Little City Expands Adult Services With New Building

Little City is excited to announce the purchase of a new building that will improve and expand upon the services currently offered at their Countryside Center.

The opportunity came to be as the result of the merger with Countryside Association, who had sold their property at the 21154 W. Shirley Road in Palatine to a real estate developer prior to the merger becoming official.

Needing space to accommodate the programs and services held at the Countryside facility, Little City was most fortunate to find a building located on Palmer Drive. The location is ideal, being less than two miles away from Little City’s Main Campus on Algonquin Road. The building will be even better suited for program expansion after the space is customized to our needs.

Approximately 300 participants and staff members currently at the Shirley Road facility are expected to move to Palmer Drive in the summer of 2017. All Little City’s participants will be able to use services at both locations.

The 32,000-square-foot building will house programs including Vocational Skills, New Horizons, Employment First, Golden Opportunities Retirement Program and Employee Development Services. Wendy Mayfield, director of day services at the center, said the new building allows Little City to make the space fit the programs instead of modifying programs to fit the space.

“We don’t have full use of every room. There are long hallways and a lot of unusable space,” Wendy said of the current building. “I’m excited that we’ll be able to create the right space for maximum productivity.”

The Golden Opportunities Retirement Program will be one the biggest benefactors with space increasing from 602 square feet to 1,300 square feet. The program for seniors is growing from 10 to 55 people.

Wendy said staff is already talking with program participants to ensure that the new space will fit their needs. She said there will be areas for exercise, art, technology and other interests that seniors have already mentioned as a priority.

The vocational skills program – the largest program at the current center – is going to continue but will evolve at the Palmer Drive location as state mandates bring an end to subcontract work that many participants have enjoyed for years. Wendy said there are discussions with some contractors to adjust the work in order to meet new state guidelines.

“At the end of the day, they enjoy the work and getting a paycheck,” Wendy said of the participants who have grown accustomed to and enjoy the work. “Our goal is to find other ways to make it happen.”

To help with the process of moving, Wendy has created a group of Move Mentors who will help their peers feel comfortable in the new building. The “Mentors” are a group of Little City participants who were curious and excited about the new building.

Although scheduled for late summer 2017, no exact date has been set for the move.
Executive Director’s Corner

Dear Friends,

I’ve always been an avid reader. Life itself can teach you a lot if you remain focused on your mission and are not simply going through the motions.

Reading helps quiet the endless physical and mental activity that comes with my passion for the purpose of Little City. It’s also a way to learn from the wisdom and perspectives of others.

A recent article included a beautifully simple, yet powerful, phrase that captures the essence of Little City’s collective mindset on moving forward:

“When it rains
Look for rainbows
When it’s dark
Look for stars”

2016 was a year filled with a barrage of external challenges and pressures that continue to escalate. They are making inroads on dismantling our way of life, restructuring the agencies that support us, putting the overall future of funding in question, and eliminating freedom of choice by deciding how and where individuals with disabilities will live. These issues, and others, not only affect their ability to reach their unique potential, they also have a profound effect on families and guardians.

The course we must take in dealing with these divisive attacks on the disability community is to stay alert and aware, use our collective voices to rally support, and fully engage by taking every action possible to help Little City fight for what is right and just. We must maintain our composure, stay strong and positive, and persevere. Most of all, never – ever – lose sight of our mission.

There are rainbows and there are stars, inspiring us to focus even harder on the goal of creating a leading human services organization uniquely positioned to maintain and sustain programs and services for individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

With the many challenges that face our industry and test our fortitude each and every day, I am sure you share my pride for what we have accomplished and passion for pursuing a future filled with hope, happiness and optimism.

With deep appreciation,

Shawn E. Jeffers
Executive Director

Little City Spotlight

Little City Gift Wrapping Center in Woodfield Mall a Winner

Little City residents turned into Santa’s ‘Little’ Helpers as they offered to wrap presents for the thousands and thousands of shoppers that come through Woodfield Mall during the Holiday Season.

“It was such a wonderful fundraising Holiday opportunity that Woodfield Mall and Simon Properties extended to Little City,” said Shawn Jeffers, Little City Executive Director, “We’ve been neighbors for decades and share the same spirit of giving and community. There is great joy in knowing that the Little City Gift Wrapping Center will help us enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities so they can reach their unique potential.”

Little City residents and volunteers helped raise money for both Little City and The Simon Youth Foundation through their volunteer gift wrapping during late November and all through December up until Christmas day.

Wrapping donations ranged between $4 and $10, depending on the size of the gift box. Proceeds were split between Little City and the Simon Youth Foundation (SYF), a national nonprofit that provides educational opportunities for at-risk high school students.

Little City wants to thank the dozens of volunteers who assisted our gift wrappers during the month-long fundraising event, and all of the shoppers who generously donated to the cause.
Little City held its 2016 annual dinner, the “Legacies Gala,” at the beautiful Drake Hotel in Chicago on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 to benefit people with disabilities. The event drew more than 350 attendees and raised over $500,000 for the organization. The elegant event honored longtime Little City supporters Secretary of State Jesse White and Julie Bell, Executive Vice President of Global Marketing for Benefit Cosmetics, who also represented the Bell family. Julie Bell’s sister has been a resident at Little City for 50 years. Both distinguished honorees inspired the crowd with heartfelt stories of appreciation for Little City’s legacy of over 55 years of service.

The speeches were preceded by an emotional and rousing video introduced by Kelly Trupa, who passionately spoke about how Little City has become a true home for her son and a blessing for her family.

The highlight of the evening was the money raised for the construction of Mario’s Home, scheduled to be the fourth home at Little City’s Duffey Family Children’s Village. Attendees were inspired by the safe, therapeutic and transformational home environments for children on the autism spectrum, and raised nearly $330,000.

“Tonight’s wonderful celebration of Secretary White and Ms. Bell was a reminder of how giving and inspiring Little City’s supporters have always been,” said Shawn Jeffers, Little City Executive Director. “The money raised tonight will make a real difference for children with autism and give them the opportunity to reach their unique potential.”

Attendees were also treated to an evening of fine dining and entertainment, including live music by the Carol Sarlas Orchestra. A silent and live auction bolstered the fund raising evening, with the silent auction comprised exclusively of works by Little City artists. The festivities were enhanced with a live streaming of the Chicago Cubs besting the L.A. Dodgers for the National League pennant.

Little City thanks their generous sponsors for making this event possible: Gold Sponsor: Friends of Kevin Desmond/The Fogelson Foundation; Silver Sponsors: Allstate, Julie Bell, Eleni & Jimmy Bousis, Jane & Cliff Hudis, Kaye Karch & Jerry Rubin, Robert Lozins, Paramount Staffing, George & Dimitra Zervas and Zurich, NA; Bronze Sponsors: Alliant/Mesirow Insurance Services, Linda Bell, Verne Carson & Burt Ury, Rit & Mehetab Faisal, John George Family, Gianaras Family, Jonathan Green Family, Hockfield/Rose Families and Motorola Solutions; Official Media Sponsor: Splash.
Nicole Sasanuma knew the mosaic she was helping make for Little City’s Center for the Arts was much more than an art project.

Nicole, one of roughly 150 volunteers from Astellas who came to Little City during her company’s “Changing Tomorrow Day,” has a cousin with Down syndrome and knows how helpful a place like Little City can be for those with developmental disabilities.

“It made a big difference in his life,” Nicole said of the services places like Little City provide.

By the time Nicole was done helping Little City residents make a tile mosaic for the Center for the Arts, it was ready to be proudly displayed at the center.

The mosaic project was just one way Astellas helped Little City during its “Changing Tomorrow Day” service. Volunteers also helped build and maintain outdoor trails on campus and paint the hallways and kitchen in the Center for Employment and Business Opportunities as well as the West Port Center.

Each year, Astellas employees around the world volunteer in the communities in which they live, with a specific focus during their “Changing Tomorrow Day” on agencies that serve people with special needs.

Roughly 150 volunteers from Astellas US LLC came to Little City to beautify the campus.

“If we can come together as a community to help each other out and support each other, that’s something very special,” said Christine McDonough, director of data governance for Astellas and a parent of a child with a disability. “Sometimes we really need to take a step back and remember that there’s people that are less fortunate than us.”

Because of the tremendous dedication of volunteers like those from Astellas, Little City is able to maintain and improve a campus that is safe, welcoming and enriching for everyone.

“We would not be able to provide the quality programming we offer without volunteers,” said Catrina Johnson, Little City’s Manager of Volunteer Services. “They are the reason we get to help people with developmental disabilities every day.”

Our Helping Hands

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

- 100% Foundation
- Adult Transition Program South-Higgins Educational Center
- Altia
- Annual Dinner Volunteers
- Barrington Bank
- Berkshire Hathaway KoenigRubloff
- Boy Scouts Troop 37
- Chicago Cares
- Chicago Dads Group
- ComEd
- Conant High School
- DePaul University CMAA Student Chapter
- Discover
- Dist. 211 Academy South
- First Presbyterian Church
- Foresters
- Harper College
- HIP Salon
- Holy Family Parish
- Jackson Management
- Keller Williams
- Little City Junior Board
- Little City’s Parent, Family and Guardian Group
- Netrix LLC
- Northridge Preparatory School
- Omron
- Paramount Staffing
- Pleasant Hill Elementary School
- Salon 37
- Sigma Kappa Sorority
- St. Edna’s Parish
- Woodfield Mall Gift Wrapping Volunteers
- Zurich NA

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

In Memoriam: Eric Priebe

Little City lost one of its bright lights on Nov. 28, 2016, when longtime resident Eric Priebe passed away at 46 years old. The following is a portion of a memoir from Rosellen Monter, one of Eric’s dear friends:

“Eric came to Little City in July 1982, 12 years after his premature twin birth and more than a decade of foster homes and institutions which gave him little or no support for his intellectual and psychological challenges. Little City provided a safe niche where Eric could find some success and build an identity in academics, Special Olympics, Camp Red Leaf, recreational outings, holiday celebrations and social events.

After Eric briefly left Little City in 1990, Little City volunteer and Eric’s friend, Veda Connolly and her husband Terry, became his legal guardian. Eric would go on to live in a CILA on Scott Street in Algonquin for nearly two decades. It was there he became known as the CEO because of the enjoyment he took in being a house leader and taking charge.

Jim, one of the parents at the Scott Street house, said Eric always took joy in the little things.

“He’d go on and on about how good a sandwich he’d had at McDonalds. He was always excited about accomplishments, no matter how small – a bronze medal in Special Olympics, or even a medal for just showing up. He was so vocal when we celebrated his and Barry’s birthdays at the riverboat casino and he WON!” Jim said. “But his greatest excitement was always when he knew his mom (Veda) was coming to see him.”

In addition to taking charge, Eric loved going to church and sprucing up for social events in the community.

Though others might have labeled him as having “limitations,” he didn’t let his life be limited—in interest, joy, love or friendship.

Let’s remember, always, how blessed we are to have had Eric touch our lives with his wholehearted zest for living, showing us so well that even with terrible setbacks, life can be fun, loving, and full of joy.”
The Donor’s Corner

Helpful Facts to Know About Making Non-Cash Gifts to Little City

1. Since I don’t currently have a will, I need to identify and work with an attorney first.
   A. FALSE! We can work with you to identify an attorney experienced with gift planning and help you every step of the way. You can even set up your own personal, secured wills planning account through our easy to use website www.littlecitygift.org. There is information provided that will allow you to answer a few simple questions so you can begin to build this important document right from your own computer. All information you enter is secure and can only be accessed by you.

2. It is simple to make a gift to Little City of appreciated stocks and bonds.
   A. TRUE! We welcome your gifts of appreciated stock, bonds and mutual fund shares. I can provide you with our brokerage account information so you can advise your broker of the stock name and number of shares that you wish to donate.

3. I can give a more impactful gift to Little City without it coming out of my fixed income.
   A. TRUE! There are a number of options that may be available to you that will allow you to make a gift out of your assets and not affect your income. A gift annuity is one of those options.

4. I can even make a gift to Little City and get income back to me and help to minimize my taxes.
   A. TRUE! I will work directly with you and your personal financial advisor to set up a gift annuity that would provide you with income, while providing an impactful gift to Little City.

If you would like more information about the many benefits and tax advantages of IRA Rollover gifts or other ways to include Little City in your estate plans, please visit our website at www.littlecitygift.org or call Ed Hockfield at (847) 221.7880.

Community Partners

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

• AT&T Illinois
• The Coleman Foundation
• DuPage County Community Services
• Wells Fargo Foundation
• City of Waukegan
• Omron Foundation
• The Schwaben Society
• Adreani Foundation
• Marvin & Kay Lichtman Foundation
• Turano Foundation
• George M. Eisenberg Foundation
• Winnetka Congregational Church (Benevolence Committee)
• Carl R. Hendrickson Family Foundation
• Dermody Properties Foundation
• Davee Foundation

The above referenced grants were awarded on or after October 2016.

Recipe for Success... Countryside’s Culinary Classic Continues!

This is the perfect opportunity to satisfy your appetite for fabulous food while supporting a great cause. Little City will host an evening of exclusive delicacies and libations from some of the hottest local restaurants, and music by Bruce Blanck Quartet with Jack Miuccio, singer.

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017
MEADOWS CLUB | ROLLING MEADOWS, IL

Register at www.littlecity.org/recipe
IlliniCare Health boosts Little City’s Oral Health Care program

L
ittle City is grateful for a $4,250 donation from IlliniCare Health that will continue a mutually beneficial partnership to provide the best oral healthcare possible for people with autism and developmental disabilities.

Through donations such as the gift from IlliniCare, Little City’s dental specialist Debbi Viger is able to offer these training sessions free of charge to other agencies and groups wishing to improve their clients’ oral health and achieve more positive outcomes in a dental office setting.

In 2017, Debbi worked closely with staff and clients at IlliniCare’s Harvey location. She was able to work with all the youth and staff at the location and teach her special technique that ensures that each staff member brushes an individual’s teeth in the exact same order so each person becomes more comfortable with daily oral health care.

The agency also received 300 adult size brushes and 60 child size brushes along with multiple products for dry mouth and other dental issues, plus full access to Little City’s series of videos and visual aids as part of the Oral Health and Community Outreach Program.

“Tapestry: Little City is grateful for a $4,250 donation from IlliniCare Health that will continue a mutually beneficial partnership to provide the best oral health care possible for people with autism and developmental disabilities.

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“Seeing the look of pure joy on the children’s faces will be etched in the memories of many,” said Rich Bobby, Chief Program Officer, Children’s Services. “Observing the meaningful interactions our team members had with the youth they serve including the team’s genuine desire in wanting them to have an enjoyable evening, was a great reminder of the incredible work our dedicated staff do daily.”

Adult program participants enjoyed a four course holiday dinner Dec. 15 at the Cotillion Banquet in Palatine. The adults were dressed up in fancy suits, gowns and festive attire while they danced the night away as the DJ played holiday tunes and pop songs.

“It’s always a joy to see our individuals get dressed up and enjoy a night of dining, dancing and taking in the holiday spirit,” said Jason Clark, Chief Program Officer, LifePath Adult Services. “They look forward to the holiday party each year and this was certainly no exception.”

Holiday Parties a Hit at Little City

Faith United Methodist Church in Dolton, IL. Attendees enjoyed a buffet-style lunch with an opportunity to take holiday photos on site. Children in the program were provided gifts thanks to our wish list donors Jackson National Asset Management, PPM America and Salon 37.

Children in attendance engaged in games, various arts and crafts, and were able to learn about and interact with exotic animals presented by the Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary.

Our children residents enjoyed a buffet-style dinner Dec. 14 at the ChildBridge Center for Education Gymnasium on Little City’s campus. Santa Claus and Elf paid a visit brightening up our children’s faces with smiles.

“Seeing the look of pure joy on the children’s faces will be etched in the memories of many,” said Rich Bobby, Chief Program Officer, Children’s Services. “Observing the meaningful interactions our team members had with the youth they serve including the team’s genuine desire in wanting them to have an enjoyable evening, was a great reminder of the incredible work our dedicated staff do daily.”

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To stay on top of Little City news, events and advocacy efforts, join us on our social networks.
Little City aims to provide the highest possible 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. Recent updates from around our “City” include:

**Little City employees Give from the Heart**

Little City employee participation increased 230 percent in a program that allows them to dedicate a portion of each paycheck back to Little City. Rich Bobby (right), Chief Program Officer, Children’s Services, received recognition from Ed Hockfield (left), Chief Development Officer, as one of the many stars who made the campaign a success.

**Little City thanks Nicor for their generous donation**

Little City is grateful for a recent visit and campus tour with Nicor representative Patricia Eaves-Heard. Pictured here with Jayne McGrath, Director of Annual Giving, Nicor donated $7,500. Little City looks forward to a continued relationship with Nicor in the years to come!

**DePaul University CMAA Student Chapter came out to Little City to make a difference.** The students thought it would be a great idea to partner with Little City and its residents for an event to do arts and crafts and have the residents serve as mentors to the DePaul University CMAA Student Chapter. Canvas artwork was created for the lunchroom to be on display.
City Guide: Upcoming Events

Recipe for Success
March 27, 2017 | Meadows Club, Rolling Meadows, IL | littlecity.org/recipe
Countryside’s Culinary Classic Continues! Satisfy your appetite for fabulous food while supporting a great cause. Little City will host an evening of exclusive delicacies and libations from some of the hottest local restaurants.

8th Annual Food Frenzy
Hosted by the Little City Junior Board
May 5, 2017 | Loft 644, Chicago, IL
Chow down on a copious collection of cuisines and kick back some cocktails while networking with other young Chicago professionals for a great cause!

Clipped Wings Golf Outing
May 15, 2017 | Royal Melbourne Country Club, Long Grove, IL
Clipped Wings proudly presents its annual golf outing to benefit Little City. The group of retired airline attendants is excited for a new chapter after being a longtime supporter of Countryside Association.

Ted Arndt Memorial Golf Outing
June, 2017 | Highland Woods Golf Course, Hoffman Estates, IL
A golf outing designed exclusively for Little City’s Parent/Family/Guardian Group. The event promises to be an exciting day of golf and contests.

Opportunity Walk Run & Roll
June 4, 2017 | Little City Campus, Palatine, IL | littlecity.org/opportunity
This charity fundraising run and walk celebrates and creates awareness of all that Little City has to offer. The walk festival is a day filled with celebration, recognition, games for the whole family and great food.

54th Annual Little City Invitational Golf Classic
August 21, 2017 | Twin Orchard Country Club, Long Grove, IL
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.

If you would like additional information regarding our special events, please visit www.littlecity.org or contact Heidi Merritt, Director of Special Events, at (847) 221-7807 or hmerritt@littlecity.org.