Record-Breaking Annual Dinner Gala Raises Nearly $450,000

In celebration of the Duffey Family Children’s Village, more than 400 supporters came together on Saturday, November 16 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago for Little City’s Annual Dinner Gala to raise much-needed funds and awareness for children with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This year, Little City honored John and Becky Duffey with the Sidney L. Port Legacy of Distinction Award for their $1 million leadership gift, which inspired numerous gifts of support to children with disabilities.

Emceed by Tom and Susanna Negovan, the live auction pledge raised more than $90,000, which will help furnish the first two children’s homes. In addition, Little City Board Members David Rose and Verne Carson announced that $125,000 matching gifts will be made to The Village from the Rose/Hockfield family and Merle and Verne Carson, respectively.

“Over 80 percent of the children at Little City are on the autism spectrum and the current homes built over 50 years ago, are outdated and do not meet their needs,” commented Event Chair, Executive Vice President and Treasurer of the Little City Board, Matt Schubert. “We’re pleased to gather as a community to enhance our children’s lives exponentially and build a state-of-the-art home environment: The Duffey Family Children’s Village.”

The Presenting Sponsor for the evening was Six Flags Great America. Platinum Sponsors included James and Judith Reid-Anderson; Merle and Verne Carson; and George and Dimitra Zervas. Gold Sponsors included Walgreens and Friends of Kevin Desmond: B. Timothy and Nancy J. Desmond; Audrey and Albert Ratner and the Fogelson Foundation. Silver Sponsors included: The Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation; Jimmy and Eleni Bousis; Paramount Staffing; Magellan International Corporation; MNJ Technology Services; and Motorola Solutions and Motorola Solutions Foundation.

Bronze Sponsors included: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital; Alexian Brothers Health System; First Midwest Bank; Alec K. and Viena P. Gianaras Foundation; Hockfield & Associates, Inc.; Mesirow Financial Corporation; Midway Moving and Storage, Inc.; NBC-5 Chicago; Norcon, Inc.; Northwest Community Hospital; J. Todd Phillips; P. Walker Brothers; the Rose/Hockfield family; and Wells Fargo Advisors. The Official Media Sponsor was NBC-5 Chicago and Official Print Media Sponsors were The Chicago Sun-Times and SPLASH.
Executive Director’s Corner

“Your story is the greatest legacy that you will leave to your friends. It’s the longest-lasting legacy you will leave to your heirs.”

—Steve Saint

Little City Friends and Family,

As we begin a new year, I reflect upon what 2013 brought us—a gift of legacies. Little City received a $1.3 million bequest from the Lehner Family. Though they never received services from Little City, the Lehner Family wished to leave a legacy and make a lasting impact in the lives of hundreds of children and adults. John and Becky Duffey received the “Legacy of Distinction Award” at our Annual Dinner Gala, which raised a record-breaking $450,000—the most we’ve received at an annual dinner to date. The Duffey Family Children’s Village, and the lives of children impacted by it, will forever be part of John and Becky’s legacy.

During the last quarter of last year, we also hosted a foster care event entitled, “15,000 Reasons to Celebrate,” as part of an awareness campaign educating Illinoisans that there are 15,000 children in Illinois’ foster care system. Chicago Bears’ Brandon Marshall was there on behalf of the Brandon Marshall Foundation making his own legacy more than just about football.

We also staged the world premiere of the much-anticipated documentary, Share My Kingdom. Our talented artists changed the landscape of art as we know it—their creative gifts to our society will forever be part of their legacy.

When I think of my own legacy and the legacies of those who make miracles happen every day at Little City, I am moved by what an incredible place we are making for those who will inherit what we leave them.

2014 promises ripples of positive developments that will continue to enhance the quality of life for children and adults with autism and other disabilities. We invite you to become even more involved and make your involvement with us a part of your lasting legacy.

You can learn more about how you can support individuals with disabilities at www.littlecity.org/support or you can call us at 847-221-7810.

Yours in Service,

Shawn E. Jeffers
Executive Director

“Your story is the greatest legacy that you will leave to your friends. It’s the longest-lasting legacy you will leave to your heirs.”

—Steve Saint

Little City Spotlight

New Board Directors Join Leadership Team at Little City

Michele A. Carlin  
Senior Vice President  
Human Resources & Communications  
Motorola Solutions  
Little City Board Member

Jane Denten, RN, MSN, NE-BC  
Vice President  
Nursing/CNE  
Advocate Health Care  
Little City Board Member

Jeffrey A. Krug  
President  
J. Krug & Associates, Inc.  
Little City Board Member

To stay on top of Little City news, events and advocacy efforts, join us on our social networks.
Heart of the City

“Share My Kingdom” World Premiere at Gene Siskel Film Center

Supporters and art enthusiasts alike joined together on October 9 to attend the World Premiere of “Share My Kingdom,” Little City’s documentary featuring the compelling life stories and artistic creations of three artists with disabilities who emerged from the art studio at Little City.

“Share My Kingdom” provides a view into the lives and art of Harold Jeffries, Wayne Mazurek and Luke Tauber. The documentary premiered at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago and was met with excitement and accolades. After the film, the three artists took the stage before a standing ovation.

“This documentary has been a labor of love,” commented Producer and Director John Grod. “We didn’t start with a specific roadmap of how the project would turn out, but we knew we wanted to share the important stories of these three artists.”

While these men seem to have the odds stacked against them, they are able to turn their ideas into reality. With no formal art education or training, each of them transforms their vision into artistic works of expression.

“The documentary really touched people,” stated Center for the Arts Administrator Frank Tumino. “Even those who thought they knew Harold, Wayne and Luke well will never see them the same way again.”

After the documentary premiere, the artists and producers were available for questions and comments.

This project is supported by a grant from The Chicago Community Trust. Special thanks to the Event Presenting Sponsor NBC-5 Chicago.

More screenings of “Share My Kingdom” are being scheduled. To learn more about upcoming showings of the documentary, visit littlecity.org/kingdom.

Featured artists in the documentary Wayne Mazurek, Luke Tauber and Harold Jeffries

Harold stands proudly next to a piece of his art that was sold at the premiere

“Share My Kingdom” Producer John Grod, The Chicago Community Trust Chief Executive Officer Terry Mazany and Center for the Arts Administrator Frank Tumino
On November 3, more than 130 volunteers joined the walkers and runners at the Hot Chocolate 15/5k and Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City in Grant Park. Little City volunteers could be found at the first aid station on the 15/5k course, along the walk route and at the race expo the three days leading up to the race. Individuals at the aid station cheered on runners and handed out water and sports drinks. Volunteers along the walk route helped guide and encourage walkers on the 2.5 mile course along Chicago’s lakefront. Race expo volunteers gave walkers their bib numbers and race information. All positions were of equal importance and contributed to the success of this year’s Walk.

“Our volunteers played an extremely vital role in Little City’s success at this event,” stated Little City Manager of Volunteer Services Catrina Johnson. “This can be a hectic yet exciting event and we are very grateful that we had such a great group of hardworking individuals with us; we couldn’t do this without their help.”

Children under the age of 12 were welcome on the Walk course along with strollers and wheelchairs. All walkers enjoyed the same perks as runners which included a goodie bag with a fleece hoodie and a finishers mug with hot chocolate and chocolate fondue at the post-race party. Volunteers were also gifted with Hot Chocolate gear and got to enjoy chocolate goodies after the race.

Coinciding with the popular Hot Chocolate 15/5k Race, the Hot Chocolate Walk benefits Little City by generating awareness and much-needed funds for children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year, the Walk raised more than $13,000 for the individuals served at Little City.

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

• 100% Foundation
• Annual Dinner Gala Volunteers
• Arlington Heights Park District Dance Team
• AT&T
• AT&T Mobility
• Baird & Warner
• Boy Scouts of America
• Foresters
• Fremd High School
• Hands on Suburban Chicago
• Harper College Students-Make A Difference Day Volunteers
• HIP Salon
• Hoffman Estates Adult Transition Program
• Holiday Giving Campaign Participants
• Holy Family Parish
• Hot Chocolate Aid Station Volunteers
• Hot Chocolate Expo Volunteers
• Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City Volunteers
• James B. Conant High School
• Koenig & Strey-Schaumburg
• Kohl’s-Associates in Action
• Little City Junior Board
• Network Services Company
• Palatine Township Shred Event Volunteers
• Parent, Family & Guardian Group Volunteers
• PHH Mortgage
• Pulte Mortgage
• Risk Sciences Group-Crawford & Company
• St. Edna Parish
• Zurich NA-Marketing Support

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

The ChildBridge Center for Education, Little City’s therapeutic day school, is happy to announce the addition of a Physical Education program. This year, the school welcomed Adaptive Physical Education and Recreation Specialist Tiffany Greathouse to the team.

“Physical Education is vital to individuals with disabilities. In keeping with the national ‘Let’s Move Initiative,’ providing PE five days a week gives our students opportunities to work on their individual fitness levels and strengthening their overall health and wellness,” stated ChildBridge Center for Education Administrator Karrie Dean.

Tiffany is developing a comprehensive curriculum that will focus on teaching health and wellness, while incorporating physical fitness and lifelong skills. In the upcoming months, Tiffany will be emphasizing individual and team sports.

“PE can help create different forms of expression, a better comprehension of one’s body and its orientation and most importantly, it creates a base for health and wellness,” said Tiffany Greathouse. “By encouraging the engagement of physical activity and life skills, paired with other wellness and interdisciplinary aspects, our students will exhibit increased function in the classroom and will learn the tools to keep a healthy, fit body.”

To learn more about the ChildBridge Center for Education, visit www.littlecity.org/school.

Community Partners

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

- The Atlantic Philanthropies
- Chicago Community Trust
- Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation
- Illinois Department of Transportation – Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) Program
- Marvin & Kay Lichtman Foundation
- Motorola Solutions Foundation
- Omron Foundation
- Pink House Foundation
- The Schwaben Society Charity Fund
- Wells Fargo Foundation

The above referenced grants were awarded on or after September 2013.

Joe Dus (1970-2013)

Joe Dus joined the Little City family in 1994 and made many positive contributions to Little City and our residents during his time here.

Even though Joe was a soft spoken individual, he led Little City participants in speaking out for their rights. In 2007, he started the Little City Advocacy Group. Joe served as the group’s Director and traveled to Springfield many times to attend conferences. For a year, he served on the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, a statewide advocacy committee and he was also a Little City Board of Advisor.

Joe was a true advocate for himself and he advocated for his own guardianship, which the courts awarded to Joe in December 2012. In addition to being an advocate, Joe was extremely active in sports and participated in basketball, softball, track and field, bowling and bocce ball. He was also a member of Boy Scouts.

Students enjoy their new PE classes.
Little City Parents and Family Members Make Significant Matching Commitments to Duffey Family Children’s Village

At the 2013 Annual Dinner Gala where a record-breaking amount of nearly $450,000 was raised, Little City Parent and Board Member David Rose announced that the Rose/Hockfield family would make a $125,000 matching gift towards the Duffey Family Children’s Village.

Little City Parent and Board Member Verne Carson also announced that he and his wife, Merle, would make a $125,000 matching gift to the Duffey Family Children’s Village.

“When my parents found Little City, it was a day which changed all our lives forever. Here was an environment which would nurture Jerry’s love for music and where he learned to play multiple instruments,” added Rose. “Several years ago at an event where Jerry was performing, my mother leaned over to me and whispered, ‘Who would have imagined that Jerry would be the star of our family?’”

The future of Little City is so important so we can give other families the opportunity to create their own stars of the future.

To support Little City and initiatives like the Duffey Family Children’s Village, visit www.littlecity.org/support.

“THE DUFFEY FAMILY CHILDREN’S VILLAGE IS LITTLE CITY’S FUTURE AND HOLDS THE KEY TO ITS SUSTAINABILITY FOR YEARS TO COME.”

Casino Night · Poker Tournament & Casino Night ·

Poker & Casino Tournament 2014

LITTLE CITY’S SEEING HOPE TOGETHER


Join us for a night of Texas Hold ‘Em and casino games in support of children and adults served by Little City.

GRAND PRIZE: A seat at the World Series of Poker!

For more information and to register, visit www.littlecity.org/poker
Little City celebrated 20 successful years of providing foster children with loving and supportive homes at the 15,000 Reasons to Celebrate event held at the NBC-5 Tower. Special thanks to Chicago Bears player Brandon Marshall for attending on behalf of the Brandon Marshall Foundation.

Thank you to the Baird & Warner Palatine office who hosted a fundraiser for Little City on October 11 at Durty Nellie’s that raised over $11,000 for individuals at Little City. The event included silent and live auctions, dinner and live music.

The Little City Bulls basketball teams had a sterling showing at the Special Olympics Holiday Tournament at Hersey High School in early December, claiming two titles and a fourth-place finish. The teams are now practicing hard and preparing for future games, culminating in the Special Olympics District Tournament in January, where team champions advance to the State Finals in March.

Thank you to 100% Foundation and Boy Scouts Troop #37 Arlington Heights who brought holiday cheer to Little City. Boy Scouts helped pass out presents that were generously donated while socializing and playing games with children at Little City. Children had a great time choosing gifts and enjoyed interacting with the Boy Scouts.
City Guide: Upcoming Events

**Share My Kingdom Public Screening**

**Sunday, January 12, 2014**

Prairie Center for the Arts
Schaumburg, IL

Join us for a screening of “Share My Kingdom,” Little City’s stunning documentary about the three Little City artists along with an art exhibit. Learn more about the film at littlecity.org/kingdom.

**“Seeing Hope Together” Poker Tournament & Casino Night**

**Friday, March 7, 2014**

The Montgomery Club
500 West Superior Street | Chicago, IL

Enjoy a wonderful evening of casino games and Texas Hold ‘Em where the grand prize is a $10,000 entry into the World Series of Poker! Learn more at littlecity.org/poker.

**Food Frenzy**

**May 2014 | 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.

**PFG Golf Outing**

**June 2014 | Highland Park Golf Course | Hoffman Estates, IL**

A golf outing designed exclusively for Little City’s Parent/Family/Guardian Group. The event promises to be a wonderful day of golf and exciting contests.

**51st Annual LCI Golf Tournament**

**Monday, June 16, 2014**

Twin Orchards Country Club
Long Grove, IL

One of Little City’s premiere events. Enjoy 18 holes of golf at one of the top golf courses in the country. The day is capped off by a fabulous dinner and a silent auction that is guaranteed to impress.