

# CARILLON



Ringing out the good news of St. Coletta's of Illinois

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

-St. Francis of Assisi

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## The Power of Multi-Sensory Rooms

Learn how a new sensory room is promoting calmness & comfort by helping individuals regulate their emotions on page 2.

St. Coletta's of Illinois

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# A Letter from The CEO



Happy New Year!

As I make the adjustment to my new role as CEO, I look forward to 2024 with excitement and gratitude. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the ministry as we continuously strive toward our goals.

I offer my thanks to all those who have spent their time sharing knowledge with me and offering encouragement. I am especially grateful to Annette Skafgaard for always being willing to take time out to mentor me. She demonstrated a generosity of spirit that I will always remember.

Our Ministry has so many things to be grateful for including our dedicated staff, community supporters, Board members, families, and of course the amazing people we serve.

During my 20 years with St. Coletta's I have learned so much from all of these groups. There is so much knowledge to be gained by listening to the perspectives of other people. I specifically find myself looking to the resilience of the people we serve when challenges arise. I can think of no better teachers when it comes to perseverance and courage.

We have so many things to be excited for in 2024. We are expanding and enhancing the services we provide this year. Our programs are growing, and we are able to welcome more people into services. We have made some needed repairs and improvements to our building and grounds and are looking forward to some additional projects in 2024.

We will also be focusing on our history and mission this year. We have put several things in place to bring both of these things to the center of daily life at St. Coletta's. We are increasing opportunities for our staff, people served, and other supporters to learn about the history of St. Coletta's of Illinois.

I believe that learning about the tremendous efforts of all those who came before us strengthens our commitment to be good stewards of all we have been given. We have also been blessed with some tangible archives from our past which will soon be on display for visitors, staff and people served.

Our expanded Mission Effectiveness Committee will continue to work both within the ministry and with community partners to bring the Franciscan Values to life. The committee strives to keep the spirit of service alive both inside and outside of our walls.

Thank you to everyone who offers kindness and generosity to our ministry. I am excited to keep everyone posted throughout the year.

With Gratitude,

Heather Benedick, CEO

# Cover Story - Sensory Room

## Sensory room creates safe, calming space

St. Coletta's has a new therapeutic space to go when individuals are having a tough time focusing or regulating their emotions.

Psychology Director Lauren Mock created the sea-themed sensory room using a \$5,000 grant from Franciscan Health's Social Impact Partnership Program and a \$3,000 donation from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Palos Heights.

The George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities chipped in an additional \$5,000 recently to purchase more sensory materials for the room.

"It's good to have a place to go when someone is having a rough time," said Mock.

Sensory rooms are designed to promote sensory modulation and decrease negative behaviors by engaging the five senses.

In St. Coletta's sensory room, there's a foam crash pad for anxiety; a mini trampoline for excess energy; a swinging chair for stress relief; and an inflatable canoe that hugs and calms whoever sits in it.

Along the walls are sensory toys, including a magnet maze, xylophone, sequin flip fabric and LEGO station.

A sensory projector reflects soft images on the room's ocean blue walls, creating a sense of being on the ocean floor.



Above: Alyssa A. flips through a fidget book in St. Coletta's new sensory room while Sue K. is mesmerized by the bubble tube. "I need one of these in my room," she said.



Left: Darius B. takes refuge in a tent while Ray B. relaxes in a chair swing before testing out the mini trampoline.

Upper left: Psychology Director Lauren Mock sits in the inflatable canoe that will help calm individuals who are experiencing a sensory overload.



## Parent Association hosts breakfast for staff



On Dec. 8, St. Coletta's Parent Association (SPA) treated staff to a hot breakfast in the staff lunchroom.

President Jack Angelus and parent Debra Simon welcomed each guest with a token of appreciation -- a knit hat with St. Coletta's logo stitched on the front fold!

The Parent Association meets quarterly and is open to all parents, guardians and relatives.

Their next meeting will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20 at the Tinley Park campus. For more information, please email [info@stcil.org](mailto:info@stcil.org).

## Congratulations, Maksym!

Congratulations to our friend, Maksym Sierak, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout!

Maksym is the young man who cleaned up one of our garden beds in July, transforming it into a meditation garden for our adult participants.

We're so proud of Maksym and thank him for selecting St. Coletta's as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout project!

Cheering him on at the Scouts' Court of Honor ceremony on Oct. 26 was St. Coletta's CEO Heather Benedick.



# Inspirational Stories

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## Turning the table on charitable giving



Pictured from left to right are: Tamika Readus, Brianne Davis, Robin Readus, Erika Rodgers, Heather Benedick and Gladys Ramirez. In the back row is Gabrielle Strunka (in green). Not pictured are Lauren Mock, Karen Bartmann and Kim Cappelletti.

As a nonprofit, St. Coletta's of Illinois is used to being on the receiving end of charitable giving. But on Nov. 15, the tables were turned when a group of St. Coletta's employees visited Feed My Starving Children in Aurora to package nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. The visit was organized by St. Coletta's Mission Effectiveness Committee, which strives to reinforce the values of our founders -- the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. The committee is planning more service projects for 2024.

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## Area churches grant Christmas wishes

Every student and adult participant had a Christmas gift to unwrap this year thanks to the generosity of area parishes. Participating in this year's Giving Tree were:

- St. Mary Catholic Church, Mokena
- Our Lady of the Woods Parish, Orland Park
- St. Jude Catholic Church, New Lenox
- St. Julie Billiard Parish, Tinley Park
- St. Dennis Catholic Church, Lockport
- St. Fabian Catholic Church, Bridgeview
- St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Orland Hills
- St. Michael Parish, Orland Park
- St. George Catholic Parish, Tinley Park
- Sacred Heart Parish, Palos Hills
- St. Damian Church, Oak Forest
- St. Bernard's Parish, Homer Glen



Lauren Mock, Meredith O'Brien and Danielle Goga were St. Coletta's head elves, wrapping more than 300 presents donated by area churches and residents.

# Community Partners



In November, Knights of Columbus Council 6993 donated 36 new coats to St. Coletta's, which were quickly distributed to students and adult participants.



In December, Knights of Columbus Council 10858 presented a check to St. Coletta's in the amount of \$1,873 -- earnings from their annual Tootsie Roll Drive! In October, the same Council delivered 30 pizzas to us for students and adult participants to enjoy at Fall Fest.



The Rotary Club of Orland Park replenished our art supplies in December, delivering dozens of packages containing paintbrushes, canvas boards, acrylic pour paint, art markers and colored pencils. The gift tags read: "To the Artists."

PKF Mueller sent more than a dozen volunteers to Fall Fest in October where they assisted participants at the Pick a Pumpkin and Poke a Pumpkin games!



# Events/Fundraisers



## Winter Appeal

Christmas may be over, but you can still make the dull winter months shine bright for someone special like Colin, Billy, Noah, Scott and Joe by making a tax-deductible gift today.

For 75 years, St. Coletta's has been providing educational, residential and vocational training services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. We couldn't do it without your support!

Can we count on you to keep our mission going strong?

Scan me



Appeal Code: 902  
Donation Reason: "Winter Appeal"

## Mark Your Calendars

We're planning two important fundraisers in 2024! Hope you can join us. Formal invitations will be mailed in the coming months.

*Celebrating*  
75 YEARS

St. Coletta's Caritas Benefit  
November 9, 2024

THE ODYSSEY

19110 S. Ridgeland Ave., Tinley Park, IL



St. Coletta's 35th Annual  
**KENNEDY GOLF  
INVITATIONAL**

August 19, 2024

Crystal Tree Golf &  
Country Club  
Orland Park, IL



# 2023 Impact Report

105

number of staff members supporting programs



66

number of students enrolled at Kennedy School



142

number of adult participants in Community Day Services program



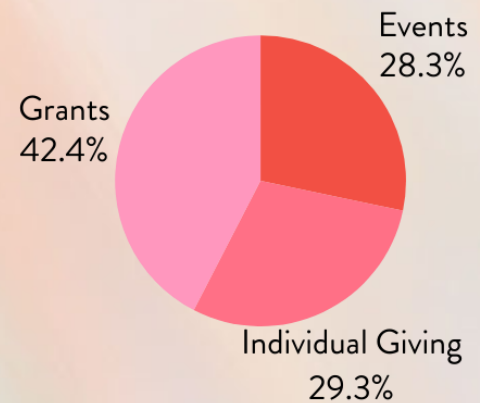
98%

compliance score with DHS for vocational program

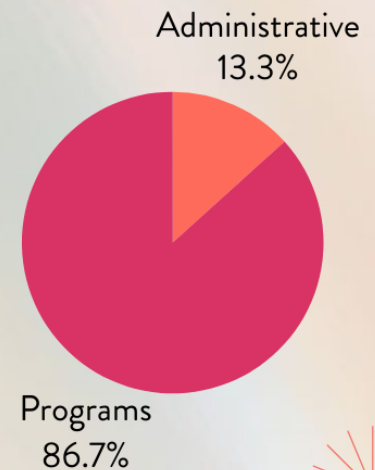


## Financials

### Fundraising Revenue



### Expenses



#### Kennedy Golf Invitational

130 golfers joined us on the golf course Aug. 21, raising more than \$150,000 for programs and services -- a new record high!



#### Giving Tuesday

We raised \$23,285 on Giving Tuesday! Thank you to everyone who donated on this national day of giving!



#### Upcoming Events:



- March 29: CDS/School Holiday
- April 1-5: School Closed/Spring Break
- April 5: CDS Closed - Staff In-Service
- May 23: Last Day of School
- May 27: CDS/School Holiday
- June 3: First Day Summer School
- June 19: CDS/School Holiday
- July 4: CDS/School Holiday
- Aug. 9: Last Day Summer School
- **August 19: Kennedy Golf Invitational**
- **November 9: Caritas Benefit**



# Donor Recognition

We are grateful for the generosity of these businesses, foundations and individuals for supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. Donors are not listed by monetary giving levels.

## A

A Better Door & Dock Services  
Abramowicz, Ronald  
Alera Group, Inc.  
Alexander, Lauren  
Andrews, Jessica  
Angelini, Dawn  
Angelus, Jack and Betty  
Arado, John  
Arduino, John  
Arndt, Diane



## B

Baird & Warner  
Barlog, Robert  
Barry, Janet  
Bartmann, Karen  
Bayles, Gregory  
Bell, Michael  
Benedick, Heather  
Benedick, Joanne  
Beneventi, Linda  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Bergeron, Ryan  
Bieschke, Anja  
Blackburn, Barbara  
Bogg, Joseph & Maureen  
Bowman, Donald & Margaret  
Brasky, Theodore & Adrienne  
Brennan, Patrick  
Broderick, Sean  
Bruno, Nancy  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP  
Bynum, Dana  
Bynum, Glenn

## C

Calhoun, Adam  
Calzaretta, Joyce  
Cammarata, Concetta  
Cantwell, Thomas  
Cappelletti, Kim  
Carstens, Wayne & Donna  
Casey, John  
CBIS  
Chavka, Daniel  
Chicago Board of Trade Foundation  
Childs, Charles & Debra  
Chuvala, Joanne  
Coburn, Timothy  
Colella, Susan  
Comcast Cable  
Cook, Robert  
Costco Wholesale  
Croffet, Beverly  
Crome, Dale  
Cummings, Patrick  
Currie Motors Commercial Center  
Cutrara, Samuel

## E

Edmond & Alice Opler Foundation  
Ehrhart, Donald  
Eterno, John  
Evans, Jennifer

## F

Fernando, Geraldine  
Fesi-Willett, Thomas & Giovannina  
First Trust Portfolios LP  
Fischer, Chris  
Flanagan, James & Sandra  
Fornek, Tom & Linda  
Fox Valley Fire & Safety  
Franciscan Health  
Frankovich, John  
Fredrick, Deb  
Friend, Earl  
Fries, Scott

## D

Davis, Brianne  
Davis, Bryna  
Davy, Thomas  
Dehoyos, Maria  
Delta Dental of Illinois  
Demarco, David & Mary Ann  
Diorio, Pat  
Divirgilio, Beth Marie  
Dods, William  
Donohue, Thomas & Laura  
Doorn, Brian  
Dozier, Linda  
Driscoll, Thomas  
Droel, William & Mary Ann  
Dvorak, Ronald & Lorraine  
Dykas, James

## G

Gall, Karen  
Gallagher, James  
Gallagher, Janet  
Gannon, Patrick  
Garfield, Fred  
George M. Eisenberg Fdtn.  
Goebel, John,  
Goga, Danielle  
Grabowski, Raymond  
Green, Nicholas  
Green, Shavon  
Griffin, Margaret  
Grigaliunas, John & Nancy  
Goth, Jim

## H

Hamel, Scott  
Hannon, James  
Hansen, James & Jean  
Hartigan, Brian  
Hartl, Joseph & Mary  
Hearts & Flowers  
Hennessy, Carol  
Heskin, Nancy  
Hess, George  
Hess, William  
Hoey, Eileen  
Horton, Scott  
Hunt, Deborah  
Hyland Family Foundation

## I

Ilic, Slavko & Vilka  
IL State Council K of C Charities  
International Book Project  
Invesco

## J

Jordan, Chris  
Justin, Robert & Andrea

## K

Kadela, James  
Kadlec, Joan  
Kammerzell, Kelly  
Kane, Shawn & Julie  
Kaye, Todd  
Kazmierczak, Michael  
Kean, William R.  
Killips, Kevin  
Kim, Chong  
Kindt, Elaine  
Kladis, Tasia  
Knieps, Thomas  
Knights of Columbus 10858  
Kobel, Joseph  
Kobza, David  
Koors, Dan  
Kowalis, Chris  
Kucera, Darryl & Sheila  
Kummerer, Sharon  
Kummerer, Virginia



# Donor Recognition

## L

Ladney, Judith  
Lang, Paul & Lynn  
Langer, Fred  
Langer, Ryan  
Langevin, Dave & Kathy  
Laporte, Justin  
Leavengood, Jean  
Lebre, Steven  
Lesniak, Patricia  
Levine, Brad  
Lexus of Orland  
Lichtenberger, Jim  
Life Quotes, Inc.  
Linn, Sue  
Lott, Derrick & Christine  
Lovell, Mary Lou  
Luce, Russell

## M

Magdziarz, Daniel  
Mahalik, Jr., Rudolph  
Malak, Adam  
Malatt, Susan  
Maloney, Charles  
Maloney, Mary  
Malysa, Theresa  
Mangan, James  
Marmoll, Eric  
Mars Medical  
Martin, Aly  
McCraven, Patricia  
McCrea, Kenneth & Rebecca  
McGarry, Kathleen  
McGovern, Maureen  
McGrath, Joseph  
McKenna, Terrence  
McLaughlin, Katie  
McNally, Patrick & Cynthia  
McNulty, Margaret  
Michalak, Daniel  
Milaney, Jeanne  
Miller, Christopher  
Miller, Richard  
Mock, Lauren  
Modelski, Frank & Francine  
Mordecai, Daniel  
Moroney, Robert & Mary  
Morrison, Norrine  
Mosel, Susanne  
Mrs. B Parking Lot Mtnc. Inc.  
Mueller, Gerald  
Mullen, Michael  
Mussallem, Ellyn  
Myers, Shabrika

## N

Nalepka, Laura Jean  
Naumovska, Sonja  
Nelson, Ronald  
Nero, Bill & Marilyn  
Nonaka, Gail

## O

O'Boyle, James  
O'Boyle, Joseph  
O'Brien, Meredith  
O'Hara, William & Wanda  
Okner, Barry  
Old Plank Trail Community Bank  
Olsson Roofing  
O'Meara, Keith  
O'Reilly, Timothy  
Orr Jones, Eva  
Ortiz, Feliciano  
Owalabi, Olatunde



## P

Palumbo, Greg  
Paschal, Al & Annelle  
Pasquinelli, Maureen  
Paszczyk, Robert  
Pavish, Susan  
Pelt, Alan & Gloria  
Penn, Dale  
Peo, Margaret  
Perry, Arlene  
Peterson, Eric  
PKF Mueller  
Plesnicar, Jennifer  
Polke, Timothy & Barbara  
Poole, Sue  
Porter, Nicole

## Q

Quinn, Amy

## R

Ray, Jeffrey  
Readus, Tamika  
Reiss, Kenneth  
Ring, Gerry & Kathleen  
Ro, Matheus  
Robin, Neil  
Rodney, John & Liz  
Rollins Palumbo Creative  
Roper, David  
Ross, Janet  
Rotary Club of Orland Park  
Ryan, Daniel  
Rybak, Andrew  
Rybak, Bill & Jane

## S

Sauer, Richard & Karen  
Scanlin, Thomas  
Scheive, Robert  
Schwieger, Denise  
Scott, Jordan  
Seaman, David  
Shapiro, John  
Shomo, Chuck & Jo  
Shwatal, Jozel  
Simon, Debbie  
Skender, Joseph  
Skimel, Veronica  
Skupien, Joseph  
Slimp, Bruce & Catherine  
Sokol, Nathaniel  
Sorich, Lynn  
Sprogis, Andrew  
Starting, Alexander  
State Street Bank & Trust Corp.  
Suburban Service League  
Sullivan, John  
Sullivan, Thomas  
Swider, Jerry & Jo Ann

## T

Tazik, Jr., Cyril  
The Anthony R. & Mary Ann  
Pasquinelli Fdtn.  
The Mulcahy Family Rev. Trust  
Thomas & Jeanne Palmisano  
Charitable Fund  
Tinaglia, Cindy  
Tinley Park-Park District  
Tokarz, Joyce & Michael  
Toyota Financial Services  
Toyota USA Foundation  
Trainor, Virginia  
Trilla, Lester

## U

United Way of Champaign County

## V

Van Zeyl, Jerome  
Vedder Price  
Villalpando, Elizabeth

## W

Watson, Paul  
Whitten, Mary  
Whole Cubes  
Woitel, Francis  
Wojcik, Debra  
Wolniak Family  
Wood, Edward & Maryann

**Thank you for supporting our mission. Your generous donations help St. Coletta's provide impactful programs and a continuum of care to more than 300 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

**We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the Foundation Office if our records are incomplete.**

# Tribute Gifts

These donations were made by our generous donors in memory or honor of loved ones between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

## In Memory Of

**Anthony Doyle**  
Ms. Lana Advani

**Ms. Margo Ham**  
Mr. Don Ham

**Mr. James F. McCaney**  
Mr. Mark Muszynski

**Mr. James Pasquinelli**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Sue Reinstra  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence & Margaret Beaudin

**Mr. Joseph A. Ramirez**  
Mrs. Annette Skafgaard

**Mr. Donald C. Skafgaard II**  
Ms. Gabrielle Strunka  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth & Diane Loeb  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Kathy Beggerow

**Ms. Marilyn Vandrasek**  
Mr. & Mrs. William & Karen Allen



## In Honor Of

**Albert & Clara Fries**  
Mr. Ron Fries

**Mr. Jack Wsol**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence & Sharon Wsol

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Donate Now!

Donations can be made by visiting our website at [www.stcolettasofil.org](http://www.stcolettasofil.org).  
All proceeds support adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



St. Coletta's mission is to serve children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can achieve their greatest potential within society.

St. Coletta's provides a lifelong continuum of care beginning in early childhood. Our educational and vocational training programs provide a home for individuals that enhances their independence and well-being.

We serve participants without regard to race, religion or economic background. St. Coletta's meets individuals' needs and abilities while providing the least restrictive environment for growth.