



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

FALL | 2023

## RESIDENTS FLOURISH IN THE ARTS

**The residents really enjoy the chance to express themselves in creative ways. Here are two programs at the Center now:**

Theatre classes are designed for everyone, from students with developmental disabilities to seniors. Since 2012, **Open Spot Theatre** has proudly taught people of ALL abilities music and movement therapy. Singing, acting, and dancing are included in all the programs, along with sign language interpretations.

St. Louis Center paired with Open Spot Theatre before 2020, but the pandemic put a damper on allowing the program. One resident's parent, Amy Lothamer, actively raises funds to bring this program back after seeing the benefits of music and dance in her daughter's life.

The second performance of 2023 was on August 21st. With the help of Open Spot Theatre, the residents crafted a play about taking a long road trip from their home to

California. The group enjoyed their trip and ended the performance with a musical number of 'Here Comes the Sun' that was performed vocally and in sign language.

It was a touching experience for all who were involved, and the night ended with the crowd cheering and many smiles filled the room.

**Eli Zemper of Curiouser Clay** approached the Center to discuss the possibility of a partnership to give residents a new creative outlet. In October, St. Louis Center began offering a new clay program to residents! The Day Program has the opportunity to partake in the weekly class.

For the first few months, residents are creating Christmas ornaments that will be available for purchase to the community. Check our website and social media pages for where to find the ornaments once they are available for sale.

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council, administered by Creative Washtenaw.



Jackie is always thrilled to participate in the productions.



## INDEPENDENCE COLLEGE

Ten residents successfully completed a semester of the program designed to help them gain independent living skills. Thanks to the diligence of Lilly Teachout, social work intern, a new curriculum was developed for the Social Services Specialists. Some of the topics covered were job etiquette, money management, cooking skills, and street safety.



Ken, Kevin, and Joe enjoyed learning about street safety.

"I liked the class on stranger danger. It will help me when I go shopping," Joe said. "Brian [McKeever] takes me to Walmart every Tuesday, but I usually do curbside pick-up."

## UNIQUE AUCTION ITEMS

The St. Louis Center residents are always looking for ways to help with the Center's fundraising events. This year, they sold their handmade



Albert really likes making ornaments.

campfire bricks and dog treats at the Chelsea Farmer's Market. They have donated some of these creations, along with handmade ornaments and notecards, to be auctioned off at the Fall Dinner Auction.

# FROM FR. ENZO



The changing colors of the fall season is a feast for our eyes, and the beauty is a blessing from God. We can always appreciate this gift!

During this season, we celebrate the feast day of St. Louis Guanella (October 24th), whose vision and mission are carried out here at St. Louis Center. We serve people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, who

were very dear to his heart and at the same time we give hope, like a lighthouse in the dark, to so many families who are looking for the care and wellbeing of their loved ones when they are no longer able to provide for them.

August 27, 2023 Bishop Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing blessed and rededicated the remodeled St. Joseph Hall. All the residents now have a private room and are able to decorate it according to their wishes and liking. All of them have a more personalized space. The LARA license was amended from a 20-bed facility to an 11-bed facility.

Many fundraising events have happened since the last issue of this newsletter; I want to thank all the volunteers who worked very hard on the success of such events. The generosity of the participants has been marvelous, bringing the needed financial support for the benevolent care program offered at the Center. New generous donors have shown great interest in the Center and all of us appreciate them.

There are still many challenges we face every day. Through the involvement of many people who are offering the Center their expertise, we are able to address them and work to help anyone who knocks at our door.

Through a grant from MACC we are starting an art/ clay program during the day program for the residents who, due to aging and other factors, are not able to join programs in the community.

Thanks to a generous donor, we launched a new matching gift campaign for \$100,000. Please see the website for more information about this challenge.

On September 25, 2023, the good Lord called to Himself our good friend, advocate and supporter, Mary Galasso, who took the Center under her wings leading the Guardian Angels – Fall Fest fundraising event held every year at the Italian American Banquet Hall in Livonia. Thank you, Mary for this and may God reward you for what you have done for ‘those who are precious in His sight.’

*Fr. Enzo Addari*



# MEET THE ASHLINE FOUNDATION



Ken Unterbrink, Joe and Norm Neuman, Joe Munie, Fr. Enzo Addari, and Wendy Zielen, were happy to receive the gift from Tony Hopkins, Fred Ashline, and Jim Cleary of the Ashline Foundation and give them a tour.

The 1st annual Sean Brian Ashline Memorial Golf Outing was held August 25th, Sean’s birthday, at Chemung Hills in Howell MI. The outing was plagued by inclement weather, but supporters were not deterred from supporting the efforts of Sean’s father Fred. Their first event was a success.



St. Louis Center staffers Michelle Mikolajczyk, Cassandra Lewis, Tifani Barnett, and Kaitlyn LaRocque, helped residents Linda and Jerome make a splash at the Jackson Chili Cook-off.

## SLC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Joseph Munie, Chair**  
**Donna Hrozencik, MD, Secretary**  
**Glenn Johnson, Treasurer**

Nancy Graebner  
William Lamb, JD  
George Mallison  
Kathi Neuman  
Norm Neuman  
Juanita Pampuch  
Jerry Ruggirello

Andrew A. Shmina  
Rosalie Tocco-Bradley  
Don Walker  
George Walrath  
Vickie Walrath  
Christopher Kolomjec,  
(MI State Deputy, KofC)

## PROFILES OF GUANELLIAN STAFF

**THE CENTER FAVORS AN EDUCATIONAL RELATIONSHIP BASED ON AND MOTIVATED BY INTELLIGENT CHARITY.**

- BASIC DOCUMENT FOR THE GUANELLIAN MISSION 143



**Fr. Enzo Addari, Valerie Bristle, Will Johnson, Isabell Frey, Jonathon Bristle, Jeana Abby, Dave Roscinski and Robin Smith at the presentation of the award.**

### 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/](http://stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/volunteer/) or scan the code with the camera app on your smartphone or tablet.



### The Will Johnson Scholarship

Through the generosity of Will Johnson, a St. Louis Center benefactor, current staff members and their family members are eligible to apply for a scholarship to help fund their higher education. Several staff members applied for the scholarship, but one young woman stood above the rest with her impressive application. Isabell Frey, Housekeeping Lead, embarked on an intensive boot camp at Michigan State University to further her studies in cybersecurity. Her grandparents, her aunt, and her boyfriend joined her at the Center on Wednesday, September 20th to receive her award and meet Will Johnson, the scholarship funder. It was a very proud moment for not only Isabell and her family, but the Center's administration as well.

### Volunteer Spotlight



**A Napoleon High School student puts together a puzzle with Mike.**

Napoleon High School reached out to the Center's Volunteer Coordinator, Michelle Mikolajczyk, in order to help instill leadership and giving into the hearts of some of the seniors. Each week, students come to the Center during class time to help engage Day Program participants in fun activities. The residents of the Center get to make new friends and the students learn about life for people with abilities different from their own.

## ST. JOSEPH HALL BLESSED AND READY



**Bishop Boyea and Lee share a special moment during the dedication.**

On Sunday, August 27, 2023, Most Rev. Earl Boyea, Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing, presided over a special

Mass in the St. Louis Center gym. After Mass, the procession made its way from the main building on the campus up to St. Joseph Hall. The Bishop performed the dedication and blessing of the building that is now home to eleven men with IDD. The Bishop blessed each room and the guests were able to tour the home and get a glimpse into life at St. Joseph Hall.

Everyone returned to the gym to hear words of hope and gratitude from Fr. Enzo; Deana Fisher, Chief Operating Officer; Ken Unterbrink, Past State Deputy of the Michigan Knights of Columbus and former member of the Center's Community Advisory Council; and Andreas Pocsatko, parent of a current St. Louis Center resident.

The Center's kitchen staff prepared a strolling dinner that the 125 guests thoroughly enjoyed.



# A FUN-FILLED SUMMER



↓ Jerome, Brian, Albert, and Lori enjoyed the Oakland County Fair on July 13th.

## DAY AT THE FAIR

On **Thursday, July 13th**, the Social Services department took the residents to a special day for people with disabilities at the fair. They rode every ride and had a great time.

## AMERICA'S PAST TIME



↓ 20 residents and staff members attended the Lugnuts game.

On **Friday, August 18th**, the St. Louis Center residents were treated to a baseball game by the Knights of Columbus. 20 residents and staff members rode a bus to downtown Lansing to see the Lugnuts play at Jackson Field. The outing included a meal from the concession stands.

## CHELSEA FAIR

Residents of the Center enjoy going to the fair. Staff members take them to their favorite events: demolition derby, rodeo, food concessions, and of course visiting the animals and craft barns. Lisa even took the opportunity to enter her handiwork into the fair. The residents were even part of the fair parade on **August 26th**.



↑ The Center's staff and residents had a great time walking in the parade.

## KIWANIS PICNIC

To cap off the summer, the Aktion Club invited members of the Chelsea Kiwanis Club to the Center for a picnic on **August 30th**. Members of both clubs, all the residents



← Joey and Charlie enjoyed a game of corn hole with Gordon Schleicher.

and staff of the Center gathered for dinner in the gym. Afterward, on the Special Needs Playground they enjoyed music and outdoor games.

## TIME TO REMEMBER

To commemorate the tragic and terrifying events of **September 11, 2001**, the St. Louis Center residents and staff gathered for a short ceremony of reflection organized by the staff. Each participant got a candle upon entering the gym. Brad Crosier, a direct care worker, spoke briefly about the events that day and Fr. Franklin offered a prayer and blessing. Each person with the candle turned it on and a moment of silence was observed.



↑ Linda, Crystal, and Susie were moved by the presentation.

## CRUISIN IN THE 'D'

On **Sunday, September 24, 2023**, Alhambra Manresa Caravan invited 20 residents on a two-hour Diamond Jack boat cruise on the Detroit River. They enjoyed lunch, dancing, and sightseeing. Staci Ellerby, Social Services Assistant, said, "I had such a great time on this outing last year that when I heard they were going again, I knew I had to go."

# OUTINGS SUPPORT THE CENTER



The Memorial Golf Outing enjoyed its most successful event to date.

*Each summer 100s of golfers take to the course to support St. Louis Center.*

The annual **Italian American Delegates Golf Day** was held at Twin Lakes Golf Club on **July 10th**. The Italian community has generously supported St. Louis Center through this event.

Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea welcomed teams ready to take the course on the morning of **July 15**, for the 36th annual **Memorial Golf Outing**. This year St. Louis Center honored Liz Hollo. Despite the weather, there were more golfers at this event than ever before.

The **Dad and Lad Golf Outing**, now in its 26th year, hosted another spectacular event at Twins Lake in Oakland County **August 2nd**. Sam Cottone, Mike Chirco, and Joe Maniaci filled up the course with golfers. During dinner Sarah played the recorder and Jerome brought the house down by singing "Blue Moon."



← Brian, Megan and Mike enjoyed the cruise from a window seat.

# HELP THE CENTER FLOURISH

## GET YOUR ST. LOUIS CENTER MERCH

New this year we are offering our supporters the opportunity to purchase their own St. Louis Center Merch. Visit the website to order yours today. You can pick yours up at the Center on or after **December 15th** or for a fee we will ship directly to your door.

Adult T-shirt \$15 S-XL/\$18 2-3X

Long sleeve \$20/\$23

Crew neck \$25/\$31

Hoodie \$30/\$36

To see the full catalog scan this code or



visit:  
stlouiscenter.org/merch/



## Breakfast with Santa



Join St. Louis Center and Santa for a breakfast to remember:

**When:** Saturday, December 16, 2023

**Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm

**Where:** St. Louis Center, 16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12, Chelsea, MI 48118

**Cost:** \$5 Children 2-12  
\$10 Ages 13-Adult  
\$35 Family (2 adults and all children in their care)

## TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

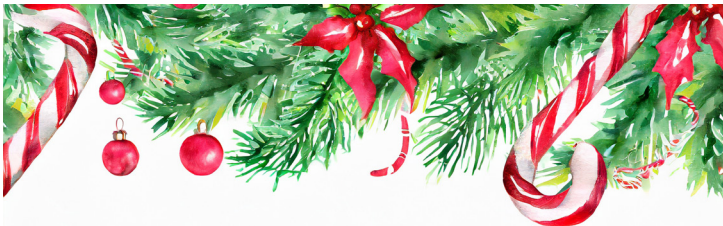
## WIN AN ALASKAN CRUISE & LAND TOUR

7-DAY INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE PLUS 3-DAY LAND TOUR FOR 2 PEOPLE

This raffle supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living at St. Louis Center. The drawing will be held at the Golf & Glory Outing **June 24, 2024**. Scan the code to order your tickets today.



**RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$25 EACH OR 5/\$100**



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Join the residents and staff for the annual Christmas Program **Sunday, December 10, 2023** in the St. Louis Center gym. You will see the skits, songs and other holiday merriment that they have prepared. Please join us at 5:30pm. Refreshments will be served after the show.

## FOOD, DANCING, AND FUN AT THE FALL FEST

Members of the Italian American Club of Livonia have been hosting a benefit dinner for St. Louis Center for the past 27 years. This year, 250 people gathered at the 'Be a Guardian Angel for St. Louis Center' Fall Harvest Fest. Fr. Enzo Addari opened the event by celebrating Mass at the Italian American Club of Livonia.

After Mass, the banquet room opened for attendees to explore the silent auction items, and support the other gift raffles. New this year were several live auction items that offered the chance

to vacation 'Up North' at private homes, Luciano DelSignore, owner of Bacco Ristorante donated a meal for 6, and Cantoro Market gave a basket of fine Italian foods which included a 15 pound Prosciutto. The organizing committee did a fantastic job of gathering gifts and entertainment to make the benefit event a huge success, especially the free will appeal that helped to cover the cost of new furnishings for St. Joseph Hall. Eight residents of St. Louis Center enjoyed the event and helped the guests understand more fully how much their generosity is appreciated.



Fall Harvest Dinner committee members Maria Kraska and Felicia Scappaticci help Nino Cerroni with his gift from the Wine Pull.



# YOU CAN BUILD A LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE

St. Louis Center continues to face many unanticipated costs after the pandemic, including a big increase in staffing cost –not to mention ongoing maintenance and structural needs—all leading to an ongoing shortfall.



## 2023 \$100,000 BENEFACTOR MATCH

The GOOD NEWS is that we were able to meet our urgent goal thanks to a very generous anonymous donor, who has stepped in to help us with the recovery. This donor has offered to match all donations of \$1,000+ up to \$100,000!

Each \$1,000 donation helps cover the cost of nearly four days of benevolent care for one resident. The Center relies on the generosity of donors to raise 50% of its operating budget which for fiscal year 2024 is about \$3.6 million. These donations help provide a secure, loving home, care, support, learning, help and supervision for the Center’s residents, some of whom have lived here for more than 40 years.

YOU can play a large part in the day-to-day lives of the people who call St. Louis Center home.



## BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

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/](http://stlouiscenter.org/give-here/sustainers/)



## YOUR IMPACT OUR APPRECIATION



**Your gift of \$1,000 or more is DOUBLED - An anonymous donor is matching up to \$100,000 of gifts made to St. Louis Center!**

### Make a Gift Today

- Double My Gift:**  \$1,000  \$2,500  \$5000  \$10,000
- One-Time Gift:**  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$304** - Help cover #benevolentcare costs for one day for a resident.
- Recurring Donation** Make a monthly gift and automatically become a **SUSTAINER!**
- Monthly Gift:**  \$5  \$15  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 form to: Development Dept., St. Louis Center, 16195 W. Old U.S. Hwy 12, Chelsea, MI 48118 or

**Donate Online** by scanning the code below or at: [stlouiscenter.org/about/news/newsletter/st-louis-spirit/#donate](http://stlouiscenter.org/about/news/newsletter/st-louis-spirit/#donate)

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



## DOMINIC SAMUEL BOMMARITO



Dominic was an active member of the Italian American Delegates. He helped the organization raise funds for charities throughout the Detroit area through their annual Wild Game Dinner and the Golf Outing. Dominic also helped to

organize the St. Louis Center Car Show that was held on the Center's campus. Dominic supported the St. Louis Center in many ways. He passed away on August 16, 2023 in Clinton Township at the age of 77. He will be greatly missed.



## RANDAZZO LEGACY LIVES ON

**ANTONINO 'NINO' RANDAZZO** founded Randazzo Fresh Market in 1972. Nino and his beloved wife Giovanna "Joann", raised two children whom they taught the value of hard work and community involvement.

In 2014, Nino met Fr. Enzo at an event in Macomb County and promised to do something to help St. Louis Center. Six months later, the first Men's Social was held at Randazzo's Fresh Market.

The family was devastated when Nino passed away on September 14th of this year. Just one week before the annual event.

The Randazzo family recently hosted the 8th Annual Men's Social at their Macomb Township store to keep Nino's legacy alive. They prepared some of the finest foods from the Italian traditions. Sonny Randazzo, the main event organizer, said, "My dad may have passed away, but he would want us to continue."

Nino was 83 years old.



**Nino and Sonny** together at the 6th Annual Men's Social event.

## CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

### CREATING EFFECTIVE MEMORY INTERVENTIONS

Persons with dementia often demonstrate responsive behaviors that are in response to an unmet human need. These behaviors are not "caused" by a disease and are a form of communication. Agitation, refusing to accept help, saying "I want to go home," – these are examples of responsive behaviors often seen in persons with dementia. This can be intensified in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

#### Also important ...

*Although closely interconnected, it is important to remember that emotion and memory are two distinct systems of the brain. For persons with dementia, short term memory capacity may decline, but the way emotions are experienced is just as "real" as ever.*



### Responding to Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia

*Are you providing care to someone with dementia who seems agitated or refuses help? They may be frustrated at their inability to communicate effectively and meet their own needs.*

#### Here's how you can help:

**Approach from the front** - introduce yourself and speak clearly using simple sentences.

**Remain calm** - focus on positive behavior. Ask in a respectful and curious way why they are doing what they're doing.

**Reduce chaos** - try encouraging them to go into a different room, or turn down the TV volume.

**Support feelings** - identify feelings behind words or actions. Say something like, "I'm sorry you are frustrated right now."

**Determine cause** - ask respectfully if they are hungry, bored, in pain, or stressed.

**Do something they enjoy** - look at pictures of family or look out the window. You could ask them to tell stories or jokes.

*To learn more from the Center for Applied Research in Dementia visit: [cen4ard.com](http://cen4ard.com)*

### SHARE YOUR STORY

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Christmas Program

December 10, 2023  
St. Louis Center - Chelsea

### Breakfast with Santa

December 16, 2023  
St. Louis Center - Chelsea

### Pasta and the Priests

February 8, 2024  
St. Louis Center - Chelsea

### Paesano Dinner

June 23, 2024  
Paesano Restaurant - Ann Arbor

### Golf and Glory Outing

June 24, 2024  
University of Michigan Golf Course - Ann Arbor

### Dad and Lad Outing

August 7, 2024  
Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club - Oakland

### Memorial Golf Outing

August 17, 2024  
Pierce Lake Golf Course - Chelsea

### Sean Brian Ashline Memorial Outing

Date TBD  
Chemung Hills- Howell

### Kevin George Memorial Outing

September 8, 2024  
Lakeland Hills Golf Course - Jackson

Learn more on our website:

[stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/](http://stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/)

VISIT: [STLOUISCENTER.ORG/ABOUT/NEWS/NEWSLETTER/ST-LOUIS-SPIRIT/](http://STLOUISCENTER.ORG/ABOUT/NEWS/NEWSLETTER/ST-LOUIS-SPIRIT/)

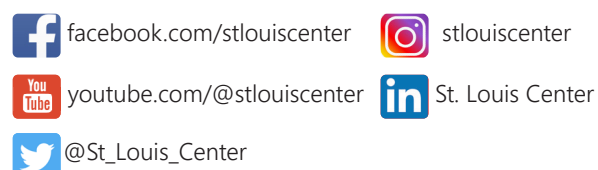


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## REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

**Mary Galasso** was born on January 3, 1938 in Detroit, Michigan to Raymond and Catherine Doemer. She met Mario, the love of her life at an early age at the five and dime. They fell in love and later married on October 6, 1956, at St. Rita's Catholic Church. After starting their family, Mary and Mario moved away from Detroit to the suburbs to make Livonia their home where they established a network of friends that remain close and connected.

Mary was the first and only female President, to date, of the Italian American Club in Livonia. Mario and Mary were lifetime members. Mary gave her time, talents and treasure by leading the

committee for the Guardian Angel fundraising event which is held at the Italian American Banquet

Center to benefit St. Louis Center. She was committed to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mary was the epitome of a caregiver; it was who she was. She faithfully devoted herself to Mario's health and care. She was a friend to everyone she met; and was always there to check in on you.

Mary died at age 85 on September 25, 2023.



**Dr. William Ashbaugh**  
**Dominic Bommarito**  
**William Broucek**  
**Andrew Collins**  
**Conrad Connelley**  
**Larry Cross**

**Anna DelVillano**  
**Lina Fortuna**  
**George Gallas**  
**Mary Galasso**  
**Don Imber**

**Jean Kreutzman**  
**David Passalacqua**  
**Antonino "Nino" Randazzo**

**Norma Seyfried**  
**Grace Speen**  
**Frank Stukenborg**  
**Arthur Tremper, DVM**  
**Dorothy Zeck**

