

ST. LOUIS SPIRIT

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

SUMMER | 2023

MICRO-ENTERPRISE AT FARMER'S MARKET

Haylie Moran, St. Louis Center Day Program Coordinator, has been working hard to help the residents build their own micro-enterprise. They started planning last fall and engaging in product development throughout the winter and spring. They were more than ready to unveil their products at the Chelsea Farmers' Market on June 7th. The residents collect recycled paper from around the agency, shred it, make it into a pulp, and form 'bricks' that can be used to easily start campfires.

Haylie said, "The residents really enjoy making the paper bricks and being at the market to meet customers and sell their wares."

They will be rolling out their own line of dog biscuits at upcoming markets.



Haylie Moran helps Jacqui enjoy greeting customers while selling their items at their Farmer's Market booth.

JUNE MATCH MET

Because of YOU, we met the \$50,000 MATCH!

A very generous anonymous donor offered to match \$50,000 of gifts for #SLCBenevolentCare during the month of June. Because of your wonderful kindness, we EXCEEDED the match. 117.6% of the MATCH was met and we continue to tabulate the final results!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GOLF AND GLORY: A SUCCESS DESPITE RAIN

Volunteers worked for several months to plan the outing. Golfers enjoyed the day no matter Mother Nature's gift of persistent rain.

Jim Harbaugh inspired players with some pre-game words of encouragement.

"I had a connection with St. Louis Center when I was growing up here," Harbaugh said. "We'd play basketball against St. Louis Center, some of their



students and residents. And so I've known about it for a long time. They do tremendous work. Got to get to know Norm [Neuman] and his son, Joe, over the summer — met them up north in Michigan. I was invited to

come out and support. John [Beilein] has been doing it for a couple of decades."

John Beilein is a regular at the event, and he was in attendance this year with former UofM basketball player Jordan Morgan. He said, "This event is part of the great assistance we get from the community...Keep doing what you're doing. I will stay connected with the St. Louis Center wherever I am in the years ahead."

After a rain-soaked round of golf, the team of Megan Zeiher, John, Bryan, and Lucas Dunn were the big winners of the day.

During dinner, heroes of the Center were honored. The John Panelli Celebrity Award was given to Gloria Miller of LaJolla Jewelers by Peter

Panelli. The Bill Wagner Pioneer award for 2022 was given to Russell "Russ" and Catherine "Kay" Payeur, longtime friends and generous supporters of the Center.



Special thanks goes to the main sponsors including Donald Nadeau, A.Z. Shmina, KofC MI State Council, Allied Inc., and Google as Gold Sponsors.

The event would not be possible without the hard work of the committee and volunteers. Scan here to read more stories. stlouiscenter.org/about/news/



FROM FR. ENZO



Happy and Blessed Summer!

Rain or shine the show has to go on! This was what happened during the Golf and Glory Outing on June 26, 2023 at the UofM Golf Course. The weather had different rules than what we were expecting but

between showers some players managed to play through. It was still a glorious day.

I want to thank all the committee members, the volunteers and all those who contributed to the success of the fundraising event. Everyone has shown the great love that each has for St. Louis Center, its residents and their families.

A special thank you goes to coach John Beilein, to coach Jim Harbaugh, and former UofM basketball player Jordan Morgan, who came to meet the players at the beginning of the event making a special day for all.

A thank you goes also to all the people involved in the raffle making it a very successful activity and raising \$39,915 for the St. Louis Center benevolent care program.

St. Joseph Hall renovations are complete and the re-dedication has been set for Sunday, August 27, 2023. It is another tassel for the realization of the St. Louis Guanella Village, which was envisioned at the 50th anniversary of the Center in 2010. I want to thank all those who contribute to the carrying out of this plan with their support, generosity and, in a special way, with their love. THANK YOU!

This time has been a time to recollect ourselves and planning for the next fiscal year with all its challenges. We always keep our trust in the Lord who never forgets His precious people; for them He always inspires people of goodwill who show their love and support in caring for them. St. Louis Guanella used to call this Divine Providence that is a love which surrounds everyone in such a way that the stronger and healthier ones care for the weaker and feeble ones with pure love.

Enjoy the Summer!

Fr. Enzo Ashlari

stlouiscenter.org/category/administration-corner/from-fr-enzo/



REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE 36TH ANNUAL

Fall Dinner Auction

AT ST. MARY CHURCH CHELSEA MI

SATURDAY **28** OCTOBER

DON'T MISS OUT ... RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY! VISIT:
STLOUISCENTER.ORG/EVENT/2023-FALL-DINNER-AUCTION/
OR SCAN THE CODE WITH THE CAMERA APP ON YOUR
SMARTPHONE OR TABLET.

Tickets \$150/person

THE FAVOR OF A REPLY IS
REQUESTED BY
OCTOBER 7TH



SOUNDS AND SIGHTS



Each week Michelle Mikolajczyk, St. Louis Center Community Engagement Coordinator, greets passers-by with a smile and information about St. Louis Center during Sounds and Sights. Lee, Joe, Terry Peyton, Jacqui, Natasia Platte, and Cathy helped spread smiles.



SLC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Glenn Johnson, Treasurer

Nancy Graebner
William Lamb, JD
George Mallison
Kathi Neuman
Norm Neuman
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Don Walker
George Walrath
Vickie Walrath
Christopher Kolomjec,
(MI State Deputy, KofC)

THE EDUCATIONAL CLIMATE OF THE CENTER BECOMES THE SOURCE OF EXEMPLARY PATTERNS OF LIFE.

- BASIC DOCUMENT FOR THE GUANELLIAN MISSION 273



Family | Community

St. Louis Center staff are more than caretakers; they are educators. To educate means to augment the other from within, not to mold him from without. It means to assist another through a deliberate and systematic process, in the activation of all his energies and in the removal of the conditions preventing his self-realization. Visit the website to view current staff openings.

Volunteers are Family too

Volunteers play an integral role in the life of the Center. Explore the opportunities at: stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/volunteer/ or scan the code with the camera app on your smartphone or tablet.



PROFILES OF GUANELLIAN STAFF



Natasia Platte, Direct Care Worker, (right) helped the ladies of Mike's House - Sarah, Jacqui, Nancy and Cathy - try to keep their kite off the ground.

Rebekah Palmer



My name is Rebekah Palmer, I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Social Services Supervisor at St. Louis Center. I was born and raised in the beautiful northern Michigan town of Tawas City. In 2018, I graduated from the University of Michigan with my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. For 2 years I practiced as a Registered Behavior Technician with children and teens with Autism both in home and clinic settings. Through this experience, I learned how powerful behavior change can be and knew I wanted to dedicate my career to creating that change. I decided to pursue further education in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis through the Florida Institute of Technology. In 2020,

I obtained my certification and license as a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst. For the past three years, I have been providing behavioral health services to children and adults with a range of mental illnesses and developmental disabilities in a variety of settings including large residential facilities, smaller AFC homes, and private family homes. What I enjoy most about my work is that every day brings a new challenge and opportunity for improvement in the lives of those we care for. I am happy to join the team at the Center and looking forward to what the future holds.

ALHAMBRA BRINGS FRIENDSHIP AND FUN



St. Louis Guanella Caravan at the Center.

While countless organizations lend their support, the Alhambra, St. Louis Guanella Caravan has carved out a reputation for its unparalleled dedication. This year they hosted a BBQ on May 25th complete with a Kona Ice truck.

It's not just about the food. The Alhambra, St. Louis Guanella Caravan members exude an infectious spirit of camaraderie. They seamlessly transition from being hosts to becoming friends, engaging in

heartfelt conversations with the residents. Laughter fills the air as stories are shared, forging unforgettable bonds between the Caravan members and the individuals they aim to support.

The Alhambra, St. Louis Guanella Caravan's picnic at the St. Louis Center is not just an event—it's a symbol of unwavering support and a celebration of the human spirit.

stlouiscenter.org/alhambra-members-host-picnic/

A BUSY SPRING ON CAMPUS



Lee, Monica Gofton, Nancy, Jacqui, Lee, Julie Prince, and Antoine enjoyed a few games of pickleball.

FITNESS FUN

Pickleball has become all the rage for people to keep in good shape. Lee, one of the St. Louis Center residents, has gotten pretty good at the game by playing each Friday with the Chelsea Senior Center Pickleball Club. Club members were so thrilled that he took such a liking to the sport that they donated a practice net, rackets and balls to St. Louis Center on **April 24th**. Lee and Club members are hoping to teach more of the residents and even staff members how to play.

AKTION CLUB GIVES

The residents of St. Louis Center have their own Kiwanis Aktion Club on-campus. Each year the Club designs and sells Christmas cards to raise funds. On **Thursday, April 27th**, Aktion Club members invited Sarah Shugart, Executive Director of Faith in Action Chelsea, to attend the meeting so that Lisa, Aktion Club President, could present her with a donation on behalf of the St. Louis Center Aktion Club. During the meeting, the club members made cards that will be given to St. Louis Center staff.



Lisa (right) presents a check to Sarah on behalf of the Center's Aktion Club.

KNIGHTS ON CAMPUS

So many members of the Michigan Knights of Columbus faithfully give of their time, talent, and treasure for

the benefit of St. Louis Center. Many of those same members have never visited the Center, so Center staff planned a special event for them on **April 30th**. Mass opened the event. Following Mass, former Michigan State Deputy Ken Unterbrink welcomed the visitors. A picnic lunch was served and the fellowship and fun began. A DJ played music for dancing; a bouncy house was donated so that children



Stanley, Bob Trudell, and Lee shared a moment of friendship.

could have a bit of fun; and Activities Coordinator Laura Rayer had several outdoor games available. Tours of the campus were mapped out so that everyone could get a good picture of the work being done at the Center. All attendees enjoyed themselves and first time visitors were excited to go home and share the news about St. Louis Center.

YOUTH MISSION



Youth worked cheerfully despite the heat.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Chelsea hosts a mission camp each summer for youth attendees of the congregation. This year instead of traveling out-of-state the organizers decided to concentrate on outreach at home June 19th-22nd. For a whole week students spent the day doing good works. Their afternoons were spent at St. Louis Center helping with some landscaping projects around resident homes in the Village.

Read more St. Louis Center stories by visiting: stlouiscenter.org/category/news/ or scan this code. →



ATHLETES SHINE



Carlie and Matthias enjoyed the opening ceremonies at Special Olympics.

Each summer the St. Louis Center residents make the journey to Central Michigan University to participate in the Special Olympics Summer Games.

This year 16 athletes represented the Center, competing in bowling and volleyball. Staff members Haylie Moran and Carlie Hartwick, and retired Program Director Rick Visel accompanied the residents on the 4-day event. Mike Dunbar was a gold medalist in Singles Bowling. St. Louis Center athletes brought home 8 medals and more than a dozen ribbons. There was plenty of time for fellowship and fun when the competitions were over.



Knights of Columbus Irish Hills Council #6223 host a dinner event that offers support to the Center. On **June 24th** at least 400 people attended the event. The winner of the big prize is the person who's number is drawn last. **Fr. Enzo** received a check to help assist with benevolent care needs of the Center residents.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL

RANDAZZO MEN'S SOCIAL

Hosted by Randazzo Fresh Market, the evening includes gourmet food, craft beers, wine and liquor, cigars, music, and a showing of the night's NFL game. The event is now in its 8th year.

When: Thursday, September 21st

Time: 5:30pm

Where: Randazzo Fresh Market,
49800 Hayes Rd., Macomb
Twp., MI 48044



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 (734)953-9724



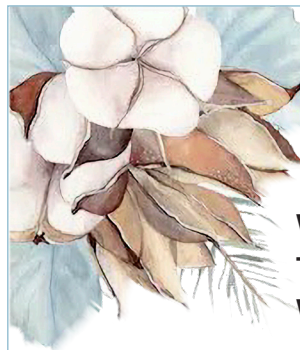
ITALIAN DINNER NIGHT

Join the Italian American Club of Lansing for "Una sera Italiana" – a night of authentic Italian cuisine and musical entertainment.

When: Saturday, October 14, 2023

Time: 6:00pm

Where: Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 201 Miller Rd.,
Lansing, MI 48911



THE 36TH ANNUAL

Fall Dinner Auction

When: Saturday, October 28, 2023

Time: 6:00pm

Where: St. Mary Church, 14200 E. Old US
Hwy 12, Chelsea MI 48118

TRUNK OR TREAT

When: Thursday, October 26th

Time: 5:00pm

Where: St. Louis Center



If you would like to learn more about all events, scan the code at left or visit:

stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/

CENTER HONORS HOWDY HOLMES

This year the Center celebrated the incredible achievements and contributions of Howdy Holmes at the Paesano dinner **Sunday, June 25th**. The Holmes family started the Jiffy Mix and Chelsea Milling company in the early 1900s.

Howdy has followed in the footsteps of his family by being a supporter of St. Louis Center. When a major decision needs to be made about the progress of the Village or other important details, Howdy is the man to call. He is always willing to lend an ear, discuss the options, and give his opinion and full support.

The evening started with a social hour for 50 close friends and supporters. As people took their seats dinner began, along with the many speeches about Howdy and his



Fr. Leo Joseph presented Howdy with a painting by Fr. Germano.

marvelous impact he has had on the community as a whole.

Ken Klovski, also a supporter of the Center, is also a major fan of Howdy. Ken started the night out with a brief history of Howdy's first love and career, Indy Car Racing. Howdy was a race car driver for many years and also owned his own motor sports company before settling back into his roots and continuing his family's business.

St. Louis Center has a long history with many friends. If you have a story that you would like to share for the archives of the

Center, use this link to submit your story and photos:

<https://form.jotform.com/slcdev/SLChistory>

CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

IMAGES OF GOD AND PLACE OF HIS WONDERS

The richness of people with disabilities is a constant challenge to the Church and to society; they are places of the wonders of God and people rich in humanity.

Disability is not a punishment; indeed it is a privilege, which God uses to manifest His love and crown all with the glory of the resurrection. It is in this spirit that we entrust this preparation to all of you, in view of the full integration and insertion of persons with disabilities in the life of the Church and society, to valorize the gifts they bring, to reconcile ourselves with them for failings in their regard in the spirit of the Great Jubilee, and to encourage an attitude of caring, assistance and solidarity. ...

Living Man, Image of God

The greatness, dignity, and value of humanity lie in the fact that it is part of the mystery of God, who is "Love". The love of the "Father forever" (Is 9,6) is the 'crown' of man and clothes him in transcendence. ...

Characteristics of this Image

As living beings created in the image and likeness of God we are united with Him and, like God, humanity is surrounded by mystery. ... The human person, the living being, beyond all exterior appearances, reflects Love who created him with the ability to love and be loved, with his being, his faculties, and his freedom. Every person has in his/her constitution the honor, glory, and dignity of God. ...

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Mystery of our Limitations

The image of God, given and entrusted to man, contrasts with human freedom which did not confide in God, but isolated itself from Him, from others, and from the cosmos. ... From this stems the sense of limitation, finitude,

fear, and lack of interpersonal communication. We must say, however, that the sin of our first parents with all its consequences and responsibilities had the power to dim, although not eliminate, this image, which God blessed from the beginning. "God saw that it was good" (Gn 1).

A Feeling of Limitation

Therefore also in our limitations the splendor of God is revealed in his greatness and glory, since, because of the human dignity with which each of us is endowed, we all, despite our limitations, manifest the glorious face of God. ...

With the Incarnation and Redemption, Jesus transfigures humanity's historic weakness and fragility endowing human limits with new contents: "restoring to mankind the likeness of God, deformed at the beginning because of sin" (GS 22).

God's Compassion

God has never withdrawn his blessing from those whom he created in his image and likeness, even when He

appears to forget them, or when the image, affected by some disability or out of free choice, no longer seems to correspond. Indeed he continues to seek, with his tender and universal love, all of them, but especially those who are weak, limited, and voiceless, those most affected by limitations in their bodily or mental capacities.

God "comes down" from his inaccessible solitude to draw near to the human condition.

"God so loved the world as to give his only Son" (Jn 3,16). God's compassion is set in the vision of love, all that is marked by sin, fragility, and limitation becomes, in the 'weakness' of the Son, a vehicle of new life and resurrection.

This article was written by the Committee for the Jubilee Day of the Community with Persons with Disabilities in preparation for the Jubilee Day 3 December 2000. Read more →



Susanna gladly pushes Ken's wheelchair.

Communities of Life

In various parts of the world there are communities, which welcome the persons with disabilities and treat them with equality, as healthy people.

These valorize to the full the mystery of the Cross in the life of the person with disabilities exalting it however in the power of the resurrection, in many forms of living and various initiatives, collective and individual, in which persons with disabilities reach a high grade of humanity.

These communities are based first of all on the value of accepting those who are different, who risk being excluded, in the mystery of the Cross, which is before us, in its urgency and absoluteness and which we cannot reject. "Treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you" (Rom 15,7).

They develop gradually in a plan of life given by the participation of volunteers, professionals, families, with the impulse which sharing the life of the person with disabilities creates as a process of liberation and transfiguration of personal and collective ills.

The examples of the lives of some persons with disabilities transfigured by the power of the Lord's resurrection are enlightenment for choices of vocation and Christian commitment for others.

"Handicapped persons, sustained effectively, are capable of exceptional energy and values of great utility for the whole of humanity" (John Paul II, March 31, 1984)

This is what these communities of life with persons with disabilities testify to the world, anticipating in some way, the Kingdom of God.



Lori helps with the grocery shopping for the home she shares with others at St. Louis Center.



YOU CAN BUILD A LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER



water bottle

\$25/
month

\$15/
month

notepad and pen

\$5/
month

magnet

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 monthly sustainer program is your opportunity to extend the impact of your gift to be felt for years to come.

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!

In gratitude for your efforts in building a LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE please accept one of these gifts when you become a monthly sustainer.



To give or see more options, Visit:
stlouiscenter.org/give-here/sustainers/

YOUR IMPACT OUR APPRECIATION



\$25/
month

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



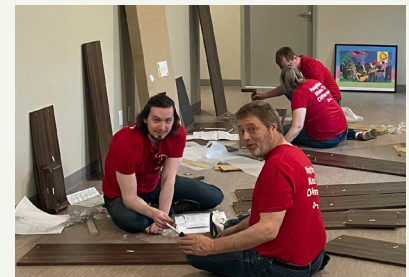
\$15/
month

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

KEY BANK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

For many years for one afternoon in June, local Key Banks shut down and go out into the community as a way of giving back. For the past few years Key Bank in Chelsea has chosen St. Louis Center as the place they spend their afternoon. This year they put

their skills to work by assembling new furniture for St. Joseph Hall. We are thankful that each year Key Bank volunteers reach out to the Center to lend a hand on Neighbors Make the Difference Day.



Make a Gift Today

☐ **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 Information

Payment Type: Credit Card Cash Check

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: stlouiscenter.org/about/news/newsletter/st-louis-spirit/#donate 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

St. Joseph Hall Rededication

August 27, 2023

St. Louis Center - Chelsea

Kevin George Memorial Outing

September 10, 2023

Lakeland Hills Golf Course - Jackson

Randazzo Men's Social

September 21, 2023

Randazzo Fresh Market - Macomb Twp.

Fall Harvest Dinner

September 24, 2023

Italian American Banquet Center - Livonia

The Memorial Outing

October 1, 2023

Wheatfield Valley Golf - Williamston

Italian American Club of Lansing

Pasta Dinner

October 14, 2023

Cristo Rey Catholic Church - Lansing

Trunk or Treat

October 26, 2023

St. Louis Center - Chelsea

Fall Dinner Auction

October 28, 2023

St. Mary Church Hall - Chelsea

Learn more on our website:

stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/

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People with
disabilities are
images of God and
places of wonder...



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Help build a
'Lighthouse of
Hope'...

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

John Dunn

age 88, of
Chelsea, MI,
passed away
on May 22,
2023 at his
home at
Cavanaugh
Lake.



"Jack" was born on
October 22, 1934 in Ann
Arbor, MI to John F. and
Eva H. (West) Dunn. Jack
was a long-time resident
and business owner in
Chelsea. He married the
love of his life and best
friend, Nancy (Luhrs),
on July 21, 1956, and
they enjoyed 65 years of
marriage until she passed
away in 2021. They
grew up as best friends,
married, and together
built a family, a business,
and raised three children
in Chelsea: Kathy Dunn

Finger, Kimberly S.
Tapping, and John F.
Dunn.

Bill Shurtliff

dearly
beloved
husband, father,
grandfather,
and great-
grandfather,
was born to
eternal life on
July 5, 2023.



He was a much-loved
Ann Arbor artist. Bill was
born April 24, 1947, to
Lewis William ("Bill") and
Evelyn (Byrd) Shurtliff,
in Ann Arbor. Following
his service in the US
Army in the late 60s, Bill
attended UofM. While
in college he married his
wife Janet, and together
they raised their family
and developed a business
based on Bill's talents,

including drawings of St.
Louis Center. Bill had a
deep love for the "guys"
he cared for in the late
90s and early 2000s
at the Center.

Janet Ammann

John Betley

Christina Colleta

Peter Colizzi

**Douglas Wayne
Connelley**

John De Rose

John "Jack" Dunn

Arlene L. Grau

Robert Guinan

Don Kruszewski

Frances Lammers

Alice Ledwidge

Christine Meyers

Samuel Pizzo

William "Bill" Shurtliff

Edna Skop

stlouiscenter.org/give-here/donate/tributes/#memories