

GIVING GUIDE

A look at local charities & the great things they do



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A Chicago treasure: Little City Foundation

Local community resource provides hope, change and empowerment

A voicemail.

"Hello, my name is...and my child has autism. It's tearing my family apart...I don't know where to go for family counseling or where to go for support, and I need to keep my family together. I'm hoping someone there can help me."

A voice. A mother. A child. Autism.

This query shrouded in a mother's desperate voice is something that any one of the 400 staff at Little City Foundation may hear on a given day.

It's a scary thought, and rightfully so.

Little City Foundation Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers said that recent studies estimate that the lifetime cost to care for an individual with autism spectrum disorder is currently at \$3.2 million dollars.

And if autism affects one out of 110 children, you do the math.

Thankfully, these costs can be reduced by up to TWO-THIRDS with early diagnosis and intervention.

This thought was behind Little City's largest awareness and acquisition campaign in 50 years. The goals were to raise compassion for Illinois' most vulnerable citizens, to garner support for them and to educate the general public about the prevalence of autism to promote early intervention and diagnosis.

With a commitment to attaining a greater quality of life for Illinois' most vulnerable citizens, Little City actively promotes choice and a holistic approach to health and wellness for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"Part of our mission is not just to provide a roof over someone's head, or food in their stomachs," commented Jeffers. "It's to provide those we serve with a real quality of life, to help them live independently with respect and dignity so they can realize their fullest potential in life."

Little City recently opened its Center for Health & Wellness for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Center focuses on all aspects of health including medical and oral health, social-emotional and behavioral health, recreational health, and nutritional and dietary health.

"Each day that I enter Little City,



Little City celebrates the grand opening of their Center for Health & Wellness.

LITTLE CITY FOUNDATION

**"Creating hope. Changing lives.
Challenging all limits."**

**1760 W. Algonquin Road
Palatine**

(847) 221-7810

www.littlecity.org



A dental assessment being done at the Center for Health & Wellness.

and witness the work of over 400 staff and volunteers who dedicatedly support hundreds of our community's most vulnerable citizens, I keep well in mind responsibility, sustainability and accountability," added Jeffers.

It's a known fact that half the costs of illness are wasted on conditions that could be prevented. Little City realized that early detection and prevention were critical elements in building a system of care that was sustainable and responsive to the dynamic needs of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"Prevention is key for a ensuring a high quality of life and reducing the



in May of this year, and since then, the Center has saved the State tens of thousands of dollars by preventing emergency room visits, complicated oral surgeries, and the like.

Little City also renovated its fitness center, established its first community group home for teenagers, built a playground specifically designed for children with autism, created a new clinical structure, and renovated its Center for Horticulture, among numerous other initiatives.

"There are approximately 20,000 citizens in Illinois waiting for services from agencies like Little City," commented Director of Communications & Marketing Lisa Hoffmann. "We can do so much, and save so much, just by thinking strategically and placing the individual first. I'm so proud to work for an organization that has the foresight and the will, to make things happen."

"But we can keep this momentum only with continued donor and community support," continued Hoffmann.

"I learn something from the adults we serve every day," said Jeffers. "Their opportunities and hence ours, are limitless."

To learn more about how you can support Little City Foundation, visit www.littlecity.org/support.



Sustaining a commitment to individuals with disabilities

Little City looks ahead to next 50 years

For more than 50 years, Little City Foundation has developed innovative and personalized programs to fully assist and empower children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Every day, dedicated members of the Little City team work hard to make a difference in the lives of more than 350 children and adults with disabilities on its 56-acre campus in Palatine, the city of Chicago and the surrounding communities.

Throughout its history, Little City has expanded its services to meet the changing demands of its clientele. When the organization first opened its doors in 1959, the focus rested solely on providing residential services and educational support to children.

The facilities have evolved into a therapeutic community where both children and adults receive the necessary supports to develop life skills, play an active role in the decisions central to their lives, and develop meaningful relationships with others.

Today, Little City continues to provide an array of recreational and educational opportunities, while providing clinical and behavior intervention programs. Some of the children who live at Little City are wards of the state, either because they have been abandoned, neglected or abused by their families. Many come from loving homes but require clinical care 24 hours a day. Through a team of specialists based in Chicago, Little City also now provides special needs foster care and adoption services to families caring for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For the population at Little City ages

twenty-one and older, numerous residential options, employment opportunities and day programming are provided, among many other clinical and therapeutic services.

The adults at Little City also train for the Special Olympics and have access to a variety of arts programs through Little City's award-winning Center for the Arts.

Executive Director Shawn Jeffers indicated that Little City would not have seen the successes it has over the past fifty years had it not been for the support and advocacy of those inside the organization, the parents and family members of those served by the organization, and the support and kindness of community members.

"We are able to provide these innovative and critical services to the individuals we serve at Little City because of the commitment from those within our community," commented Jeffers. "We exist at the will of the community and we know that we are not alone."

Since its inception, Little City has been a highly regarded nonprofit organization in Chicagoland. Through widely-recognized fundraising efforts,

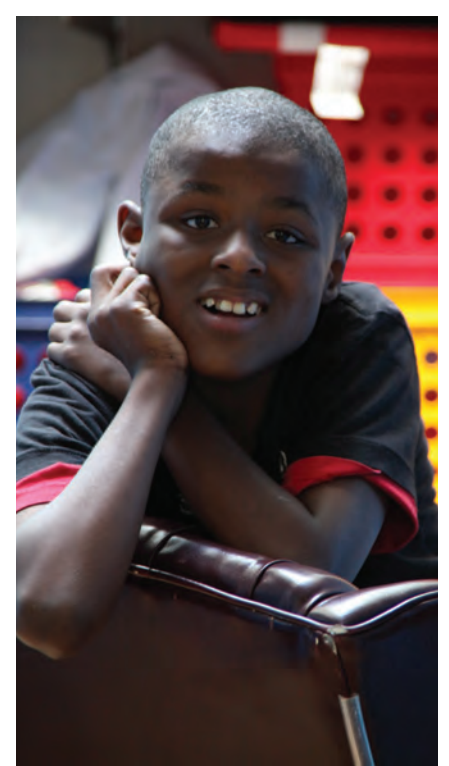


community events, individual, group and corporate volunteer projects and strong partnerships with business leaders, Little City continues to raise not only funds, but awareness as well.

However, in the face of looming detrimental budget cuts from the State government, Little City must rely on the support of the community more than ever.

"Support from individual and corporate donors remains critical to our ability to provide the programs and services that assist hundreds of individuals with disabilities and their families," remarked Dana Rice, Director of Strategic Market Engagement. "Little City offers numerous ways to get involved and give back to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens."

For more information about supporting Little City's programs and services, contact (847) 221-7810 or visit online at www.littlecity.org/support.



YOU ARE THE ONE THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! HERE'S HOW:

- Make a direct contribution by mail or online at www.littlecity.org/support
- Enroll in Circle of Love, Little City's automated monthly recurring gifts program
- Provide for the future of Little City through provisions in your estate plan
- Volunteer your time and talents, individually or with a group
- Attend or sponsor a fundraising event
- Join Little City's advocacy efforts
- Donate supplies needed for our programs and services, including art supplies and books
- Purchase holiday cards, jewelry, ceramics and other work created by the talented artists at Little City's award-winning Center for the Arts





*I am the one
out of every 63*

INDIVIDUALS IN ILLINOIS BORN WITH
A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY. ¹



*I am the one
out of every 110*

CHILDREN IN OUR COUNTRY BORN WITH AUTISM. ²

www.littlecity.org/support

*YOU are the one
that can make a difference.*



YOUR GIFT TO LITTLE CITY FOUNDATION will ensure that hundreds of local children and adults with autism and other pervasive developmental and intellectual disabilities receive the programs and services needed to live enjoyable, productive and fulfilling lives.

To learn more about Little City and to make your gift today:
VISIT www.littlecity.org/support • CALL (847) 221-7810

LITTLE CITY FOUNDATION, 1760 W. ALGONQUIN ROAD, PALATINE, ILLINOIS 60067

¹ 1 out of 63 births in Illinois is an infant with a developmental disability like autism. —Braddock and Heller at University of Illinois, 2009

² An average of 1 out of 110 children and almost 1 in 70 boys in the U.S. have an autism spectrum disorder. —"Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders – Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, United States, 2006," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dec. 18, 2009