by now, you have likely heard that Little City and Countryside Association for People with Disabilities have merged to become one organization. But what do you know about Countryside? This merger was not simply a case of a “little” Little City joining the family. Countryside Association offers unique programs different from those at Little City, giving this new Little City more robust and encompassing services.

Countryside was founded in 1954 at the Shirley Road location it still operates today in Palatine. The buildings have expanded, but the mission to provide meaningful work for people with developmental disabilities a chance to earn a paycheck while working in the safe environment of the Countryside Center and under the care of the staff.

There are opportunities for people of all skill levels, whether it is forming parts and components or assembling packages. Corporations look to Countryside Center participants to do the finishing work they need. And while the state is mandating that this type of beneficial work be phased out over the next few years, Little City is committed to finding the work and volunteer opportunities these members of our Little City family excel at.

There is also the Lakeside Center in Waukegan that offers the same programs for people with developmental disabilities in the Lake County area. Combined, the Countryside and Lakeside centers serve more than 350 people, not including their Home-Based and Respite programs.

Like Little City, Countryside also brings a community employment program. There are currently 27 individuals who have found jobs at places like department stores, grocery stores and pizza places just to name a few.

And while Little City has a strong focus on children with our Duffey Family Children’s Village, ChildBridge School and Foster & Adoption program, Countryside brings more of a focus on seniors to our programs. Countryside has a track record of serving one of the fastest growing populations in seniors with developmental disabilities, offering volunteer opportunities, physical and mental exercises and exclusive space for them to interact with their peers. In fact, seniors often complete more than 50 combined hours of community service each month, whether it is making blankets for animal shelters, writing cards or other activities.

The unique Respite Program Countryside brings to Little City allows parents of those with developmental disabilities opportunities to run errands or just take a break while a qualified professional comes over to care for their loved one.

With these combined services and strengths, Little City and Countryside are truly better together. We hope you explore the new opportunities of the new Little City and discover all we have to offer.
Little City is on a breakthrough journey with the Countryside Association merger, further expansion of the Duffey Family Children’s Village, our increased role in adult services as well as foster care and adoption. We are doing more for individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities than ever before.

But there is a flip side that mutes our excitement and is cause for great concern. As a leader in our industry, we continue to pursue excellence in every facet of the organization, and that includes being at the forefront in advocating for the freedom of our participants and their families to choose the best options for their future. In the face of legislative action that has redefined communities such as Little City as being unacceptable, even for those who freely choose to be here, we find ourselves fighting for our own life, as well.

Adding to that challenge is the fact that all organizations such as Little City are now designated as being in a ‘high scrutiny’ category. The inference is negative and deceptive. The reality is that we have always lived with stringent agency oversight and compliance, and our high standards continue to make Little City the community of choice of discerning, scrutinizing families and guardians who only want the best for their loves ones.

As we work to optimize the opportunities before us, there are growing pains that can be addressed. With more staff and additional facilities, every gift will have an exponentially positive affect. Whether it’s volunteering, donating goods and services, such as furniture and technology, or making a financial contribution, resource building will help drive our organization forward towards a secure, sustainable future.

Little City is a special place and a real community with a legacy of meaningful relationships. We need to look no further than the story of our beloved Bill Henry and his family. Bill sadly passed away this September at 60 years old. His memory lives on for everyone who knew and loved him. Bill’s older brother also lived at Little City and his parents were founding members.

Our future is bright and Little City will continue to grow the vision that started in 1959 through 2016 and beyond thanks to families like the Henrys and supporters who have taken us into their hearts.

With deep appreciation,

Shawn E. Jeffers
Executive Director

Little City Welcomes Five Former Countryside Board Members

Little City is pleased to welcome five new members to our Board of Directors.

All five members served on the Countryside Association for People with Disabilities Board of Directors and decided to continue their service with Little City after the merger.

Heather Ritter is the former board president of Countryside Association from 2011 until the time of the merger. She played an integral part in bringing the organizations together and has already used her experience in human resources and media at the Daily Herald to benefit Little City.

Jack Shum served on the Countryside board from 2012 until the time of the merger. He is president of Jack Shum Development and has more than 40 years of experience in the real estate development sector. He has been a great resource as we search for a new building for the Countryside Center.

Greg Burns is Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Allstate Insurance Company in Northbrook. He brings more than 20 years of experience in human resource strategy, change management and talent management to the Board of Directors.

Andrew Richmond is Vice President of Cornerstone Research in Chicago. He has more than 24 years of litigation experience and has led forensic accounting investigations for boards, special committees and management.

Lianne Paterson is a school psychologist at District 14. She joined the Countryside board in 2015 after previously serving at organizations including Special Education Parent Network, National Autism Association and Autism Society of Illinois.
Blackhawks Help Make LCI Golf Classic a Big Success

Little City’s 53rd annual Little City Invitational Golf Classic was a tremendous success, raising over $280,000 for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Approximately 160 golfers gathered at the renowned Twin Orchard Country Club on Aug. 22nd for the Little City event, recognized as one of the most prominent and established charity golf tournaments in the Greater Chicago area.

In memory of Morrie Kellman, creator of the Little City Golf Classic, the organization honored John F. McDonough, president and CEO of the Chicago Blackhawks. The Morrie Kellman Humanitarian Award is presented annually to a friend of Little City and the community who embodies Mr. Kellman’s spirit of giving.

The partnership between the Chicago Blackhawks and Little City has already proven to be a big win for people with developmental disabilities thanks to John F. McDonough’s passion and commitment to Little City’s mission.

In addition to offering several Chicago Blackhawks game day packages that raised thousands of dollars for Little City, McDonough and the Blackhawks also contributed to Little City’s Fund-A-Need, a sensory and therapeutic gym.

“John F. McDonough and the Chicago Blackhawks have been leaders in supporting important causes in the Chicago area for years,” said Little City Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “We’re extremely proud to recognize John F. McDonough’s dedication to Little City and look forward to a strong relationship with John and the Chicago Blackhawks for years to come.”

This year’s LCI also featured a very special guest speaker: Little City Special Olympian Ciara Craig. Ciara delivered a beautiful speech about what Little City means to her to a packed dining room crowd and received a standing ovation in return.

The memorable evening also included silent and live auctions, highlighted by a generous $10,000 bid during the live auction.

Little City would like to thank all its sponsors including Birdie Sponsors: RSM US LLP and The PrivateBank; Par Sponsors: The Chicago Blackhawks, Breakthru Beverage Illinois, Denton’s, Timothy Desmond, Fifth Third Bank, Gianaras Family Foundation, The Hal Wolken Family & Sonic Drive-In’s, Hockfield/Rose Families, Keystone Capital, MB Financial Bank, Mesirow Financial, Reyes Holdings LLP, Winsttrust, Wipfli LLP and Zurich; Golf Ball Sponsor: Wipfli LLP; Golf Cap Sponsors: The Chicago Blackhawks and The PrivateBank.
**Making a Difference**

Discover and Chicago Cares Bring 250 Volunteers to Little City

Little City gratefully hosted 250 volunteers from Discover and Chicago Cares who made needed upgrades to our Little City campus in Palatine.

The volunteers, who came to the campus on Sept. 9, completed a variety of tasks including building picnic tables, constructing planter beds, painting sheds, assisting with vinyl teardown and preparing for future renovations.

“Without the support of gracious volunteers like those from Discover and Chicago Cares, Little City would not be able to provide the high-quality care and safe environment we enjoy,” said Shawn Jeffers, Executive Director of Little City, “It is inspiring to see so many people come out to help make life a little better for all of our residents at Little City.”

Little City was also proud to provide space for the volunteers to help the worthy causes of Children’s Home + Aide. Volunteers used Little City space to create seat cushions, small planter boxes and hygiene kits that will be delivered to Children’s Home + Aide locations.

“We were proud to partner with Little City this year in bringing more than 250 Discover volunteers from our Payments team to support such a great organization,” said Matthew Towson, Director of Community Affairs for Discover. “We hope that our work makes a real difference for the children and adults at Little City and look forward to working with them again in the future.”

Discover generously donated nearly all the materials needed for the volunteer day activities. National estimates show organizations in Illinois save $25.34 per hour for each volunteer that donates their time.

The large volunteer event was part of the Discover Cares program where nearly 70 percent of the Company’s Riverwoods’ workforce participates in various community service projects throughout the year.

**In Memoriam: Bill Henry**

Little City fondly remembers longtime resident Bill Henry, who passed away Sept. 6th at the age of 60. Bill had deep family roots in our community. His parents, Alfred and Helen, were founding members of Little City and his brother Arthur also was a longtime resident.

Bill became known around Little City for his joyous spirit and finding pleasure in the simple things. A sunny day and a fresh hair cut would be all he needed to be as happy as could be. He even urged his fellow housemates to ask for haircuts more frequently, knowing the more people asked, the quicker he could get his haircut.

Sports was his thing. Bill was a fan, especially of the Bears, and attending any sporting event was always a great time.

He was usually seen around Little City wearing his team’s colors, which always attracted attention, but not as much as his engaging personality did. Bill had his group, and they loved each other. They were very tight and always together.

Bill was also a proud brother, uncle and great uncle. He is survived by a sister, three nieces, two great-nieces, a great-nephew and many others who loved him. Family, friends and Little City staff had the opportunity to celebrate Bill’s life and share cherished memories at a beautiful memorial service at Chicago Jewish Funerals in Buffalo Grove.

Little City is eternally grateful for the profound influence the entire Henry family has had on our organization and we will remember Bill with warmth and great affection.
Whenever something big needs to happen, there are usually a number of heroes who quietly and privately come to a decision to help. Abraham and Judith Bohrer are two of those heroes.

For over 40 years, the Bohrers have called Little City home to their son Mitchell Bohrer. “Over the years we continued to appreciate all that Little City does for Mitchell. My wife Judith and I were moved to do something special. We had included Little City in our estate plans years ago by setting up and funding an IRA with Little City as the beneficiary,” said Abe Bohrer. “I shared with Little City my decision and felt good that a future gift would come to Little City when I passed away. “We did talk to someone at Little City about making a gift using the IRA Rollover tax advantages. Then we learned of the dollar-for-dollar matching that would come from the Coleman Foundation.” Abe said. “We decided to make a significant gift to Little City today when we could double the impact, and see the transformation of the gift when we attended the groundbreaking event for a new home in Little City’s Duffey Family Children’s Village.

“We both liked the idea of being able to see the impact of our gift and perhaps meet the people whose lives will be changed.”

“Everyone at Little City greatly appreciates the generosity of the Bohrer family and believes it will inspire others for many years to come,” said Ed Hockfield, Chief Development Officer at Little City.

If you would like more information about the many benefits and tax advantages of IRA Rollover gifts or other ways to include Little City in your estate plans, please visit our website at www.littlecitygift.org or call Ed Hockfield at (847) 221-7880.

The Donor’s Corner
The Joy of Giving…Today!

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

- $99perroom.com
- Altia
- Art Showcase Volunteers
- Astellas
- AT&T
- Chicago Cares
- Comcast
- Cornelius Inc.
- Discover
- Eagle Scout Colin Ziomek
- Earthpaint.org
- Experian
- Foresters Financial
- Hands on Suburban Chicago
- Keller Williams Realty
- Kohl’s
- Liberty Mutual
- Little City Invitational Golf Volunteers
- Little City’s Junior Board
- Long Grove Community Church
- Nielsen
- Northbridge Preparatory School
- Omron
- PFG
- Rock the Night 5k Volunteers
- Rust Oleum
- Southminster Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
- Special Olympic Volunteers
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Zurich NA

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

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

- Arc of Illinois
- Barrington Junior Women’s Club
- Henrietta Lange Burk Foundation
- Chicago Dental Society Foundation
- Citi
- Cole-Crone Foundation
- Cook County – Department of Planning and Development
- Elk Grove Township
- Hanover Township Mental Health Board
- Illinois Arts Council
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Jerome S. & Grace H. Murray Foundation
- Palatine Jaycees
- Palatine Township
- RJN Foundation
- Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation
- Sunstar Americas
- Richard and Frances Swiat Foundation
- The A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
- Washington Square Health Foundation
- Wauconda Township
- Zurich Foundation

The above referenced grants were awarded on or after April 2016.
Investment Companies Support Foster Care Program

For Little City’s foster children, Jackson National Asset Management and PPM America might as well be Santa’s Workshop.

The Chicago-based investment companies have become two of the biggest supporters of Little City’s Foster Care & Adoption program, especially at Christmas time when the companies purchase gifts for nearly half of all the children in the program.

This past Christmas, JNAM and PPM – which operate out of the same building in downtown Chicago – fulfilled the entire wish list of 50 children in the program, meaning they provided roughly 150 gifts including items such as iPads, bicycles and anything else the children had on their lists. They also provided $700 worth of gift cards for the program to use as needed. And Jackson and PPM are eager to do it again this winter.

“I would say we’re all surprised by how much their support has grown year after year,” said Emily Rawsky, director of Little City’s Foster Care & Adoption program. “We are just so appreciative of what has become an amazing partnership.”

The partnership started about five years ago when a former Little City employee told her husband – who works at Jackson – about the needs of the foster care and adoption program. That relationship continued to be built by Little City employees Amy Board and Tricia Molloy and expanded to include PPM. As time has gone on, JNAM and PPM not only provide gifts for half the children in the program at Christmas, but they find other ways to donate as well.

Jackson and PPM provide full funding for all that is needed to put on the annual Family Picnic to show appreciation for the parents, staff and kids in the program. Little City went from paying the full cost to nothing for the picnic thanks to the continued generosity of Jackson National Asset Management and PPM.

“We recognize and greatly appreciate the wonderful work Little City’s Foster Care & Adoption program is doing on a daily basis and we are thrilled to lend our support.” said Rylee Murray, Corporate Social Responsibility Program Manager for JNAM and PPM America. “Our associates look forward to playing Santa once again this year!”

Get Involved With Your PFG!

Little City PFG

The Little City Parent/Family/Guardian group is open to all Little City families. The group meets for large annual meetings twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall – with smaller group meetings every other month.

PFG Board President Gil Fergus said there many ways for people to get involved. Those interested can come to any of the board meetings or take part in the multiple fundraisers. The group currently has tickets available to buy or sell to friends and family for a fundraiser raffle. The other fundraiser is a golf outing in the spring.

Fergus said the main mission of the group is to be a voice in shaping the future of Little City and to support Little City and staff anyway it can.

Those interested in more information can contact PFG liaison Phyllis Shipbaugh at pshipbaugh@littlecity.org or (847) 221-7892.

Friends of Countryside

Friends of Countryside focuses primarily on the staff and clients of the Countryside Center in Palatine. Families can join for a yearly fee of $10 to help support the cause. The group meets the second Wednesday of every other month at 10 a.m. with the next one scheduled for Nov. 9 at the Countryside Center on 21154 W. Shirley Rd. in Palatine.

Friends of Countryside President Sue Benes said members do not need to attend meetings to be active. The group runs multiple fundraisers a year including wreath sales, Yankee Candle sales, candy sales and gift card sales among other campaigns. The proceeds help purchase items on the Countryside Center wish list as well as fund an annual dance and annual holiday party for the clients.

Those interested in getting involved can contact Kathy Kohnke roko987@yahoo.com or (847) 891-0210.

Both Gil Fergus and Sue Benes said there are plans to discuss the possibility of working together in the future.
Little City aims to provide the highest possible quality of life for the people it serves, including offering a variety of educational and recreational opportunities, wellness initiatives, options to explore creativity and more. Recent updates from around our “City” include:

Scholarship Award Recipient

Megan Debnar received the 2016 Alec K. Gianaras Scholarship to continue her education in helping those with developmental disabilities. Megan more than earned her scholarship opportunity since joining Little City in September 2014 as the first Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst. As the first person to ever hold that position at Little City, Megan helped build the Little City Behavior Support Department from the ground up with great results.

Marketing Team Honored With Awards

Little City was recently recognized with three awards from the CADM Tempo Awards, which celebrates the best and brightest of Chicago’s Multichannel Response Marketing Community. The highlight was receiving the competition’s most coveted and distinguished prize – the Past Presidents’ Award, which recognizes overall excellence in creativity and marketing innovation. In addition, Little City also received three awards from the prestigious Hermes Creative Awards international competition.

Rock the Night 5k

Hundreds of runners gathered outside Soldier Field on Aug. 26 for Little City’s Rock the Night 5K to help raise money for people with developmental disabilities.
Woodfield Mall Gift Wrapping Event

November 25 – December 24, 2016

Starting on Nov. 25, our residents will be at Woodfield Mall wrapping gifts every weekend until Dec. 11. Then, starting on Monday, Dec. 12, our residents will be at the mall every single day through Christmas Eve to make sure no gift goes unwrapped in the final weeks before the holidays. Our residents will be at the mall from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. most days and then until 9 p.m. in the final week before Christmas.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to meet our residents and give support to Little City. 50 percent of every dollar raised through the program will go to Little City.

#GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving that benefits thousands of organizations around the world.

Last year, more than 700,000 people raised over $116 million for great causes. We invite you to participate in this year’s event by donating online at www.littlecity.org on Tuesday, Nov. 29. You can follow us throughout the day on our social media account to see how your donations will help!

Every cent you give will go even further as the Coleman Foundation is once again partnering with Little City for the event.

And be sure to visit www.givingtuesday.org to learn about ways you can help promote this great event for Little City to your family and friends.