



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

WINTER | 2023

THE RESIDENTS SHOW THEIR CHEER

After weeks of hard work and preparation, St. Louis Center residents invited friends and neighbors to join them as they presented their 2022 Christmas Program. The Center welcomed over 100 guests from Chelsea and the surrounding communities to an evening of Christmas Spirit on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Families and friends gathered around 5:00 pm awaiting the 5:30 performance. A tradition for many years, the residents look forward to this event and being able to share their love of performing with the communities that support them.

The ladies from Our Lady of Providence kicked off the night, following the prayer from Fr. Enzo, with a skit to the song "Deck the Halls." Stockings were hung by the chimney with care and presents were placed nicely under the tree. After their skit, the stage was ready for the rest of the program.

The Day Program Choir sang classic



The guys of St. Joseph Hall delivered gifts for the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Christmas tunes throughout the night as the stage was set for the skits performed. Skits included a play from the gentlemen at St. Joe's Hall and numerous readings from other residents. Each house was dressed in a theme that matched their skit. Standing out, of course, was the K of C House all dressed as the "Grinch" as a DCW read from the Dr. Seuss book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas".

Select music throughout the evening was played on the organ by long-

time resident Jerome.

Albert surprised everyone, especially his mother, by performing a solo. His love for the King of Rock and Roll was showcased as he sang "Blue Christmas" like

only Bert and the King could do! This evening really put the residents and guests into the holiday spirit. After the show, everyone was welcomed to enjoy a cookie and eggnog, along with other refreshments. Parents, siblings and other guests congratulated the residents on doing such a great job. The residents had so much to be proud of.



Linda had a great time at the New Years Eve dance party on December 28th.

MATCH WAS MET

In November, a generous donor offered to match all donations up to \$100,000 by the end of 2022. Because of support from people like you, the Center surpassed the \$100,000 mark on December 16th! Then, another generous donor stepped in, offering \$50,000 to keep the match momentum through the end of December.

On December 31, 2022, we met both matches!

Thank you for your help in making this possible. Your generosity helps give individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) the chance to live dynamic and fulfilled lives at St. Louis Center. In this caring environment, each resident finds a community suited to their special needs and a place to call home. We are so very grateful!



FROM FR. ENZO



We have started another year of grace, the year of the Lord 2023.

Still, I wish all of you many blessings and graces for this year; may the Good Lord bestow upon each and every one of you His blessings that you are able to reach all your goals.

I am glad to share with you that after a long period of planning, the St. Joseph Hall repairing, remodeling, and upgrading project started at the beginning of this year. It will be completed by the beginning of May 2023.

The residents will have individualized rooms with ADA-compliant bathrooms. The number of residents living at SJH will be reduced; this is to follow the vision of St. Louis Guanella for his facilities: everyone needs to feel at home with a sense of belonging and have a place to call 'my place.'

I want to thank all the benefactors who helped us in securing the needed money for this project and/or for donating needed items for this residential home.

Many of you have contributed to the matching drive we had last December and we raised 112.7%.

We are working towards many directions in such a way that St. Louis Center will continue to grow and offer hope to so many people following what St. John Paul II indicated during the celebration of the Jubilee Day for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the year 2000, to create the 'after us' program.

St. Louis Center started this project in 2010 and it is continuing in the full realization of that vision: the SJH renovation is part of it.

Many people are knocking at our doors but with the staffing crisis affecting our country, we regret that we are not able to offer services. We continue with our mission of love, service, and hope, trusting the Good Lord to inspire and guide us always.

Fr. Enzo Ahlborn



WORK IS UNDERWAY



After months of consultations and planning, the remodeling of St. Joseph Hall is well underway. During the Christmas break, residents moved temporarily into different homes on the St. Louis Center campus.

Workers removed all of the furnishings and began removal of old flooring and the bathrooms. Soon these rooms will be ready for single occupancy and bathroom access from within the room providing more privacy for the residents.

The generous support of our donors makes campus upgrades like this possible.



SLC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Andrew A. Shmina, Chair
Joseph Munie, Vice-Chair
Donna Hrozencik, MD, Secretary
Glenn Johnson, Treasurer

Nancy Graebner
William Lamb, JD
George Mallison
Kathi Neuman
Norm Neuman
Juanita Pampuch
(Family Representative)

Jerry Ruggirello
Rosalie Tocco-Bradley
Don Walker
George Walrath
Vickie Walrath
Christopher Kolomjec,
(MI State Deputy, KofC)

A NEW HOME FOR JACKIE

WITH PERSEVERANCE, JACKIE TAKES A BIG STEP

Jackie moved to a new home in Chelsea, MI at the end of August. She is making new friends and exploring new opportunities as a resident of St. Louis Center.

Jackie is known for bringing joy to those around her with her friendly smile and bounce in her step especially when there's music in the air. Her enthusiasm is contagious during celebrations and she's an energetic participant in activities.

Jackie has a loving and supportive family who watched her grow from a happy girl into a warmhearted young



Jackie and her grandparents after the Annual Christmas Program.

woman who strives for independence and self-sufficiency. They determined that Jackie needed to be able to thrive in a home of her own.

It's always a hard decision for any family to make when deciding the next step when a child with I/DD reaches an age to move away,

requiring considerable research, due diligence, and great perseverance in the selection and placement processes. Jackie's mom and dad decided that St. Louis Center was a great fit for her. Jackie thinks so too!

One of Jackie's favorite activities is the "Open Spot" Special Needs Theater Program, a program that Jackie has participated in and enjoyed in the past, and which we all look forward to having return to St. Louis Center.

If you would like to visit St. Louis Center to see if it is a fit for your family, please contact Summer Reed at sreed@stlouiscenter.org or 734-475-8430.



Jackie has a constant smile, inquisitive nature, and desire to expand the experiences she shares with her fellow residents.



AUCTION MARKS 35TH YEAR

THE 2022 FALL DINNER AUCTION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Saturday, October 22nd was the culmination of several months' work by a dedicated committee. This was the 35th consecutive year for this event that benefits the residents of St. Louis Center. The Fall Auction is



Lee Chambers and Lisa Torrence, his mom, enjoyed the fun at the dinner auction.

a special night where friends and donors gather for a feast, fellowship and auction items with all proceeds benefitting the residents of the Center.

Cindy Lesser was recognized for the 35 years she has been the St. Louis Center Office Manager. Cindy started working

at the Center after graduating from high school and manages the front office every day with her knowledge and grace. Cindy has helped organize many events throughout her time at the Center and her work is appreciated.

Norman and Kathi Neuman were honored with the Founders Award for the many years they have both spent volunteering, fundraising, and assisting the Servants of Charity at the St. Louis Center. Norm was the chairman of the Golf & Glory Outing for many years and a founding member of the Legacy Campaign Committee. Kathi has worked for many years as the Fall Auction Chair. Although she is beginning to hand over that title, she is still a wealth of knowledge for the new Co-Chairs Barb Lewis and Eileen Augustine.

The event was held at St. Mary Church, accommodating the crowd of about 150 people in attendance. They had



Kathi, Norm and Joe Neuman were honored with the Founders Award marking over 30 years of dedicated service to St. Louis Center.

the opportunity to bid on many beautiful items that were donated by area businesses and St. Louis Center supporters. The meal was prepared and served by The Moveable Feast. Crystal McKinsey, a young Broadway singer who has recently moved to the Chelsea area, even performed several songs before dinner. The net proceeds this year were \$87,926.73 the most ever for this event.



CAREGIVERS ARE WISE AND PATIENT WHEN THEY LEARN TO ACCEPT FALLS AND THE UNEXPECTED, AWARE THAT LIFE MAY NOT GO AS PLANNED.

- WITH FAITH, LOVE AND COMPETENCE 84



Patience

Direct Care Supervisors know that it takes a lot of patience to succeed in the field of direct care. In the educational style of St. Louis Center staff, patience takes on a deeper meaning and includes:

- Alert attentiveness for the growth of the person and encouraging it
- Respect of the time and slow pace of some and not expecting quick results
- Accepting the lack of results
- Accepting falls, failures and the unexpected
- Being hopeful for future growth
- Encouraging and stimulating others to progress

Being patient means to bet on the abilities of the person. It means to know how to wait with confidence and always trust despite mistakes and frailty.

Do you want to apply?

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



PROFILES OF GUANELLIAN STAFF



The ladies who reside in Uncle Mike's House were assisted in their performance by **Natasia Platte and Carlie Hartwick.**

Kyle Cater

Kyle has recently joined the Development and Communications team as the Development and Communications Administrative Assistant. Originally from the Grand Rapids area, Kyle now lives in Jackson after graduating from Albion College in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. He enjoys playing his cello and taking long hikes through nature. With a passion for data and patterns, Kyle is an asset to Team D/C and St. Louis Center.



Hannah Amaro

After high school, Hannah took a job at an assisted living center in Jackson. The work appealed to her, but she was attracted to the idea of working with persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) when she saw an ad for direct care openings at St. Louis Center. She decided to



make the move to become a member of the Center's staff in August of 2021. After several months on staff at the Center, Hannah heard about a special program for staff to take Certified Nurse

Assistant (CNA) training. She decided to take the chance and apply for the training. The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and the Anna Botsford Back Fund for Seniors funded a grant for St. Louis Center to offer training to its staff members. The main goal of the grant is to ensure the highest quality of service delivery to the clients as well as to recruit and retain qualified staff members.

Hannah feels that the training has been very beneficial to her day-to-day work at the Center. She has the skills necessary to provide more professional quality personalized care to the residents and to assist them with tasks more easily than she could have before. She doesn't want to stop there ... now more than ever she wants to achieve her goal someday of becoming a registered nurse.



Angela Price

Angie is the new Social Services Supervisor at St. Louis Center. She grew up just west of Chelsea in a small town where she was a restaurant owner. She decided to sell and go back to college to earn a Masters in Social Work. Angie has worked as a social worker for the past ten years, helping a diverse population that includes, troubled adolescents, people struggling with substance abuse, and preservation work in homes with families that come from many different cultures and backgrounds. In addition, she has worked with the geriatric population, as well as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She enjoys assisting the residents of the Center.





Fr. Enzo and members of the Abruzzese Federation of Michigan.

AN ITALIAN CHRISTMAS

Santa came to town, Saturday, December 3, 2022, kicking off the Holiday festivities for the residents of St. Louis Center. For over 10 years, a celebratory Christmas Party has been planned by the Friends of Al Chirco and the Federazone Del Abruzzese Del Michigan (FADM). The St. Louis Center gym was filled with presents while the visitors prepared lunch in the kitchen. Mass was held in the Center's chapel and the residents and guests made their way to the gym afterward. Santa arrived to greet each resident and deliver their personally selected presents, which were donated by FADM and the Friends of Al Chirco.

PRESENTS FROM THE CHELSEA PICKLEBALL CLUB

Pickleball club member Julie Prince said, "I walked into St. Louis Center years ago and it changed my outlook on life. The residents that live there year-round are cared for by a lot of loving caring people and anything we can do for them to make their life easier is so much appreciated."

The pickleball club collected donations to give gifts to all 64 Center residents.

A SEASON OF GIVING

MEIJER COMMUNITY GIVES

On Thursday, December 15, 2022, members of the Scio Twp. Meijer, Store #173 in Ann Arbor, MI, made a special visit to the St. Louis Center. In the past month their community giving team, led by employees who enjoy making a difference in the community, held a vote to pick their store's recipient for yearly giving. Different organizations



Team Meijer presented **Joey and Fr. Enzo** with a surprise gift.

were considered, but one stood out to the employees: St. Louis Center.

Center resident Joey B. is a long-time employee at this Meijer store. Joey makes a lasting impact on everyone he meets. His cheerful, spunky, and talkative demeanor is heartwarming, and it is hard not to enjoy Joey. His Meijer coworkers definitely agree.

St. Louis Center overwhelmingly got the vote. The Meijer Community Giving Team presented a check for \$10,000 to the Center. Joey was present to help receive the check and was overjoyed with the generosity of his fellow employees on his work team.



THE GIFT OF CREATIVITY



Jacqui and Ken enjoyed drawing with light using the Light Bright games from Yeo & Yeo.

An Ann Arbor accounting firm, Yeo & Yeo, stepped in to offer gifts of arts and crafts supplies. What a great way to spend the holiday, exercising creativity and making art. Thanks to the Yeo & Yeo family, the Center residents will be creating projects to share with their own families throughout the year.

ST. LOUIS CENTER GIVES

During the Advent season, Center staff participated in a 'reverse Advent calendar' to collect items for Faith in Action. The staff and residents delivered the food items to Faith in Action on January 10th.



Albert and Haylie Moran unload the pantry items from the van.



Bob and Erick didn't miss a trunk so they could enjoy the decorations and the candy.



TRUNK OR TREAT

In 2022 the popularity of the Trunk or Treat was quite apparent. After weeks of planning, inviting, and decorating the October 26th event was underway. There were Halloween-themed activities and of course plenty of treats. The event featured 37 treat-filled trunks, a dozen or so volunteers, and a great DJ. The kitchen served over 300 meals which included 'bat wings', 'blood clots', 'chunky intestines', 'graveyard goo', and 'agent orange punch.'

While the Haunted Hall was terrifying all who dared to enter, Halloween games and activities were offered for those who were not up for the scare.

The headlining event was the Trunk or Treat happening out front where plenty of treats were to be had. Participants were also quite creative with their trunk decor. The Addams Family made a showing, Captain America, Cookie Monster, some punk rockers and plenty of skeletons and Jack O' Lanterns adorned the trunks. HB Fuller Adhesives Company sent some of their staff to be sure the fun was at a maximum with the DJ sounds of Dan Hutchison and his dancing dinosaur.



HELP US BUILD A LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

Residents of St. Louis Center need your help!

The Center's mission is to make sure that residents are always provided with a secure and loving home, and your help can take this mission even further. Our new monthly sustainer program is your opportunity to extend the impact of your gift to be felt for years to come. With each recurring donation, our team is able to provide care, activities, and community opportunities to the residents.

You can support St. Louis Center with a recurring gift of any amount. Spread out your giving into monthly payments and ensure that the residents at the Center have the continued support and care they need each day!

Consider making a recurring donation of any amount and learn how your donation is making a real difference in the lives of St. Louis Center residents!

\$25/month provides residents like Jackie one month of internet access to communicate with family and friends.



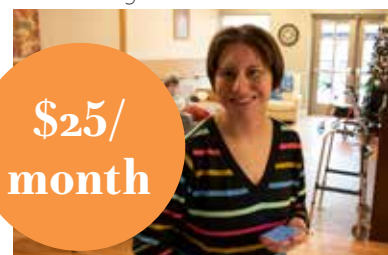
**\$5/
month**

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



**\$15/
month**

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



**\$25/
month**

ROLLOVER, IRA!

A Tax-Saving Way to Help St. Louis Center

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit St. Louis Center and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on the money. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

Why Consider This Gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- The rollover generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Beginning in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

Contact us to see how a rollover could benefit you.



Payment Information

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

Monthly Gift: ☐ \$5 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ 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: _____

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.



LEARNING A NEW SKILL



Matthew Kennedy is no stranger to St. Louis Center, his family has been doing service projects since they first learned about the Center from a family friend in 2019. Matthew is now a high school student who is creating service projects of his own to benefit others in his community.

On a sunny fall afternoon November 6th, nine St. Louis Center residents and Fr. Amal, SdC, were invited by members of the congregation's youth

group to Faith Baptist Church in Chelsea to play a round of disc golf on the church's campus. Matthew and his friends Payton Whitaker, Brogan Salow, and Isaac Summers all enjoy playing disc golf and are eager to share their knowledge with others.

They taught the residents how to play and patiently played through half of the course with them. Matthew even baked cupcakes and provided cold drinks for the weary golfers.

"This is really good exercise for me," said Nancy.

Everyone had a great time and look forward to playing again.



CHRISTMAS OUTING



Center residents had fun browsing at Bronner's.

CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY SHARING LAUGHTER AND JOY.

For those who couldn't be with their family, the Center staff organized an outing for a day of fun. On December 29th, the group traveled to Frankenmuth and enjoyed lunch at the famous Zehnder's family owned chicken restaurant. Reservations were made in advance and the whole community looked at this joyful group as they burst out with gratitude to the wait staff at the restaurant. After lunch, they went to the silent night chapel and sang 'Silent Night' together and prayed for the Center's staff and benefactors.



Jacqui, Linda, and David enjoyed the meal at Zehnder's.

They signed their names in the visitors' book and joyfully headed to Bronner's Christmas wonderland where they enjoyed walking around and looking at the marvelous things exhibited there. They returned home happy and with a sense of accomplishment. Thanks to the staff for filling the trip with extra love and time.

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

Golf and Glory

Join us on **Monday, June 26th** at University of Michigan Golf Course by participating, you'll help provide a loving home for the Center's residents.

Registration and Sponsorships

can be purchased online, scan here →



Memorial Golf Outing

When: Saturday, July 15th

Where: Pierce Lake Golf Course, Chelsea MI

Cost: \$100/golfer

Sponsorships are also available. Scan code to learn more →



To read about all of our upcoming events, scan the QR Code:



27TH ANNUAL Fall Harvest Fest TO BENEFIT ST. LOUIS CENTER



Sunday, September 24, 2023



Italian American Banquet and Conference Center

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

Annual Fall Dinner Auction

Mark your calendars for the 36th Annual Fall Dinner Auction. The event is planned for **Saturday, October 28, 2023**. Formal invitations will be mailed in late spring or early summer.

Join the Committee!

Fill out the form here



UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf & Glory Outing

June 26, 2023

University of Michigan Golf course - Ann Arbor MI

Memorial Golf Outing

July 15, 2023

Pierce Lake Golf Course - Chelsea MI

Fall Harvest Dinner

September 24, 2023

Italian American Banquet Center - Livonia

Fall Dinner Auction

October 28, 2023

St. Mary Parish Hall - Chelsea

For more information,
please visit our website:

www.stlouiscenter.org



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Rollover and
benefit the Center!



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Mark your
calendar for some
upcoming events.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

Ron Hingst of Howell, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2022. He was 75 years old. Ron was born in Detroit, MI in 1947. Growing up in Metro



Detroit, he developed a life-long love for hockey & Gordie Howe. He served in the U.S. Army for two years. He graduated from Wayne State University.

As a PR professional, he worked at Franco's and was the VP of PR at Domino's Pizza in the late 80s. He then ran his own PR business for 25 years before retiring in 2020.

Ron was also devoted to works of charity, offering

his services to many worthy causes including St. Louis Center. He was co-chair of the Golf & Glory committee for 20 years and

even provided voice and other talent for the 50th Anniversary video about the Center's history. He was honored at Paesano's dinner in June 2021.

Son of the late Alfred and Catherine Hingst, Ron was the loving husband of the late Diane (Diehl) Hingst; he's survived by his children, Kristopher (Allison) Hingst, Katie (Andrew) Morland; grandchildren, Jacob Hingst, Caleb Morland,

Cameron Hingst, and Reagan Morland; also, many extended family and dear friends. A memorial luncheon was held on October 24, 2022 at the Gazebo Banquet Center in Warren.

Mamie Abbruzzese

Edda D'Aloisio

Carolyn DiComo

Angeline Eder

Mary Frisinger

Frank Guidobono

Ken Hardin

Ron Hingst

Sharon Hoffman

Ray Kemner

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