L I T · T L E C I T · Y

noun. a vital and vibrant community enriching the lives of those with disabilities.
define

verb. to understand, explain or identify the essential qualities required to accomplish a mission filled with optimal outcomes.
As we celebrated Little City’s 55th year of service, together with friends like you, we have redefined the “New Little City” – a vital and vibrant community offering a comprehensive scope of services and amenities to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our campus is alive with stories of stunning successes and triumphs.

Throughout this annual report, we invite you to explore the lives of our children and adults impacted by our programs. Little City is more than a place with a mission. It is a caring community filled with options, opportunities, hopes and dreams.

The Home-Based Support Services program is completing an impressive Silver Anniversary – 25 years of service – in linking families to needed resources, therapies and educational advocacy. The Center for Employment & Business Opportunities program enabled 155 individuals with disabilities to find and maintain employment this year. The Center for the Arts continues to produce award-winning “Art Brut,” which has been exhibited around the world.

Little City continues to identify and expand services to advance our mission. We are pleased to announce the opening of the first two of six planned homes in the Duffey Family Children’s Village – Larry’s Home and the Foglia Home – which recently became home to 16 children with autism.

At Little City, there is no finish line. Our goal is to make tomorrow better than today. The only constant is our desire to change and improve. We do so by continually making great strides to further enrich the lives of those we serve and to help them flourish.

Thank you for your support, your time and your talent as we continue to grow in our mission and define and refine the “New Little City.”

Yours in service,

Shawn E. Jeffers, Executive Director
Matthew B. Schubert, Board President
Advocacy is defined as “active support” — which is the primary function of Little City’s Home-Based Support Services Program that preserves families, strengthens relationships and enhances families’ well-being.

Angela is 20 years old and receives Home-Based Supports from Little City. She is a huge fan of Gordon Ramsay, and she loves Disney characters.

While in high school, Angela sang in the chorus and was on the pep squad. Since entering her transition program at school, she has been employed at a food pantry, worked at the front desk of her local YMCA, and she is currently working at a TJ Maxx/Home Goods store.

One of the biggest challenges parents face is the lack of understanding from others of what they experience daily. The Home-Based Support Services program lets parents know that they are not alone in what they may be experiencing. There may be struggles with the educational system, diet, exercise and in many other activities of daily life.

STAFF PROVIDE GOAL-ORIENTED, PERSON-CENTERED SERVICES IN THE HOME OR IN A COMMUNITY SETTING.

Services are consistent with current best-practice models, which maintain individuals in the community while increasing competency in all areas of functioning. Certified professional staff provide goal-oriented, person-centered services in the home or in a community setting.

Home-Based Supports can include linkage to community services, educational advocacy, assistance with activities of daily living, counseling and training for family caregivers, and behavior intervention and treatment.

For adults, supports focus on social skills building, building friendships and teaching skills of daily living. The program collaboratively works with the Center for Employment & Business Opportunities to help link individuals to assessment, job coaching and employment.

The Home-Based Support Services program is celebrating its 25th anniversary and serves more than 110 families throughout the Chicagoland area each year. Individuals range in age from three to 45 years.
Home-based support services are available for children, adults, and youth transitioning into adulthood, like Angela.

Providing vital assistance individuals in need.
Volunteers are those who define the community

Little City is grateful for its friends and corporate partners who have beautified our campus, shared in activities with participants and supported athletes at Special Olympics competitions and other recreational activities over the last year.

More than 1,000 individual and group volunteers worked on one-time and ongoing projects, giving their time and skills to help support children and adults served at Little City. Hundreds helped with special events like the Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City, thanking walkers and manning the first-aid station. Many completed gardening and painting projects at Little City’s 15 community-integrated homes across DuPage and Cook County and on campus.

Little City has a baseball diamond again, thanks to the tireless efforts of many corporate groups and the youth from the Summer Youth Employment Program. The diamond was repositioned, reconstructed and beautified for an improved playing experience.

Special thanks to our friends and volunteers who helped define our community:

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Volunteering is a selfless act that is intended to promote goodness and improve everyday living.
of belonging; a feeling of fellowship that sharing common interests and goals.
Both Tony, Sr. and Tony, Jr. have much to celebrate this year. Not only do they share the same birthday, but they got the best present they could have wanted — to become a family again.

“Getting him home was a good feeling. It brought a lot of joy to me, to see him know that Mom may not be here but I’ve got my Dad,” expressed Tony, Sr.

The first six years of Tony, Jr.’s life were marked by turmoil and instability, eventually leading to his removal from his mother and placement into foster care. For the next two years, Tony, Sr. committed himself 100%, knowing he wanted to do right by his son. He actively engaged in therapy, where he learned new tools in order to become a stronger advocate for his son’s special needs.

Little City supported Tony, Sr. in finding employment and stable housing. Most importantly, Tony, Sr. never missed a visit with his son. Through these consistent efforts, Tony and Tony created a mutual bond based on love, affection and respect.

“I like the work Little City was doing. They had your back and walked me through it. They told me everything they were going to do. They stood there with me like a sister or a brother, and gave me a lot of knowledge. Without them I don’t think I could have done it,” commented Tony, Sr.

When Tony, Jr. is asked what it’s like living with his Dad, he says, “Good,” with a big smile on his face.

Little City’s Center for Family and Community-Based Services recruits and supports foster/adoptive families to provide loving homes for children with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Last year more than 50 children were served.
TONY, SR. AND TONY, JR. ARE HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AGAIN.

determination by continuing to despite obstacles and challenges.
THESE ARTISTS illustrate that creativity has no disability with no formal art education or training, each transforms his vision into inspiring artistic works.

Outside Art or Art Brut, meaning “art uncooked,” is pure, powerful and meaningful. This art is produced entirely for individual fulfillment, without regard to exhibition, fame or monetary reward. It is defined as artwork by artists who are not formally trained, and are working outside of the art world.

Little City’s Center for the Arts has given individuals with disabilities the opportunity to explore their creative talents, allowing for a new channel of expression.

Professional art facilitators work with Little City artists each day, helping individuals to push the edge of the artistic envelope and to strive for innovation. They may suggest that a piece of artwork is finished when they see it has reached an optimal point in its development. This is an important function, as so many of our artists are more engaged with the act of creating than they are with the physical item being created.

Little City artists are showcased in more than a dozen exhibits across the country each year. As a group and as individuals, our artists have exhibited in museums and galleries around the world, and their work has become part of permanent collections of museums, corporations and individual collectors.

A one-of-a-kind documentary, “Share My Kingdom,” provides a glimpse into the compelling life histories and the artistic creations of three artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Harold Jeffries, Wayne Mazurek and Luke Tauber. With no formal art education or training, each transforms his vision into inspiring artistic works.

In 2014, “Share My Kingdom” was screened at the Athens International Film and Video Festival, Athens, Ohio and at the Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival, Los Angeles, California, and at many local showings in the Chicago area.
of finding unconventional ways of feelings, experiences and imagination.
Home can be defined as “a place that is dear to one.” For Michael, a sunny 17-year-old who lives in the new Duffey Family Children’s Village, the Foglia Home is dear to him. He has lived at Little City for almost five years, formerly in the Spruce Home. Prior to his arrival at Little City, Michael lived in his family’s community of Bridgeview with his mother, father and younger brother.

In addition to swimming, Michael enjoys playing with his toys (Transformers) playing video games and spending time with his family. During his time here, Michael has shown tremendous personal growth and has developed warm relationships with peers and staff.

The “New Little City” continues to grow in its mission of enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities. The Duffey Family Children’s Village opened in January of 2015. Two of six planned, state-of-the-art, eight-bedroom residences are now home to 16 children, including Michael.

Funded by the generosity of the John M. and Becky Duffey family, Vincent and Patricia Foglia of the Foglia Family Foundation, the Larry Rudis Special Needs Trust, as well as hundreds of dedicated donors, the homes include features specifically designed for children with moderate to profound autism.

Innovative sensory rooms serve high stimulus functions such as art, music, crafts and psychomotor activities, while at other times accommodate low stimulus activities like speech therapy and one-on-one instruction. Specifically chosen paint colors, lighting and flooring materials reflect the function of the rooms. The new homes include a visiting room to provide a quiet place for parents to visit with their children.

Little City provides residential services to 52 children and 159 adults. Multiple living arrangements are available with a variety of support levels and include: 15 community-integrated homes, community living apartments, supportive living apartments and campus-based residences.
person lives and has a sense of belonging; being in harmony with the surroundings.
Employment has been defined as a critical component for most adults to build full and productive lives. For the youth and adults at Little City, success is the result of hard work and preparation.

Henry has lived at Little City for three years. Shortly after moving to Little City, he got a job at Chick-fil-A. Henry likes getting a pay check so that he can treat his mother by taking her out or buying her gifts. He loves his mother deeply and enjoys making her happy.

A huge fan of Elvis, Henry has a large Elvis movie and music collection. He has performed as an Elvis impersonator in Las Vegas, and has the pictures to prove it!

Little City has decades of experience in expanding our participants’ education, strengthening their self-reliance, and promoting the gainful employment of Little City residents and community members. Individuals are encouraged to take charge of their lives and learn the importance of working and interacting with others at the Center for Employment & Business Opportunities.

As participants take on responsibility, they have a support network they can confidently turn to for help. Staff at the Center for Employment provide the necessary support, motivation, skills training and hands-on experience needed for participants to successfully secure and maintain employment.

Little City helps employers understand work styles and varying abilities of our individuals, which breaks down commonly held stereotypes, and highlights the benefits of employing our extraordinary youth and adults.

The Center for Employment & Business Opportunities partners with more than 60 companies throughout the Metropolitan Chicago area, which have employed more than 90 full and part-time workers from Little City this year.
HENRY'S FAVORITE PART OF HIS JOB IS INTERACTING WITH THE CUSTOMERS AT CHICK-FIL-A.

directing one’s hopes or satisfied and fulfilled individual.
Lizzie has lived at Little City for two years. This energetic 19 year-old loves the band Air Supply, the TV show Full House, Disney princesses, tea parties and birthday parties. Creating art and cutting out hearts are some of her favorite activities. Lizzie communicates using vocalizations and gestures. During the school day, she is also learning to use a communication device.

Serving students ages 3-21 with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, Little City’s ChildBridge Center for Education provides progressive services for children with severe and profound needs. Both children who live at Little City and those living within surrounding communities are welcomed at the school.

Led by a National Board Certified Teacher, Little City’s therapeutic day school is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. Integrated academic and life skills, along with clinical and transitional services are available to help children reach their goals.

In collaboration with each child’s home school district, the day school develops an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for each student. Personalized therapies and intervention services address the student’s unique educational needs.

Little City provides computer-based training, assistive technology devices and augmentative communication therapies (such as visual systems, sign language, AAC Devices, etc.). All students have access to iPads within their classrooms that are customized to their learning and communication styles.

The therapeutic day school has expanded, and now has an increased student capacity of 50 students. The school has more than tripled in size, from 3,000 square feet to over 10,000 square feet, adding five additional classrooms, a life skills lab, vocational lab, library/media center, two therapy rooms and a sensory gym. These enhancements will provide a new, dynamic educational routine for Little City students.
The classrooms at the therapeutic day school are specifically designed to meet the needs of Lizzie and every other student.
leadership noun. organizing and enlisting the aid and support of a group of people in order to achieve a common goal.

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“Our compassion stems from the inspirational stories of success and accomplishment of the individuals served by Little City. We are proud to be a part of making a difference in their lives, giving them the opportunity to live fulfilling lives.”

—ELENI & JIMMY BOUSIS
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– JULIE BELL
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The Russell & Frieda De Yong Foundation

“Little City is a top notch organization and has provided an excellent home and resources for my son, Bernie, for over 35 years. I am so proud to have introduced my good friends Matt (Board President) and Tina Schubert, to the Little City family.”

– CAROL THORS

philanthropy noun.
for the purpose of making life
ADVOCATE’S CLUB ($500-999)

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The Morris and Helen Messing Family Charitable Fund
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Laura Minster
Mary Ann Moore
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Randy Murray
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*denotes deceased

a selfless act or gift made better for other people.
Corporate, Foundation & Individual donors

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The Visionary Society honors the lifetime individual givers of over $50,000.

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- Vera Carlson*
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- Bernice Simon*
- Melvin J.* & Dora Soberg
- Eleni, Bobby & Taso Tzotzolis
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- Hal R. & Cindy Wolken

*denotes deceased
Legacies and Bequests come to Little City as a result of the gracious philanthropy of individuals who made the important decision to include us in their estate plans. We are immensely grateful for their generosity, vision, and life legacy to support our mission. To learn more about planned giving, please contact India Alexis Ehioba, CFRE, at 847-221-7809 or iehioba@littlecity.org.

**REALIZED LEGACIES & BEQUESTS**

The Frances Armitage Trust  
Estate of Isabelle N. Atz  
Thomas A. Barron Revocable Living Trust  
Estate of Vera L. Carlson  
Elaine Amsterdam Cohen Trust  
Estate of Robert Dachman  
Arthur E. Distasio Living Trust  
1999 Donald and Lorraine Dratwa Family Trust  
Edward P. Drumm Trust  
Edelstein Charitable Trust  
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The Fineran Family Trust  
Rita Franzen Trust  
Thomas P. & Etta L. Garrity Trust  
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Edward A. Ginsburg Trust  
The Lewis A. & Ruth L. Hare Trust  
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Arthur and Helen Henry Memorial Fund Trust  
Alfred Henry Trust  
Betty Hjelm Revocable Trust  
Harold R. Hjelm Revocable Trust  
Bernice Hyman Trust  
Estate of Monty J. Hyman  
Dorothy L. Kasch Declaration of Trust  
Theodore P. Kendzior Trust  
The Lehner Estate  
Harry F. Masser Trust  
Estate of Helen McCabe  
Estate of Lydia Beck Murphy  
Josephine Rathje Charitable Remainder Trust  
Shirley R. Reed Charitable Remainder Unitrust  
The Dorothy Rose Living Trust  
Theodore I. Salmon Trust  
Della Serota Trust  
Sidney Serota Trust  
Bernice R. Simon Trust  
The Slaninka Family Trust  
Richard J. Tennes Trust  
Zinette S. Yacker Trust

**HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS**

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Julie Bell  
Vernon & Mertle* Carson  
Robson & India Alexis Ehioba  
Charles (Gil) & Betty Fergus  
Alexander Gianaras  
Ronald & Marci Holzer  
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"denotes deceased
Since 1959, Little City has provided innovative programs and services that foster development and personal fulfillment for the children and adults it serves. To do so, Little City relies on government funding and direct contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations.

In fact, 85 cents of every dollar directly support first-class programs and services for hundreds of children and adults in need. Little City must raise an average of $10,000/individual/year* to maintain the quality of life desired for each child and adult at Little City. Beyond the state-required minimal standard of care, Little City’s quality-of-life standards encompass programs and services that foster a life of health, recreation, education and culture that protect one’s rights, beliefs, choices and aspirations.*

*The shortfall is due primarily to less than full reimbursement from the State of Illinois for services rendered, but also due to Little City’s commitment to a quality of life.

The pie charts provide a breakdown of Little City’s operating expenses and revenues for Fiscal Year 2014 dating July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

**Little City for Community Development (LCCD), which includes Little City HUD properties.
Little City

MAIN CAMPUS: 1760 W. Algonquin Rd. | Palatine, IL 60067 | 847-358-5510
EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 650 E. Algonquin Rd. | Suite 104 | Schaumburg, IL 60173 | 847-358-5510
CHICAGO OFFICE: 700 N. Sacramento | Suite 201 | Chicago, IL 60612 | 773-265-1539
info@littlecity.org | www.littlecity.org

Community & Support

CONTRIBUTIONS
Edward J. Hockfield 847-221-7810 ehockfield@littlecity.org

PLANNED GIVING
India Alexis Ehioha, CFRE 847-221-7809 iehioha@littlecity.org

GIFTS IN-KIND
Ann Bechtloff 847-221-7810 abechtloff@littlecity.org

EVENTS
Phyllis Shipbaugh 847-221-7892 pshipbaugh@littlecity.org

VOLUNTEERING
Catrina Johnson 847-221-7804 cjohnson@littlecity.org

ChildBridge Programs & Services

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND IN-HOME PERSONAL & FAMILY SUPPORTS
Intake & Admissions Coordinator 847-221-7859

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION SERVICES
Patricia Malloy 773-916-4101 pmalloy@littlecity.org

THERAPEUTIC DAY SCHOOL
Karrie Dean 847-221-7728 kdean@littlecity.org

LifePath Adult Services

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
Intake & Admissions Coordinator 847-221-7859

DAY & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Intake & Admissions Coordinator 847-221-7859

CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Frank Tumino 847-221-7161 cfa@littlecity.org
A vibrant and vital community, Little City continues to redefine itself. Join us, as we grow in our mission to make each day better than the last for children and adults with disabilities.