



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

SUMMER | 2022

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Graduates proudly sat on the stage and listened to the speeches and accolades given to each of them.

The excitement around Independence College at St. Louis Center has been growing since the spring of 2021. Seeing that there was a need for residents to learn skills that would help them be more independent in their lives, the Social Services Department at the Center formatted a "college" type lesson plan. 10 residents participated.

One goal of Independence College was achieved just days before

graduation when the last of the graduating residents were able to move into their cottage home on the Center's campus. This new home provides the male graduates with the opportunity to show their newly acquired skills. The ladies who graduated were first to move in the fall of 2021.

On April 28th, after a year of hard work and preparation, the 10 St. Louis Center Independence College graduates took to the stage surrounded by family and friends who gathered to celebrate their accomplishments.

Fr. Franklin led prayer to begin the ceremony. "Tonight, we are here on behalf of the graduates of Independence College Class

of 2022", said Sheryl Mohr, Social Services Supervisor, welcoming guests as the graduates were seated near the podium.

Gary Piper, transporter at St. Louis Center, made a heartwarming speech about respecting those around us and trusting Jesus to bring us JOY. Deana Fisher, COO of St. Louis Center congratulated the graduates and dedicated a special thank you for the important role that the Social Services Department plays in giving the residents the skills that they need to gain more independence. Cheers filled the room as each resident was commended for their hard work. Each resident received a certificate to commemorate their accomplishment.



A TRIP TO SEE TULIP TIME



Lori, Cathy, Jacqui, Linda (in front), Albert, Kristin and Jerome enjoyed the journey to Holland for the annual Tulip Time Festival.



Jerome, a St. Louis Center resident, really wanted to go on a road trip to Holland MI for the annual Tulip Time Festival. Cindy Hoard, Direct Care Supervisor, and Haley, Direct Care Worker, set to work organizing the outing. They prepared several residents and went with them on a day trip across the state Tuesday, May 10th. They ate a picnic lunch amongst the tulips in downtown Holland, stopped on the shore of Lake Michigan for Jacqui to dip her toes in the icy water, and stopped at Steak and Shake for dinner on the way home. Jacqui shared a bit about the trip, "It was worth the 2-hour drive. The flowers were so pretty. As we were leaving to come home, we pulled into the beach parking lot. There was a haze over the top of the lake. We took off our shoes and stepped into the water. It was so cold. It was my first time putting my feet into Lake Michigan and it was freezing cold! I was glad I did it."