

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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Leaving a Lasting Impression

See how a special exhibit at McCord Gallery & Cultural Center raised community awareness on page 2.

St. Coletta's of Illinois

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A Letter from The Executive Director

Dear St. Coletta's of Illinois Friends:

As many of you know, this will be my last letter to you as Executive Director. I am retiring at the end of August, closing one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life. Even though I have been planning this moment for many years, it's hard to believe the time has actually arrived. I have enjoyed working with our families, donors, board members and community partners; getting to know the students and adult participants; and raising awareness about the important work we do.

God has blessed me with wonderful colleagues through the years, and I am so grateful and proud to have worked beside them on the mission that the founders of St. Coletta's of Illinois, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, created 74 years ago.

Thank you to our community partners who support our mission, volunteering at events, working with participants on special projects and donating paper products, craft supplies, art supplies, refurbished electronics and Christmas gifts for our participants.

We couldn't make the impossible possible for so many individuals without your support.

Our work is challenging but rewarding. Whenever a perplexing issue or frustrating matter arises, I find myself turning to the people we serve for clarity and resolve. It's inspiring to see how they look out for one another, taking the arm of someone who needs a little help getting into the building or carrying a lunch for another. They set an example for all of us.

St. Coletta's Board of Directors didn't have to go far to find a new leader who shares our passion for helping others and is committed to furthering our mission to serve children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can achieve their greatest potential.

Heather Benedick, our Chief Operating Officer for several years, has been selected to take my place. Heather has played an integral role in St. Coletta's mission for 20 years – first as a clinical therapist, followed by Director of the Psychology Department and then Vice President of Support Services.

With each new role, Heather has proven herself to be a kind, compassionate caregiver with a strong work ethic. She meets every challenge head-on and has been involved in just about every aspect of St. Coletta's operation, making her the most capable and prepared individual to carry on as St. Coletta's CEO.

After a brief transition period, I will step out of my leadership role and into that of private citizen. I plan to stay in the area, however, and support St. Coletta's of Illinois for many years to come. I will always be the organization's biggest cheerleader!

Thank you for the most rewarding 17 years of my career. I will never forget the friends I made here or the people who work so very hard each and every day to serve children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can achieve their greatest potential. It's truly been a labor of love.

Annette Skafgaard
Executive Director

Cover Story - Leaving a Lasting Impression

More than 100 people visited the McCord Gallery & Cultural Center in Palos Park this past May to view artwork by our CDS participants!



We're pleased to report nearly every painting sold and will benefit both non-profit organizations.

Thank you to everyone who donated the art supplies and came out to see the finished product!

Each piece was created during recreational therapy, giving participants an opportunity to relax, improve their mental health and express their thoughts and feelings non-verbally. The activity also helps build self-esteem.



Left: Two CDS participants pose next to their artwork at the McCord on May 19.

Above: Adam C. proudly shows Dad and Mom the acrylic pour painting he created in recreational therapy.

Events



Speed Into Spring

Transportation is a major component of our mission here at St. Coletta's. Whether driving participants to and from Community Day Services or using transport chairs and wheelchairs to get students around, we have a constant need for speed.

With your help, we hope to acquire:

- 4 vans
- 2 wheelchairs
- 2 transport chairs

Scan me



Please consider making a tax deductible donation today.

Appeal Code: 911 Donation Reason: "Spring Appeal"

A large graphic for the Kennedy Golf Invitational. The background is a photograph of a golfer in a pink shirt and black pants, captured mid-swing on a lush green golf course. In the upper right corner, there is a red "SIGN UP!" button above a QR code. The main text "JOIN US FOR THE 34TH ANNUAL KENNEDY GOLF INVITATIONAL" is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, a white box contains the event details: "MONDAY AUGUST 21, 2023", "REGISTRATION 11AM, SHOTGUN START 1PM", "DINNER & COCKTAILS 6PM", and the location "CRYSTAL TREE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, 10700 W 153rd Street, Orland Park, IL 60462". To the right of this box, a brown vertical box lists the event activities: "LUNCH", "GAMES", "DRINKS", "DINNER", "RAFFLES", and "PRIZES". At the bottom, the slogan "PLAY · SPONSOR · DONATE" is written in large, bold, green letters.

A Lesson in Compassion, Responsibility

For some, Monday mornings roll around much too quickly. But not 22-year-old Jose. Mondays are the days he and his Transition Town classmates head to NAWS Humane Society in Mokena to care for the cats and cuddle with the kittens.



(Left to right) Transition Town students clean cages, fill food and water dishes and show the animals love during a visit to NAWS Humane Society in Mokena in April. (Bottom right) Cleaning litter boxes may not be as fun as cuddling kittens, but it is an important task.

"These cats deserve love, respect care and attention," said Jose, a participant in the vocational training programs at St. Coletta's of Illinois. "All animals are special."

Once a week, teachers Jaqueline DeMarco and Leslie Chowanec take eight students to the no-kill shelter in Mokena to clean cages, freshen kitty litter and make sure the water dishes and food dishes are full.

The visits are part of St. Coletta's transitional training program, which enables students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to explore various career opportunities and develop skills that will be useful after graduation.



Community Day Services

St. Coletta's delivers perfect strike with trip to Tinley Bowl

Community outings becoming more frequent and varied as COVID restrictions lifted

Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted, St. Coletta's adult participants are enjoying more frequent trips to the bowling alley, movie theater, local eatery, pet store and park.

"We're back up and running," said St. Coletta's CEO Heather Benedick. "The pandemic stymied our operations for a while, but now we're eager to welcome new faces and further our mission to serve children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

Each day, St. Coletta's strives to send three small groups into the community so everyone has a chance to interact with the public several times a month.

Community outings are an important part of enhancing adaptive living skills, economic self-sufficiency and overall level of independence and integration into the community.

During their community outings, participants have enjoyed visiting the animals and reptiles at Petco; seeing the train cars at Freedom Park; seeing "Champions" at Marcus Cinema; and bowling at Tinley Bowl.



Community Partners

Thank You

to the following businesses that support our mission by employing our Transition Town students and CDS participants:

- Jewel in Frankfort, Tinley Park and Homewood
- Fed Ex in Mokena
- Emagine in Frankfort
- Portillo's in Tinley Park



No matter how hot or cold it is outside, Brad G. gathers the shopping carts from the cart corral at Jewel.



Justin K. is celebrating his one-year work anniversary at FedEx in Mokena where he assists with package handling.



Matthew B. (left) is responsible for cleaning the lobby and movie theaters at Emagine in Frankfort.

We also appreciate

the companies that provide work projects for adult

participants to complete on our workshop floor, such as packaging 3M Tacky Glue and Minwax Wood Filler; assembling/packaging metal fasteners; and assembling boxes to ship I-PASS transponders.



Packaging Minwax Wood Filler for Atlas Putty Products Co.

- Atlas Putty Products Co.
- Bamal Fastener Corporation
- Igor the Watch Dog Corporation

People with Disabilities Deserve More

Did you know Illinois ranks 49th out of 50 states when it comes to funding for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

Help us change that by telling your legislators to prioritize people with disabilities.

St. Coletta's is part of a statewide coalition called They Deserve More that is working to ensure Illinois meets its obligation to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Help us make funding for the disabled a priority. Contact your legislator TODAY!



HOUSE DISTRICT 37

Rep. Tim Ozinga
11019 Front Street, Suite 1W
Mokena, IL 60448
708-694-2032

SENATE DISTRICT 19

Senator Michael E. Hastings
20855 S. LaGrange Road, Suite 102
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-464-5431

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COALITION: www.TheyDeserveMore.com

Donor Recognition

We are grateful for the generosity of these businesses, foundations and individuals for supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023. Donors are not listed by monetary giving levels.

A

Abbinanti, Becky
Aleck Plumbing
All Guard Auto Alarms Inc.
Amazon Smile Foundation
Ameritrade
Amidei, Karen
Angelus, Jack and Betty
Apple Chevrolet
Arado, John
Arduino, John
Azcona, Steven

B

Babb, Larry and Sandra
Baker, Rex and Nancy
Bartmann, Karen
Beneventi, Paul and Linda
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bormet, Iona
Bottger, David and Marilyn
Bowman, Donald and Margaret
Brennan, Catherine
Brown, Keshia
Bruno, Nancy
Buescher, Louis
Burke Orthodontics
Bush, Taylor
Bynum, Dana
Bynum, M.D., Glenn



C

C., Eric
Cammarata, Concetta
Casey, John and Darlene
Cherian, Mariamma
Childs, Charles and Debra
Childs, Kevin
Chong, Kim
Chuvala, Randall and Joanne
CIBC Bank
Clark, Rodney and Alice
CNB Bank & Trust
Colella, Susan
Collins, Joseph and Jennifer
Conway, Dennis and Deborah
Corkill, Alan

D

Dassaw, Ronald and Roberta
Davis, Brianne
Davis, Patty
Delta Dental of Illinois
Denniston, Edward
Dozier, Linda
Droel, William and Mary Ann

E

Ehrhart, Donald

F

Facebook
Falkner, Janet
Fernando, Geraldine
First Nonprofit Companies, Inc.
Frantz, Rochelle
Fries, Ron
Frontstream

G

Galassini, Alyssa
Gallagher, Jim and Margaret
Gibbons, Kevin
Give Lively Foundation Inc.
Goga, Danielle
Griffin, Margaret
Guzak, Debra

H

H., Colin
Hannon, James
Hawkins, Jasmine
Heslin, Mary
Hess, George
Hess, William

I

Illinois State Council K of C Charities, Inc.
Invesco

J

Johnson & Johnson
Jones and Cleary
Jones, Shelia
Justin, Robert and Andrea

K

K., Sue
Kean, William R.
Kladis, Tasia
Knights of Columbus #11232
Kobel, Joseph
Kucera, Darryl and Sheila
Kummerer, Mark
Kummerer, Virginia



Donor Recognition

L

Lehocky, Cathleen
Lesniak, Emilie
Lesniak, Pat
Longman, Gary and Ruth
Loveless, Colleen
Luque, Jose and Mary

M

Malee, Joseph
Maloney, Mary
Mangan, James
Martin, Aly
Matthis, Whitney
McCord Gallery & Cultural Center
McCrea, Ken and Tamara
McCune, Dawn
McLoughlin, Katie
McNulty, Margaret
Meenan, James and Maureen
Meltzer, Sharon
Millaney, Jeanne
Mock, Lauren
Modelski, Francine
Moloney, Michael and Nora
Mordecai, Daniel
Mueller, Gerald

N

Numark Credit Union

O

Oberweiler Foundation
O'Brien, William
O'Halloran, Katie & Tom
Olawabi, Olatunde
Old Plank Trail Community Bank
Orland Township Highway Dept.

P

P., Donald
Palmisano, Thomas and Jeanne
Paszczyk, Robert
Peterson, Eric
Petkus, Bruce and Stephanie
Plesnicar, Jennifer
Poor Clare Monastery

Q

Quinn, Amy
Quinn, Robert

R

Ramirez, Gladys
Reedy, Barbara
Reiss, Kenneth
Repa, Richard and Elaine
Ring, Gerry and Kathleen
Robel, John
Rosell, Jeanine



S

S., Jason
S., Ronna
Sauer, Richard and Karen
Schwab Charitable Fund
Schwieger, Denise
Seaman, David
Shafer, Grant and Jeanne
Shomo, Charles
Shwatal, Jozel
Sichak, Damian
Simental, Deborah
Siwec, Kevin
Smith, Sr. Eleanor
Sorich, Lynn
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Church
Stevens, Edward
Steward, Matt
Strum, Jacquelyn
Strunka, Gabrielle
Suburban Service League

T

Tazik, Jr., Cyril
Teixeira, Suzanne
Tempel, Duane Chad & Elizabeth
The Dodson Foundation, Inc.
TJX Foundation
Tokarz, Joyce and Michael
Tomasek, Ruth
Town Center Bank

U

United Way of Champaign County

V

Villalpando, Miguel and Elizabeth

W

Whitten, Mary
Willett, Thomas and Giovannina
Willow Springs Lions Club
Wollek, Neil and Mary

Z

Zielinski, Denise

**Thank you for supporting
St. Coletta's of Illinois' 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 January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023.

In Memory Of

Ms. Dawn Donovan

Mr. & Mrs. James and Sandra Flanagan

Ms. Margo Ham

Ms. Linda Ham

Mr. Ronald Nelson

Evangelical Lutheran Church Good Shepherd
Mr. & Mrs. Donald and Annette Skafgaard

Mr. Donald C. Skafgaard II

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Mr. & Mrs. John & Elizabeth Angelus

In Honor Of

G. Bynum

Ms. Vivian Weathersby

Pat and Cathy Hennessy

The William F. O'Connor Foundation

Mr. Brendan O'Connor

O'Connor Trust

Mr. Nick Petrocelli

Mr. Brent Messelheiser

Ms. Ronna Schultz

Ms. Maria Dehoyos

Mr. Bill Waddell

Mr. Joseph Polito

Mr. Jack Wsol

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence & Sharon Wsol

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Please contact the Foundation Office
if our records are incomplete.



St. Coletta's of Illinois

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Donations can be made by visiting our website at 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.