

CONTACT: Rick Johnson  
Director of Communication and Marketing  
Little City Foundation  
O: 847-221-7831; C: 847-354-5912  
[rjohnson@littlecity.org](mailto:rjohnson@littlecity.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LITTLE CITY TO HONOR MEMORY OF ALEC K. GIANARAS**

**Longtime Board President Guided Organization Through Important ‘Growth Periods’**

**Palatine, IL, Jan. 9, 2009** – Little City Foundation announced today that it will honor the legacy of Alec K. Gianaras, one of the organization’s beloved and longtime leaders, at its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner next fall.

Mr. Gianaras, 96, passed away Dec. 30, 2008, after a short illness. He joined the Little City Foundation Board of Directors in 1973 and served for 28 years on the Board. During his tenure, Mr. Gianaras earned the distinction of being the longest-serving Board President, leading the Board for 20 years starting in 1974.

“Mr. Gianaras was a pillar for our organization, and helped guide Little City during an important growth period in the late 1970s and 1980s,” said Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “His humble spirit and caring heart were unmatched, and we will miss him greatly.”

Jeffers said an “appropriate tribute” will be held for Mr. Gianaras at Little City’s Annual Dinner. Mr. Gianaras’ legacy will fittingly coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization that serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“Mr. Gianaras was an amazing man who gave with grace and generosity,” said Eleni Bousis, a longtime friend of the family and herself a Board Director at Little City since 2006. “He was an inspiration to all of us.”

The Gianaras family and Greek community continue to have a strong link with Little City. Alex Gianaras, Mr. Gianaras’ son, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1999. Along with Ms. Bousis, Jack George has served as Little City’s General Counsel since 1976, and Alex Alexandrou is another current longtime Board member (1997) who recently completed eight years as Board President. The Alexandrou family has a long history with Little City as well, with George P. Alexandrou, father of Alex, serving as a Board member in the 1990s.

Over the years, Mr. Gianaras received several tributes for his service to Little City. He has been named “Man of the Year” by the Board of Directors, and the large picnic grounds at Little City’s Palatine campus are named after him as well.

**About Little City**

Established in 1959, Little City Foundation is committed to developing innovative and personalized programs to fully assist and empower people with disabilities in all stages of life. Little City offers a variety of residential options for children and adults, as well as vocational and

employment opportunities. Programs and services include a special needs foster care and adoption program; in-home support to families raising a child with developmental disabilities; a full complement of recreational activities, including Special Olympics competition; and an award-winning Center for the Arts program that features visual, performance, media and fabric arts.