Made up of different colors, textures and threads, the individual elements of a tapestry are not impactful or dramatic, but when woven together, they create something extraordinary and purposeful. Like a tapestry, the lives and individual stories of those touched by the Little City mission create something moving and special.

Little City is proud to participate in Autism Awareness Month throughout the month of April as we “Light the City Blue.”

Autism Awareness Month was created in the 1970s in order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness surrounding autism. The U.S. recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

On April 2, we celebrated World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), which was created by the United Nations in 2007. World Autism Awareness Day is a global effort that encourages all member states to participate by joining together to raise awareness and support early diagnosis and intervention.

During the month of April, you will notice buildings and important landmarks across the world turn their lights blue in support of Autism Awareness Month. Each day, Little City strives to improve the lives of children and adults living with autism and other disabilities. This is not just a month for us—this is a lifetime.

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S. According to the CDC, 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Spreading awareness is extremely important as early intervention and diagnosis are key for those with autism.

Eighty percent of children at Little City have a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder.

At Little City, we are working to “Light the City Blue” and ask that you join us as we raise awareness for autism. Wear blue clothing, contribute to Little City, share important autism facts and help spread the word blue.

Here are some notable, quick facts about autism:

- Over 2 million individuals in the U.S. have an autism spectrum disorder
- Boys are nearly five times more likely (1 in 42) than girls to have autism
- About 25% of individuals with autism are nonverbal
- Medical costs for children with autism are six times higher than costs for children without autism (CDC)
- Little City serves more than 350 children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities
- There is no known cure or cause for autism

For more information and to learn how you can participate in Autism Awareness Month, visit littlecity.org/blue
Executive Director’s Corner

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.” —Anthony J. D’Angelo

Little City Friends and Family,

One of the main reasons why Little City has been able to successfully endure the past 55 years is due to our having the privilege of employing so many dedicated, compassionate and caring staff who each day, dutifully and steadfastly give their best to teach, encourage and inspire children and adults with disabilities.

Our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the heartbeat and footprint of Little City and without them our organization would be nothing more than a name. In recognition and support of their value we helped initiate The Care Campaign—which is comprised of a group of service providers, associations, employees and their unions, parents and administrators who are energetically advocating and working together to increase the minimum wage for DSPs.

DSPs are the frontline employees who provide support, service and care for individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. They help teach individuals life skills, provide support and encouragement and help them meet their goals. These employees have a difficult, albeit, highly imperative role in the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

In Illinois, there are some 24,000 individuals with developmental disabilities supported in community settings. The problem is that many of the DSPs don’t earn enough to even support their own families and are making wages below the poverty line.

The Care Campaign is working to increase the minimum wage for DSPs to $13 an hour.

Research shows that raising wages for employees who perform the challenging work of supporting individuals with disabilities ensures less employee turnover, strengthens the sustainability of nonprofit organizations and improves the quality of services provided.

Little City is proud to participate in this advocacy initiative and support our extremely important employees.

To learn more about The Care Campaign, visit www.carecampaignhome.com.

Warm regards,

Shawn E. Jeffers

Edward J. Hockfield
Chief Development Officer (CDO)

Ed has been a dedicated member of Little City’s family for more than 38 years—his passion and commitment to our mission is profound.

Before accepting the Chief Development Officer position, he served as our Board President for the past three and a half years. Prior to leading the Board, Ed played a key role as the Donor Development Committee Chairman for six years.

As the CDO, Ed will oversee the Development Department including Special Events, Major Gifts, Planned Giving, Individual and Annual Giving, Grants and all donor-related activities.

“It is without any doubt that Ed will inspire, identify, cultivate and facilitate thoughtful, committed and diversified engagements with individuals, corporations, foundations and civic and service organizations from the local to the global levels in order to increase operational funding and support for Little City Foundation,” states Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “He is the right person for this very challenging moment in our organization’s history.”
Roulette and Craps were available. The evening included an all-night buffet, open bar and many other prizes. FOX 32 Sports Anchor Lou Canellis was the enthusiastic emcee for the evening.

“We were happy to partner with Spex to host the Poker Tournament & Casino Night again this year,” 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.”

Funds raised from the night will help Little City provide innovative and personalized programs and services to individuals with disabilities.

Special thanks to Spex, the Presenting Sponsor for the evening. Straight Sponsors included: Assurance Agency, Aurora Investment Management, Kovitz Investment Group, Rocco & Roxanne Martino and Wells Fargo. Three of a Kind Sponsors included: Jimmy and Eleni Bousis, Eagle Concrete, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd and Venture One Real Estate. The Official Media Sponsor for the evening was SPLASH. Congratulations to the winner of the Poker Tournament, Danielle Perper.
Little City Receives Three-Year Accreditation

Little City Foundation recently received a three-year certification from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international and independent accreditor of human services and health organizations.

Conformance to CARF standards is an on-going agency commitment to providing services that enhance the lives of the individuals we serve. The accreditation process is a review of the agency’s policies and practices by means of site visits, interviews with guardians, individuals, staff, funder and community stakeholders and a review of agency produced documentation that supports our conformance to CARF standards.

“CARF accreditation benchmarks the programs and services that Little City Foundation provides,” said Little City Director of Compliance and Regulatory Relations Theresa Moran. “Families, donors and the community at large know that Little City is meeting an international set of standards created to ensure that service participants receive services that have a positive impact on their quality of life.”

The survey was conducted two days in late January and Little City received its report this March. The three-year accreditation is the highest certification awarded to agencies that meet CARF’s rigorous standards.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the individuals served.

Scholarship Award Recipient

Congratulations to Katie Sedey, Little City’s Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, who received a $5,000 Alec K. Gianaras Scholarship Award. This award was designed to recognize former Little City Board President Alec Gianaras’ commitment to supporting advanced education, lifelong learning and developing future leaders.

Katie is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Argosy University.

“This program allows me to better understand the mental health and psychological functioning of the individuals we serve, thereby allowing for a more holistic and integrated program development that fosters a greater quality of life for our individuals,” commented Katie Sedey.

Helping Hands

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

- Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Center
- Harper College Dental Hygiene Students
- Kovitz Investment Group, LLC
- LifePath Valentine’s Day Party Volunteers
- Little City Junior Board
- Parent, Family & Guardian Group
- Poker Tournament & Casino Night Volunteers

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

For nearly three years, a majority of our male residents have been generously given free haircuts from students at The Barber Academy located in Schaumburg.

The Barber Academy operates as a school that teaches students how to become exceptional barbers. Students are required to complete 1,500 hours of hands-on training before they become a qualified Licensed Barber. They are trained to learn how to work in, manage or own their own barbershop.

Little City began taking the boys from Pointe Home to visit Tom and his students when they were in need of a haircut. Word traveled fast and now a large majority of Little City’s male population goes to The Barber Academy.

“This is a great opportunity for us to give back to the community while helping students learn not only how to be a barber but also how to work with individuals with disabilities,” commented President of The Barber Academy Tom Wentland.

Tom has been a barber since 1980 and opened his first barber school in 1990. The Barber Academy was established more than five years ago.

“The gentleman at The Barber Academy have been very gracious for offering this great service to our residents,” said Little City Residential Program Coordinator Biswa Phuyal. “It has given them a chance to socialize appropriately within the community, practice being patient while getting a haircut and most of all they look handsome after their visit.”

The Barber Academy is kind enough to provide the haircuts free of charge. This experience also provides a perfect opportunity for the children and adults to learn proper customer service etiquette when they tip their barber after receiving their haircut.

“It humbles the students,” added Tom. “We’re glad to do it—it’s good for everybody.”

Community Partners

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

- Adreani Foundation
- Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
- Jerome S. and Grace H. Murray Foundation
- Million Dollar Round Table Foundation
- Skender Foundation
- Village of Arlington Heights

The above referenced grants were awarded on or after January 2014.

In Memoriam

Merle Carson (1927-2014)

Merle Carson and her husband Verne became active members of the Little City Family in 1961 after their daughter, Jaime, moved to Little City. Her dedication to Little City’s mission provided us with a strong foundation that we will never forget.

In addition to being a psychologist, Merle was also an accomplished artist and talented jewelry designer having studied and worked side-by-side with many famous Chicago artists. She worked in many artistic mediums but her talents for jewelry design were applauded nationally when she received an offer from a large department store in New York but declined the offer in order to remain true to her love for the art of jewelry design.

Merle is survived by daughters, Jaime, Julie and Vicki (Marc) Abrahamson. Verne Carson is the longest serving member of Little City’s Board of Directors.

Merle and Verne have been two of Little City’s most prolific volunteers and philanthropic supporters. We appreciate their long standing commitment of over 50 years to Little City.
Little City receive a lot of kindness from others. During this time, they returned the favor and helped give back to their friends, family and community members.

Individuals signed thank you notes that were later delivered to local firemen and policemen who help keep Little City’s community safe. They also wrote kindness cards to one another and staff.

Little City sent thank you cards to our dedicated volunteers who have lent a helping hand while beautifying our campus and homes, supporting social and recreational events and much more.

Staff also participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week and were encouraged to write kindness cards to fellow co-workers to thank them for their support, hard work and efforts.

Thank you to all those who supported this new initiative and helped spread kindness throughout the community.

This past February, Little City participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week. Throughout the week of February 10-16, Little City staff and participants engaged in random acts of kindness.

Children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities at Little City Spreads Kindness Within the Community

Kemeko Heine enjoyed filling out kindness cards for her friends

Thank you cards were presented to firemen and policemen to thank them for their service

Join us at the longest-running golf tournament in the Greater Chicago Area—the Little City Invitational Golf Tournament—on Monday, August 11 at Twin Orchard Country Club.

This year, we honor Joe Adams, Managing Partner and CEO of McGladrey LLP, for supporting Little City and the hundreds of children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities we serve.

Learn more and register today at littlecity.org/lci.
Little City’s Center for Training Excellence is officially opened. Little City U provides training opportunities for staff in various fields including nonviolent crisis intervention, certification programs and support trainings. To learn more about Little City U, visit littlecity.org/training.

_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:_

**$99PerRoom Fundraiser**
Thank you to our friends at $99PerRoom who held a fundraiser for Little City at Buffalo Wild Wings in March. A portion of the funds will go towards purchasing supplies required for painting Little City CILA homes.

**Little City U**
Little City’s Center for Training Excellence is officially opened. Little City U provides training opportunities for staff in various fields including nonviolent crisis intervention, certification programs and support trainings. To learn more about Little City U, visit littlecity.org/training.

**Therapeutic Day School Continues to Grow**
The ChildBridge Center for Education has tripled its attendance since opening in 2011 and is now serving 20 students within four different classrooms. This school provides services tailored to each student’s abilities to help them reach their fullest potential. For more information, visit littlecity.org/school.
Friday, May 30, 2014 | Highland Woods Golf Course | Hoffman Estates, IL
A golf outing designed exclusively for Little City’s Parent, Family and Guardian Group. The event promises to be a wonderful day of golf and exciting contests. For more information or to register, contact Phyllis Shipbaugh at (847) 221-7892.

PFG Golf Outing

May 1, 2014 | Kendall College | Chicago, IL
Feast on exclusive delicacies from Chicago’s hottest restaurants while networking with other young Chicago professionals at Little City’s 5th Annual Food Frenzy hosted by Little City’s Junior Board. Register at littlecity.org/frenzy.

New Date 51ST Annual LCI Golf Tournament

Monday, August 11, 2014
Twin Orchard Country Club
Long Grove, IL
Enjoy 18 holes of golf at a premier golf course, followed by dinner and silent and live auctions. This year, we honor Joe Adams, Managing Partner and CEO of McGladrey LLP. Register at littlecity.org/pci.