



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

SUMMER | 2022

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



**Graduates** proudly sat on the stage and listened to the speeches and accolades given to each of them.

The excitement around Independence College at St. Louis Center has been growing since the spring of 2021. Seeing that there was a need for residents to learn skills that would help them be more independent in their lives, the Social Services Department at the Center formatted a "college" type lesson plan. 10 residents participated.

One goal of Independence College was achieved just days before

graduation when the last of the graduating residents were able to move into their cottage home on the Center's campus. This new home provides the male graduates with the opportunity to show their newly acquired skills. The ladies who graduated were first to move in the fall of 2021.

On April 28th, after a year of hard work and preparation, the 10 St. Louis Center Independence College graduates took to the stage surrounded by family and friends who gathered to celebrate their accomplishments.

Fr. Franklin led prayer to begin the ceremony. "Tonight, we are here on behalf of the graduates of Independence College Class

of 2022", said Sheryl Mohr, Social Services Supervisor, welcoming guests as the graduates were seated near the podium.

Gary Piper, transporter at St. Louis Center, made a heartwarming speech about respecting those around us and trusting Jesus to bring us JOY. Deana Fisher, COO of St. Louis Center congratulated the graduates and dedicated a special thank you for the important role that the Social Services Department plays in giving the residents the skills that they need to gain more independence. Cheers filled the room as each resident was commended for their hard work. Each resident received a certificate to commemorate their accomplishment.



## A TRIP TO SEE TULIP TIME



Lori, Cathy, Jacqui, Linda (in front), Albert, Kristin and Jerome enjoyed the journey to Holland for the annual Tulip Time Festival.



Jerome, a St. Louis Center resident, really wanted to go on a road trip to Holland MI for the annual Tulip Time Festival. Cindy Hoard, Direct Care Supervisor, and Haley, Direct Care Worker, set to work organizing the outing. They prepared several residents and went with them on a day trip across the state Tuesday, May 10th. They ate a picnic lunch amongst the tulips in downtown Holland, stopped on the shore of Lake Michigan for Jacqui to dip her toes in the icy water, and stopped at Steak and Shake for dinner on the way home.

Jacqui shared a bit about the trip, "It was worth the 2-hour drive. The flowers were so pretty. As we were leaving to come home, we pulled into the beach parking lot. There was a haze over the top of the lake. We took off our shoes and stepped into the water. It was so cold. It was my first time putting my feet into Lake Michigan and it was freezing cold! I was glad I did it."

## FROM FR. ENZO

### HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL!



Many people have dedicated their lives to the well-being of St. Louis Center. One of these persons is Fr. Joseph Rinaldo (Fr. Joe for many).

He came to Chelsea in September 1980 and moved back to Italy in May 2022.

He achieved many landmarks during his tenure: construction of St. Joseph Hall, the remodeling of the main building, construction of Fr. Guanella Hall, the purchasing of the property in Grass Lake that eventually became the site for

the Pious Union of St. Joseph and the transformation of the old barn into a chapel/shrine.

He was also instrumental in the vision of the St. Louis Guanella Village at St. Louis Center.

Activities with benefactors started to be solidified, including the creation of the Fall Dinner Auction and the Memorial Golf Outing, as well as establishing many contacts with local politicians and other agencies.

The quarterly newsletter is the fruit of his vision as well as reaching out to other agencies and people and the establishment of the endowment trust fund.

The Center has gained a lot of recognition. He has given the basis of what the Center is today as a thriving facility poised for the future.

If anyone would like to send him a card, here is his address:

Fr. Joseph Rinaldo  
Centro Anziani Don Guanella  
Via Giulio Petroni, 121  
70124 BARI, Italy

I want to thank all of you for going the extra mile during this fiscal year and helping St. Louis Center with your precious donations. During this year we were able to open new programs geared toward a higher degree of independence and we secured another tenant for the second duplex thus creating a truly integrated village where people with I/DD and other people live next to each other.

On June 29th we had the opportunity to celebrate St. Louis Center Day at the Capitol in Lansing, MI. A grateful thank you goes to those politicians who made room in their busy schedules to listen to the families' concerns and also to Trinity Health organization for their outstanding support in organizing such an event.

We still face many challenges due to the present social situation and resignations: as any other business, St. Louis Center is suffering from a shortage of staff (only here in Michigan there is a need for another 160,000 direct care workers!) and we need to seek additional revenue to face the competition.

However, we don't lose hope for we know that the Good Lord never abandons those who are very precious to His Heart; doing so, our mission of hope and love for society will continue.

*Fr. Enzo Ashlari*



## SUMMER INTERNS

Each summer St. Louis Center is blessed to have 2 interns from the University of Notre Dame join the direct care staff. This year Angela Ly and Camille

Patton were the students selected for the task. They arrived at the Center as strangers but departed as friends. They will both graduate in 2023: Angela is on the path

to becoming a Physician's Assistant and Camille is planning to enter medical school upon graduation.

Their presence was very impactful for the residents they served. And their lives are forever changed as a result of the ways the residents touched their hearts. The Day Program planned a morning of fun activities and cupcakes on their final day at the Center.



## SLC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Glenn Johnson  
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(MI State Deputy, KofC)



# FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC



Growing up in Naro, Italy, on the island of Sicily helped to form strong family bonds for Joseph Rinaldo. His parents maintained a traditional home life for their children. His father was a farmer and a prominent figure in town who could always be counted on when there were people in need.

Joseph and his family witnessed the horrors of WWII while the Allies and Axis powers battled for control of his native island. The foundation of faith and commitment to the good of your neighbor was firmly planted into every part of Joseph's character and remains with him to this day.

After the war as daily life began to normalize, Joseph, his siblings, and cousins returned to school. He had one cousin

that was about the same age who had special needs. She was never without Joseph to be her protector and guide. This special relationship helped to foster his

attraction to the charism of St. Louis Guanella (1842-1915), the priest who founded the Servants of Charity Congregation, which cares for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as the frail elderly.

Once Joseph completed his primary schooling, he was able to go to Rome to attend pre-seminary schooling.

FORMER CEO AND LONG-TIME PRIEST AT ST. LOUIS CENTER IS RETIRING FROM THE CENTER. FR. JOE WILL BE SPENDING HIS RETIREMENT YEARS IN ITALY.

Once high school was finished, he decided to enter the novitiate to become a priest for the Servants of Charity, making his first profession in 1959. His next step was theology studies in Chiavenna in 1963.

Fr. Joseph was ordained on December 21, 1967. In September 1968 the Superior General, Fr. Armando Budino, decided to send him to America. So, Fr. Joseph made his way to Don Guanella School in Springfield, PA. In Springfield, Fr. Joseph helped to build a thriving community of services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities that remains an important part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's programming.

Fr. Joseph was assigned to St. Louis Center for the first time in 1980, discovering a facility with many needs. He got busy right away looking for creative ways to provide for the needs of the Center. New construction began, and St. Louis Center as we know it today began to take shape.

With the establishment of the Servants of Charity Vice-Province, Fr. Joseph was appointed as 1st councilor. A few years later, he was elected Vice-Province Superior. During the same time, he was also the treasurer which continued after the establishment of the Divine Providence Province until he retired from such

duties. His duties as treasurer made it necessary to travel to faraway India, Philippines, and Vietnam on a regular basis but he remained the superior of the community in Chelsea MI.

When Fr. Joe wasn't traveling, he spent countless hours translating and publishing books for and about St. Louis Guanella and the Servants of Charity. For several years he was



the director of the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake MI and editor-in-chief of *Now and at the Hour* magazine.

After celebrating his 50th Anniversary of Ordination, growing a large group of Guanellian Cooperators, and mentoring Fr. Franklin, Fr. Amal, and Fr. Leo Joseph, it was time for Fr. Joe to

step back and watch the next generation of Guanellian priests thrive in the places that he worked so hard to build. The congregation decided to allow Fr. Joe to return to Italy for his retirement.

On Sunday, March 21st there was a farewell gathering.

At the event, St. Louis Center received a generous donation from Michael Chirco's Living Trust that amounted to \$100,000, in Fr. Joe's honor.

**If you would like to honor Fr. Joseph Rinaldo by contributing to St. Louis Center, contact Wendy Zielen at [wzielen@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:wzielen@stlouiscenter.org) or 734-475-8430.**



## CORRECTION

In the Spring Spirit newsletter it was stated that "Sr. M&M died quietly on **January 18, 2021** at Mt. St. Joseph, Lake Zurich." This is incorrect. Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler died on **January 18, 2022**.

**SENSITIVITY IS  
THE CAPACITY  
TO PERCEIVE THE  
NEEDS OF PEOPLE  
IN OUR CARE, EVEN  
WHEN THEY ARE  
NOT OBVIOUS.**

- WITH FAITH, LOVE AND COMPETENCE 68



### ***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 [stlouiscenter.org/work-here/](http://stlouiscenter.org/work-here/) or scan the code at right.



**Ray, Carlie Hartwick, Direct Care Supervisor, and Matthew** enjoyed slushies during the carnival sponsored by H.B. Fuller in April.

## **PROFILES OF GUANELLIAN STAFF**

### **Staci Ellerby**

It was discovered that a position needed to be created to coordinate the benefits that are available to the residents from outside sources. Taking the lead in this role is Staci Ellerby who is the Social Services Benefits Assistant.

Staci is a current student at Washtenaw Community College and Eastern Michigan. She plans to graduate with a degree in healthcare administration. When not working, Staci loves to



travel, especially to the beach every once in a while. Rescuing cats is also something that is near and dear to her heart. Previously Staci has worked in other group care settings, which helped to ignite the fire in her to help others. So far, she is enjoying her position and the challenges it brings. Her favorite part of the job so far is getting to know the

residents and learning more about the social work system.



### **Carlie Hartwick**

Carlie started her career at St. Louis Center in August 2020. She was hired on as a Direct Care Supervisor. She quickly became a favorite amongst the



residents because she was always looking for fun things for them to do. Her passion for making life fun led to her promotion as Residential Program Director Assistant. Carlie is committed to helping train new supervisors and finding new ways to bring the residents out into the community more often.

### **Haylie Moran**



Haylie is a 2019 graduate of Grand Valley State University. She holds a BS in Allied Health Science with a minor in Psychology. She joins St. Louis Center

as the Day Program Coordinator. Haylie started working with persons with I/DD in an ABA therapy clinic and has experience working with adults in a residential setting. She looks forward to getting started enriching the Day Program activities and expanding what the program has to offer for Center residents and community members alike.



# SPRING FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

## PEEK AT PROGRESS

St. Louis Center once again invited benefactors to the campus to take a "Peek at the Progress of the Village." Tuesday, April 26th, a group of 20 donors took tours of the most recent updates on campus. At each tour stop, they were treated to foods appropriate to the diets of the residents. Russ and Kay Payeur were available in the lobby to chat about Russ's wooden toy creations and how his hobby is making an impact at St. Louis Center. Guests stopped at their table to check out the beautiful wooden toys before or after their tour around the campus. During dinner, Fr. Enzo spoke about the importance of their generosity, as the building of the villages and homes would not be possible without our generous donors. Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, also thanked everyone for their continued support.



**Kay and Russ** enjoyed greeting friends of the Center with Fr. Joseph.

## GOLF AND GLORY

A perfect summer day welcomed over 150 golfers to the University of Michigan Golf Course for the annual Golf and Glory Outing benefiting St. Louis Center Monday, June 20th. Teams enjoyed the beautiful course and lunch at the turn.



**Coach John Beilein** enjoyed the outing with some of his former players: **Eli Brooks, Austin Hatch, and Jordan Morgan.**

As the golfing came to a close, everyone eagerly gathered in the clubhouse banquet room to await the news of the winning teams and awardees. The Honorees for the John Panelli Celebrity Award were the Nadeau Family. Beginning in the 1960s, the Nadeau family has been strong supporters of the St. Louis Center. The Bill Wagner Pioneer Award for 2022 was awarded to Michael Chirco, a prominent businessman in Macomb County. The day finished with a Sports Memorabilia auction along with a wine auction.



**Nancy and Fr. Enzo** share a moment with Priscilla Flintoff.

## PAESANO DINNER

50 people gathered at Paesano Restaurant and Wine Bar in Ann Arbor MI June 26th to pay tribute to a behind-the-scenes hero of St. Louis Center. Mike Roddy, is a huge supporter of St. Louis Center and welcomes a group each year to celebrate someone who has made a difference for the residents of the Center. Nancy Graebner-Sundling has just retired from her position at the hospital but remains a member of the St. Louis Center Community Advisory Committee. Attendees at the dinner event were pleased to honor this inspiring woman for her many achievements. A special menu was prepared and enjoyed while community members recounted fond memories of Nancy and her work.

Visit [stlouiscenter.org](http://stlouiscenter.org) to read more about these and other events or scan the code at right.



## A BERRY GOOD TIME

The non-native Notre Dame Interns, Camille Patton and Angela Ly, decided that berry picking was a great activity and thought "why not share the fun with the residents? It should be easy to plan." Apparently, the only thing in season nearby was asparagus. They did a bit of research and eventually settled on strawberry picking at an Ann Arbor farm.

It was a successful morning of picking, perhaps too successful. Residents took proud roles as berry pickers and bucket holders, collecting quite a bounty. By the time everyone got back, the residents were faced with the problem of what to do with all these strawberries. But never fear, the interns are here! With the help of dedicated residents, they ended up washing/cutting/packing 20 bags of strawberries, baking 4 pies, making 4 pots of jam, and freezing 2 bags of residual strawberries to distribute to the whole center. Were the red-stained hands, sticky counters, and piles of dirty dishes worth it? Absolutely. Seeing the smiles and content bellies of the residents and staff made it all worth it. It was definitely an adventure for the two interns as well. But they hope that residents will keep picking produce, and maybe go for asparagus next time...



**Jacqui, Lisa and Shane** led the residents in most berries picked.



## HELP US BUILD A LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

Your donations make a difference in the daily lives of the St. Louis Center residents.



**\$5/  
month**



\$5/month provides residents like Lisa fuel to get to work for a week.

**\$10/  
month**



\$15/month provides residents like Stanley one day of quality nursing care.

**\$15/  
month**



\$10/month provides residents like Keaven meals for one day.

## SUPPORTERS BRING FUN

Volunteers from **H.B. Fuller** filled the evening with fun for the residents of St. Louis Center on April 19th. Over 15 H.B Fuller employees and their families hosted a Spring Carnival consisting of food, games, prizes, slushies, and music.



Smiling faces joined together for a carnival themed dinner prepared by the Center's kitchen. Volunteers manned numerous carnival games where everyone was a winner. Prizes were given to all participants.

To kick off the summer season, the **St. Louis Guanella Alhambra Caravan** members cooked on the grill for the St. Louis Center residents on Thursday, May 19th. The entire campus enjoyed the first picnic of the year.



Cliff Farr even drove his Kona Ice truck down for the event giving the residents each a cool, refreshing icy treat for dessert.



### Payment Information

☐ **Recurring Donation** Make a monthly gift and automatically become a **SUSTAINER!**

**Monthly Gift:** ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **One-Time Gift:** ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **\$304** - Help cover #benevolentcare costs for one day for a resident.

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

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Newsletter 2022



### Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Note:** We value your privacy as much as you do. We will never share or sell your information with any third party.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Randazzo Family presents the 6th annual

# Men's Social Fundraiser



**\$150/ Ticket**  
RandazzoMensSocial.com

*Where*  
Randazzo Fresh Market  
Macomb Township (in the back)

*When*  
Thursday, September 22, 2022  
5:30pm until 11:30pm



**All proceeds benefit  
St. Louis Center**

Outdoor Kitchen • Gourmet Food • Craft Beer • Cigars • Wine • Valet •  
Liquor • Music • Bonfire • NFL Thursday Night Football Game

**26TH ANNUAL**  
—2022 Guardian Angel—



# Fall Harvest Fest

TO BENEFIT ST. LOUIS CENTER

**Sunday,  
September 25,  
2022**

**Food Raffles Prizes**      **Music Dancing Art**

**Be a Guardian Angel**  
just by attending the event.



**Italian American Banquet and Conference Center**  
39200 Five Mile Rd. • Livonia MI 4815 (743)953-1137

## BRINGING HOME THE BLING



### SIXTEEN RESIDENTS COMPETED IN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES IN MT. PLEASANT.

It was a three-day event filled with fun, laughter, connecting with old friends, and the agony of defeat. To break up the trip we stopped at the movie theater to see Top Gun and then had dinner at a local restaurant. We checked into our room, discussed the next day's activity schedule, we were off to bed.

Day One began at the Special Olympic health center where they were providing free eye exams as well as prescription eyewear. Once everyone completed their screening we were off to participate in doubles bowling. Five of our eight teams won medals. Not a bad start to the Summer Games.

We had to hurry back to the dorm for dinner then off to the football field for the Opening Ceremony. After the lighting of the Olympic Torch, we participated in a dance well into the night on the football field.

Up again early on Friday morning we had to pack, load the vans with our equipment, get breakfast and be ready to bowl. This time each athlete was competing alone. By two in the afternoon 13 of our 16 athletes had won medals. The other teams at the Olympics sure knew who St. Louis Center athletes were.

Coach Rick would like to thank the chaperones because without them we could not have gone.



## Join Us!!

Italian American Club of  
Lansing Announces

# Italian Dinner Night

**October 1, 2022**  
Cristo Rey Catholic Church  
211 Miller Rd., Lansing MI

**Tickets: \$20/Adults  
\$10/Children**

For tickets or info, visit:

**www.lansingiac.org**

Proceeds Benefit St.  
Louis Center and IAC  
Scholarship Fund



35th Annual

# Fall Dinner Auction

**October 22, 2022**  
Festivities to be held at

*St. Mary Church*  
14200 E. Old US Hwy 12  
Chelsea MI 48118

*Tickets \$150/person*  
Get tickets at [stlouiscenr.org](http://stlouiscenr.org)

*Founder's Award*  
will be presented to  
Norman and Kathleen Neuman



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Randazzo Men's Social

September 22, 2022  
Randazzo Fresh Market -  
Macomb Twp. MI

### Fall Harvest Dinner

September 25, 2022  
Italian American Banquet Center -  
Livonia MI

### Italian Dinner Night

October 1, 2022  
Cristo Rey Catholic Church -  
Lansing MI

### Fall Dinner Auction

October 22, 2022  
St. Mary Parish - Chelsea MI

### Trunk or Treat

October 26, 2022  
St. Louis Center - Chelsea MI

For more information,  
please visit our website:

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



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Special Olympics  
was a big win for  
St. Louis Center.

## REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

Antoinette (Toni) Gaudet Walker, age 81, of Ann Arbor, Michigan passed away peacefully at home, with her family by her side, on Sunday, May 8, 2022. Toni was born September 3, 1940, in Chelsea, MA to Margaret and Anthony Gaudet. Toni graduated from Notre Dame High School in Cambridge, MA in 1958 and earned her degree in Secretarial Science from Pierce Secretarial School in Boston. Nearly 55 years ago, Toni married Donald Walker, in Chelsea, MA. They had a wonderful life together, starting their family in Dedham, MA and relocating to Ann



Arbor in 1979. Toni would say that she moved to the Midwest, 'kicking and screaming' but ended up loving her home, the Midwest, and the Ann Arbor community. Don and Toni enjoyed traveling extensively and spending time with friends and family around the country and the world.

Toni is survived by her husband, Donald Walker of Ann Arbor; Daughter Kim Walker (Michael Callas) of Vail, CO. Daughter Lauren Gerrity (Pat) of Ann Arbor, MI. Daughter Stacey Oldham (Matt Oldham) of Victor, ID. Sister Rovena Forest of Visalia, CA, and grandchildren Nyko Callas, Autumn

Gerrity, and Gretel and Charlie Oldham. She was preceded in death by her parents, Anthony and Margaret Gaudet.

**James "Jamie" Bollinger**  
**Victor Coval**  
**Joseph Franklin**  
**Lloyd Grau**  
**Elisabeth Hartmann**  
**Viola Harvey**  
**Luigi Iannone**  
**Donald Kvarnberg**  
**Lou LaRiche**  
**David McLaughlin**  
**Rev. John R. Morris**  
**Mary Panackia**  
**Tom Schumacher**  
**Joseph**  
**Schwartzberger**  
**Jeanne Stapish**  
**Antoinette "Toni" Walker**