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.
Executive Director’s Corner

“We are called to be strong companions and clear mirrors to one another, to seek those who reflect with compassion and a keen eye how we are doing, whether we seem centered or off course ... we need the nourishing company of others to create the circle needed for growth, freedom and healing.”  
– Wayne Muller

Dear Friends,

At Little City, we are happy to be moving into the months of the year that include warmer weather, spring and growth.

April is Autism Awareness month. Please join Little City and the global community as we “Light the City Blue.” You can show your support by replacing outdoor lightbulbs with blue lights. Learn more about autism and “Light the City Blue” at littlecity.org/autism.

Thanks to the generosity of the Hockfield and Rose families, the Dorothy Rose Horticulture Center is getting a refresh and facelift. New insulated windows for the greenhouse, a gorgeous stainless sink, a high-tech thermostat and other amenities will enable staff at the Center for Employment and Business Opportunities to launch a sustainable horticulture program and farmers market. The program will be designed and led by Horticulture Manager, Dee Sams.

Little City University is proud to unveil its new smart classroom capabilities. Using Link and Infinitec software, LCU is now able to reach and instruct staff in all Little City locations: on campus, Schaumburg and Chicago offices. Funded by the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund, the accessible smart classrooms assist staff in maintaining their training requirements and certifications.

The ChildBridge Center for Education therapeutic day school is growing by leaps and bounds, and has doubled in size to serve an anticipated student census of 50. Applications for enrollment are now being accepted. Please contact Tim Gavin for a tour at 847-221-7859, or by email at tgavin@littlecity.org.

Thank you for being “strong companions” on our path and “clear mirrors” to reflect our progress. Your feedback and support directly contribute to the growth of our programs, enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

Yours in service,

Shawn E. Jeffers
Executive Director

LITTLE CITY SPOTLIGHT

New Little City Board Director

David Bishop
Little City Board of Directors

David brings a passion to further the mission of Little City in helping those with developmental and intellectual disabilities. As a Board Director, he will be a steward and an ambassador for Little City, helping to provide adequate resources to fulfill its mission.

David Bishop is a Wealth Management Advisor with Fifth Third Private Bank. He has almost 30 years of extensive experience in trust, asset management and financial markets. Prior to joining Fifth Third, David spent the last 15 years in client development, relationship management and management roles for several commercial banks. He is married to Susan, and has two daughters, Jane and CeCe.
Congratulations to the winner of the Poker Tournament, Doug Dorn, who won a $10,000 seat at the World Series of Poker.

This year, guests enjoyed the emcee talents of Lou Canellis, FOX 32’s Sports Anchor. A scrumptious all-night buffet was provided by Gibson’s Steakhouse.

On behalf of the children and adults at Little City, we would like to thank everyone in attendance for making the Tournament a success and supporting our mission. Together, we are helping individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities realize their unique potential to live safely, learn continuously, explore creatively and work productively throughout their lifetime.

A special thank you to all our sponsors for their generosity in helping make this event possible: Presenting Sponsor: Spex; Straight Sponsors: Aurora Investment Management, Rocco & Roxanne Martino, Scott & Maureen Chaikin Family Foundation, Kovitz Investment Group, Venture One Real Estate; Three-of-a-Kind Sponsors: Martin Family Foundation, Katten Muchen Rosenman, LLP, Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC, Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd., Syd Jerome Men’s Wear, Inc., Select Rehabilitation, Wintrust Commercial Banking; Official Media Sponsor: SPLASH.

More than 115 poker players and 55 supporters helped raise $130,000 for Little City on March 6th at the Montgomery Club in Chicago. Now in its 3rd year, the Poker Tournament and Casino Night provides an exciting evening of chance for lucky participants. Proceeds from the event benefit children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Feast on exclusive delicacies from Chicago’s hottest restaurants, while networking with other young Chicago professionals for a great cause. This year, the event benefits the Little City Special Olympics Team. Register today at littlecity.org/frenzy.
Little City and Aunt Martha’s: Partners in Healthcare Service Delivery

Aunt Martha’s dentist, Dr. Ahmed El-Maghraby, has left to pursue other opportunities, and we wish him well on his future endeavors. In his place, we welcome Dr. Sheena Vaswani to Aunt Martha’s and Little City. Dr. Vaswani completed her Doctorate of Dental Surgery at New York University and comes to us with experience in special needs dentistry, including assisting patients with seizure disorders, developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome.

Betsy Ducote continues to be the registered nurse available at the health care clinic during regular operating hours and has access to the clinic’s Medical Director for any patient issues.

At Little City, Tina Marie Lowry was recently promoted to Director of Health and Wellness Services. She will serve as the liaison with Aunt Martha’s.

As we work to continually raise the bar in health care for individuals with disabilities, we would like to hear from you in regards to your expectations. Your comments and concerns pertaining to the health care needs of your loved one are vitally important to our team. We encourage you to email Tina at tlowry@littlecity.org.

John Konopelski is the new Nurse Practitioner at the Center for Health and Wellness.

Little City is making ongoing efforts to improve access to quality healthcare for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Opened in 2010, the Center for Health and Wellness is located on Little City’s therapeutic, 56-acre Palatine campus. In partnership with Aunt Martha’s, the clinic provides culturally competent medical care for people with disabilities, addressing their physical, dental, mental and behavioral needs, and improving health outcomes in each of those areas.

We are excited to share some exciting news of staff changes and additions, as well as schedule modifications, so those receiving services will be able to receive the best medical care in addition to having greater accessibility to the clinic.

To ensure the Center for Health and Wellness is well staffed to serve the needs of our residents, Aunt Martha’s has allocated NP, John Konopelski from another clinic. John is a nurse practitioner that is committed to excellence in patient care. He believes that “care is not only of the physical, but includes the mind, spirit, and dignity of every person.” John received his Doctorate of Nursing from Rush University.

In partnership with Aunt Martha’s, the Center for Health and Wellness provides culturally competent medical care for people with disabilities.

Helping Hands

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

- Adult LifePath Valentine’s Day Volunteers
- HealthFirst
- Hoffman Estates ATP
- Kovitz Investment Group
- Little City Junior Board
- Poker Tournament & Casino Night Volunteers
- St. John’s Lutheran-Algonquin

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

"I personally believe in the mission of Little City. I would consider it an honor to listen to your wishes and work closely with you to help you make your gift and leave your legacy."

India Alexis Ehioba, MNA, CFRE, Senior Philanthropy Officer and Director of Planned Giving, is an experienced, highly-credentialed gift advisor. The Donor’s Corner is a regular column providing helpful information on various gift options to Little City friends and supporters. You can contact India directly at 847.221.7809 or iehioba@littlecity.org with your questions and to discuss your personal interest in supporting Little City.

Leaving a Legacy of Friendship and Philanthropy

At 21, Karl Konrad Jansson left his home in Sweden to fulfill his dream in America. As a young man, Karl had three simple goals:

1. Find a job
2. Learn to speak English
3. Americanize his name to Carl Conrad Johnson.

A few months ago, we planned this story to feature one of Little City’s most loyal donors, who happened to be the oldest living man in the United States. In fact, he was just a few weeks shy of his 111th birthday.

Unfortunately, on the morning we were scheduled to meet Mr. Johnson, he passed away. Saddened to miss the chance to meet this great man, I spoke to his many friends.

Conrad Johnson lived an active life as a leader in business, the community and his church. He married his first wife, Walborg, in 1944; she passed away in 1988. He married Alice in 1990 and stayed by her side until her death in 2002.

We believe that Alice, through her charitable work with children, introduced Mr. Johnson to Little City. He was a faithful supporter for 25 years.

Mr. Johnson’s friends, LaVerne and Kathleen Larson, shared that Mr. Johnson was an astute businessman, who achieved great success with his investments. He worked as a carpenter and remodeler of homes in the Rockford area. Mr. Johnson often worked with renters of his renovated homes to allow them to buy their home, with no down payment and very low interest rates. Many generations of families remain grateful to him for the opportunities he gave them to own a piece of the American Dream.

His friends said, “Mr. Johnson had boundless generosity. He always made giving a priority, from his humble beginnings, and after he became a business success.”

I regret that I never had a chance to meet Mr. Johnson, not just because he became a bit of a celebrity due to his age of 110, nor because he included Little City in his estate plans. My maiden name is also Johnson. Though we are not related, I regret not meeting the man who made charitable giving, healthy habits, and hard work the cornerstone of his life.

Leaving a legacy isn’t about being rich, it’s about leaving your memories and your mark on the world in a way that best captures your spirit.

Goodbye Mr. Johnson, and thank you for your friendship to Little City. You have and will continue to change lives for the better.

Community Partners

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

- Community Health Charities of Illinois
- Marvin & Kay Lichtman Foundation
- The RJN Foundation
- Rotary Club of Palatine
- Village of Arlington Heights
- Wells Fargo Foundation

The above referenced grants were awarded on or after January 2015.
Get Involved in PFG

As a Little City parent or family member, you can play a significant and important role in providing a high quality of life for your loved one.

The Little City Parent, Family and Guardian (PFG) Group provides opportunities for you to network, fundraise, volunteer or simply raise awareness with other families who share a similar mission. Funds raised have supported Little City Special Olympics, summer camp, picnics for children and adults, and staff holiday gift cards.

The PFG Group’s annual Ted Arndt Memorial Golf Outing will be on Friday, June 26, 2015 at the Highland Woods Golf Course. There will be many activities and games where golfers have chances to win great prizes. If you are unable to golf, please join us for the dinner buffet and participate in a raffle. Entry fees are $150 per golfer and $600 for a foursome. The fee includes an 18 Hole Scramble with cart, lunch, dinner buffet and a free driving range before the shotgun start. Registration begins at 12:00 p.m. and the shotgun start is at 1:30. Register now at littlecity.org/pfggolf.

We invite you to attend one of our PFG meetings held several times a year to discuss how you can contribute your unique talents and resources to benefit your loved one at Little City. Please contact Phyllis Shipbaugh at (847) 221-7892 for more information.

2015 PFG Meeting Dates:

- **Annual Spring Meeting**: Sunday, April 19, 2015 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- **Parent, Family, Guardian Meeting**: Sunday, June 7, 2015 10:30 am - 1:00 pm
- **Parent, Family, Guardian Meeting**: Sunday, August 9, 2015 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
- **Annual Fall Meeting**: Sunday, October 4, 2015 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- **PFG Volunteer Event**: Sunday, October 11, 2015 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Heart of 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:

**Gianarasz Scholarship Awarded**

The Alec K. Gianaras Scholarship was awarded to Karrie Dean, ChildBridge Center for Education Administrator of the therapeutic day school. This award was designed to recognize former Little City Board President Alec Gianaras’ commitment to supporting advanced education, lifelong learning and developing future leaders. Karrie plans to use the Gianaras Scholarship to pursue a Director of Special Education Endorsement to allow her to expand her license.

**Horticulture Center Gets a Refresh**

The Dorothy Rose Horticulture Center is getting a facelift during the early spring. Thanks to generous funding from the Rose and Hockfield families, the Center will boast new greenhouse windows, a high-tech thermostat and a gorgeous stainless steel sink, among other amenities. Warmer weather will bring opportunities for youth and adults to get involved in horticulture and the potential for a farmers market.

**Staff Wellness is a Priority**

Volunteers from HealthFirst came to campus and the Schaumburg offices over the course of two days to give free 15-minute chair massages to Little City staff. More than 20 employees clamored for stress relief delivered by two talented massage therapists.
City Guide: Upcoming Events

6th Annual Food Frenzy

Friday, May 1, 2015
Loft 644 | Chicago, IL

Feast on exclusive delicacies from Chicago’s hottest restaurants, while networking with other young Chicago professionals at Little City’s 6th Annual Food Frenzy, hosted by Little City’s Junior Board. Register at littlecity.org/frenzy.

PFG Golf Outing

Friday, June 26, 2015
Highland Woods Golf Course
Hoffman Estates, IL

A golf outing designed exclusively by Little City’s Parent, Family and Guardian Group. Enjoy a wonderful day of golf and exciting contests.

For more information or to register, contact Phyllis Shipbaugh at 847-221-7892 or online at littlecity.org/pfggolf.

52nd Annual LCI Golf Classic

Monday, August 3, 2015
Twin Orchard Country Club, Long Grove, IL

Enjoy 18 holes of golf at a premier golf course, followed by dinner, silent and live auctions. This year we honor David Althoff, Managing Director of Duff & Phelps. Register today at littlecity.org/lci.