

# St. Louis Spirit



Fall 2020

Antoine, Lisa, Charlie, Coach Beilein, Lee and Todd had a great time doing some drills in the gym while preparing for the 60th Anniversary event.

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*The Covid pandemic has changed things for all of us—SLC included. Because we can't get together in person, our fundraisers are going to look a little different this year. Although many of us aren't as computer literate as others, these events are simple and easy to access.*

### 60th Anniversary Celebration

SLC celebrated 60 wonderful years of caring for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities with an online event, Thursday, October 22nd with celebrity host, John Beilein, former University of Michigan Men's Basketball Coach. The event began with Mass, followed by an hour with John, players from his 2012 team, Zack Novak and Tim Hardaway, Jr., as well as celebs like George Blaha and Sam Webb. Some long-time friends, family members, residents and supporters appeared in the event on Facebook Live.

Participants had the chance to donate and receive great autographed hats, photos and basketballs. And, we also auctioned off the opportunity to have dinner with John and his wife Kathleen—post-Covid.

bid on a number of great items like a Dooney & Bourke satchel and wallet, beautiful jewelry from LaJolla Jewelers and a Herman Miller Aeron Chair. Items can be viewed at:

[stlouiscenter.org/news-events/fundraising-events/fall-auction/](https://stlouiscenter.org/news-events/fundraising-events/fall-auction/)

Never participated in a virtual auction before? Don't worry--it's easy! Simply go on the SLC Facebook page: [facebook.com/stlouiscenter](https://facebook.com/stlouiscenter). Virtually stop in early to view 15 amazing items starting at 6:45pm and be ready at 7:00pm sharp to bid as Joe Merkel, our engaging and entertaining auctioneer, leads the way. Bids are taken through the Facebook "comments" section. Auction items won can be picked up at St. Mary's in Chelsea.

This is a safe and easy way to support SLC during the pandemic, while the residents' needs are greater than ever. Please contact us at [slcdev@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:slcdev@stlouiscenter.org) if you would like to be a sponsor. Feel free to invite others. We look forward to seeing you online at the 33rd Annual (but first-ever Virtual) Fall Auction!

### 33rd Annual Fall Auction

We are excited to announce that this year's Annual Fall Auction will also be on Facebook live! Join your friends and fellow supporters by virtually "gathering" on November 7th to

16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12,  
Chelsea MI 48118  
phone 734-475-8430  
[www.stlouiscenter.org](http://www.stlouiscenter.org)

## From Fr. Enzo

The pandemic is not over, but life continues at St. Louis Center.

The summer saw the cancellation of many activities and the creation of alternatives.

We had a first ever Virtual Memorial Golf Outing in the middle of July.

I want to thank all the participants for their support and their love. May God reward all of them.

Mike Chirco, Joe Maniaci and Sam Cottone organized another successful Lad and Dad golf outing on August 19th. To each of them and the players goes a very heartfelt thank you for supporting SLC.

The Golf and Glory had a new date this summer; it was September 14th. 104 golfers joined SLC at the UofM golf course to raise needed dollars for its programs. A deep thank you goes to the organizers, sponsors and golfers who made this event a profitable one.

The auction committee is working on a virtual event to be held November 7, 2020 see p. 1 for details.

With all the measures we implemented at the beginning of the pandemic crisis, not one of the residents, even living in a congregated setting, got sick. The good Lord keeps blessing and protecting us always.

The crisis also brought the need of hiring additional staff for the care and well-being of the residents. We are close to 150 staff members. With the increase of staff, the payroll has increased as well. We do appreciate the generosity that all of you are showing in supporting us with the additional expenses we are facing.

The construction of the new buildings and the remodelling of part of the old one are almost completed. We are planning for a formal dedication in late spring or early summer.

This construction, too, is another monument to God's love for His precious people. The generosity of the benefactors for the construction of St. Louis Guanella Village has been outstanding.

Thank you to all and happy fall!

*Fr Enzo Ashlari*



## Around the Village

### Life Slowly Returns to Normal

The past three months have been anything but easy and the SLC campus remains in a lockdown state. Staff, family members and contractors are still required to do health and temperature screenings upon entry, but now that we've entered the fall season, the reins are loosening a bit. A small number of children have returned to school three days a week in the Chelsea School District Program, and a handful of residents have returned to



*Stephon boards the WAVE bus for work.*

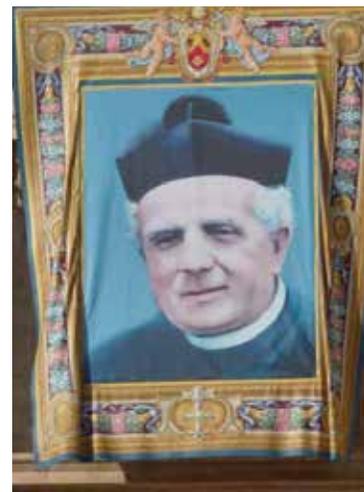
their jobs by riding back and forth on the WAVE bus. Additionally, groups of adults and residents are accompanied by staff to return to the Meals on Wheels program, with masks of course. Residents are given thorough health checks when returning from family

weekends. No residents have been infected with COVID-19.

### Feast of St. Guanella

St. Louis Guanella was born in Fraciscio, Italy in the northern Alps on December 19, 1842, and lived a full life of service to the Lord until his passing on October 24, 1915. Thus, this date is his Feast Day. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1866, and was appointed as the parish priest in Savogno, Italy. After nine years he spent three years with St. John Bosco in Turin, and dreamed of opening his own institution for the needy. He began to realize this dream in 1886 in Como by opening his first house and establishing the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence Congregation to assist him. He slowly began creating more and more houses for the poor, abandoned and unwanted throughout Italy and parts of Switzerland, and by 1908 he founded the Servants of Charity (SOC) Congregation of priests and brothers, with their Mother House and later built the Sacred Heart Shrine in Como, Italy. Fr. Guanella felt from his heart that, "It is impossible to stop, as long as there are poor people to be helped." His vision was to expand his mission of caring for people with disabilities and the frail elderly throughout the world. There are over 500 SOC priests and brothers serving in 22 countries. He even visited the USA in 1912 in order to expand his services to people in need.

Fr. Guanella was beatified by Pope St. Paul VI in 1964, and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican Square on October 23, 2011. St. Louis Center is one of his legacies, and has been operated by the Servants of Charity since 1960.



# We continue to Grow!

We have welcomed many new faces at SLC over the last few months. In addition to the new Direct Care Workers we have



*Carlie Hartwick*



*Ming Shi*



*Mellinda Wilson*



*Ethan White*

hired, we are increasing the number of supervisors to meet the needs of our many different residents. These new supervisors specialize in caring for either the elderly, children or adults.

**First Shift** - Cindy Hoard and Robin Smith will continue to guide the day program and new hire training, with Sheldon Dottery added to the roster.



*Karin Brandt*



*Sr. Sarah Draper*



*Rachel Tierney*

**Second Shift** - Fr. Guanella Hall and Knights of Columbus Hall: Carlie Hartwick and Mellinda Wilson are the new smiling faces (behind the masks!) you will see in the afternoons. They come to us with a wealth of experience working with senior citizens in care facilities.



*Mariah Palmer*



*Jessica Spears*

St. Joseph Hall: Ming Shi has taken up the reins at St. Joseph on second shift. He has the organizational skills to keep St. Joe residents on track with their many activities!

Children's Program: NiAsia Perdue is a long-time supervisor at SLC, and will now be able to focus her attention on the children's program during the week. Ethan White recently completed training for his promotion to supervisor to assist in the children's program.



*Robert Walker*



*Laura Rayer*

**Third Shift** - We have seen many changes at night, as well! Sheldon Dottery has accepted a transfer to first shift. Daniel Dekeyser will continue to work third shift, along with Mariah Palmer, a new supervisor with many years of experience working with the elderly, and Jessica Spears, a special education paraprofessional who comes to us from Ann Arbor

School District.  
**Social Work Department** - The number of residents and the amount of time they spend on campus continues to climb. To meet their growing needs we have added additional Social Service Specialists to the Social Work Department. Some of those new faces are Sr. Sarah Draper, SGL, Rachel Tierney and Karin Brandt. Karin, who was an intern at SLC last year, now holds a BSW. She will be working part time. Sr. Sarah holds an MSW and many years of experience. Rachel also holds an MSW. She was previously employed by a Special Education department.

**Kitchen** - Robert Walker is the new Kitchen Manager.

**Maintenance** - Maintenance was happy to welcome Tim Butterfield to the maintenance team.

**Activities Director** - SLC would like to announce that a new Activities Coordinator has been hired to work with residents in the evenings. Laura Rayer came onboard on August

25th. She is working to help residents improve coordination and acuity through mental, tactile and hand-eye coordination exercises and games. A grant has been written to obtain important supplies to help her in working with the residents. We are excited to have so many dynamic new staff members. Please help us welcome them.

# More Village News

## SLC Receives Grants to Support Children's Education

To support SLC's children during the pandemic, complementary grants were written to two different funders to support a children's education program. In September, the Center was awarded both grants.

The Jenkins Family Foundation contributed \$10,017.50, which will provide 20 Chromebooks and children's sensory toys to facilitate learning. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has granted us \$65,000 to cover the cost of a paraprofessional and for networking infrastructure upgrades to continue to support the educational needs of the students here at SLC.

We are grateful to both of these funders for helping ensure that our children don't fall behind during the pandemic.

## Needs List

Want to make a quick donation to give SLC residents the items they need most? Scan the qr code below to visit our Amazon Charity lists. Or 'LIKE' the SLC Facebook page and look for posts about our Needs List. On Amazon, you can purchase items listed there and have them shipped directly to the Center. Please be sure to include your contact information so that we can send you a tax receipt.



## Educational Support for Students And Staff

Nearly all K-12 students in the United States are currently missing face-to-face instruction due to COVID-19. Many caregivers and educators thus share a common worry: When the pandemic subsides, kids will return to school with lower achievement. There are also concerns that the gap between high- and low-achieving students will become larger. Given the need to address these concerns, St. Louis Center has worked diligently with staff of Chelsea schools, Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD), grant funders and the staff at SLC to close that gap.



In the midst of difficult times and many uncertainties, the youth at SLC have been well supported by the staff at Chelsea Community School and WISD. Teachers are arriving daily to support the youth in their ongoing

educational processes. The staff have brought supplies, given suggestions, offered a listening ear to the youth and SLC staff.

Two teachers, Trisha McKenzie and Katrina Stewart come to SLC every Friday morning to work with youth that are in the Chelsea School Program for in-person occupational therapy support. They have done an amazing job working with the youth and teaching the SLC staff how to carry over the therapy into everyday life.

We are also pleased to share that WISD has reached out to SLC and has offered to bring an adaptive Physical Education Program to SLC for the students once per week. WISD teachers are meeting with residents in small groups to support the emotional and social needs of the youth and delivering packages of work that staff can help the residents complete as part of the continuing educational needs of our vulnerable population.

## Knights of Columbus Continue their Support



State Deputy Walter Winkle of the MI KofC presents Fr. Enzo Addari with a \$25,000 check for their commitment to the Children's Homes in St. Louis Guanella Village. Also included (L to R) are State Program Director Paul Palka, State Chaplain Fr. Paul Beliene, George Blaha, State Membership Director Dan Fuller, and Joe Yekulis.

## Receive Newsletter by Email

To keep you informed about the latest news and events and help us control costs, **please share your email address with us today.** We will not share your information with anyone else. This will make it possible to communicate important information quickly and reduce costly mailings. Just email us at [slcdev@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:slcdev@stlouiscenter.org) it is a small step that can have a big impact.

# Golf Events Support St. Louis Center

**Virtual Memorial Golf Outing (July 18)** St. Louis Center held its first ever “virtual” fundraiser with the 33rd Annual Memorial Golf Outing. The event raised \$18,000 for SLC, providing the organization with a much-needed financial boost. Event participants played golf at the course of their choice or walked with their friends the week before the event, turning in their scores and times to SLC in advance. SLC Development and PR Departments combined forces to hold a Live Virtual 19th Hole Celebration on Facebook. As part of the fun, a Crazy Pants contest awarded prizes for the most outlandish pants, as well as the most patriotic and best pose.



*Amy Fielder, finance director, won the staff 'Crazy Pants' prize.*

During the show, viewers watched SLC residents play putt-putt golf on a course designed by the SLC maintenance crew, watched a tribute to the late Jerry D'Adamo of Northville, received a “thank you” from a family member, and saw the winning teams on the screen. Thank you to everyone who made the event a success!



*Christine Lindemann, who's brother lives at SLC, gathered a team of walkers to support the outing.*

**Dad and Lad Outing (Aug 19)** Twin Lakes Golf Course in Rochester Hills, MI was the site of the 23rd Annual Dad and Lad Golf Outing to benefit SLC. Organized by Mike Chirco of MJC Companies, Joe Maniaci of Troy Tube, and Sam Cottone of Twin Lakes Golf Course, the outing has been a way for fathers to teach their young sons the importance of giving back to



the less fortunate. The three are pictured above with Fr. Enzo. Lake Michigan Credit Union was the Corporate Sponsor, while the Asa and Mickey Shapiro Family joined MJC Companies and Troy Tube, Inc. as Gold Sponsors.

**Paesano Dinner (Sept 13)** The Sunday evening dinner at Paesano Restaurant rescheduled from June, brought together more than 50 attendees to honor three young Servants of Charity priests from India. Fr. Amalornathan, Fr. Franklin Michael, and Fr. Leo Joseph have been here in Michigan for



*Frs. Franklin (L), Amal (C) and Leo Joseph (R), thank everyone for their support.*

four years, quietly studying, learning the language and culture and devoting their lives to caring for people with I/DD. On hand that evening to honor their dedication and commitment were George Blaha of the Detroit Pistons/MSU Football and State Rep. Julie Alexander (R – Hanover).

**Golf and Glory (Sept 14)** The next day the big hitters came out to show their support for SLC by participating in the 23rd annual Golf and Glory Outing at University of Michigan Golf Course in Ann Arbor. George Blaha spent time with golfers and staff, as well as Congressman Tim Walberg (R-Tipton), who stopped to visit before heading back to Washington, DC. Along with 104 golfers representing 26 teams, they showed their support for the children and adults with I/DD who call St. Louis Center home.



To read more about these events and see more photos, visit our website:  
[www.stlouiscenter.org](http://www.stlouiscenter.org)

# Construction Update

## New Buildings

*St. Louis Guanella Village (SLGV) is being built with the knowledge that many families have a desire to live in an integrated community where neighbors share the same challenges, values and love for their children with I/DD.*

We are excited to share that five new buildings will be completed this fall as a part of Phase II of the SLGV plan.

**Cottage Homes** – Two new residential cottage homes will provide new living space for 10 of the current residents.

One home has four bedrooms, and the other has six. They both have sensory/play rooms, a staff office, and private, single occupancy bedrooms.



**Family Home** – The first family home built in the Village

includes a single car garage, an attached storage room, and a large kitchen area. There is a good size living room with a half bathroom nearby. The master bedroom and ADA



Compliant second bedroom each have a full bathroom.

**Two Family Duplex** – Each duplex is 1,000 square feet

of space with a single car garage which opens into a great room with a kitchenette and dining area. Each of the two bedrooms



has its own bathroom; with one specially outfitted for handicap use.

**Administration Building** – An administration building has been built to accommodate leasing activities, with a

Conference Room on the left side and four modest offices in the middle. The west side of the building contains a security office, a kitchenette, and two bathrooms.



The buildings are now complete, and residents will be moved into the two new Cottage Homes as soon as the occupancy permit process has been completed.

# Community Support

## USArtQuest Delivers for Residents

Like so many of us who have been cooped up during the pandemic, the residents are looking for ways to stay busy and engaged. On August 24, 2020, Susan Rothamel of USArtQuest and friends Lorna Tackwell and Bridget Favre came to the rescue. They delivered a van load of art supplies, including beautiful hand-made papers, worth \$25,000 which will keep SLC's residents busy for months. When Susan learned that the residents of SLC were looking for projects, she jumped at the chance to help. She explained, "I love to help mentor young people in the community using my art and teaching skills." Lorna also donated \$500 worth of art supplies for the residents. "When I learned of the needs out at SLC, I was happy to help facilitate this project for the residents," she said.



*Unloading a bounty of art supplies are (L to R) – Deana Fisher, Christina Ferris, Joyce Liebeck, Brian Leland, Karl Pollington, Susan Rothamel, Joe Yekulis, and Lorna Tackwell.*

## Bringing the Ball Game Home

Every year SLC receives 40 tickets from the Detroit Tigers for the residents to attend a baseball game. This year, with no fans in the stands, we were left with no opportunities to attend a game - until the Alhambra Manresa Caravan came to the rescue. On September 19th, the group visited SLC to bring a new type of Tiger game experience. They grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, served corn on the cob and passed out Tiger baseball caps to all of the residents. During dinner, a magician entertained the residents with a magic show. Afterward, they watched a live-streamed Tiger game in the gym. This fun experience helped relieve the disappointment of not seeing the Tigers in person. Thank



*Stanley oversees the food preparation at the grill.*

you so very much to all those from the Manresa Caravan who helped make this evening so memorable.

## Welcome Kristine Collins

Kristine Collins joined the SLC's development staff on July 20th as the new Database Coordinator. She is responsible for entering all donations into the Center's donor database, generating thank you letters, tracking grants, producing reports, and making sure that 12 years of historical data that we have merged from three different sources is accurate and up-to-date. It is a big job, but Kristine has made great progress already.



Before coming to SLC, Kristine worked at ParishSOFT as a customer support representative, trainer and data conversion specialist. Prior to that she was also a trainer and customer support specialist for two other companies. She and her husband of 20 years love to travel and visit breweries and wineries all over the world. When she's not working or on the road, Kristine loves to read, cook and bake. In the summer you'll find her hiking local trails and swimming the lakes near her home. She has daughters, one a freshman at Grand Valley State University and the other, a junior at Chelsea High School.

If you have questions about a donation, updates to a credit card or need to change your contact information, feel free to reach out to Kristine at [kcollins@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:kcollins@stlouiscenter.org).

### \*\*\* It is Easy to Give \*\*\*

- 1. Mail** the completed form below to: St. Louis Center, 16195 W. Old US Hwy 12, Chelsea, MI 48118
- 2. Online** at [www.stlouiscenter.org/giving/give-now/](http://www.stlouiscenter.org/giving/give-now/)
- 3. Email** Christina at [cferris@stlouiscenter.org](mailto:cferris@stlouiscenter.org) with your phone number and she will call you to so that you can make your donation over the phone.

## A Better Way to Fund Your Charitable Contributions

*David Sprague, Vice President, Old National Wealth Management*

As 2020 comes to a close, many people are taking out their checkbooks to make year-end charitable donations. While writing a check may be quick and simple, it may not be the most tax advantageous way to provide gifts to your favorite charities. Donors may want to consider donating highly appreciated stock or by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA to receive a better tax result.

**Donating Stock to Charity.** When you donate stock to charity you can generally take a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift. For example, you purchased 50 shares of stock for \$750 (or \$15 each) and you donate those shares to your church on a date when the stock is worth \$100 per share, you have given a gift of \$5,000 to the church and the donation only cost you \$750. In addition to getting the full fair market value for the gift of stock, you have also saved the capital gains tax that would otherwise be paid if you had sold the stock.

### IRA Distributions through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

A Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity, which count toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) for the year. Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, RMDs are not required for 2020. However, many individuals are still using QCDs to help charities in this difficult year. A QCD allows individuals who are in RMD status (70½ years old or older under the old law and 72 years old or older under the new law) to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their RMD. In most years using a QCD can help keep your taxable income lower, keep your income in a lower tax bracket, and may reduce your potential exposure to the Medicare surtax. Individuals in RMD status may still take advantage of QCDs in 2020, even if they have elected to suspend their RMDs for 2020 under the CARES Act.

If you would like to make a donation of stock or QCD to St. Louis Center, please contact Christina Ferris at 734-475-8430.

Return this completed form with your donation

## Yes, I want to help the residents of St. Louis Center!

### Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell  Home  Work

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation Amount

\$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type:  Credit Card  Cash  Check (*Payable to St. Louis Center*)

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events

## 33rd Annual Dinner Auction

November 7, 2020  
Live on Facebook!

For more information,  
please visit our website:

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

## St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council

Andrew A. Shmina, Chair  
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William Lamb, JD  
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Kathi Neuman  
Norm Neuman  
Tom Nowatzke

Jerry Ruggirello  
Don Walker  
George Walrath  
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Walter K. Winkle, Jr  
(MI State Deputy, KofC)



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## In Memory of Our Friends

### Ann Feeney

SLC lost a great friend on Monday July 27, 2020, with the passing of Ann Ellen Feeney (85). Ann was previously the Mayor of Chelsea and a



City Council woman for many years, who was a tireless volunteer for many organizations, including St. Louis Center. Throughout the years, she and her husband, Michael, were very important benefactors. Ann also volunteered for Meals on Wheels for 43 years, and spent time at Spaulding for Children and the Chelsea United Methodist Retirement Home. The

people who knew Ann knew her to be thoughtful, decisive and kind. She leaves behind her husband Michael of 62 years, and her six children; Peter (Patti), Marc (Julianna), Matthew (Juliet), Cara Drenth (Walter), Molly, and Michael (Hyo Kyung); fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. According to her obituary, "Ann was an example of the personal fulfillment that comes from serving other people and serving God."

Giulio Bernero	Iolanda Marinelli
Dellora Blanchard	Harold Ravenna
Michael Borsenik	Irene Simancek
Ivan Cole	Edward Skop
Rose Comito	Thomas Stock
Robert James Conlin	Delores Spagnuolo
Carlo Corsetti, M.D.	Thomas Anthony
Betty Dawisha	Waling
Ann Feeney	Marion Volpe

## SLC Recycles

SLC Aktion Club is back in action. In August we started a recycling program for SLC. In addition to recycling cardboard boxes we have now expanded to recycling paper, tin cans, plastic bottles and glass items. Twice a week we pick up recyclables from each of the housing units, main kitchen and offices and take the items out to the Chelsea Recycling center. The club enjoys being active and having a sense of pride making the world a better place to live.



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St. Louis Center

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