Read all about it:
Little City Book Fair returns this August

The Little City Book Fair returns this year just before the start of the school year. From August 19-21 Little City will host its signature book sale event, which will change from a weeklong event to a weekend-only fair at a new location.

The 5th Annual Book Fair (previously the Used Book Sale) will take place over a three-day period at the Harper College gymnasium in Palatine. Harper College is located at 1200 W. Algonquin Rd., a few blocks east of Little City’s Palatine campus.

In the four years that Little City has hosted this event at Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie, more than 30,000 visitors attended the sale, raising over $650,000 for the individuals with disabilities at Little City.

"By moving to an indoor location closer to our Palatine campus and shortening the length of the fair, we are able to cut expenses by 45% from last year," stated Adam Meade, Director of Special Events at Little City. “We are confident our new indoor location will help boost our attendance rates as well, which decreased slightly last year as a result of unseasonably cool June weather.”

As in years past, the weekend-long fair will offer a plethora of new and gently-used books in over 70 subject categories. A wide range of DVDs, CDs and collectors books will also be up for sale.

And moving to a new location has its benefits, according to Dana Rice, Director of Strategic Market Engagement. “Hosting the sale closer to our Palatine campus is a great way to establish new relationships with local residents and businesses to which we may not otherwise be exposed. Our goal at the fair is not only to sell books, but to introduce our mission and vital programming to a new base of local supporters.”

Mark your calendars now to be first in line for the best selection of books and other media. Entry is free, except on opening night, where a $10 donation is requested.

For more information, contact Adam Meade at ameade@littlecity.org or (847) 221-7807.

Visit www.littlecity.org/bookfair for more information about the fair, a complete listing of drop-off sites for book donations throughout Chicagoland, and information on scheduling a pickup for larger donations.

I am the one out of every 63
CHILDREN IN OUR STATE BORN WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY LIKE AUTISM.
Executive Director’s Corner

“How few there are who have courage enough to own their faults, or resolution enough to mend them.” —Benjamin Franklin

As we enter into a new year, we are given an opportunity to turn the page on the past and focus on a new beginning—a fresh start!

As the children and adults here at Little City greet 2011, I reflect upon my own New Year’s resolutions for Little City.

And as I ponder the statement of Benjamin Franklin above, I realize that while it is important to reflect on previous faults and shortcomings, both personal and organizational, it is more important that I focus on forgetting what has passed and turning my energies to the opportunities and promises that lie ahead. The essence of leadership is progress and forward movement and not focusing on that which could have been or should have been. Since experience is the best teacher, I resolve to use the experiences and challenges of the past year as the building blocks for a better “me.”

So to our donors and stakeholders: I resolve to continue our success. I resolve to never give up fighting for those we serve. I resolve to expand Little City so we can help many others who are in desperate need of services. You may or may not know that there are 20,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Illinois in need of services from agencies like ours. As a state community, that is what our future holds.

However, today, your contributions to Little City Foundation help us create a life of dignity and respect for each child and adult we serve. We have a responsibility to raise $10,000 per individual per year to meet the quality-of-life standards we have in place, and you help us achieve that.

Our challenges are daunting, but our potential is limitless. This New Year offers a host of opportunities to change the way we look at disability care. 2011 presents a number of doors we can open to improve the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable citizens.

This New Year, we look forward to your continued partnership, and friendship.

Wishing you all a prosperous and peaceful New Year,

Shawn E. Jeffers

P.S. If you haven’t already joined us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/LittleCityFoundation), make it a resolution! You’ll enjoy frequent updates, photos and stories of your donor dollars at work!

City Planning

Every Dollar Counts

Since 1959, Little City has provided innovative programs and services that foster development and personal fulfillment for its participants. To do so, Little City relies on government funding and direct contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. In fact, over 82 cents of every dollar spent supports first-class programs and services for hundreds of children and adults in need.

To the right is a breakdown of Little City Foundation’s operating budget for Fiscal Year 2010 dating July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

The 2010 Little City Annual Report will soon be available for online viewing. Visit www.littlecity.org for more details.

Little City Foundation

“I RESOLVE TO NEVER GIVE UP FIGHTING FOR THOSE WE SERVE.”

Shawn E. Jeffers

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Little City must raise an average of $10,000 per individual per year to maintain a quality of life established for each child and adult at Little City.
How a promise turned into an adoption based on love

That day came in December 2005 when Pearl passed away.

“I told Pearl that I would make sure Whitney was okay. I wanted to give Whitney a home,” Marsha recalled one day in her home in Chicago. “After all, I promised her.”

Although Marsha was Whitney’s godmother, she was not related to Whitney and therefore did not have any legal rights to the young girl. Fortunately for Marsha and Whitney, their quest to become a family also had a strong advocate – Little City’s Foster Care and Adoption team. Emily Rawsky, the ChildBridge Community Services Site Manager, took over as case manager for the adoption of Whitney in 2007. Marsha had quickly become the foster parent of Whitney in 2005, but it wasn’t until 2010 that the adoption became official.

“With adoption, because it’s a permanent situation, you always want to take some time and make sure it’s right for everyone,” Emily explained about the length of time to complete the adoption. “Plus, it just takes awhile for all the licensing to be approved.

“What makes us different from other agencies is that we provide specialized foster care and adoption, serving only children with intellectual or developmental disabilities,” Emily noted. “Part of our success rate is because we work hard to match children to the right home. We have a very rigorous evaluation process that we do with each potential foster care family, and it can take anywhere from three months to a year for them to be licensed as a foster care or adoptive parent.”

The adoption of Whitney is just one of several recent successes for Little City’s Foster Care and Adoption program, a part of the organization’s ChildBridge services. Last November, twins were adopted by a family, and the Foster Care and Adoption team expects to complete several more adoptions in the coming months. Little City currently works with 50 foster families, 28 of whom have adopted or have pending adoptions.
Making a Difference

Weaving together fashion and compassion: The Little City Fashion Show

Jo George and Susanna Negovan as co-chairs. Ms. Negovan, the editor-in-chief of Michigan Avenue Magazine, served as last year’s Master of Ceremonies. Neiman Marcus will serve as the exclusive fashion retailer for the show.

Although collections by John Schultz, Mira Couture, and other top Chicago designers took center stage at last year’s event, they were not alone. The talented artists from The Center for the Arts at Little City watched wide-eyed in the audience as their handcrafted purses and other pieces were carried by professional models from Ford Models down the runway.

For this event, the Little City artists will prepare exclusive centerpiece designs to once more showcase their talents. Other items designed by the artists will be available for purchase during the cocktail reception and throughout the evening.

Tickets are available for $175 each. All proceeds from the tickets and cash raffle will benefit the programs and services of Little City.

For more information about this event, please visit www.littlecity.org/fashion or contact Adam Meade at ameade@littlecity.org or (847) 221-7807.

Little City turned 50 on Oct. 1, 2009. The following evening, on Oct. 2, Little City Foundation kicked off its year-long anniversary celebration in style. After a several-decade hiatus, the Little City Fashion show was brought back to life by a committee of 40 talented and fashion-forward women. More than 650 supporters were in attendance.

The committee is again hard at work to ensure another successful show to display the hottest looks for Summer 2011.

On Friday, March 4, 2011, Little City will once again hold its unique Fashion Show dinner at The Hilton Chicago. Doors open at 6:00 p.m, followed by dinner service at 7:00 p.m, concluding with the show. The event will be chaired by Little City Board member Eleni Bousis, with Mary

Helping Hands

Little City extends its appreciation to the following groups, and countless individuals, for their recent volunteer work with us:

- Allstate Insurance Company
- AMCOL International
- Broadspire, a Crawford Company
- Fishman Public Relations
- Hoffman Estates High School
- Motorola
- Willow Creek Community Church

For detailed descriptions of these recent projects or to learn more about getting involved, visit www.littlecity.org/volunteer or contact Kathryn Nelson, Manager of Volunteer Services, at (847) 221-7804.

Leave a lasting legacy through The Heritage Society of Little City

The Heritage Society was established for individuals like you who wish to create an enduring legacy and provide for future generations through provisions in your estate plan. Declaring a contribution to Little City makes a commitment to the future and demonstrates confidence in the present.

As Little City plans for inevitable and unpredictable challenges in the coming years, your commitment will provide much appreciated support of Little City’s growing needs. Knowing your plans for the future will help Little City proceed with its vital work.

For more information on The Heritage Society and how you can make a commitment to Little City’s future, contact Maureen Coates at (847) 221-7882 or mcoates@littlecity.org
Community Partners

Thank you to the following funders for their generous grants that support the work and mission of Little City:

- After School Matters, Inc.
- Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
- Best Buy Children’s Foundation
- Boeing Company
- Cubs Care Chicago
- Dell Foundation
- Delta Dental
- Illinois Arts Council
- The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
- Northern Trust Company
- Omron Foundation
- Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation
- Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation
- Yusen Air & Sea Service

The above referenced grants were received in FY11.

Serve your community while being served.

We have teamed up with Celebrated Chefs, a unique partnership that unites Chicago’s best restaurants with supporters like you. Simply dine at one of Celebrated Chefs participating Chicagoland restaurants and 5% of your bill will be donated to our cause. Membership is free and includes a complimentary cookbook.

Enroll at www.celebratedchefs.com, select Little City Foundation as your designated charity and support us every time you dine!
Heart of the City

Hundreds ring in the “Next 50 Years” at Annual Gala Dinner

Surrounded by the amazing sights and sounds of science and technology, more than 400 friends of Little City Foundation gathered Nov. 6 for the 51st Annual Dinner Gala at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Chaired by Board member Matt Schubert, this year’s event focused on “the next 50 years” of Little City’s endeavors and how our supporters can help make that future happen.

Before taking a look into the future, dinner guests were treated to a video that underscored the many events and celebrations held during Little City’s Golden Anniversary year, which ran from Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2010.

Some of the video highlights included: the opening of the Center for Health & Wellness; several first-time events held during the Anniversary year, including the Little City Fashion Show, Miles for Smiles 5K Walk and the launching of “Little City TV” on Chicago cable; an advocacy outreach to State Legislators in Springfield; a Candidates Forum at Little City; and the recent building of the children’s playground on the Palatine Campus.

However, the most poignant moment of the evening was the stirring speech by Heather Figlioli, who placed her son Vincent at Little City in 2009.

“The decision to place our son [at Little City] was one of the toughest choices we have ever made,” Heather told the audience. “But it has also been one of the most rewarding and life-saving experiences for our entire family.

“Little City has given us hope, a fresh start. Life doesn’t seem quite so overwhelming, and while I have managed to save my own family, at the same time I have acquired a new one,” she said with a broad smile.

“Everyone at Little City, beginning with the Executive Director, the therapists, the caregivers in the home and even the maintenance staff, all of them know my son’s name. They greet him with a smile, high-five or a hug when he is seen walking on campus.

“This kind of behavior cannot be generated or manufactured,” she noted. “It is because everyone Little City hires has a love and dedication to this particular population, just as they would their own family.”

When Heather concluded her remarks, the quiet within the museum’s rotunda quickly was filled with enthusiastic applause and a standing ovation.

“As evidenced by the rousing, standing ovation, Heather’s vivid and personal account about the real-life challenges faced by families in raising a child with disabilities really opened the hearts and minds of everyone seated at the gala,” stated Shawn Jeffers, Little City’s Executive Director.

Later, Shawn officially opened the Rotunda floor at the Museum of Science and Industry to the guests, who then had more than two hours to view the different exhibits. The most popular was the exciting “Science Storms” exhibit, which Rachel Hellenga, another parent of a child at Little City, helped create and design for the museum.

Hundreds of guests filed the Museum of Science and Industry in support of children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Along with Joe, the other advocates who attended the conference were John King, who serves as the President of the group; Petula “PT” Tompkins, who is the Vice President; Chris Keiser, who serves as treasurer; Karen Quandt, who is the Assistant Advisor; and members Mary Jo Fields, Josh Marabanian and Jimmy Stelmach.

During the two-day conference, the advocates along with staff members Janice Prunier-King, Dan DeLisle and Rick Johnson attended several break-out sessions. The topics ranged from “Living in the Community” to “Sexual Self-Advocacy” to “It’s Your Life: Dream Big!”

In addition, the attendees heard from several people with developmental disabilities and their accomplishments. Many of Little City’s team had their own chance to “speak out” individually during the conference as well, taking part in an “Open Mic” session following lunch the first day.

The group also participated in a question-and-answer session with Lilia Teninty, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Lilia noted that while the division is trying to improve “person-centered services” for those in the state, “we need to improve the systems [the state] has in place to enable people with disabilities to get the care they need,” she said.

On the downside, Lilia warned that because of the state’s budget deficit, “things will probably get worse before they get better,” she said. “There probably will be more cuts in developmental disabilities because of the financial state we are in.”

“We learned a lot, and we want to thank The Arc for helping cover much of our cost for the conference,” said Little City’s Joe Dus. “We had our largest group go this year, and we hope to take even more next year.”

Little City Advocacy Group “Speaks up”

With the goal of working, learning and improving their advocacy skills, eight Little City residents took part in the “Speak Up, Speak Out” conference in Springfield in early November.

The conference, sponsored by the Illinois Division on Developmental Disabilities and The Arc, had over 400 people in attendance, making this year’s event the largest ever since the conference began five years ago.

“This is a chance for us to learn, to meet other people who are doing the same thing around the state, and to determine what we can use in the future when reaching out to government officials,” said Joe Dus, who lives in the Parker Home in Schaumburg and serves as the Advisor for the Little City Advocacy Group.

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It’s fast-break time – Bulls Night is Jan. 20

One-hundred Little City supporters, including residents and staff, will storm the United Center on Jan. 20 to cheer the Chicago Bulls to victory against the Dallas Mavericks.

Besides cheering on the Chicago Bulls, our fans will also raise the roof in honor of the Little City Bulls basketball teams, which are enjoying a great 2010-11 season. The Little City Bulls will hit the court at approximately 6 p.m. to shoot a few hoops with Benny the Bull and former Bulls player Bill Wennington, who now does the radio broadcasts for the team. Bill has been a great supporter to Little City, taking part in many past events.

If you would like to join in on the fun for the annual “Little City Night @ the United Center,” contact Phyllis Shipbaugh at (847) 221-7892 or pshipbaugh@littlecity.org. Tickets are $46 per person.
Little City Fashion Show
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011
Chicago Hilton,
720 S. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago
Do you have a passion for fashion? Watch the hottest trends come down the runway while supporting the vital programming of Little City Foundation. Visit www.littlecity.org/fashion to sponsor or attend this one-of-a-kind event.

Little City Food Frenzy
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011
Loft on Lake,
1366 W. Lake St., Chicago
Join Little City’s Young Professionals Group at their annual networking and fundraising event. Enjoy delicacies from some of Chicago’s hottest restaurants.
Visit www.littlecity.org/ypg/frenzy for more information on participating restaurants and to purchase your tickets today.

Little City Tag Days
APRIL 15, 16 and 17, 2011
Various Chicago and suburban locations
Want to make a difference in the lives of those at Little City while interacting with your own community? Then mark your calendar now for the 2011 Smiles Tag Days weekend! Usually held in the month of September, we’re looking to recruit hundreds of volunteers to pass out Smiles Stickers and collect donations from fellow community members at storefronts and street corners from April 15 – 17. Just a few hours of your time can make a huge impact!
More information on locations and available time slots will be announced soon on our website and Facebook page. “Like us” on Facebook today to be the first to know more about our upcoming tagging campaign. For questions, contact Maureen Coates at (847) 221-7882 or mcoates@littlecity.org.

SAVE THE DATES!
LITTLE CITY INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011
Twin Orchard Country Club
22353 Old McHenry Rd., Long Grove, IL
LITTLE CITY BOOK FAIR
AUGUST 19-21, 2011
Harper College
1200 W. Algonquin Rd., Palatine, IL

Giving is the MAIN EVENT
Don’t let your unused theater, sporting event and concert tickets go to waste when you cannot use them. Donate them to Little City!
We’ve partnered with Tix4Cause.com, a ticket exchange website allowing ticketholders to sell unwanted tickets and donate 100% of the proceeds to Little City.
Visit www.tix4cause.com to list or purchase tickets today. For more information on Tix4Cause, contact Dana Rice at (847) 221-7806 or drice@littlecity.org.

Little City Foundation
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Palatine, IL 60067
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