

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- CEO Letter.....page 1
- Cover Story.....page 2
- Caritas.....page 3
- Parent Corner.....pages 4-5
- Community Partners....pages 6-7
- Donor Recognition.....page 8
- Tributes.....page 10



Honoring a Quiet Hero

Learn how Bill Rybak's decades of behind-the-scenes leadership, generosity and heart have shaped St. Coletta's mission and strengthened opportunities for those we serve.

A Letter from The CEO

St. Coletta's of Illinois Board of Directors

Andrea Ramirez - Justin – Board Chair
Susan Poole - Secretary/Treasurer
Janet Barry
Thomas Hogan
Robert Quinn - Person Served Member
Julie Shellberg
Sr. KD Strandell

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OSF
Heather Benedick - CEO

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors

David Seaman – Board Chair
Cassandra Matz – Vice Chair
Daniel Waddell - Secretary/Treasurer
Randle Carter
Elaine Kindt
Jeff Kowalis
Dan Michalak
Sr. Mary Lea Schneider, OSF
Mark Schwieger

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OSF
Heather Benedick - CEO

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation
18350 Crossing Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487

Ph: 708-342-5200
Fax: 708-342-2579
www.stcolettasofil.org



The Carillon is published by the St. Coletta's of
Illinois Foundation for St. Coletta's of Illinois.



Happy New Year! With another year behind us, we look back with gratitude for our many blessings and look ahead with excitement to all that is yet to come. We had an exciting year at St. Coletta's, ushering in many new initiatives while continuing to focus on quality and continuous improvement. Notably, we opened an enhanced outdoor recreation area that includes a new pavilion, relaunched our bakery, and completed numerous physical improvements to our building and grounds. These projects were made possible through the generosity of our donors and the ongoing

support of our many stakeholders. We are excited to see the people we serve enjoy the opportunities these new additions provide.

As the scope of our services continues to expand, we remain committed to quality and continuous improvement. In 2025, our team dedicated significant time and energy to strengthening our Quality Assurance measures, and we look forward to advancing additional quality-related initiatives in 2026. Specifically, we will be seeking accreditation for additional program areas while also preparing for agency-wide accreditation in the future. These efforts help ensure our focus remains on what matters most: meaningful outcomes. Our teams are eager to showcase their work and continue learning through the process of continuous improvement.

As with all initiatives, we will face challenges along the way. However, with the support and generosity of our families, donors, and the people we serve, each challenge will be met with confidence and resolve. We approach each day with hope and gratitude. Thank you to each of you for the unique gifts you share in support of the Ministry.

With Gratitude,

Heather Benedick, CEO



Cover Story - Honoring a Quiet Hero

Bill Rybak honored with Humanitas Award

St. Coletta's of Illinois proudly recognized William "Bill" Rybak with its Humanitas Award at the 71st Annual Caritas Benefit on Nov. 15, celebrating his more than 30 years of leadership, generosity and steadfast support for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

A former board chair and the longtime chair of the Kennedy Golf Outing, Bill has played a key role in strengthening St. Coletta's mission. His quiet dedication, fundraising leadership and unwavering commitment have made him one of the organization's most trusted advocates.



Bill Rybak celebrates his Humanitas Award surrounded by his biggest supporters – his wife, Jane; sons, Scott and Andrew; and daughters-in-law, Kim and Amy.

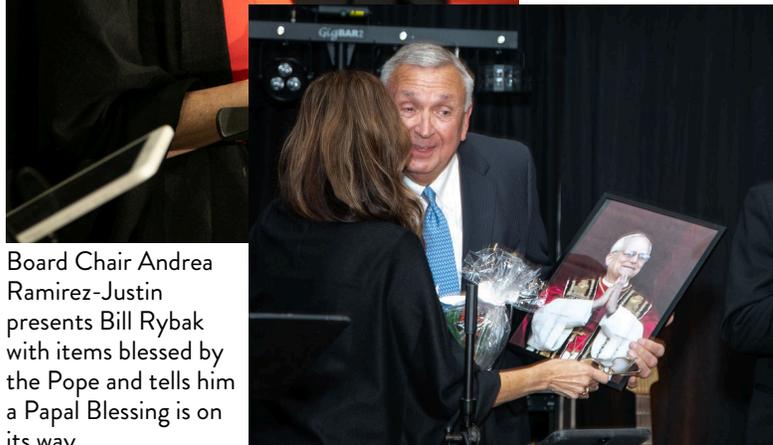
"Bill represents the heart and soul of what St. Coletta's stands for," said CEO Heather Benedick. "His humility, compassion and consistency have lifted our organization for decades."



Bill's service is also rooted in personal experience, having family members with developmental disabilities. Even after retiring from a successful career as a CPA and financial executive, he devoted his time to serving on nonprofit boards and giving back to the community.



CEO Heather Benedick reveals the custom humidor presented to Humanitas Award recipient Bill Rybak.



Board Chair Andrea Ramirez-Justin presents Bill Rybak with items blessed by the Pope and tells him a Papal Blessing is on its way.

To honor his exceptional contributions, St. Coletta's presented Bill with a custom humidor featuring the organization's logo, along with items blessed by the Pope and a forthcoming Papal Blessing.

"Bill's dedication inspires all of us," Benedick added. "His leadership continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we serve."

71st Annual Caritas Benefit

Community rallies to raise over \$125,000



More than 200 parents, supporters and community members came together on Nov. 15 for the Foundation's 71st Annual Caritas Benefit at Crystal Tree Golf and Country Club in Orland Park. The sold-out celebration was filled with warmth, generosity and community spirit as guests gathered to support the mission of St. Coletta's of Illinois.



Above: Jean Leavengood and John Relias peruse the silent auction items at Caritas.



Left: Jerry, a resident at our ICF home, catches the winning paddle during the Caritas paddle drop.

Thanks to the incredible kindness of our attendees, sponsors and volunteers, we raised more than \$125,000 to benefit the children and adults we serve. The evening featured a lively silent auction, an exciting Split-the-Pot Raffle and a spirited live auction that kept the room buzzing. Sr. KD Strandell opened the event with a heartfelt invocation, setting a tone of gratitude and hope for the night.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our generous sponsors: The Anthony R. & Mary Ann Pasquinelli Family Foundation, Complete Collision Care, Inc., Lexus of Orland Park, The Wolniak Family, Old Plank Trail Community Bank and Lexus Central Area. Their support helped make this year's Caritas Benefit one of our most successful yet.

A special congratulations to our Split-the-Pot winner, Susan Poole, who took home nearly \$3,500! Thank you to everyone who joined us—we are truly grateful for your commitment to our mission and your belief in the importance of the work we do.

Parent Corner

Kennedy students step into style

Kennedy School's Transition Town students are putting their creativity to work as personal stylists, curating fashion boxes for staff using clothing and accessories from Toy Box Connection. Staff complete a "Styler Preference Sheet" to share their sizes and style vibe – like Glitzy Glam or Boho – then students sort donations, assemble outfits and package each one with care.

"It's a life skill," said special education teacher Leslie Chowanec, who leads the project. "They're learning to match clothing, stay organized and take pride in presentation."

Students Najee and Emma say the project is fun and rewarding. "It inspires us to be creative," Najee said. Emma added, "It feels good to present someone with a box we put together. We like showing what we're learning."



Stylish, practical and full of heart – this project is making an impact, one outfit at a time.

Sweet treats & holiday cheer at Kennedy School!

Kennedy School's Dessert & Craft Fair was a festive hit, bringing holiday cheer to all!

On Dec. 5, students served up apple cobbler, mint brownies and charcuterie dessert boards while visitors shopped beautifully displayed holiday crafts, including wreaths and ornaments.

It was a sweet and cheerful way to kick off the season!



Parent Corner

Parents Association warms hearts (and toes!)

with staff breakfast

On December 5, the Parents Association treated our staff to a cozy Staff Appreciation Breakfast, showing gratitude for all they do. Each team member also received a pair of sherpa-lined socks featuring the agency's logo – a warm and thoughtful reminder of how much they are appreciated!



New pavilion brings outdoor fun to St. Coletta's

Thanks to generous donors, St. Coletta's of Illinois now has a beautiful outdoor space for participants to enjoy. The Jean R. Leavengood Pavilion, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 28, provides a welcoming area for group activities and social gatherings, alongside a new sensory path funded by the Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation and the Stack Family Foundation.

The pavilion is named in honor of Jean R. Leavengood, whose support helped make this project possible for the nearly 300 children and adults St. Coletta's serves.



Jean R. Leavengood officially opens the new pavilion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 28.

Community Partners

Knights deliver a slice of Halloween Magic

The Knights of Columbus Council 10858 at St. Michael Parish in Orland Park once again took our Halloween party from fun to frightfully fantastic! They rolled in with more than 40 piping-hot Kenootz pizzas — enough to delight every ghost and goblin in the room — and even sweetened the day with a bonus box of Tootsie Rolls. Thanks to their generosity, our participants enjoyed a spooktacular celebration filled with smiles, treats and Halloween cheer.



Halloween visions come to life thanks to Berkot's



Berkot's Super Foods in Mokena came through in a big way, donating 30 pumpkins for our annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Thanks to their generosity, our participants got creative, turning ordinary pumpkins into extraordinary works of art. This year's winners were "The Nightmare Before Wonderland" from Ms. Tasheka's classroom and "Gum Ball Machine" from Ms. Skye's CDS team.

Community Partners

All Saints Lutheran Church serves up holiday cheer

All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park opened its doors — and hearts — to our adult participants on Dec. 12 for a festive holiday lunch full of cheer. Guests shared a delicious meal, lively conversation and plenty of holiday spirit.

A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Don Borling and the entire congregation for their generosity and kindness in helping our participants celebrate the season together.



Churches bring Christmas joy!

Local churches and a Tinley Park mother-daughter duo brightened the season with generous gifts, making Christmas extra special for our students and adult participants. Among those who participated were:

- St. Mary Catholic Church, Mokena
- Our Lady of the Woods Parish, Orland Park
- St. Jude Catholic Church, New Lenox
- St. Julie Billiart Parish, Tinley Park
- St. Damian Church, Oak Forest
- St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Orland Hills
- St. Michael Parish, Orland Park
- St. George Catholic Parish, Tinley Park
- Sacred Heart Parish, Palos Hills
- St. Bernard Parish, Homer Glen
- St. Fabian Catholic Church, Bridgeview
- Rochelle Frantz and Lisa Knight

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, 2025 and December 31, 2025. Donors are not listed by monetary giving levels.

A

Lauren Alexander
All Guard Auto Alarms Inc.
Junior Alvarez
Jessica Andrews
Aaron Angelini
Jack Angelus
Anjali Pravin Charitable Fund
Gary Antesberger
Apple Chevrolet
Steve Atkins
Atlas Putty Products Company

B

Larry Babb
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Michael Bannos
Janet Barry
Karen Bartmann
Gregory Bayles
Beary Landscape Management Inc.
Tony Benedetto
Heather Benedick
Linda Beneventi
Xavier Berrios
Berzanski Family Charitable Fund
John Berzanskis
Barbara Blackburn
Victoria Bone
Anita Bor-Brown
Robert Bosack
Donald Bowman
Charla Brautigam
Patrick Brennan
Deanna Browder
Janet Brown
Brett Bryner
Eileen Buck
Dana Bynum
Glenn Bynum, M.D.

C

James Cahill
Concetta Cammarata
John Casey
Charities Aid Foundation America
Daniel Chavka
Cherry Bekaert
Patsy Chick
Charles Childs
CIBC Bank
William Cloyd
Susan Colella
Complete Collision Care
Alan Corkill
James Corradetti
Brett Cosich
Pamela Coverick
Beverly Croffet
Dale Crome

D

Robert Daley
Lee Daniels
Thomas Davy
Agatha DeFranco
Mary Ann DeMarco
Tom Digenan
Pat Diorio
Beth Marie Divirgilio
Thomas Donohue
Linda Dozier
Joshua Dreyer
James Dykas

E

Patrick Easley
Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation
Thomas Edwards
Tom Ehmann
Donald Ehrhart
Vicki Engelberg
Elsa Espinosa Diaz
John Eterno
JJ Evans
Timothy Evoy

F

Donna Falls
Alexandra Fancher
Leah Farr-Fields
Geraldine Fernando
First Nonprofit Companies, Inc.
First Trust Portfolios L.P.
Sandra Flanagan
Michelle Forech
Jack Forester
Tom Fornek
John Frankovich
Rochelle Frantz
Scott Fries

G

Fred & Kathy Garfield
Emily Gagliano
James Gallagher
Fred Garfield
Gas N Wash
Sophie Gaylor
Linda Generoso
Matt Gibbons
Tony Glaudel
Danielle Goga
Dean Greco
Jacqueline Green
Jeffrey Grieff
Brice Grinstead
Angelo Grossi
Cameron Gunderson

H

William Harmon
Jason Harrison
Brian Hartigan
Heide Wealth Management
Tom Heimsath
William Hess
Robert Hock
Eileen Hoey
Thomas Hogan
Scott Horton

I

Robert Iannotta
Dominique Ivory

J

David Jensen
Latoya Johnson
Jones and Cleary

K

Meredith Kahn
Shawn Kane
Mike Kazmierczak
Sanaa Kelley
Scott Kier
Elaine Kindt
Douglas Kirsch
Eric Kitchell
Tasia Kladis
Thomas Knieps
Knights of Columbus #10926
Knights of Columbus Council #5573
Eileen Knockemus
Marie Kobza
Kodo Care
Sue Konczak
Kurt Kowalis
Stephen Krates DO, PC
Sharon Kummerer

L

Paul Lang
Fred Langer
Dave Langevin
Steven Lebre
Emilie Lesniak
Lexus Central Area Office
Lexus of Orland
Jim Lichtenberger
Ruth Longman
Mary Lou Lovell
Linda Luce
Carly Luque
Carolyn Lykins

M

Debbie Macenas
Rudolph Mahalik, Jr.
Susan Malatt
Mary Malley
Mary Maloney
James Mangan
Dylan Mannakee
Eric Marmoll
Mars Medical
Bernard Mattes Jr.
Brenda Mayerhofer
Sarah McClain
Patricia McCraven
Ken McCrea
Jeffrey McCroy
James McElligott
Joseph McGrath
Kathleen McKay
Katie McLaughlin
Patrick McNally
Daniel McNamara
Karter McWilliams
James Meenan
Jessica Meyer-Dodoer
Daniel Michalak
Christopher Miller
Frank Modelski
Michael Moloney
Bill Morrison
Susanne Mosel
Peggy Murray

N

Helen Nelson
Marilyn Nero
Cece Novotny

O

James O'Boyle
Sharon O'Brien
David Oestermeyer
Marty O'Grady
Katie & Tom O'Halloran
Dave O'Keefe
Barry Okner
Old Plank Trail Community Bank
Keith O'Meara
Timothy O'Reilly
Feliciano Ortiz
Rhonda Ostrom
Our Lady of the Woods Parish

Donor Recognition continued

P

Terence Page
Barbara Palmer
Richard Pape
Barbara Pasquinelli
Michael Pasquinelli, Jr.
Steve Pearl
Margaret Peo
Cathy Perona
Arlene Perry
Eric Peterson
Jaime Pettenon
Melanie Ponce
Susan Poole

Q

Amy Quinn

R

Kelley Radochonski
Candace Ramirez
Andrea Ramirez-Justin
Jason Ray
Mike Reeg
Daniel Regan
Rick Reinbold
Mark Reinstra
Steve Remelius
Paul Rieger
Ashley Riley
Matheus Ro
Rob Cook's Marine Services, Inc.
Bill Rybak
Scott Rybak

S

Daniel Salmon
Rodolfo Sanchez
Richard Sauer
Thomas Scanlin
Rusty Scheel
Robert Scheive
Ronna Schultz
Stephen Schuster
Denise Schwieger
David Seaman
John Shapiro
Julie Shellberg
Chuck Shomo
Jozel Shwatal
Nathan Simons
Annette Skafgaard
Joseph Skender
Karen Skiba
Veronica Skimel
Joseph Skupien
Bruce Slimp
Jayla Smith
Jayson Snyder
Society of the Divine Word
Andrew Sprogis
St. Bernard's Parish
Gabrielle Strunka
Jerry Swider
Ed Szofer

T

Pete Takacs
The Anthony R and Mary Ann
Pasquinelli Foundation
The Edward & Maryann Wood Family
Fund
Grant Thompson
Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce
Joyce Tokarz
Ruth Tomasek
Toyota USA Foundation

U

United Way of Champaign County

V

Raymond Vahl
Laura Vander Meulen
Johnathan Vargas
John Vasko
Briseyda Villalpando
Ignatius Villasenor

W

William Waddell
Toyia Washington
Paul Watson
Jerry Weberling
Craig Weins
Josue Weston
Peter Whalen
Cailey Whittinghill
Whole Foods Market Foundation
Tom Willette
Deareo Winslow
Roben Winters
Frank Woitel
Wolniak Family
Edward Wood

Y

Nathan Young

Z

Ali Zayyad



Thank you for supporting our mission. Your generosity empowers St. Coletta's of Illinois to offer life-changing programs and continuous care for over 300 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We apologize for any oversights or inaccuracies. If our records are incomplete, please reach out to the Foundation Office.

Tribute Gifts

These donations were made by our generous donors in memory or honor of loved ones between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

In Memory Of

Mary Boland

Margaret Murphy
Mary Poznar
K.B. O'Grady
Mary Ward
Michael Moloney

Marie Falls

Teresa Stinnett

Gene Kowalis

Janet Ross

Joseph Torrisi

Len Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Machowski
JoAnn Cox
Shelly McEvoy
Laurie Kent and Family
John Kwak
Jody Robinson
Lauren Hmura
Nancy Kotzum
Roberta Menconi
Joann Cooney
Kathy Srutowski
Margie Niemiec

James A. & Bernard Tysiak

Theresa Coburn

Sir Knight Steven Zimmer

Knights of Columbus Council
#5573

In Honor Of

Cardinal Cupich

Poor Clare Monastery

Marisol & Xavier Berrios Sr. and Family

Anne Marie Leofanti

Dr. Glenn L. Bynum

Anna C. Wallis
Vera Perez
Sharon Bradley

Pastor Bill Drodil

James Lentz

Kevin Kummerer

Sharon E. Kummerer

Sara Walz

Suzanne Teixeira

Jack Wsol

Sharon Wsol

We apologize for any oversights or inaccuracies. If our records are incomplete, please reach out to the Foundation Office.

SAVE THE DATE

Kennedy Golf Outing

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation

17
AUGUST
2026

St. Coletta's of Illinois

18350 Crossing Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-342-5200

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
**U.S. Postage
PAID**
Tinley Park, IL
Permit No.



Donate Now!

Parents/Stakeholders Meeting – Save the Date!

Join us for our next Parents/Stakeholders Meeting at 7 p.m. on March 18 in the cafeteria of our Tinley Park campus. This meeting will focus on Medicaid and Dignity-in-Pay updates, with time to share information, hear feedback and stay connected. We hope to see you there.

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.