisors set out to be sure that everyone had the proper gear for the weather and enough sleds for everyone who wanted to partake in the fun.

St. Joe Hall sits on top of a hill, so the guys don't have to go far to just get at the fun. SLC is a fun place to live and a great place to work.



Mike was the first one to hit the slopes.

On January 4th Kiwanis International sent a representative to the Aktion Club meeting of the leadership team to help them identify ways they can help and organizations that could benefit from their generosity.

The entire SLC Aktion Club gathered on Thursday, February 10th to prepare to spread good wishes on Valentine's Day. They made cards for the St. Louis

Center staff who provide them care for their daily needs. They colored the cards and stuffed them into envelopes with some sweet treats. They delivered the Valentines to very appreciative staff members on Monday, February 14th.



Ken and Lisa enjoyed making cards during the Aktion Club meeting.

Gathering in the gym or in their homes, all residents felt the excitement of the biggest NFL football game of the year on Sunday, February 13th. Each team was represented by fans from both the residents and staff. Cheering, eating, and playing games as a group was a fun time, but nothing beats the comradery of the residents. Not every resident enjoys watching a football game, so of course, there were activities ready for everyone, such as bean bag toss, coloring activities, and throwing the old pigskin around. Pizza dinner was served to residents to start the festivities of the big game.

Then, residents gathered in front of the screen to listen to the National Anthem and wait for the kickoff.

One celebration that the residents particularly enjoy is St. Patrick's Day - March 17th. This year Laura Rayer, Activities Coordinator, had several crafts planned to help the residents learn about St. Patrick and the "wearin' o' the green." Day program staff members served Shamrock shakes to everyone as they returned from work and the kitchen staff made an amazing Irish feast for dinner.



Jason and Tony got in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day.

Please visit our website to read more about these and other events at SLC.



NIGHT TO SHINE AT ST. LOUIS CENTER

On Friday, February 11, 2022 Night to Shine celebrated its 8th Anniversary as thousands from around the world came together to honor people with disabilities. Dusting off those dancing shoes, residents put on their fancy clothes and prepared for the prom. The event was held in the SLC gym due to the ongoing pandemic. The local host church, 242 Community Church - Ann Arbor, insured that each resident got an official Night to Shine swag bag, event poster, and proper royal headgear of crowns and tiaras. After getting their corsage or boutonniere (also provided 242), each resident proceeded down the balloon lined path of the SLC lobby toward the gym. Each Queen and King was crowned before being shown to their seats.

The SLC kitchen staff prepared an Italian meal, and the guests enjoyed the meal in a formal setting. The meal was topped off with Night to Shine cupcakes baked and donated by Grace Gibbs.

Once everyone had a chance to eat, the music went from dinner to dance, and the residents were ready! Many of their favorite tunes were played and they even had a conga line. A large screen was set up so that the residents could watch the official 2022 Night to Shine broadcast, featuring Tim Tebow.



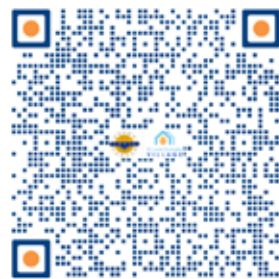
Bob arrived with a smile for the festivities.





St. Louis Center Residents Gain Independence

Jacqui enjoys cooking her dinner in her cottage home.



Your love and support has helped people with I/DD to be resilient and overcome the tough times of 2020 and 2021. You play an important part in each of the SLC residents' journey of independence. The residents and staff of SLC thank you!

The resources provided for the residents of SLC include:

- Independence College - an SLC taught course in independent living
- Access to community programs including - school of Chelsea, CMH work groups, Friendship Bible, Special Olympics, Parables, and many more
- Access and transportation to jobs in the local community, summer and vocational camps

You make this possible.

Benevolent Care is financial support from charitable contributions necessary to cover the services that are not met by earned revenue. Given the limits of earned income, and 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 fund-raised to provide a proper level of care. The difficulties the pandemic caused over the last several months have made the need to provide benevolent care even more poignant.

Depending on the level of care, the cost of services to a person living at SLC may be as much as \$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.

According to the 2020 audit, SLC administrative and overhead expenses were only 21%, in line with well-managed nonprofit best practices.

St. Louis Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID: 38-6038121

To learn more about #SLCBenevolentCare please visit,
<https://stlouiscenter.org/benevolentcare-match/>



FR. ENZO RELATES ...

Growing up in Italy after WWII wasn't easy. Commodities were scarce. There was only a public fountain with running water in my village, none in the houses, and many times it was dry. During those times trucks were delivering the water. One particular day my parents were working in the field and were

not home. A truck with water came, and I got a couple of containers from the house. After standing in line for some time, I filled them from the truck and brought them home. It gave me a great sense of independence to be able to provide for my family.



Sarah does her part by setting the table.

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



Payment Information

Gift Amount: ☐ \$30 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other amount \$ _____

Payment Type: ☐ Credit Card ☐ Cash ☐ Check (Payable to St. Louis Center)

Name on Card: _____

Card Number : _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ 3-Digit Security Code: _____

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

SET YOUR EYES ON SUMMER

Golf and Glory

Planning for the Golf & Glory event is well underway. Tee up **Monday, June 20th** at University of Michigan Golf Course in Ann Arbor for a day of golf on one of the country's best university courses. By participating, you'll help provide a loving home for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at SLC.

This year, we will return to a shotgun start at 10am. You will be served lunch at the turn and dinner at the conclusion of the round. Sign up today!

Registration and Sponsorships

To register or purchase sponsorships online, scan here →



Memorial Golf Outing

SLC is blessed to have so many supporters. In honor of those who have passed, since 1987, the Memorial Golf Outing has served as a great way to step back from the day-to-day to remember these individuals and their generosity. This event is an easy golf scramble that all players can enjoy. Lunch will be served.



In Remembrance of

Ann Merkel

When: Saturday, July 16th

Where: Pierce Lake Golf Course, Chelsea MI

Cost: \$100/golfer or \$400/foursome

Sponsorships are also available. Scan code to learn more.



Dad and Lad Outing

The Dad & Lad Golf Outing was created in 1997 by long-time SLC supporters Mike Chirco and Joe Maniaci with the help of Sam Cottone. The course fills up fast, so register early, first come first serve.

When: Wednesday, August 3rd

Where: Twin Lakes Golf and Swim Club, Oakland MI

Cost: \$175/golfer includes golf and lunch

Please contact Barb Gates for registration information gatesbarb@mjccompanies.com or 586-840-3416.



Abruzzese Federation of Michigan

presents

Sapori di Abruzzo

'Flavors of Abruzzo'

July 10, 2022

At Laurel Manor in Livonia, MI

Watch our website for more details.



26TH ANNUAL
—2022 Guardian Angel—
Fall Harvest Fest
TO BENEFIT ST. LOUIS CENTER
Sunday, September 25, 2022 at

The ITALIAN AMERICAN BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER of Livonia

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

You Can Be a Guardian Angel
just by attending the event.

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



35th Annual
Fall Dinner Auction
October 22, 2022

The event will remain at St. Mary Church in Chelsea.

Registration will open soon
Use the QR code for more info.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf and Glory

June 20, 2022

UofM Golf Course - Ann Arbor MI

Abruzzese Gala

July 10, 2022

Laurel Manor - Livonia MI

Memorial Golf Outing

July 16, 2022

Pierce Lake Golf Course - Chelsea MI

Dad and Lad

August 3, 2022

Twin Lakes Golf and Swim Club - Oakland MI

Fall Harvest Dinner

September 25, 2022

Italian American Banquet Center - Livonia MI

Cars and Culinary for Care

October 12, 2022

Laurel Manor - Livonia MI

Fall Dinner Auction

October 22, 2022

St. Mary Parish - Chelsea MI

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org



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Set your eyes on summer events.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

The world is definitely a better place because of the life of **Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler**, known as "Peg" to her family and "Sr. M&M" to all.

Born June 13, 1954 in Evergreen Park, IL to Joseph and Margaret Schissler, the third of three children, "Peg" was a gregarious and happy child. She was drawn to active religious life with the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence because of her encounters with the sisters who cared for her own sister, Mary Agnes, a resident at St. Mary of Providence in Chicago.

September 8, 1977, Margaret Mary became a Postulant at St. Mary's

in Chicago. She coined a phrase that has become synonymous with her

smile and wit, and still serves as a strong motto and motivation, "It's great to be a DSMP!"

Sr. M&M made her Perpetual Profession

on August 15, 1985. Sr. M&M served in different capacities for the Congregation including at Our Lady of Providence in Northville and as Pastoral Associate at the Pious Union of St. Joseph from 2009-2013.

Sr. M&M died quietly on January 18, 2021 at Mt. St. Joseph, Lake Zurich.



Caroline Arbogast

Thomas Caplis

Nina Fazzolari

Otto Gago

Dudley K. Holmes II

Stephen A. Krupnik

Raymond Johnson

Ray Lutovsky

Jacqueline McGinn

Wayne McMullen

John Posegay

Antonio Scappaticci

Nancy Scappaticci

Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler

Allyn Seitz

Mike Stefani

Elizabeth Stitt

Joan Vandegrift

Nancy White

Howard Zeck