

St. Louis Spirit



Fall 2021

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

In this Issue

Summer of fun



New level of learning



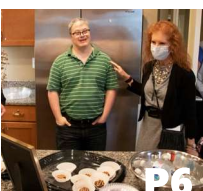
Help from friends



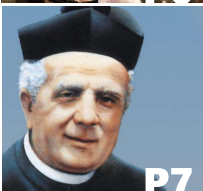
Events to attend



Peek at Progress



A saint for a decade



Matthew was excited for Direct Care supervisors Mellinda Wilson and Carlie Hartwick to try some of the spooky treats created by the residents for the Day Program Bake-Off.

Resilience: Meet Matthias

Navigating life since Covid has proven that life doesn't always get easier, we get stronger and more resilient. SLC residents have especially felt the strain over the past nearly two years as life changed before their eyes. School, work, social time, and visits from those outside the Center stopped. The SLC residents not only rose to the occasion, but they also showed exactly how resilient and strong they are!

Matthias has been living at SLC since 2012 and brings happiness to everyone he meets. Greeting everyone with a smile or wave, he always faces the day with renewed joy and excitement. One of the greatest joys Matthias shares with those around him is his love for football, especially Michigan football and the Detroit Lions. Born in Brazil, Matthias and his family moved to the United States in 1989. Although he is non-verbal, he possesses enviable communication skills. Fluent in Brazilian and American Sign Language and spoken Brazilian Portuguese and English, Matthias has learned ways to communicate with the world around him.

While enrolled at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, he worked in the cafeteria filling ketchup and mustard bottles, salt and pepper shakers and wiping tables. These activities, plus learning work skills at Community Health



Services (CHS), gave him the base to get a job at Polly's Country Market in Chelsea as a bagger. He eagerly learned his job, despite setbacks. Bagging groceries is a skill that one must learn. With the help of his job coaches, Matthias quickly overcame the obstacles and worked even harder to make his job work for him. "Matthias is so proud of being employed, taking the bus with one of his close friends from SLC, and getting a paycheck. His enthusiasm is contagious, and his satisfaction is immense. He takes care of his shirt with Polly's logo and his ID card" his parents stated.

Typically, Matthias does not deal well with change, such as returning to SLC after a weekend home. However, as soon as he is reminded of his job and responsibility, he gets ready for the trip. SLC is his "home away from home". SLC residents overcome the obstacles laid in front of them; their resilience is astounding.

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