

# St. Louis Center

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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



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# THIS IS OUR VISION



Greetings in the name of the Lord!

In the past year, St. Louis Center has continued its commitment to delivering exceptional services to residents, evident in the joy on their faces. As the new CEO, I, Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, took charge on December 1, 2023, succeeding Fr. Enzo, who retired after decades of dedicated service. Special recognition goes to Fr. Enzo for his hard work, particularly in expanding services through projects like St. Louis Guanella Village and the recent remodeling of St. Joseph Hall for single occupancy rooms. My focus is on upholding this legacy of excellence in service.

Acknowledging the vital support from individuals like Mary Galasso, whose recent passing leaves us with another guardian angel in heaven, we appreciate her advocacy and generosity.

Our dedicated staff, committed to the well-being of our residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ensures a secure and enjoyable housing experience.

Plans are underway to enhance residents' engagement through strategic remodeling for 'Skill Building Activities.' We express gratitude to our supporters for embracing our mission, believing in our cause, and contributing to the positive impact on our residents' lives.

*Fr. Satheesh*

# FLOURISHING THROUGH SUPPORTIVE WORK

*In 2023, Haylie Moran, Day Program Coordinator, introduced supportive work to the day program. Residents learned the skills necessary to make and sell items at the local farmers market. Below, they demonstrate making firebricks.*

**12** residents helped make the bricks and dog treats. They went to the Farmer's Market **6** times throughout the season. On a rotating basis, **10** different residents worked at their booth. By the end of the season they sold **101** firebricks, **28** bags of dog treats, and received **10** donations. They even donated a gift basket containing **10** bricks to the Fall Dinner Auction.

## HOW TO MAKE FIREBRICKS

- 1** | Shred the recycled paper.



- 2** | Combine shredded paper with warm water in a five gallon bucket and let the mixture soak.

- 3** | Blend the mixture together to create a pulp.

- 4** | Scoop the pulp into the brick press. Squeeze out as much water as possible.



- 5** | Carefully remove the brick from the press.



- 6** | Allow the brick to air dry on a rack.

# LAURA RAYER

*"When I come to work and see all of the smiles and excitement on our residents' faces, I feel welcomed, cheerful, needed, and appreciated!"*

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## Activating Bodies and Minds

*Laura, Activities Coordinator, visits each and every house and resident during the week, and brings a variety of individualized and group activities to them.*

Residents have come to expect indoor bowling, bingo, crafts, baking, active games in the gym, and fun projects incorporating motion and music into many of the activities.

Laura initially pursued a career in special education. When she discovered Recreation Therapy she knew it was the right path for her. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Therapy.



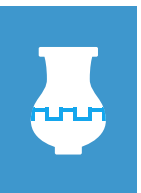
# ART IMPACTS LIFE

Engaging in the arts is one way to improve our quality of life. Studies show that music, theater, dance, and the visual arts can all foster emotional expression, reduce stress, promote self-discovery, and empathy ultimately contributing to improved mental and emotional well-being.



## Open Spot Theatre

Seeing the benefits of music and dance in their daughter's life, Jesse and Amy Lothamer spearheaded the fundraising to bring Open Spot back to St. Louis Center. In 2023 the residents participated in 3 class sessions resulting in 3 performances.



## Curiouser Clay Workshops

In October, St. Louis Center began offering a new art program to residents. Eli Zemper of Curiouser Clay presents residents a new creative outlet during weekly workshops that encourage play and experimentation. This activity is supported by a grant from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and administered by Creative Washtenaw.





## Music Therapy

Harmony Garden Music Therapy Services offers St. Louis Center residents weekly group sessions. Participants sing, play instruments, and participate in collaborative music-making as well as some individual sessions. This program was first made possible in 2015.



## Ballet Chelsea Adaptive Movement

Ballet Chelsea has provided weekly adaptive dance classes for the residents since 2015. Professional instructor Macks Kreps incorporates simple movements and activities based on scientific research to improve both gross and fine motor skills. Residents enjoy the benefits of these sessions including improved coordination and increased metabolism.



# WE ARE ST. LOUIS CENTER

At the heart of the Center are the people who are served. There are many stories to be told. These statistics provide a short summary.



55

## PEOPLE SERVED IN 2023

St. Louis Center provided residential care in 8 group home settings on the campus.

790

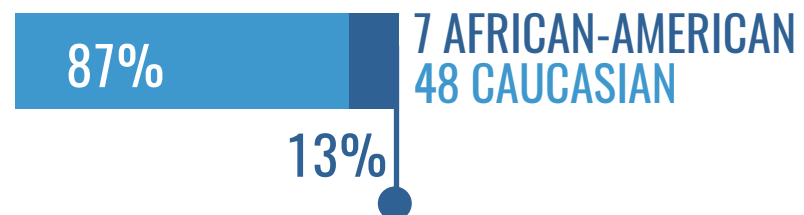
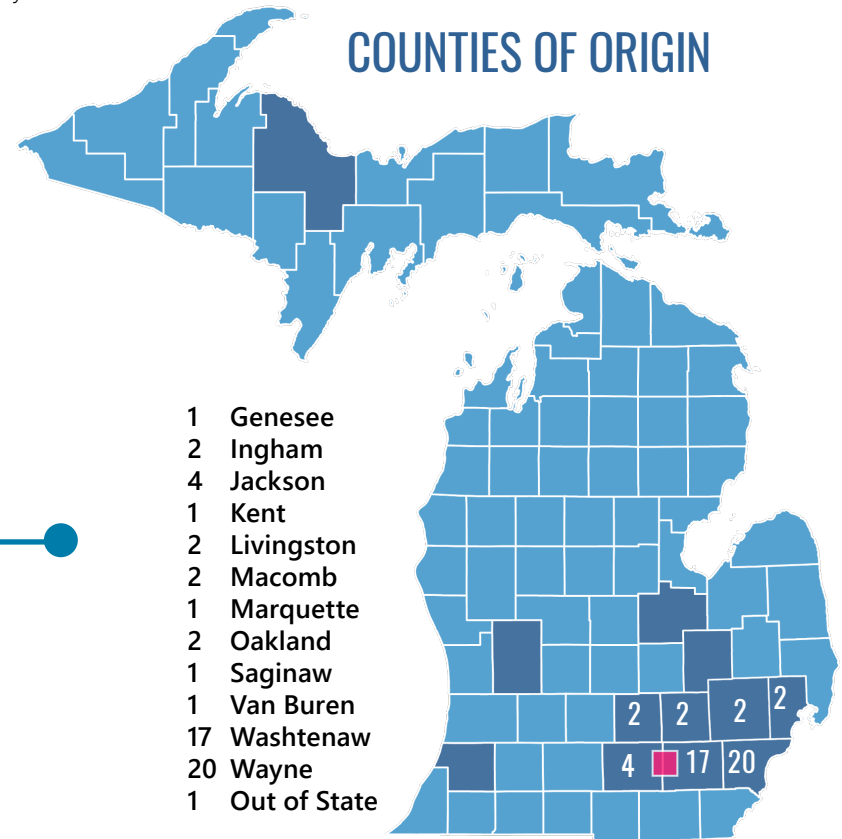
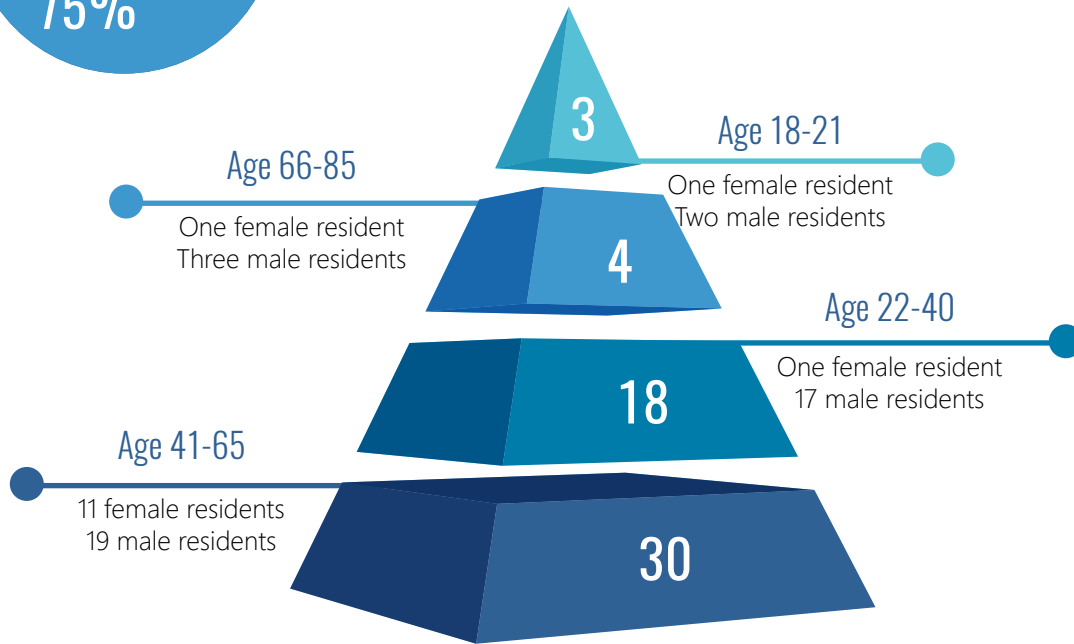
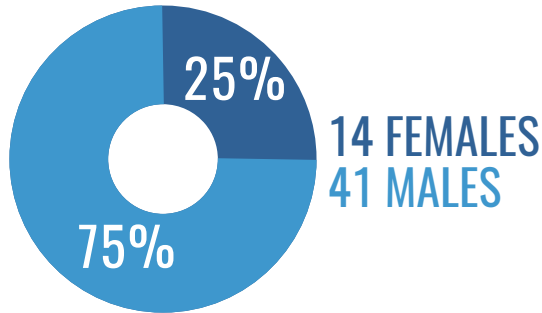
## PEOPLE SERVED SINCE 1960

More than the 790 residents served, St. Louis Center impacts their families and the surrounding communities too.



# DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY

St. Louis Center serves a diverse range of people. These charts give a small snapshot of who they are.



# FOOD AND FUN ALL YEAR

Providing meals and leisure activities for over 50 people is a major challenge. For the Center's staff it is a labor of love.

## Modified Diets

84%

46 residents require special food preparation. Chopped, gluten free, pureéd, and diabetic are some of the modifications needed.

## Independent Food Prep

36%

20 residents reside in independent living homes where they prepare their own meals with staff assistance.

## Activities

69%

Of the unique activities offered in 2023, 213 were on-campus and 95 were off-campus activities.

8,818  
HOURS OF  
ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

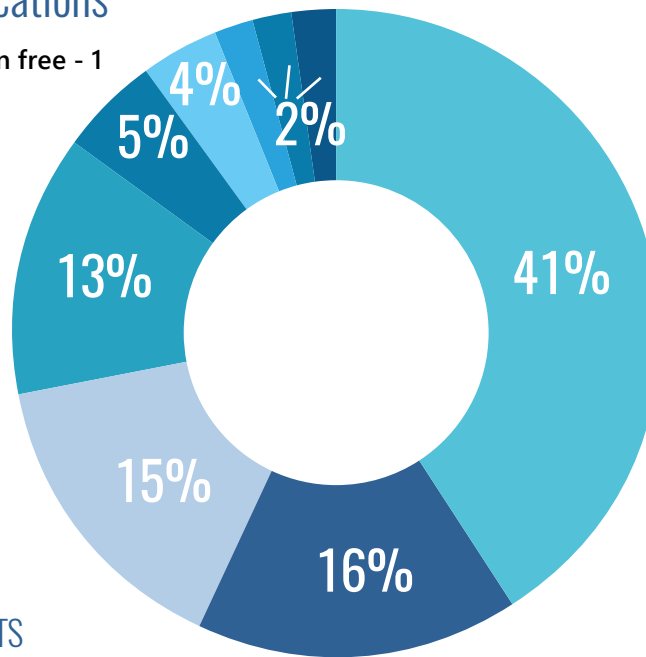
331  
DAYS OF ACTIVITIES

308  
UNIQUE ACTIVITIES

57  
UNIQUE RESIDENTS

## Diet Modifications

- 2% Casein/dairy/gluten free - 1
- 2% Dysphagia - 1
- 2% PKU - 1
- 4% Puréed - 2
- 5% Gluten Free - 3
- 13% Diabetic - 7
- 15% Pre-Diabetic - 8
- 16% Unmodified - 9
- 41% Chopped - 23



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Not only does the kitchen prepare meals for special diets daily, but there are also on-campus events for which the kitchen provides meals. For example, 400 meals were served at Trunk or Treat.



# VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an integral role in the success of the Center. Opportunities for volunteers include event planning, resident activities, and facility upkeep just to name a few.



*"Giving my time to St. Louis Center is just as valuable to me as it is to the Center. Spending time with the residents has truly enriched my life!"*

- A Volunteer

**2,399**  
**HOURS TRACKED**  
**GOLF & GLORY OUTING**  
**MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**  
**DAD & LAD GOLF OUTING**  
**FALL DINNER AUCTION**  
**FALL HARVEST FEST**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**SPRING YARD CLEANUP**  
**AKTION CLUB ADVISORS**  
**FRIDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES**

## 2023 Audited Financials\*

St. Louis Center's financial statements for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Support & Revenue	2023
Program Service Revenue	\$3,260,156
Fundraising & Grants	\$2,131,962
Other	\$210,815
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,602,933</b>
Expenses	2023
Program Services	\$4,341,438
Management & General	\$958,437
Fundraising Projects	\$654,303
Depreciation	\$562,753
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,516,931**</b>
<b>Benevolent Care Provided</b>	<b>\$3,045,960</b>

\*Figures are based on audited financial statements and do not include Legacy donations or expenses.

\*\*St Louis Center relies on limited cash reserves to cover expense increases in excess of public reimbursement.

# STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

St. Louis Center staff members are hard working, dedicated individuals with talents beyond the scope of their job descriptions.

59

## RESIDENT CARE

The care staff includes: 44 direct care workers, 4 supervisors, 3 program/activity coordinators, 3 nurses, 4 cooks, and kitchen supervisor.

16

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The support team includes an Office Manager, 2 in Human Resources, 2 in Finance, 5 in Development, and 6 Priests.

10

## FACILITY CARE

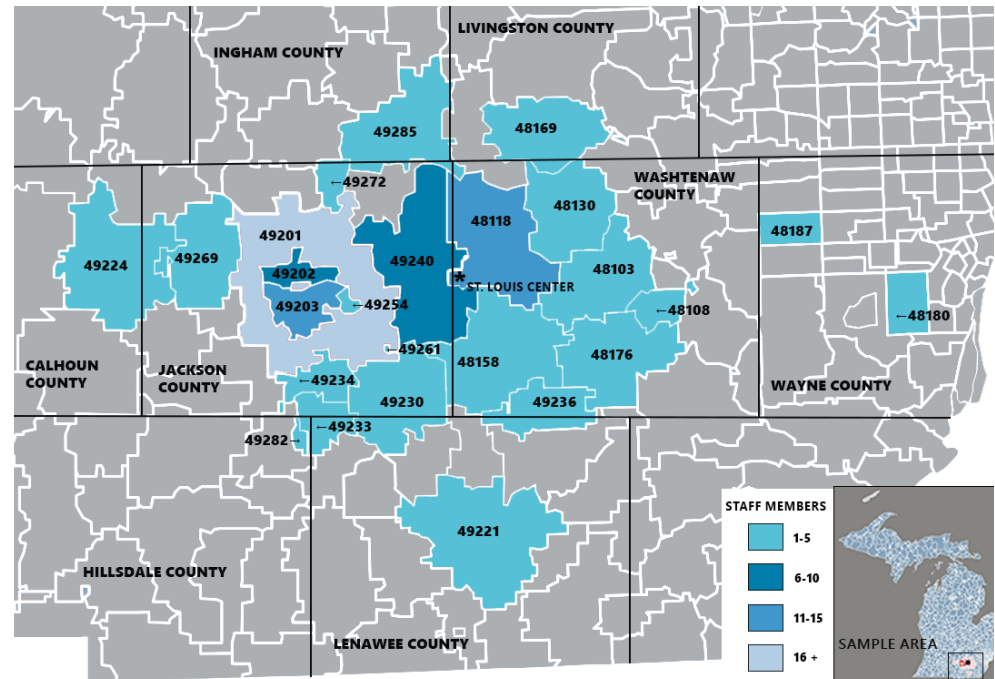
The facilities are cared for by 2 maintenance techs, a lead technician, 6 housekeepers, and a housekeeping coordinator.

7

## SOCIAL SERVICES

This department includes 3 social services specialists, 2 assistants, and a supervisor.

## STAFF ORIGIN BY ZIP CODE



## REV. DR. AMAL

Fr. Amal Rayapillai, St. Louis Center Spiritual Animator, was awarded his PhD on November 8, 2023 after presenting his dissertation to the faculty panel from Madonna University.

# WE ARE ST. LOUIS CENTER

Employment at St. Louis Center means more than just having a job. Aside from the usual benefits of full-time work, Center employees find that they become members of a large family. Staff members are committed to the core mission of serving the well-being of each resident who calls the Center home.



25

## DID YOU KNOW?

St. Louis Center staff travels from 25 different surrounding communities to serve the residents.



# MEN ON A MISSION

*St. Louis Center has been serving people with disabilities since 1960. Members of the Irish Hills Council #6223 began attending Mass every Wednesday beginning in the 1980s.*

This simple act of attending Mass in the humble St. Louis Center chapel has had a great impact on the spiritual growth of the Council and its members. The Council has hosted a golf outing for over 20 years. They participate in the Tootsie Roll Drive twice each year. The annual Reverse Raffle dinner has been a sell-out for the past 26 years. Each of these endeavors benefits St. Louis Center.

Not only do these faithful men conduct fundraising campaigns on our behalf, they give their time to help with on-campus activities and improvement projects. They are living examples of the Knights of Columbus motto, Vivat Jesus!

116

## COUNCILS

St. Louis Center received funds from many Councils in Michigan from their 2023 Tootsie Roll drives.

86

## CITIES

These Councils are located in 86 communities throughout the state.

61

## COUNCIL ZIP CODES

Close ties between Councils often help bolster support for the Center.



80,000

KNIGHTS IN MICHIGAN

482

MICHIGAN COUNCILS SUPPORTING  
THEIR COMMUNITIES

116

COUNCILS SUPPORTING  
ST. LOUIS CENTER

# ROSALIE TOCCO-BRADLEY

*"Some 25 years ago, when my father and mother discovered the Center, this incredible program pulled on the heart strings of the Tocco family which has ignited our life-long commitment to support the mission and needs of this wonderful community!"*

## Following a Family Tradition

*My parents Jack and Toni Tocco, discovered St. Louis Center over 20 years ago. I don't even recall how my father learned about the Center but I do recall the passion and excitement he shared over the special mission of the Center to care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

My parents and four brothers along with many friends of their Italian American Club have since been devoted to supporting the Center with events and fundraising. As a physician, I too have resonated with the incredible programs at the Center to address the needs of their residents. I know of no program quite like the Center within the surrounding counties. I am honored to participate in the SLC Advisory Council in hopes of continuing to strengthen and grow the St. Louis Center community.



# WAYS TO SUPPORT

The total cost of care for a person living at St. Louis Center averages \$10,000 a month. A social security supplement (SSI/A) covers only room and board, which is about 18% of the total. Some residents benefit from a Medicaid waiver program. Many residents do not receive this governmental benefit. More than half of the total costs must be fund-raised to provide a proper level of care. Aside from writing a check or giving online, you may also consider:



## Retirement Distribution

Donations made directly from your retirement fund are not counted as taxable income, saving you money at tax time. Learn more about rolling over your IRA by visiting our website: [stlouiscenter.org/give-here/iras/](http://stlouiscenter.org/give-here/iras/) or scan the code.



## Stock or Securities

These types of gifts have a twofold benefit by helping you offset capital gains taxes and receive a charitable deduction.

## Donor-Advised Funds

A donor advised fund can be established for as little as \$5,000. A sponsoring institution will manage your funds and will make donations to the charities of your choice.



## Planned Giving

**Beneficiary Designation** – Naming the Center as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA, or 401k doesn't require changing your will. Simply update your beneficiary form, which can often be done online.

**Will or Trust** – Including the Center in your estate plans allows you to provide support without affecting your current finances.

**Planned Giving Tools** – Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, and other vehicles are great ways to make a gift while receiving tax benefits and ensuring you and your loved ones receive an income.

Learn more on our website: [stlouiscenter.org/give-here/planned-giving/](http://stlouiscenter.org/give-here/planned-giving/) or scan the code.



**1984** | Staff welcomed the first residents to St. Joseph Hall for adult men.



**1990** | St. Joseph Hall residents learn how to pack their own lunches in the kitchen.

**1993** | The parking area and curbs were resurfaced.

**2015** | Chrysler volunteers work on improvement projects at St. Joseph Hall.

**2023** | Remodeling and Rededication by Most Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea.



# ST. JOSEPH HALL RENEWED



*In the 1980's, the priests were faced with a new challenge, many of the boys were aging out of the program and they desperately wanted to remain with their friends in the only stable home they had ever known.*

As a result and due to the generosity of Mary Elizabeth Doyle, St. Joseph Hall was built in 1984 for the purpose of training twenty young men to become independent enough to live on their own. St. Joseph Hall was built on the east side of the sprawling property with main living quarters on the first floor connected by dining and family rooms in the middle, and a large recreation room, laundry room, and chapel in the lower level.

It was also during this time that Fr. Enzo Addari arrived to assist in the growth of the St. Louis Center Program.



# RECORDING OUR LEGACY

*Help preserve the St. Louis Center legacy.*

Every act of kindness, every gesture of generosity, contributes to the vibrant mosaic of St. Louis Center. Your stories and moments are the heartbeats that resonate within our walls, shaping our present and inspiring our future. Help us preserve those memories as we compile stories from the past.

Let your voice be heard by telling your story. Share with us the moments that have touched your soul, the reasons why you chose to support us, or the joy that fills your heart when you think of St. Louis Center.

Let's capture the essence of the Center, preserving it for generations to come. Your stories will echo for generations spreading the mission, spirit of love, and compassion everywhere.

Learn more on our website:  
[stlouiscenter.org/about/history/](http://stlouiscenter.org/about/history/)  
or scan the code:



2010 | The 50th Anniversary celebration marked the beginning of a new phase of planning and growth.



2014 | Fr. Guanella Hall for assisted living was remodeled to make it more universally accessible for people of all abilities.



2018 | Fr. Enzo oversaw the celebration for the Grand Opening of St. Louis Guanella Village.





# Addio

During his time as the CEO of St. Louis Center, Fr. Enzo was part of some groundbreaking endeavors.

2008 | FR. ENZO NAMED CEO

2010 | 50TH ANNIVERSARY

2011 | LEGACY PROJECT BEGINS

2016 | VILLAGE GROUNDBREAKING

2022 | HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

2023 | FR. ENZO RETIRES



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## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

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**Donna Hrozencik, MD**,  
*Secretary*  
**Glenn Johnson**, *Treasurer*  
 Nancy Graebner  
 William Lamb, JD  
 George Mallison  
 Kathleen Neuman  
 Norman Neuman  
**Juanita Pampuch**  
*(Family Representative)*  
 Jerry Ruggirello  
 Andrew A. Shmina  
 Rosalie Tocco-Bradley  
 Donald Walker  
 George Walrath  
 Vickie Walrath  
**Christopher Kolomjec**  
*(MI State Deputy, KofC)*

## HONORARY CAC MEMBERS

**Julie Ballow**  
**William Chassé**  
*(Immediate Past MI State Deputy, KofC)*  
**Marlene Cunningham**  
**Donald Doll**  
**Joseph Elekonich**  
**Robert Fox**  
*(Past MI State Deputy, KofC)*  
**Paul Frisinger**  
**Mary F. Galasso**  
**Frank Grohnert**  
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*(Past MI State Deputy, KofC)*

**Thomas Marcetti**  
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**Eleanor Unterbrink**  
**Kenneth Unterbrink**  
*(Past MI State Deputy, KofC)*  
**Joseph White**  
**Alexander Zangara**  
**Patricia H. Zangara**  
**Joseph Zilke**

## SERVANTS OF CHARITY AT ST. LOUIS CENTER

**Fr. Satheesh Caniton**  
**Alphonse**  
**Fr. David Stawasz**  
**Fr. Enzo Addari**  
**Fr. Franklin Michael**  
**Rev. Dr. Amal Rayapillai**  
**Fr. Leo Joseph Xavier**  
**Fr. Fortunato Turati**

