

creating hope



Little City, Inc. files Articles of Incorporation in the state of Illinois on January 28.

1957

The Founding Members deposit a check to purchase a tract of land in Palatine which is to become the Little City grounds.



Plans for a unique residential and educational environment for mentally retarded children are in development, as efforts are underway to secure \$200,000 in initial funding.

Plan Center for Retarded Children Near Palatine



Ground is broken in Palatine off Algonquin Road to construct three residential buildings.

1958

1959

Little City opens its doors on October 1 with 28 children living in 3 buildings. The construction begins on administration buildings and recreational sites.



Little City holds its first fundraising dinner. More than 600 people attend to support the newly developed community.

600 SUPPORTERS OF LITTLE CITY ATTEND DINNER



Little City, Inc. is renamed Little City Foundation.

1961



Little City hosts its first golf invitational fundraiser.

1964

The Educational Development Center (EDC) opens as a fully operational, year-round school.



1966

Innovative arts programming raises funds for the organization through cleverly designed greeting cards created by the children of Little City.



An egg-producing poultry farm is established as a vocational training project. The farm, operated by the children of Little City, sells eggs to raise funds for the organization.

1965



A state-of-the-art training center opens. The center combines a library, auditorium, gymnasium, home economics, pre-vocational and occupational departments, music rooms and speech therapy rooms under one roof.

1969

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The florarium opens to provide therapy through horticulture to the residents at Little City.

1974



The Karyn Kupcinek Recreation Center launches to provide an environment for adaptive recreational programming and sensory stimulating activities.

1978



Little City pioneers a vocational service placing teen and adult residents into paying jobs in the community.

1982



As an extension of earlier vocational training services, the Supported Employment program expands to allow adults to work on campus or at one of more than 70 participating corporations throughout Chicagoland.

1987



Little City's first Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) home opens, allowing adults to experience independent living in a community setting.

1989

1972

Little City promotes its first open house in local newspapers to encourage community members to learn more about vital programming and recruit on-campus volunteers.



1977

Continuing media coverage and support from Chicago celebrities helps raise awareness of disabilities and garners additional funds.



1981

The Port Family Center opens to provide supported apartment and community living opportunities for the adults living at Little City. The living arrangements enable residents to acquire the skills necessary to achieve greater independence.



1985

The Media Arts Center opens and launches Project VITAL, giving people with disabilities a voice in the larger community through media production and dissemination of cable access television programs.



1988

The Families One program launches to provide in-home support to the families of children with disabilities.



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The Studio Arts program begins, allowing participants to explore their own creativity through a variety of artistic media.

1997



The Special Needs Adoption program opens to place children with disabilities in loving permanent homes.

2003

Entrepreneurial ventures continue to provide vocational training for adult residents in settings that match developmental skill sets, on campus and in the local community.



The Center for the Arts unveils Special Arts (S'ART), offering classes in studio arts, music, dance, movement, drama and more to children and teens.

2006



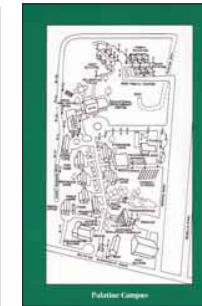
A gardening program is introduced, training residents how to grow and care for plants. Vegetables and plants grown in the greenhouse are sold to public.

2007

The Children's Residential program launches a Transitional Living Program (TLP) to serve individuals ages 18-21 referred by the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS).



2008



The Children's Residential program re-opens a fifth home on campus to increase the children's population from 44 to 50 individuals.

Plans are underway to improve the quality of life on the Palatine campus through expanded recreational options, creative employment opportunities and a therapeutic community with an on-site dental clinic.



Little City celebrates 50 years of dedication to improvements in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

2009

A strategic plan is approved to transform Little City Foundation for the next fifty years and beyond.