Supporting children with autism and other developmental disabilities is something my family is deeply passionate about,” commented Little City Board Member John Duffey. “We’re honored to be a part of making the vision for these specially designed homes for children with autism a reality, and hope the Village will inspire positive changes in the way our nation currently cares for children with autism and special needs.”

On April 12, 2013, Little City broke ground on its 56-acre campus in Palatine signaling the anticipated construction of the first two homes of the Duffey Family Children’s Village. The homes will be the first children’s homes built at Little City in more than three decades.

“We’re so grateful for the one million dollar leadership gift of John M. and Becky J. Duffey, significant support from Vincent W. and Patricia A. Foglia as well as the family of late Little City resident Larry Rudis, and the support of many other generous donors,” commented Board President Edward J. Hockfield.

“The Duffey Children’s Village is indeed a breakthrough in the design of home environments for children with autism,” added Hockfield.

The design of the Duffey Children’s Village at Little City incorporates the latest international research in autism offering sensory rooms, therapeutic playgrounds and other features while including the use of soothing paint colors, LED lighting, textures that promote tactile stimulation and much more.

“The Duffey Family Children’s Village is a premiere philanthropic opportunity for caring community members who want to be part of creating a brighter future for children with autism,” commented Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “We anticipate that the completion of the first two homes will establish a model that inspires others to join us in our vision to advance care for children with autism.”

In addition to its therapeutic features, the Duffey Village is seeking a LEED-Platinum rating for green design elements funded in substantial part by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. “Green technology such as geothermal radiant heat and solar will make the homes truly, state-of-the-art,” concluded Jeffers.
Executive Director’s Corner

“The world is a looking-glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it will in turn look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly kind companion.” — William Makepeace Thackeray

Little City Friends and Supporters: This month, I celebrated 10 years of service as Executive Director of Little City. At anniversaries and milestones, we’re forced to reflect and think back on the time passed, the achievements made and the plans for the next era.

In looking back on the past decade, I realize that my work has not gotten easier but instead has become more difficult as I aged. I contend that the difficulty is not a product of aging or diminishing capacity, but rather driven by learning more and gaining more experiences. It is through these experiences, the highs and lows that I have come to understand why I devote myself to this type of work—serving others. I do it for the highs: the moments when I am totally engrossed and everything within Little City Foundation is flowing and lives are being forever changed. That is why I am attracted to this work—the highs!

In the past 10 years, the board, staff, clients, families, volunteers and donors all have given me many “highs” through their commitment and service to others. We have weathered some very difficult moments, done what most thought was impossible. We are now well poised and positioned to conquer the challenges ahead. The past decade has not dampened my enthusiasm but instead has rekindled the fire in my belly to continue to give my very best toward the fulfillment of the Little City Foundation mission and destiny. My pledge to you, our friends and supporters is as follows:

• We will remain a leader in responsibly responding to the needs of people with disabilities!
• We will continue our efforts to radically and creatively respond to this challenging economic climate!
• We will fervently and passionately advocate for our individuals!
• We will educate and enlighten our surrounding communities!
• We will remain good stewards of our resources!
• We will stay true to our mission!

And we cannot do it without our supporters, family members and friends.

The hundreds of families at Little City are blessed. The next 10 years are sure to bring breakthroughs and advancements in the field of disabilities. Whether it is the home environment for children with autism, employment training for adults with disabilities, specialized education in a therapeutic day school or medical/oral healthcare tailored specifically for those we serve, we are on our way.

If someone gave me a glimpse of Little City today, 10 years ago, I would’ve never worried once because I am so proud of who we are as an organization. If someone gave me a glimpse today, of Little City 10 years from now, I know exactly what I would like to see.

And I promise you, we’re headed there.

Yours in service,

Shawn E. Jeffers

Little City Board Gains New Members

We’re pleased to welcome the following leaders to Little City’s prestigious boardroom. These philanthropic executives and advocates possess the vision, passion and drive allowing Little City to advance its mission and serve as a model of excellence in the non-profit sector.

Board of Directors
B. Timothy Desmond
President, Central Station Development Corp.
Mr. B. Timothy Desmond is a recognized real estate industry leader with a proven track record of over 40 high-rise projects worldwide, convention centers and residential communities in excess of 10 million square feet. His son, Kevin, has his own apartment at Little City.

Board of Directors
J. Todd Phillips
Vice President, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
As the Vice President of Local Markets and Sales Strategy at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Mr. J. Todd Phillips is accountable for setting the strategic direction of the BCBSIL’s local group business comprising more than 30,000 commercial accounts.

Board of Advisors
Jennifer Gavelek
Insurance & Risk Management/Managing Director, Mesirow Financial
A successful, results-oriented sales professional involved in all aspects of property and casualty insurance brokerage and consulting services, Ms. Jennifer Gavelek has more than 20 years of experience in the industry. She is a nonprofit practice group leader within the insurance division.
Little City Expands Successful Therapeutic Day School

In order to increase the educational offerings provided by the ChildBridge Center for Education, Little City is in the process of expanding their therapeutic day school. This build-out will allow Little City to accommodate an additional 40 students, increasing the total number of students they serve to 50.

With a target completion date in August, the expansion will include four additional academic environments, two therapy rooms, a sensory room, office and conference room in addition to the existing three classrooms.

Instead of traditional classrooms, the ChildBridge Center for Education will have learning environments which will allow teachers and students to fully immerse themselves in a specific subject area.

The learning environments will cater to Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The build-out will also feature a vocational/media lab, library, life skills lab and teacher work room.

Learning environments also provide opportunities for teachers and staff to prepare and challenge students to transition multiple times throughout the day. Transitioning is a skill that many of our students with disabilities have difficulty learning and it requires the greatest amount of practice.

“I’m looking forward to expanding the offerings of the ChildBridge Center for Education to more students within the new state-of-art space,” added School Administrator Karoline Dean.

Enrollment is now open, for referrals please contact Admissions at (847) 221-7859 or school@littlecity.org.
 employees: Six Sigma is a set of tools and strategies that are used to improve processes. It improves the quality of processes by identifying and removing errors within.

Each Green Belt will lead a team of employees on different projects to improve current Little City processes. These improvements will make Little City more efficient and productive. Teams are currently working on projects within the Children’s Group-Home Program, Medical Program and Human Resources Department.

These individuals attended an eight-hour class once a week for six weeks and participated in a minimum of two Green Belt projects in order to obtain this accomplishment. Congratulations to the following individuals:

- Natasha Adams
- Adrienne Brimie
- Casey Carrahaer
- Elecia Dexter
- Renee Watts
- Michael Zeno

Kelly Goldstein, Elecia Dexter, Theresa Moran and Bob Shears (not pictured) make up the leadership team who will oversee all Green Belts and their projects.

Employees Awarded Six Sigma Green Belts

In February, nearly 15 Little City employees completed requirements needed to obtain Green Belts for Six Sigma.

Employees Awarded Six Sigma Green Belts

IRA Rollover is Back

Congress has approved the charitable rollover option for individual retirement accounts for 2013. If you are an IRA owner who will be 70-and-a-half or older in 2013, you can arrange an IRA charitable rollover—otherwise known as a qualified charitable donation—of up to $100,000 this year.

If you’d like to make a donation to Little City via an IRA charitable rollover, simply ask your IRA custodian to send the amount of the donation directly to Little City. You can then subtract the gifted amount from your adjusted gross income, and the donation can also count toward your required minimum distribution. The donation MUST come from your IRA custodian. If you take the distribution and then donate the money yourself, it is taxed as regular income.

Contact your financial professional for details about this program.

IRAs are a great way to support Little City.

Helping Hands

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

- LifeCo Barrington High School
- Little City Junior Board
- Bridge Youth & Family Services- Youth Group
- Bridge Youth & Family Services- Teenage Group

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

To stay on top of Little City news, events and advocacy efforts, join us on our social networks.
Junior Board Volunteer Day

On Saturday, January 12, Little City Junior Board members held their annual volunteer day for children and young adults.

“It’s important for the Junior Board to see the Palatine campus and meet the individuals whom we are advocating for,” commented Junior Board Vice President Alyse Eligulashvili.

The 15 Junior Board members spent the day interacting and playing basketball, freeze tag, wii dance, foosball and other iPad games with over 25 children.

“The kids from the program and the staff working that day enjoyed the event and were grateful for the volunteers to come and spend their Saturday with them,” said Junior Board member and Little City ChildBridge Program Coordinator and Home Manager Biswa Phuyal.

With members between the ages of 22 and 35, the Junior Board works to support the programs and services offered to individuals with disabilities at Little City in a fresh and engaging way.

Junior Board members meet bi-monthly in Chicago to strategize, plan and produce two annual fundraising events designed to attract the next generation of leaders to help promote awareness and advocacy for Little City within the Chicago Metropolitan area.

Join Little City’s Junior Board on May 2 for the 4th Annual Food Frenzy where guests will feast on exclusive delicacies from Chicago’s hottest restaurants while networking with other young Chicago professionals. To register, visit littlecity.org/frenzy.

For more information on joining the Little City Junior Board and for member requirements, contact jrboard@littlecity.org or call (847) 221-7840.

Community Partners

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

- Adreani Foundation
- Rotary Club of Palatine
- Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation
- Illinois Arts Council
- Washington Square Health Foundation
- Elk Grove Township
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
- Marvin and Kay Lichtman Foundation
- Motorola Solutions Foundation
- Dominick’s Charitable Foundation
- Chicago Community Trust
- A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
- Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
- DuPage County Community Services
- Village of Arlington Heights
- Autism Speaks, Inc.
- Village of Schaumburg

In Memoriam

Barbara (Barb) Jean Gregornik (1962-2013)

Barb has been part of the Little City family for nearly 30 years. Constantly with a smile on her face, Barb loved competing in various Special Olympic sports including golf, basketball and track and field.

Barb worked at Willow Creek Church and loved having fun with her friends at Little City. She was also a pioneer for people with disabilities in broadcasting and television production as a leader of the Little City’s “Project Vital” Public Access Broadcast training program many years ago.

She was very creative and would often make beautiful cards and gifts for those she loved. Her artistic abilities were endless. Barb shared a loving relationship with her boyfriend, Edwin, who brought great joy to her life.

We will miss Barb’s contagious smile, laughter and uplifting attitude.
Luck and Fortune Were Tested at First-Ever Poker Tournament & Casino Night

Presented by Spex, the Little City “Seeing Hope Together” Poker Tournament & Casino Night on March 9 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago raised over $95,000 for children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Former Chicago Bears Defensive End and Pro Football Hall of Famer Richard Dent was among the over 150 attendees who tested their skills and luck that evening.

In addition to the High Roller $1,000 Buy-In Tournament or Regular $200 Buy-In Tournament, casino games including Texas Hold ‘Em, Black Jack and Roulette were available.

“This was the inaugural year for our Poker Tournament & Casino Night and I’m very happy with the outcome, the atmosphere was electrifying,” commented Little City Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “We’re so grateful to corporate philanthropists and community leaders who are passionate about identifying new opportunities to support worthy causes like ours.”

Special thanks to Spex, the presenting sponsor for the evening. Thank you to Straight Sponsors Kovitz Investment Group and Venture One Real Estate and to our Three of a Kind Sponsors: Eleni & Jimmy Bousis; Syd Jerome; Lava Lite; Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC; Martin Family Foundation; Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd. and Wells Fargo Advisors.

Event Chair and Little City Board Member Mitch Kovitz won the grand prize of a $10,000 seat at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.
News from Around the City

Little City aims to continually provide a distinguished 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. Some recent updates from around the “City” include:

Triumphal Return Art Show

Friends of Little City enjoyed over 60 works of art on display at the Little City Arts Triumphal Return Show, celebrating the return of art that was in the recent “Full Circle: Little City Foundation” exhibition at the Rockford Art Museum. The above piece, “Untitled 17” by Steve Bloom was included in the show.

Little City Boy Scouts

Little City Boy Scouts recently held a lock-in sleepover on campus, where they had fun and learned how to camp out for future outdoor events while building camaraderie. The Scouts have a Spring Camping trip in April to Camp Lakota in Woodstock, followed by their annual weeklong trip to Camp Napowan in Wisconsin this July. They are led by Scoutmaster Ryan Julian, Susan Julian and Dorothy Dulberger, with Recreation Therapist Rick Johnson serving as the Little City Scout leader.

Foster Care 20th Anniversary

Celebrating 20 years of foster care services, Little City’s Foster Care and Adoption Program has provided innovative, individualized and community-based treatment to children with disabilities in substitute care. The Foster Care and Adoption program maintains an over 90 percent placement stability rate—far surpassing the statewide average. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) recognizes Little City as the first and only foster care and adoption agency in Illinois to obtain cultural competence in serving the LGBT community. We are looking for welcoming homes and loving families regardless of age, race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender-identification, income or education level.
Twin Orchard is one of the premier country clubs in the Midwest.

Monday, June 17, 2013
Twin Orchard Country Club
22333 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove

50th ANNIVERSARY
Little City Invitational Golf Tournament

Kent P. Dauten, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Keystone Capital, Inc.
Honored as 2013 Little City Invitational Golf Tournament Co-Chair.

Thursday, May 2, 2013
Kendall College • Chicago
Feast on exclusive delicacies from Chicago’s hottest restaurants while networking with other young Chicago professionals for a great cause! For more information, contact (847) 221-7804 or jrboard@littlecity.org • littlecity.org/frenzy

All proceeds benefit Little City’s Center for Family & Community-Based Services.

Chicago’s hottest restaurants
hosted by Little City’s Junior Board HL
The 4th Annual Food Frenzy

Sunday, June 2, 2013
Highland Woods Golf Course
Hoffman Estates

Join Little City’s Parent, Family, and Guardian Group for a day of golf on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at Highland Woods Golf Course.

Registration is at 6:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. For more information or to register, contact Phyllis Shipbaugh at (847) 221-7892.