



SUMMER
2026



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

STATE INVESTMENT WILL TRANSFORM CARE FOR AGING

St. Louis Center received a \$2 million state allocation to help create a new Nursing & Memory Care Center, a major step toward meeting the growing needs of aging adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Approved as part of Michigan's 2026 state budget, the funding will launch a renovation of the Center's original 1960s main building. The project will transform aging infrastructure into a modern care center for residents experiencing dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other complex medical conditions.

The allocation follows a two-year effort by the Center with the support of state leaders, who recognized the growing need for specialized aging and memory care.

"Our residents deserve the opportunity to age with the same dignity,



Fr. Satheesh and Fr. Franklin showed their gratitude by presenting **Rep. Schmalz** with a shawl.

compassion, and sense of family they have always known at St. Louis Center," said Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SdC, CEO of the Center. "This investment helps ensure we can continue providing that care for generations to come."

As adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live longer than ever before, many begin facing age-related conditions that require specialized care. Families

often discover there are few options designed to meet those unique needs.

Plans include a dedicated memory care area, an expanded nursing station, an additional examination room, and a Snoezelen multisensory therapy room that uses calming lights, sounds, and textures to reduce anxiety and improve quality of life. The renovation will also strengthen clinical care and meet residents' increasing medical needs while reducing unnecessary hospital visits.

St. Louis Center is grateful to State Representative Kathy Schmalz for her leadership and advocacy in securing this important investment and to State Representative Carrie Rheingans, who toured the campus in 2025 to learn more about the Center's growing need for expanded memory care and clinical services.



GOLF & GLORY OUTING INSPIRES GIFT

Golfers filled the University of Michigan Golf Course on **June 22nd** for the 32nd Annual Golf & Glory Outing, raising more than \$100,000 to support the mission of St. Louis Center. The total was boosted by a surprise \$30,000 donation made by Dale Moore on behalf of the Danish Brotherhood and its Danish Old Peoples Homes foundation.

After hearing SLC resident Jacqui P. share her moving story of personal growth since moving to the Center, Moore asked if he could say a few words. He stunned everyone by announcing the \$30,000 donation.

"I was so happy," Moore said. "I think a few people stood up and started applauding. It makes your heart feel good. I was so happy to do it."



Fr. Satheesh, Dale Moore, Don, Ken and Mike Nadeau

The Danish Brotherhood's foundation is distributing its assets as it prepares to close. Moore recommended St. Louis Center. He was introduced to the Center through friends Don, Ken, and Mike Nadeau, whose family's connection to St. Louis Center spans four generations.

In addition, the event recognized two longtime supporters for their extraordinary commitment to St. Louis Center. Former LPGA champion Elaine Crosby, who has generously used her professional golf career to benefit the Center, received the John Panelli Celebrity Award. Dedicated volunteer and supporter Rich Hollo was honored with the Bill Wagner Pioneer Award.

The event was a great success thanks to the hard work of committee chairman Alan Augustine and the dedicated Golf & Glory committee volunteers.

FROM FR. SATHEESH

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

This spring and early summer have been a season of celebration, gratitude, and exciting growth at St. Louis Center. Throughout these pages, you'll see residents building confidence, sharing their talents, and embracing new opportunities. None of these moments would be possible without your prayers, encouragement, and generous support.



One of the most exciting developments is the \$2 million state allocation awarded to St. Louis Center to help launch our new Nursing & Memory Care Center. This investment will help renovate our original main building, allowing us to provide specialized care for aging residents with increasing medical and memory care needs. We are deeply grateful to State Representative Kathy Schmaltz for her leadership and advocacy in securing this important investment.

Our residents continue to thrive through the growing Skill Building Program. They have taken the stage in *The Wizard of Oz*, represented St. Louis Center at the Special Olympics, volunteered at Barn Sanctuary, explored their creativity through poetry and art, and participated in activities that build confidence, independence, and lasting friendships. Every experience reminds us that each person has unique gifts to share.

Thank you for being part of the St. Louis Center family. Through your generosity, prayers, and encouragement, you help us carry forward the mission of St. Louis Guanella by recognizing the dignity, potential, and God-given worth of every person we serve.

We look to the future with hope and gratitude for all that God has in store.

God bless you,

Fr. Satheesh



Use the camera app on your mobile device to scan the QR codes and read more about the Center.

A NEW BEGINNING



For **Alex** (left) and **Keavan** (right), graduation represents far more than receiving a diploma. The two St. Louis Center residents proudly graduated from Washtenaw Intermediate School District's High Point School on **May 27th**, surrounded by family, friends, and supporters who celebrated years of determination and growth. For Alex's mother, Cheryl Sanchez, the moment once seemed impossible.

"I was so proud of Alex and how far he's come," she said.

SUMMER FUN AT CAMP



A week at St. Francis Camp on the Lake in Jerome, MI gave St. Louis Center residents the chance to enjoy new adventures, lasting friendships, and the beauty of the outdoors. Made possible through The Order of Alhambra, a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to serving those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and generous donors, camp included boat rides, crafts, hayrides, and plenty of opportunities to relax, explore, and have fun.

SLC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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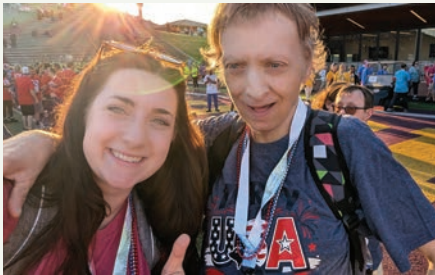
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PROFILES OF GUANELLIAN STAFF

EVERYONE ... MUST FEEL
USEFUL AND APPRECIATED,
FINDING A WAY OF
EASILY EXPRESSING HIS
CAPABILITIES.

- WITH FAITH, LOVE, AND COMPETENCE 176



Family | Community

"As in a good family, we are careful not to 'inhibit' that reasonable amount of freedom which helps to express one's abilities and to bring to fruition the resources of the mind and of the heart." (*With Faith, Love, and Competence: Profile of the Guanellian Staff*, 177; a book inspired by the writings of St. Louis Guanella).

Volunteers are Family

Committed volunteers help provide "Fullness of Life" for the residents.

Volunteer Spotlight

Alan Bilinski and Mark Umlauf now serve as co-chairs for the Alaskan Cruise Raffle. They are organizing volunteers to sell tickets at parishes in the region and are efficiently streamlining the effort.

Alan is also an advisor to the Golf and Glory Outing Committee.

Mark is the Treasurer of the Community Advisory Council.

We are grateful for the many hours they dedicate to the St. Louis Center.



Mark

Alan

A GIFT THAT IMPROVES CARE



Karen David and Fr. David help Mark onto the new scale.

A routine health check becomes safer, easier, and more comfortable for St. Louis Center residents thanks to the generosity of Karen David, mother of one of the Center's residents.

Recognizing the challenges many individuals face when using traditional scales, Karen donated a specialized wheelchair scale that is now installed in the nursing office at Fr. Guanella Hall. The equipment allows nurses to accurately monitor residents who use wheelchairs or walkers while preserving their comfort and dignity.

Regular weight checks play an important role in identifying changes in health, especially as residents age. With this new equipment, the nursing team can provide even more attentive care while making the experience less stressful for residents.

During a visit on **May 1st**, Fr. David Stawasz, SdC, thanked Karen for her thoughtful gift, one that will support compassionate, high-quality care for years to come.



GATHERED IN GRATITUDE

Faith, gratitude, and cherished memories filled St. Louis Center on **April 17th** as our residents, priests from the Servants of Charity, clergy, family members, friends, and supporters gathered to celebrate the life of Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC.



Bishop Boyea was joined by 14 priests in celebrating the Mass.

Most Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea celebrated the Memorial Mass with fourteen concelebrating priests, many of whom are members of the Servants of Charity Congregation that operates St. Louis Center. In his homily, Fr. Fortunato Turati, SdC, reflected on the priestly vocation, reminding those in attendance that every priest is called to be the presence of Jesus to the people he serves.

Those words captured the spirit of Fr. Joe's ministry at St. Louis Center. Through decades of humble service, compassion, and unwavering devotion, he touched the lives of countless residents, families, and staff members.

Following Mass, guests gathered for lunch prepared by Sylvia's Catering, sharing stories and memories that reflected the lasting impact of a priest whose example of faith, kindness, and service continues to inspire.



Reece Hitt, Skill Building Supervisor, kept her eyes on **Kyle and Jerome** as they attempted to clear the limbo pole.

SPIRITS A-GLOW

Music, laughter, and glowing colors filled the gym as residents celebrated one of St. Louis Center's favorite traditions, the annual Glow Dance Party on **April 23rd**.

Organized by Training Coordinator Robin Smith, the evening combined many of the activities residents enjoy most. Before the celebration began, participants designed their own glow-in-the-dark T-shirts, adding a personal touch to an already colorful event.

After enjoying a hot dog dinner prepared by Kitchen Manager Tracy Peters, everyone headed to the dance floor for dancing, limbo, and hula hoop contests. The event included glow bowling, popcorn, flashing prizes, and plenty of smiles.

More than just a party, the annual Glow Dance Party gives residents another opportunity to celebrate friendship, creativity, and the joy of making lasting memories.

FINDING THEIR VOICE

National Poetry Month in April gave St. Louis Center residents an opportunity to express themselves through words, art, and imagination. After writing original poems about themselves and creating artwork inspired by their writing, the month concluded with a special poetry reading on **May 1st** where participants proudly shared their own work or read poems by their favorite authors.



Cathy recited her poem with encouragement from **Haylie Gottschalk**, Skill Building Program Coordinator.

THE KING ROCKS ST. LOUIS CENTER



David, Charlie and Kristin (l to r), danced the night away to their favorite Elvis tunes.

Elvis was alive and well at St. Louis Center as residents, families, staff, and friends gathered for an evening filled with classic hits, dancing, laughter, and audience participation on **April 25th**.

Jim Laurain delighted the crowd with his energetic Elvis tribute while musician Jim Duprey provided live keyboard accompaniment. Together they kept the music going as residents sang along, danced, and enjoyed playful interactions with the King of Rock and Roll.

Members of the St. Louis Center Family Association joined the celebration, dancing alongside residents, staff, and even Fr. Franklin. One of the evening's biggest highlights came when resident Lee C. proudly stepped into the role of Elvis' personal bodyguard, staying close to the King throughout the show.

Fr. Satheesh was in awe of the impact the performance had. Elvis drew even the most reserved residents into the excitement. From the opening song to the final encore, the evening celebrated music, friendship, and left St. Louis Center "all shook up."



Chelsea's Sounds & Sights fills downtown with music, food, and fun on Thursday evenings in the summer. Training Coordinator Robin Smith, her daughter, and resident Lee B. served sno-cones at the **June 18th** event, greeting visitors with friendly smiles and conversation. It was another opportunity to connect with the community and represent St. Louis Center with pride.

UPCOMING EVENTS

—2026 Guardian Angel—
Fall Harvest Fest
 TO BENEFIT

St. Louis Center

Attend the **30th Annual Event** on:

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Italian American Banquet & Conference Center of Livonia
 39200 Five Mile Road | Livonia MI 48154

For Reservations Contact:

Sandy Pulice 734-930-6597

Or scan this code:



MEN'S SOCIAL
 Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 5:30pm

\$200/TICKET

SPONSORS

Location: Randazzo Fresh Market Macomb Twp. (in the back)

Outdoor Kitchen • Gourmet Food • Craft Beer
 Cigars • Wine • Valet • Liquor • Music • Bonfire
 NFL Thursday Night Football Game
 Grilled Lamb Chops • Italian Sausage & Peppers
 Antipasti Fresh Octopus • Gourmet Salad Fresh
 Calamari • Wood Oven Pizza • Steak with Arroggio

Complimentary valet service will be available behind the store, provided by CBJ Valet Services. The service is free—but tips are always appreciated!

Tickets may be purchased at the door the day of the event, or please call Alyssa at 586-666-8700 to purchase tickets ahead of time. Cash and Credit Cards accepted or make checks payable to St. Louis Center.

About St. Louis
 St. Louis center is a private non-profit residential family living and learning environment providing for the needs of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Support St. Louis Center
 Win a \$7500 Alaskan Cruise or \$7500 cash

Drawing Date: October 2, 2026 9-10am
 Drawing Location: St. Louis Center, 16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12, Chelsea MI 48118

Raffle Tickets
 are
\$25 or 5/\$100

Proceeds directly benefit the residents of St. Louis Center.
stlouiscenter.org

Cash prize: Winner is responsible for income tax liability.
 Raffle License: RB5465

He numbers the Stars
 AND GIVES TO ALL OF THEM THEIR NAMES."
 —PSALM 147:4

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
 39TH ANNUAL FALL DINNER AUCTION
November 14, 2026

THE BARN RUN
 WILLIAMSTON, MI
OCTOBER 18, 2026

ST LOUIS CENTER 11TH ANNUAL
Trunk OR Treat

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

GAMES,
 HAUNTED HOUSE,
 COSTUME CONTEST, TRICK OR TREATING AND MORE!

For more information about these and other events, scan the code or visit: stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/



LAST CHANCE TO JOIN



Dream Tour IV

Cabins are filling fast for Dream Tour IV, this is your last chance to reserve your spot. The main trip runs **April 7 - 18, 2027**, opening with two nights in Portugal before a seven night voyage aboard the Azamara Journey through Spain and Morocco.

Highlights include daily Mass with Fr. Satheesh, three nights in Seville with a private tour of the Royal Alcazar and gothic cathedral, an evening of flamenco, and a tour of Tangier's Kasbah and Medina. An optional post-trip (**April 18-23**) extends to Paris with Mass at the Miraculous Medal Chapel, Notre Dame, iconic landmarks, and a Seine dinner cruise, before traveling to Lourdes for Mass at the Sanctuary, the Grotto, healing baths, and candlelight procession.

The main trip starts at \$5,540 per person double occupancy. This is more than a vacation, it is a chance to deepen your faith, support St. Louis Center's mission, and travel with fellow pilgrims.

For details and to register online, visit: stlouiscenter.org/event/dream-tour-iv/

A PARTNERSHIP BEGINS

A generous gift is opening the door to an even stronger partnership between St. Louis Center and Ann Arbor Chapter #195 of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA).

Members of the chapter visited campus to present a \$5,300 donation from their 28th Annual AHEPA Charity Golf Tournament. St. Louis Center resident Albert enthusiastically welcomed Chapter President Craig Theros and tournament organizer Bill Madias before Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SdC, and Development Director Jackie Gordon accepted the gift on behalf of the Center.

This marks the first year AHEPA selected St. Louis Center as the tournament's beneficiary, but both organizations hope it is only the beginning. During their visit, chapter



Craig (L) and Bill (R) present a check to Fr. Satheesh and resident Albert during their visit.

members expressed an interest in becoming more involved with residents and the life of the Center. That commitment makes the gift especially meaningful because it represents not only financial support, but the beginning of lasting friendships.

We are grateful to AHEPA for investing in our residents and look forward to growing this partnership for years to come.

PRIESTS TAKE THE COURT FOR A CAUSE

Fr. Satheesh and Fr. Franklin, traded their clerical attire for basketball jerseys **May 8th** as they joined fellow priests and seminarians for a fundraiser supporting repairs to a local parish's outdoor Stations of the Cross. More than 500 spectators filled the gym for an evening of faith, fellowship, friendly competition, and plenty of smiles.



St. Louis Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Make a Gift Today

☐ **One-Time Gift:** ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ **\$411** - Help cover one resident's benevolent care costs for one day.

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

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

Payment Information

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Address: _____

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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

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



THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD LEADS TO ST. LOUIS CENTER

The magic of Oz came alive at St. Louis Center as residents took the stage on May 11th for Open Spot Theatre's annual production of The Wizard of Oz.

The gymnasium transformed into the Land of Oz with a colorful Emerald City backdrop as performers led the audience from Kansas to Munchkinland through music, dance, acting, and American Sign Language. Twenty-one residents joined staff members and Open Spot Theatre instructors to bring Dorothy's journey to life through a story of courage, friendship, wisdom, and home.

Among the standout performers



Lisa, Jackie, Mike, Tony, Lee and Charlie during the final scene.

was Lisa R., President of the St. Louis Center's service-related Aktion Club, whose portrayal of Glinda the Good Witch reflected her love of singing while encouraging fellow cast members as they learned their roles.

Through its partnership with Open Spot Theatre, St. Louis Center continues to give residents opportunities to discover new talents, build confidence, and experience the joy of performing together.

Sixteen performers, also members of the Aktion Club, highlighted the many leadership skills residents share both on and off the stage.

Families, friends, staff, and community members filled the gym with applause before celebrating with an Oz-themed reception hosted by Christine Okler, the parent of a resident.

AMAZING ATHLETES

Friendship, teamwork, and determination took center stage as sixteen St. Louis Center residents represented the Center at Special Olympics in Mt. Pleasant **May 28th-30th**.

Twelve athletes competed in Bocce Ball while four took the court in Volleyball, demonstrating sportsmanship and St. Louis Center pride throughout the competition.

The experience extended beyond the games. Residents stayed on the Central Michigan University campus, participated in Opening Ceremonies, competed throughout the weekend, and celebrated together at a carnival and dance.

Fr. Satheesh and Fr. David traveled to Mt. Pleasant to cheer on the athletes and celebrate their accomplishments. Their visit was a reminder that the entire St. Louis Center community was standing behind them.



Cathy, Emely, and Sarah proudly show off their medals.

NEW FRIENDS AT THE FARM



Jacqui, Albert, and Joe met the animals during the initial tour in April.

Sometimes the best partnerships begin with a simple visit. Four St. Louis Center residents are discovering new friendships, practical skills, and a meaningful way to give back through a growing partnership with nearby Barn Sanctuary in Chelsea.

Accompanied by Skill Building Program Coordinator Haylie Gottschalk and Direct Care Worker Hayley Julia, the residents toured the sanctuary with guides Tom and Chase, who introduced them to its mission of rescuing and caring for abused and neglected farm animals. Along the way, residents met many of the sanctuary's animal residents, learned their stories, and enjoyed plenty of hands-on interaction.

That first visit quickly grew into something more. Located just seven minutes from St. Louis Center, Barn Sanctuary is now a regular volunteer site for the Skill Building Program. On the first visit in June, residents helped care for the gardens that provide food for the animals and maintained the donkey pasture while gaining valuable experience, building confidence, and seeing the difference their efforts make.



Albert, Hayley Julia, and Jacqui pulled weeds and cleaned pastures at the farm.

Every visit strengthens this partnership while giving residents another opportunity to learn, contribute, and connect with the community. Sometimes the best lessons really are learned on the farm.



PETTING ZOO ON CAMPUS



Kevin held the rare and beautiful Flemish rabbit.

Smiles spread quickly when a 4-H group from nearby Dexter brought a variety of farm animals to St. Louis Center on **June 16th**. Residents spent the evening holding rabbits and guinea pigs, feeding sheep, petting a friendly dog, and getting to know the young volunteers who cared for the animals. The visit created simple moments of connection, laughter, and joy for residents and guests alike.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Harvest Fest

September 13, 2026
Italian American Banquet Center - Livonia

Randazzo Men's Social

September 17, 2026
Randazzo Fresh Market - Macomb

Alaskan Cruise Raffle Drawing

October 2, 2026
St. Louis Center - Chelsea

The Barn Run

October 18, 2026
The Barn - Williamston

Trunk or Treat

October 21, 2026
St. Louis Center - Chelsea

Fall Dinner Auction

November 14, 2026
St. Mary Catholic Church - Chelsea

Learn more on our website:

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

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

Gary DesChenes, of Livonia, MI, passed away on May 11, 2026, at the age of 62. Born in Garden City on September 19, 1963, Gary built a remarkable career in the insurance industry while devoting himself to helping others.



Gary began his 18-year career with Foresters Financial Partners in 1996 as the company's top salesman. He eventually became the owner of one of Michigan's leading sales offices.

But for Gary, professional success was only part of his legacy. He believed strongly in giving back to his community and generously supported numerous organizations,

including the Knights of Columbus, St. Louis Center, CYO, and the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame.

Gary's generosity was especially meaningful to St. Louis Center. He regularly loaned the Center a "Treasure Chest" for its event held annually at the Italian American Club of Livonia, helped secure matching fund

through Foresters grants, and shared his expertise to help the Center's staff plan for retirement.

Gary leaves behind a legacy of success, generosity and service that will continue to benefit others for years to come.

ALSO REMEMBERING: Phil Bareis

Kenneth Krause
David Scharphorn
Bernardus "Ben" Stapel
Max Ziegler Jr.

