Duffey Family Children’s Village Opens

A vital and vibrant community, the New Little City continues to grow in its mission to enrich the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

With much fanfare, the Duffey Family Children’s Village opened in November, amidst ribbon cutting ceremonies and receptions with donors, members of the community, residents and staff.

Two of six planned, state-of-the-art, eight-bedroom residences became home to 16 boys, ages 13 – 18, in early January.

“Now we’re looking to the future and focusing on fundraising to complete the next four homes,” commented Chief Development Officer Ed Hockfield.

Funded by the generosity of the John M. and Becky Duffey family, Vincent and Patricia Foglia of the Foglia Family Foundation, the Larry Rudis Special Needs Trust, as well as hundreds of dedicated donors, the homes include features specifically designed for children with moderate to profound autism.

continued on page 2...
Little City Friends and Family,

Happy New Year!

As the New Little City continues into its 56th year of advancing its mission, I am deeply grateful our organization has been blessed with generous and faithful donors, as well as a community of steadfast and dedicated volunteers. Together we are making a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

After opening two of six planned homes in the Duffey Family Children’s Village, our focus turns to fundraising to build and open the four remaining homes for children with moderate to profound autism. In addition, we are continuing with expansion of the ChildBridge Center for Education to accommodate a census of 50 students, which will be completed this spring. The 15th Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) in Hanover Park will become home for six adults in the next few months.

Despite Little City’s admirable accomplishments for 2014, we continue to raise the bar, setting our goals in 2015 even higher to make each day better than the last for our children and adults.

Together, we are achieving goals that some may call “impossible” – and we’re enjoying every moment! Won’t you join us?

Yours in service,

Shawn E. Jeffers
Executive Director

―Nelson Mandela

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Innovative sensory rooms serve high stimulus functions such as art, music, crafts and psychomotor activities, while at other times accommodate low stimulus activities like speech therapy and one-on-one instruction. The new homes include a visiting room to provide a quiet place for parents to visit with their children.

“Larry’s Home,” is named in memory of Larry Rudis, who was a long-time resident of Little City. The “Foglia Home” honors the Foglia Family Foundation for their generous support of Little City. Naming opportunities are available for the next four homes of the Children’s Village.

...continued from the cover

Duffey Family Children’s Village Opens

I"It always seems impossible until it’s done.” —Nelson Mandela

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Above: Abraham "Abe" Bohrer enjoyed previewing the new homes at the Duffey Family Children’s Village. His son, Mitchell, lives in the Danby Home.

Right: Tammy Becker and Dan Zuidema, parents of Jason, who will be moving into the Foglia Home.
The Best Possible Smiles

Licensed Dental Hygienist, Deb Viger helps our residents and individuals with disabilities in the community become more comfortable when going to the dentist at Little City’s Center for Health and Wellness.

Through many visits to her cheery office in the Center for Employment and Business Opportunities, individuals become familiar with the tools, sights, smells and sounds of what to expect during a dental appointment.

Deb demonstrates proper brushing techniques and discusses nutrition choices for oral health. She also provides desensitization and acclimation to the instruments used in a dental visit. Through mini-exams of individuals at the same time, she is able to spot problems and send people in for needed work between regularly scheduled appointments with the dentist.

Going to the dentist can be an overwhelming experience to someone with autism. The individual may have sensory challenges, making bright lights and noise intolerable. Medicines routinely prescribed for individuals with developmental disabilities can affect the mouth, causing bacteria to accumulate and dry mouth.

“We are actively communicating and demonstrating to every staff person the importance of daily preventative care so our residents have the best possible smiles and the ability to eat nutritious foods,” said Deb Viger.

Future plans for the Oral Health Desensitization program include electronic toothbrushes for every child and adult resident, an examination light and dental chair.

In cooperation with Little City University, an instructional training video for staff is in the works.

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Pull out the sunglasses and put on your poker face for Little City’s “Seeing Hope Together” Poker Tournament & Casino Night presented by Spex on Friday, March 6, 2015 at The Montgomery Club in Chicago.

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
The Hot Chocolate 15K/5K runs draw more than 40,000 people to beautiful Grant Park, selling out every year. Hosted in partnership with Ram Racing, the Walk attracted Little City supporters, walk enthusiasts, family and friends, increasing participation by 200% from last year.

More than $28,000 was raised to support the children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities served by Little City.

As with any event of this magnitude, thousands of volunteers are needed to man aid stations, cheer stations and race course. Little City coordinated hundreds of volunteers, managing Walker Registration at the Hot Chocolate Expo, our very own aid station along the race course and course marshals along the Walk course.

Thank you to walkers, supporters and volunteers for making the Hot Chocolate Walk a spectacular success!

Supporters of Little City get ready to “walk the Walk.”

Little City has need for the following items for its group homes, located on campus and across DuPage and Cook Counties:

**LAUNDRY:**
- 16 Laundry baskets, plastic, white, 1.5 bushel
- 2 Ironing boards with pads
- 2 Irons, full size, steam
- 2 holders for ironing board and iron

**KITCHEN:**
- 4 Ice cube trays, silicone
- 2 Stainless steel pots and pans, 10 piece sets
- 2 Stand mixers
- 2 Blenders
- 2 Electric can openers
- 6 Cookie sheets
- 4 Baking pans sets, loaf, square, cake
- 4 Cutting boards, large and small
- 2 Stainless steel mixing bowl sets
- 2 Food scales
- 6 16-piece, service for 4, Corelle Livingware Winter Frost dishes
- Kitchen utensils, plastic/acrylic
- 2 Sets acrylic glasses, 10 oz., sets of 8
- 12 Corning Ware cooking/serving dishes, various sizes
- 4 Rechargeable flashlights
- 2 Vacuum cleaner, upright bagless, with HEPA

**LIVING ROOM:**
- 4 Wii Games (not Wii Universal)
- Family-friendly DVDs

**BEDROOMS:**
- 20 Pillows
- 40 Extra-long twin size sheets sets, white
- 20 Extra-long twin size comforters

**BATHROOMS:**
- 16 Shower caddies
- 32 Towel sets, bath towel, wash cloths, hand towels, white

**How to Help:**

- Donations are gratefully accepted by Ann Bechtloff. Please contact Ann at bechtloff@littlecity.org or at (847) 221-7810.

Little City Wish List

Executive Director Shawn E. Jeffers with Board Director Bill Chepulis, his wife, Nicole and their children, Tyler and Cayla.

**Helping Hands**

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

- $99 Per Room
- 100% Foundation
- Altria
- Baird & Warner Palatine
- Baxter Healthcare
- Berkshire Hathaway-Koenig Rubloff
- BIK & Co.
- Boy Scouts of America
- Conant High School
- Discover
- District 211 Academy South
- Eagle Scout Perry Christodouloupolous
- Foresters
- HandsOn Suburban Chicago
- Harper College
- HiP Salon
- Holy Family Parish
- Hot Chocolate Aid Station Volunteers
- Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City Volunteers
- Keller Williams Palatine
- Little City Adult Transition Program South
- Little City Annual Dinner Volunteers
- Make a Difference Day Volunteers
- Motorola Solutions
- PFG Volunteers
- PHH Mortgage
- Schaumburg High School Wind Symphony
- St. Edna Parish
- Vanguard School
- Zurich NA Marketing
- Zurich NA Training & Development
- Make a Difference Day Volunteers
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- PHH Mortgage
- Schaumburg High School Wind Symphony
- St. Edna Parish
- Vanguard School
- Zurich NA Marketing
- Zurich NA Training & Development
- Ann Bechtloff. Please contact Ann at bechtloff@littlecity.org or at (847) 221-7810.

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

**Sunday, November 9th,** more than 2,800 supporters braved the cold for the Hot Chocolate Walk for Little City. Walkers were greeted by an amazing sunrise over Lake Michigan and beautiful views of the Chicago skyline during the 3K walk along the lake shore.

For more information, visit www.littlecity.org/volunteer or contact (847) 221-7804.

**Laundry:**
- 16 Laundry baskets, plastic, white, 1.5 bushel
- 2 Ironing boards with pads

**Kitchen:**
- 4 Ice cube trays, silicone
- 2 Stainless steel pots and pans, 10 piece sets
- 2 Stand mixers
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- 20 Extra-long twin size comforters

**Bathrooms:**
- 16 Shower caddies
- 32 Towel sets, bath towel, wash cloths, hand towels, white
Omron Facilitates New Careers

Through generous grant funding from Omron, Little City has constructed an Assessment Center, Computer Lab and Hospitality Suite within the Center for Employment and Business Opportunities to train individuals with disabilities in the hospitality field.

Established in 1987, Little City’s Center for Employment and Business Opportunities offers vocation skills training to youth and adults, and partners with more than 70 companies throughout the Metropolitan Chicago Area, which employed more than 155 full and part-time workers from Little City last year.

Staff at the Center for Employment provide the necessary support, motivation, skills training and hands-on experience needed for participants to successfully secure and maintain employment.

Five key components of the program include: assessment services, employee readiness training, career development planning, job development and employment support.

Individuals are assessed prior to beginning a training program or job placement to determine how their profile correlates with critical training and job entry requirements. Information extracted from the assessments, evolves into a Career Development and Transition Plan for each participant. The plan reports on the individual’s interests, abilities, special needs, learning styles and behaviors. This plan also corresponds with the individual’s career choices and which training modules are most relevant for them. The Assessment Center and Computer Lab opened for operation in 2013.

Opened in 2014, the Hospitality Suite is a complete replication of a hotel room and bathroom as workers would experience in the hotel industry. Workers are trained in the Hospitality Suite to perform standard operating procedures for hotel room attendants, housekeepers and laundry room attendants.

Community Partners

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

- Adreani Foundation
- American Honda Financial Services
- Autism Speaks
- DuPage County Community Development Block Grant
- Illinois Arts Council
- Jerome S. and Grace H. Murray Foundation
- Russell and Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust
- Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation
- Regional Transportation Authority

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

The Donor’s Corner

Little City’s Senior Development Officer, India Alexis Ehioba, MNA, CFRE is an experienced, highly-credentialed gift advisor. The Donor’s Corner provides 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.

A divorced man with one child and no grandchildren, Ron gave generously to his church as well as several charitable organizations in his community. He worked with his attorney to develop an estate plan, leaving everything to his only daughter, including life insurance, real estate assets, bank accounts and his 401k retirement account.

At the age of 67, after playing 18 holes on the golf course, he died suddenly. He had a well-executed will and a named executor of his estate (his daughter.) It looked as if he had planned for every contingency.

But there was one thing he didn’t plan for – another beneficiary he never named on any document. The Federal government claimed 45% of his retirement 401k.

This is a true story of my ex-husband and my oldest daughter. When proceeds of a qualified retirement account are left to an adult child (next generation) there are significant tax consequences – the child would need to pay the taxes at their current tax rate. The additional income could also push the beneficiary receiving the retirement account benefits into a higher tax bracket, affecting their eligibility for other tax deductions. The tax impact of leaving a 401k or other pre-tax account to a child or grandchild can be as high as 40 – 60%.

To avoid this tax burden, there are several ways to leave assets to your children and grandchildren while still supporting Little City. The Charitable Gift Annuity is one of several options that can help you achieve your estate planning goals. Call or email us to learn more, or visit our website at www.littlecity.org/plannedgiving. Always consult your accountant, attorney or financial advisor as you consider your options.
Heart of the City

55th Annual Dinner Gala Raises $325,000

Honorees Tina and Matthew Schubert, Little City Board President.

Honoring Little City’s Emerald Anniversary for 55 years of service, “The Emerald City” themed Annual Dinner Gala generated much-needed funds and awareness for children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. More than 350 community leaders, philanthropists and supporters throughout Chicagoland came together on Saturday, October 25 to celebrate the Center for Employment and Business Opportunities.

Little City honored Matthew and Tina Schubert of Paramount Staffing with the Sidney L. Port Legacy of Distinction Award, which inspired numerous gifts of support to youth and adults with special needs.

Emceed by Co-Chairs Eleni Bousis, Kristina McGrath, Susanna Negovan and Lisa Palivos, the live auction pledge raised $60,000, which will help individuals with disabilities find and maintain employment.

Distinguished guests included: Senator John Cullerton, the Honorable Roger Fein, Richard Mell and Governor-elect Bruce Rauner.

Little City wishes to thank its generous sponsors:


Left: Rich and Ilyse Goodman, Sandy and Jonathan Rothstein travel down the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City.

The ChildBridge Center for Education welcomed the Schaumburg High School Wind Symphony, under the direction of SHS Band Director Vinnie Inendino, on Friday, December 5th to the therapeutic school’s gymnasium. The Symphony mesmerized residents and staff alike with their beautiful music. Little City was fortunate to be a chosen performance site for the SHS Wind Symphony’s Winter Tour 2014. Thank you to the 52 talented musicians for bringing holiday cheer to our children and adults!

Opler Foundation Generosity
Barbara Kupferberg, trustee of the Opler Foundation, presents a check to Shawn E. Jeffers, Bev Saiz and Verne Carson, Little City board member. The funds will be used for the Children’s 2015 Summer Camp. It was Barbara’s first visit to campus. Her comment, “I am overwhelmed by all the wonderful programs available on the campus.”

Holiday Concert and Cheer
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Thank You PFG Group!
Beginning with Thanksgiving and carrying through the holidays, the love and care of family members are particularly important to the children and adults served by Little City. To help make the holidays a little brighter, the Parent Family Guardian (PFG) Group provided 375 Little City staff with a $25 Target Gift Card. This special gift demonstrates appreciation for the support of the staff who give so much to our loved ones. For information on how you can get involved in the PFG Group, please call (847) 221-7892, or visit our website for families at www.littlecity.org/pfg.

iPads for Children at the Therapeutic Day School
American Honda Financial Services donated five 16GB iPad Air tablets for use in Little City’s ChildBridge Center for Education in the therapeutic day school program. At a presentation at American Honda Financial Services, Bev Saiz and Jason Cohen of Little City demonstrated how the school uses the iPads to build children’s communication skills.
City Guide: Upcoming Events

**“SEEING HOPE TOGETHER” Poker Tournament & Casino Night**

**Presented by Spex**
Friday, March 6, 2015
The Montgomery Club
500 West Superior St. | 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**

Friday, May 1, 2015 | 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.

**PFG Golf Outing**

Summer 2015 | 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.

**52nd Annual LCI Golf Tournament**

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

One of Little City’s premiere events, the 52nd annual Little City Invitational honors David Althoff. 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.