Little City Recognized as First Foster Care Agency in Illinois to Receive HRC Seal of Recognition

Tristan has special needs and was placed in state care at the age of one year old. In the next 12 years of life, he would experience 10 different foster placements. Thankfully, since arriving at Little City’s Foster Care program, Tristan, a now positive and vibrant 13-year old, has found his “forever family” — he was adopted by a loving family that Little City found for him.

Among numerous first-class programs and services at Little City, the ChildBridge Center for Children & Families provides foster care and adoption services to many of Illinois’ abandoned and abused special needs children. Tristan’s story is just one of many.

In an effort to find the best homes for Illinois’ most vulnerable children, Little City recently achieved an accomplishment that no other foster care agency in the state has earned. On May 23, a leading national civil rights organization, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), recognized Little City as the first foster care and adoption agency in Illinois to obtain cultural competence in serving the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered) community.

Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with HRC Family Project Director Ellen Kahn, applauded Little City for its admirable service in foster care. They presented the seal at a private ceremony with state officials, community members and foster parents at the Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago.

“Our primary focus is children,” commented Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “And regardless of gender, race, religion, creed, sexual preference, we want to find the very best homes and loving families for our children.”

“You can’t afford to turn away loving families,” commented Ellen Kahn, HRC’s Family Project Director and lead of the All Children – All Families initiative. “We’re delighted Little City is providing an example to other foster care agencies in Illinois in making a purposeful commitment to LGBT families who have a desire to provide a loving home environment to children in need.”

For more than 15 years, Little City’s foster care and adoption program has provided innovative, individualized and community-based treatment to children and their families. It has consistently achieved a greater than 95 percent placement stability rate.

Children’s names may have been changed for privacy and protection purposes.

I have an intellectual disability, and I’m an award-winning athlete.
Because of Little City, I am my own hero.

READ JIM’S STORY AT WWW.LITTLECITY.ORG/HERO
Little City Friends and Family:

In this current economic climate, a basic concern of virtually all organizations, whether public, commercial or nonprofit is how to survive. We are facing a time where there is substantially less support from government, ever-increasing competition for private donations and heightened interest by funders and the general public in accountability and performance outcomes.

As we embark on a new fiscal year, we fully understand that every decision we make affects both the programmatic and financial sustainability of Little City Foundation—the double bottom-line.

As it is our desire to secure the future of Little City Foundation, it is imperative that we not only have “good programs,” but we must also have a proven way of financially sustaining our efforts. Among our four strategic goals is the development of an integrated array of revenue strategies including: donations, earned income, contracts, grants and other income types to support the present and future needs of Little City including adequate working capital.

Sustainability is an orientation, not a destination—we never arrive at a mix of programs and revenue streams that can be described as “permanently sustainable.” However, every nonprofit has a business model—a set of core activities that it executes and strategies for obtaining the necessary funds to do so.

The Little City Foundation Board and senior leaders are collaboratively working to develop a sustainable business model for our organization that provides program sustainability and financial sustainability. This process will be challenging and difficult and will call on us to tap into all forms of support.

Edward Everett Hale (author) wrote, “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.” Never before have we needed your help more than we do now…

In addition to giving, volunteerism and attending special events, consider the following:

1. “Tag” or “can” for Little City. Sign up for Smiles Tag Days: (847) 221-7804 or cjohnson@littlecity.org
2. Document destruction, recycling and shredding with Little City. Contact (847) 221-7808 or hire@littlecity.org
3. Consider hiring individuals with disabilities at your company. Contact (847) 221-7808 or hire@littlecity.org
4. Purchase holiday cards from Little City. Order at (847) 358-9467 or www.littlecity.org/cards
5. Purchase delicious Papa Nicholas coffee through Little City. Order at www.littlecity.org/coffee
6. Walk (and fundraise) at the Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City. Register at www.littlecity.org/walk

We look forward to seeing you or hearing from you soon!

Warmest personal regards,

Shawn E. Jeffers

**Executive Director’s Corner**

“It is not enough to do good. It must be done well.” —Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)

**Little City Spotlight**

**Little City Board Gains New Director and Advisors**

**Dr. Michael E. McKenna**, Vice President of Medical Management and Chief Medical Officer at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and Lutheran General Children’s Hospital, joins Little City as its newest board member. Associated with nonprofit healthcare for 29 years, Dr. McKenna brings a wealth of knowledge in healthcare related issues that will benefit Little City’s children and adults.

**Mr. Laurence M. Landsman** and Ms. Mona Pearl also join as Little City Board Advisors. Mr. Landsman is partner and owner of Block and Landsman. As a securities litigation attorney, he brings more than 20 years of experience to the Little City boardroom.

Ms. Pearl is the Founder and Chief Operating Officer at BeyondAStrategy, Inc. and an Adjunct Professor at DePaul University. Ms. Pearl’s experience in international strategic development and global entrepreneurship will help Little City design and execute future strategies.

**To stay on top of Little City news, events and advocacy efforts, join us on our social networks.**
The Dorothy Rose Horticultural Center: A Realized Bequest is a Gift of Life

After Dorothy passed away in 2008, her children, Andrea Hockfield and David Rose, decided to direct Dorothy’s bequest to Little City toward rejuvenating the horticultural center. Because of this bequest, the Center is now a financially stable, active program directed by a full-time horticultural therapist. Andrea sees her mother’s touch throughout the Horticulture Center. “Mom would be delighted to see her bequest used in this way,” Andrea says with a smile. “She would be thrilled.”

The Dorothy Rose Horticultural Center has become a hub of projects and programs. . . . Her dream is fulfilled with every bud and flower, every craft project and music production and every moment of joy and happiness that is experienced by Jerry and all of the Little City residents.”

—Andrea Hockfield, Daughter of Dorothy Rose and sister of Little City Participant Jerry Rose

In the last fiscal year, Little City received 23 realized bequests. If you’d like to become a Heritage Society member by making a bequest to Little City in your will, please let us know. Suggested charitable bequest language includes:

“I give $_________ or _________ % of the residue of my estate to Little City Foundation as an unrestricted gift.”

Call Kate Maver, Planned and Major Gifts Officer, at 847-221-7809 for more information.

Little City & Papa Nicholas Coffee

We’re pleased to partner with Papa Nicholas to provide you with Little City’s Power Blend—a delicious coffee for you to enjoy that supports our “heroes.” The Little City Power Blend is a full roast, providing a full-bodied coffee with a sweet invigorating taste.

For every bag purchased, 50 percent of the proceeds benefit Little City.

Place your order at littlecity.org/coffee
Making a Difference

Little City Visits the Windy City

The class loved riding the train downtown, looking out the windows as it went from above ground to underground. After arriving in Chicago, students walked a few blocks while taking in the city sites.

At lunch they received compliments for their good behavior and enjoyed watching trains pass by. After they ate, they made their way to Millennium Park where they stopped to see the Bean, walked through the gardens and paused to throw a coin into a wishing well.

Next, students and staff rolled up their pants and ran through the water fountains; even though the water was cold, everyone had a big smile on their face.

On the following Monday, students walked into the ChildBridge Center for Education asking when they could ride a train again. Little City produced a live “twittercast” of the entire day. Check it out at twitter.com/#!/LittleCityNews

Before the end of the school year and 8th grade graduation, Little City’s therapeutic day school had one last big even planned: a trip to Millennium Park in Chicago.

Throughout the week leading up to their field trip, students spent time preparing for their trip by learning about trains and Chicago, while reviewing their social story that described the day’s activities in chronological order integrated with visuals. They also made tie-dyed T-shirts in class to wear together.

On Friday, June 1, excitement filled the ChildBridge Center for Education where students met before their trip. They looked over their social story one last time before zipping their jackets and heading for the van that would take them to the CTA “L” train station.

Wyatt looks back to the rest of his peers in excitement after seeing the Bean.

Wyatt looks back to the rest of his peers in excitement after seeing the Bean.

Day School Teacher Neal Schuch laughs with Sean while walking through Millennium Park.

Volunteer for Smiles Tag Days

Make a difference in the lives of those at Little City and volunteer for our Annual Smiles Tag Days! We NEED hundreds of volunteers to collect donations from fellow community members at storefronts and street corners from September 13-15. Just a few hours of your time can make a huge impact!

For more information, please contact Catrina Johnson at (847) 221-7804 or cjohnson@littlecity.org

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

- ADP
- Citi Retail Services
- Liberty Mutual
- Liberty Mutual
- OMRON
- Paramount Staffing
- Schneider Electric
- Schneider Electric

For detailed descriptions of these recent projects or to learn more about getting involved, visit www.littlecity.org/volunteer or contact (847) 221-7804.
Casey used his scholarship to finish the TAP-Structured Teaching Program, making him a resource for Little City from a training perspective as well as an on-site consultant. In addition, Casey plans to receive in-depth training in alternative/augmentative communication that he could integrate into Little City’s training offerings, which would allow for a more experiential approach to teaching staff and external parties how to work with people who communicate non-traditionally.

“I am honored to receive the Alec Gianaras Scholarship, and excited to be able to use this resource as a means to study more about Structured Teaching and visual communication systems,” concluded Casey.

Through this extensive one-year training program, Mr. Carraher and Ms. Dexter now have a specialization in:

1. providing in-home autism consultation for families,
2. advising structured teaching to educational centers like Little City’s therapeutic day school and
3. consulting on appropriate structures for individuals with autism.

Community Partners

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

- Argonne National Laboratory
- Community Health Charities
- Joel H. Sharenow
- Illinois Art Council
- Knights of Columbus
- Oberweiler Foundation
- Palatine Township
- Palatine Jaycees
- Volkswagen

The above referenced grants were awarded on or after March 1, 2012.

Chicago’s Sweetest Walk

Join us November 4 at the Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City! Support Little City while enjoying chocolate fondue and hot chocolate from the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company at the post race party!

The Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City is a family event, with many fun post-race activities for children of all ages including a large Kid Zone, magicians, face painting and much more. Children under the age of 12 are encouraged to participate and can register as a junior walker. Register at littlecity.org/walk
Heart of the City

Giving Never Goes Out of Style

Little City Board President Edward J. Hockfield helped kick off the afternoon and entertained guests with a surprise walk down the runway. Reiterating how giving never goes out of style, Mr. Hockfield thanked event co-chairs, Mrs. Eleni Bousis and Mrs. Susanna Negovan along with their team of committee women who helped make the fashion show benefit possible.

Chicago’s fashion-forward community and leading philanthropists were among the 250 guests who gathered to admire the latest trends unveiled at Little City’s “Runway Exclusive 2012” on Friday, June 8 at the Fairmont Chicago in Millennium Park. Partnering with Michigan Ave. Magazine, Neiman Marcus, Ford Models, ZZAZZ Productions and Official Media Sponsor Chicago Sun-Times, Little City generated awareness and necessary funds for hundreds of children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“During these times, we’re pleased to stage a variety of events and opportunities in a way that provide enjoyment and an opportunity to network,” commented Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers. “This event helps provide vital and innovative programs and services to the individuals at Little City and we’re grateful to all our sponsors.”

Attendees enjoyed the hottest looks from Michael Kors, Elie Tahari, Lafayette, David Meister, St. John, Teri Jon, Issa, Diane von Furstenberg, Escada and Lela Rose. Guests also enjoyed a special performance by Little City resident Jerry Rose who played his guitar and sang Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing.”

Make the Year Brighter with Little City Holiday Cards

By sending holiday cards created at Little City’s Center for the Arts, you are introducing a community of artists without boundaries or limits to your business associates, family and friends. Little City believes that creativity has no disability, as demonstrated by these unique, high-quality holiday greeting cards.

Place your order at littlecity.org/cards or call (847) 358-9467.
News from Around the City

Prom
Little City teens dressed to impress and enjoyed a dazzling evening at their Prom.

Little City Now on CoupFund
Coupfund supports local charities by selling a discounted coupon for a local business on www.coupfund.com. Buy a coupon and a portion of the proceeds is automatically donated Little City! Visit www.coupfund.com and search for local restaurants sponsoring Little City!

Harper College Dental Students
This past spring semester, seniors from Harper College’s Dental Program participated in an outreach project with Little City bringing their expertise of oral care and disease prevention to residents and staff. Students interviewed adults at the Center for Employment & Business Development and Life Skills Program. Students then created individualized plans for these residents. Each adult received a tailored, formalized program that identified the strengths and weaknesses in oral health.

Medals Galore at the State Special Olympics Games
Little City athletes traveled to Illinois State University to compete in the annual Special Olympic Summer Games—an event with more than 4,000 participants. The 29 Little City athletes battled in track races, power lifting, bocce ball, standing long jump and the softball throw over three days earning a total of 32 medals.
Twin Orchard is one of the premier country clubs in the Midwest with two 18-hole golf courses, offering magnificent views of Northern Lake County. This year, we honor Kenneth L. Ender, Ph.D., President of Harper College.

49th Annual Little City Invitational
Monday, August 13, 2012
Twin Orchard Country Club
22353 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove
To register, visit www.littlecity.org/lci

Little City Foundation
1760 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067
www.littlecity.org

Upcoming Events
September 13, 14 and 15, 2012
Various Chicago and suburban locations
To volunteer, contact Catrina Johnson at (847) 221-7804 or cjohnson@littlecity.org

38th Annual Smiles Tag Days
Sunday, November 4, 2012
Chicago
To volunteer, visit www.littlecity.org/app/TagDayVolunteer

38th Annual Smiles Tag Days
Sunday, November 4, 2012
Various Chicago and suburban locations
To volunteer, contact Catrina Johnson at (847) 221-7804 or cjohnson@littlecity.org

Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City
Friday, November 16, 2012
Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park
200 North Columbus Drive, Chicago
Annual Dinner Gala
Saturday, March 9, 2013
Chicago
Casino & Poker Night
To register, visit www.littlecity.org/app/CasinoPokerNight