

St. Ann Center's seasons of Life

People of all ages and abilities spend the day at St. Ann Center because of your support. You made these stories of our joyful intergenerational community possible.

Remembering Everyone's Best Friend

St. Ann Center means different things to different people—from a day care to a place to get a massage, volunteer or learn to swim. But for Doug Burdick, it meant something else entirely... a second home.

Doug passed away peacefully July 21, 2017, at the age of 60. During a memorial service at the center, clients and staff alike remembered his ear-to-ear grin and most of all, his hugs.

Doug became a client at St. Ann Center 24 years ago. He was among the first young adults when the Stein Campus opened as an intergenerational day program in 1999. If there was any doubt about the wisdom of children interacting with adults, Doug put it to rest. "He was fabulous with the kids," said Sandy Bonnier, lead CNA with the young adult unit. "He would hold and rock the babies and then get down on the floor with the bigger kids and play with trucks. Old or young, everyone was Dougie's friend."

A perfect example was the day Doug and other St. Ann Center clients went to a Brewers game—the first time he'd seen Miller Park. He instantly greeted everyone in his section with, "Hi, I'm Doug. How about them Brewers?" Shawn Chilson, Stein Campus Vice President of Adult Services, remembered, "Somebody hit a home run, and Doug was so excited, he jumped up." And nachos that had been in Doug's lap rained down on the fans below. "Instead of getting ticked off, the guy in front of him bought Doug another plate of nachos," Shawn said.

Doug had a way of getting people to laugh and remember what really matters.

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A friend to all ages, Doug was an expert on sports and a whiz on the dance floor.



Reaching out with a hug or a handshake, Doug kept St. Ann Center smiling.





Dear Friend,

I've never been a homeowner. But I do know the thrill of building something from the ground up,

watching it go from lines on a blueprint to a complete structure and anticipating the memories that will be made there.

I felt that 18 years ago, when we completed construction on our first campus on the south side. I was so excited! But at the same time, I wondered what our clients would think of the place. On the day of the grand opening, I kept my eyes and ears open for reactions. One man came through the doors in a power wheelchair. He moved through the atrium, continued around the adult units and circled back to the entrance where I was standing. After a minute, he looked at me and said, "All this...for us?"

That comment deeply moved me. Since then, we've strived to show our clients that we care enough about them to give them a beautiful place to spend their day.

Try as we might, however, that goal has been getting harder to meet. With each passing year, the maintenance checklist at our Stein Campus has lengthened. The floors in three of our adult care units have become worn by heavy traffic from wheelchairs, walkers and lift equipment. The driveway where transport vans drop off and pick up our adult clients all day long needed resurfacing. And the atrium, where our children and adults come together to chat, dance or play games, needs a new roof.

Marty Stein, for whom our original campus was named, once told me, "The elderly and people with disabilities experience enough pain in their lives. They deserve to be surrounded by beauty."

So, the wish list in this newsletter is special - **it's for repair funds.** We still appreciate gifts of art supplies, games and baby bibs, but we have to address bigger needs, too—such as floor tiles and shingles. Any amount you can give toward any of the items on the wish list is greatly appreciated. Every penny really does count, and we're thankful for donations of all sizes.

With deepest gratitude,

OUR REPAIR WISH LIST

Stein Campus

Reroofing atrium	\$10,000
New flooring for adult day care areas	\$30,000
North tub room repairs	\$20,000
Driveway and parking lot repairs	\$15,000

Bucyrus Campus

Ceiling fans and extra outlets	\$18,000
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***If you and each person who receives this newsletter donate \$50, we will achieve our goal!**

Watch our progress and donate securely at: stanncenter.org/donate



Remembering Everyone's Best Friend,

...continued from page 1

Sports mattered a lot to Doug. With the sports page tucked in his back pocket, he'd tell anyone within earshot about his beloved Green Bay Packers. He engaged more than one Sister of St. Francis in a discussion about professional wrestling. Another love was music. A devotee of Elvis, Doug had the hip swivel down pat. He was an enthusiastic member of St. Ann Center's adult choir and enjoyed performing in concerts for his family and friends.

The talent Doug was famous for around the center earned him his nickname, "Huggy Dougie." Mary Olson, a CNA in Shepherd House, remembers how he got it. "We were having a contest to see who could collect the most hugs," she said,

explaining players had to get a signature from everyone they hugged. "Doug ended up filling three cards!"

A couple of years ago, Doug started having trouble remembering things. As his health declined, he joined the clients in the Shepherd House memory care unit. Growing more and more quiet, he'd nap during the day. Eventually, Doug even forgot when the Packers played. In April, he was moved to a 24-hour nursing care facility. On his last day at St Ann Center, he gave out big hugs to everyone, and took the love and respect of his St. Ann Center family along with him.

"Doug found his purpose here," Sandy said, recalling how he loved helping her with activities and encouraging everyone to participate. **"We're richer for having had him with us."**

Giving Is Evergreen

Greendale Community Church U.C.C. has added a bit of Christmas bliss at St. Ann Center. The congregation made the center a recipient of its annual Giving Tree program.

St. Ann Center board member Marji Singer and friend Sara Lindgren, both members of the church, coordinated the holiday windfall. The gifts range from necessities like toothbrushes and hand lotion to craft supplies and puzzles. Close to \$900 in presents was collected, all items from the center's wish list. "Sr. Edna visited our church one Sunday and spoke during the service," Marji said. "That helped our members understand what St. Ann Center does and where their gifts would be going."

Marji (right with daughter Michelle) regularly brings friends to tour both the Stein and Bucyrus campuses. "That personal contact goes a long way," Sara added, explaining just such a tour convinced her to volunteer at the center's gala. "Now our congregation understands why Marji lights up whenever she hears the words 'St. Ann Center.'"



Does your church or club have a Christmas Giving Tree? *Include St. Ann Center as one of your beneficiaries in three easy steps.*

- 1)** Contact Casey Rozanski at (414) 977-5062 for a list of items needed for our childcare and adult day services programs.
- 2)** Request Sr. Edna or another St. Ann Center representative as a speaker.
- 3)** Give hundreds of kids and adults the best Christmas ever!



"If someone likes butterflies, I'll give the person a page full of them to color and watch his or her face light up."

Color Us Creative

The adult coloring book craze makes Yolanda Jones smile. As art program director at St. Ann Center's Stein Campus, she was coloring with grown-ups long before it was cool.

"It's very relaxing and a great stress releaser," Yolanda said. She's been using Crayolas by the boxfuls with clients in the adult day program and Alzheimer's and dementia units for a decade. "When they're coloring, they forget their worries and focus on the picture—they're completely in the moment."

Yolanda explained, "Certain colors have a special effect on people. When I give Joey yellow and orange, he gets so excited, he doesn't have the words to express it."

The excitement has been growing since the art room was remodeled and expanded early this year. Yolanda said. "There's also more space for wheelchairs to maneuver, and more elbow room when the children are here."

When children join Yolanda's circle of artists, the results are picture-perfect. "The adults and kids immediately start conversing and helping one another," she said. "I heard a 4-year-old ask the grandmother coloring beside her why her hair was black, white and gray," Yolanda noted. "The woman told her, 'Your hair gets more colorful when you get to be my age.'"

Feats of Clay

Painting ceramics is a great way to fire up the imagination at the Stein Campus ceramics studio, under the warm and welcoming guidance of Ivory Cainion, program director.

"One student told me his mother loves the Christmas tree he made for her so much, she leaves it up year-round," Ivory said. Students include adult clients, as well as members of the community. Novice potters glaze or paint their dishes, clocks, and figurines with acrylics—as gifts or personal keepsakes. Advanced students learn hand building using clay coils and slabs. Whatever the method, the process is fun.



"Ceramics helps with relaxation, hand-eye coordination and small motor skills. All who come to the ceramics studio find their way to artistic expression," Ivory said, "It gives people the freedom and opportunity to make their own decisions and choices."

INTERESTED IN ART?

Contact: Yolanda Jones at (414) 977-5063
or Ivory Cainion at (414) 977-5038
Visit: stanncenter.org/art

Celebrating Good Earth

St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus hosted the Good Earth Celebration to spotlight the major soil cleanup of the 7.5-acre campus, making way for construction of a brand-new community band shell.

About 9,000 tons of soil affected by pollutants was excavated from the campus and trucked to a landfill. Another 6,000 tons of dirt was capped by clean soil and will be graded to form a hill for audience space for a 350-capacity band shell.

A two-block walkway, inspired by the community members during a planning picnic, will lead to the Indaba Community Band Shell, designed by Zimmerman Architectural Studios and expected to be completed by next spring. "There's tremendous talent in this neighborhood," Sr. Edna said. "We can't wait to see them entertaining us in the beautiful band shell."



Pastor Ollie Taylor of neighboring Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and Fr. Byron Haaland led a blessing of the construction site. Entertainment was provided by Omo Orisha drum and dance group, St. Ann Center's Summer Camp program and intergenerational choir.



Dave Misky, assistant director of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, applauded St. Ann Center for revitalizing an underused property and Jon Peterson, U.S. EPA project officer (above), emphasized the importance of federal, state, county and city entities working with community organizations. "We are so happy to be able to give money and advice on how to redevelop property like this and make it into something more beautiful than it ever was before."

Knowing her clients enjoy regular visits from childcare kids, Rosemarie decided to introduce them to her baby daughter, Alexis. "The first time they saw her, they were so excited," Rosemarie recalled. "So I talked to Sr. Edna about bringing her up here every week." Now Alexis, who's enrolled in the Stein Campus childcare, spends an hour with her Veranda family every Wednesday. The clients have watched the growing baby go from crawling to standing to walking. Alexis also inspires animated conversations among the group about their own grandchildren and great-grandkids. "Babies have a natural way of brightening the day," Rosemarie said. "I love being able to share Alexis with these wonderful people."

Bringing Up Baby

Life's been a wee bit more interesting for the Stein Campus Veranda since lead CNA Rosemarie Alloway-Belmarez returned from maternity leave, bringing her newborn with her.

Farm's Part of Summer Fun

St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus Summer Campers had a blast getting in touch with their inner farmhand.

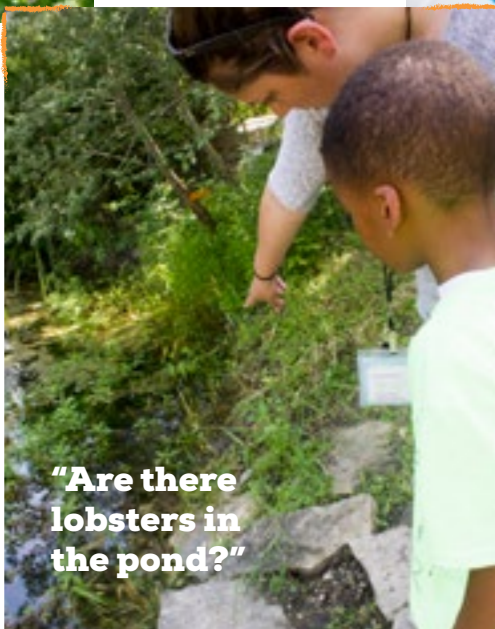
"Our goal is to give city kids a hands-on experience of life in the country," said Rose Koremenos, a longtime St. Ann Center supporter and owner of Creating Pathways Farm. "Something magical happens when you put nature, animals and children together."

From June through August, two dozen excited youngsters made weekly bus trips to Sussex, trading their classroom for a barn. Rose, her husband, Gus, and a friendly team of staff and volunteers greeted them. "The first week, the kids planted seeds," Rose said, recalling the excitement of the first-time farmers. "One little girl told me, 'I'm going to remember exactly where I'm standing so I know which vegetables are mine!'"



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Each of the following visits had a different theme. One week, a volunteer from the Ojibwa tribe taught the kids about drumming and the Native American culture. Another time, Rose's brother, an expert angler, introduced campers to the finned and froggy inhabitants of the farm pond.



"Are there lobsters in the pond?"

And a holistic vet explained the importance of treating animals with love and respect.



"Can I braid the horse's hair?"

Among the farm's main attractions are four gentle horses the kids met up close and personal in the barn's indoor arena. "They learned everything from the different gaits of the horses to the parts of a harness," said Rose. The older kids got a chance to try their hand at grooming.

Drawing inspiration from nature, the campers



also enjoyed weekly arts and crafts sessions. Projects ranged from decorating pet rocks to making colorful leaf rubbings.

There was time set aside for just plain fun, too like hunting for tadpoles and collecting pinecones.

The final camp picnic featured some of the healthy produce the campers planted in June. "I feel so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this program," Rose said, adding there are plans to expand it next summer. "The kids are wonderful, bright and quick. It's a blessing to watch their excitement as they discover new things about the world and themselves."

Down the Garden Path

If you need some tips on getting kids to eat their veggies, ask Sr. Margaret Kruse, director of spirituality services.

The Fireflies and Bumblebees at the Stein Campus stumbled upon the Sisters of St. Francis' lush garden while on a walk last spring, when Sr. Margaret was in the middle of planting. "She turned it into a teaching moment for us," said lead teacher Katie Jonas. "So we kept coming back." With each visit, the kids were treated to a bounty of sun-ripened surprises. They eagerly picked Swiss chard, green beans and snap peas. The more adventurous sampled cilantro and basil, which one child decided, "tastes like pizza!"

Two of the Firefly teachers grew up in the neighborhood and explored the Motherhouse grounds as children. "It's neat to watch our kids enjoying the same experiences we did," assistant teacher Katie Brzenk noted.

Lake Effect

Summer sailed by for the kids at St. Ann Center... literally. Our supporter and friend, Al Bathrick, treated the Summer Camp kids to a day at the Oconomowoc Lake Club.

The excitement began with a pontoon ride. For some, it was their first time on a boat. "It was awesome!" 4-year-old Mason confirmed. "We even got a chance to drive." Next, student volunteers from Oconomowoc High School helped the campers build sandcastles. To make things more interesting, the volunteers had buried coins and gold doubloons for the kids to discover. The outing wrapped up with a lunch of hot dogs, lemonade and hot fudge sundaes. Although the start of school was only days away, the kids squeezed every bit of joy out of the blue-sky day.



FALL FEATURED EVENTS

**Doors Open @Bucyrus Campus
Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 23-24th**

10am - 5pm | 2450 W. North Avenue

Self-guided and guided tours of our newest campus will be available.

**Charity Cash Raffle Drawing
Saturday, Oct. 28th | 2pm**

Stein Campus: 2801 E. Morgan Ave.

Grand Prize - \$200,000 CASH

50 prizes given away!

Tickets: \$50/each or \$100 for 3

Purchase: 1 (800) 272-1938 or **visit**
Stein Campus, 6am-6pm | Mon-Fri.

Chili & Jewelry Sale

Saturday, Nov. 18 | 9am-1pm

Stein Campus: 2801 E. Morgan Ave.

Featuring restaurant &

home chef chili! Enjoy a bowl or a flight of 4 tasting portions while you shop our Vintage Jewelry Collection and local vendors.**
Visit: stanncenter.org/chilisale

**The Chili & Jewelry Sale is the only market. St. Ann Center is no longer holding the weekly Indoor Market.

*Host a Sister Edna's
Creations Jewelry Party*

**We'll help you plan a benefit
jewelry party in your own
home, church or business.**

As a party host, you're in store for special gifts and discounts on purchasing beautiful pieces yourself!

**Contact Ross Veitch to plan your party:
(414) 977-5040 | rveitch@stanncenter.org.**

Summer
"re-camp"
Inside...

Plus,
 Fall Jewelry sales
 & parties
 just for you!



STEIN CAMPUS

2801 E. Morgan Ave.
 Milwaukee, WI 53207
 (414) 977-5000

BUCYRUS CAMPUS

2450 W. North Ave.
 Milwaukee, WI 53205
 (414) 210-2450

To update your mailing preferences: (414) 977-5028
 or cfeldkamp@stanncenter.org

CALENDAR UPDATES

- Oct. 4** Caregiver Support Group
- Oct. 17** Parkinson's Support Group
- Oct. 19** Jewelry Sale Marcia P. Coggs
- Oct. 23** Registration Aquatic Session 7
- Oct. 24** Science Café Bucyrus Campus
- Oct. 28** Cash Raffle Drawing
- Nov. 1** Caregiver Support Group
- Nov. 3** Family Fun Night at the Pool
- Nov. 6** Aquatic Session 7 Begins
- Nov. 18** Chili & Jewelry Sale
- Nov. 21** Parkinson's Support Group
- Nov. 23 & 24 - Holiday Closure**
- Nov. 28** Science Café Bucyrus Campus
- Dec. 6** Caregiver Support Group
- Dec. 14** Jewelry Sale County Courthouse
- Dec. 19** Parkinson's Support Group
- Dec. 19** Science Café Bucyrus Campus
- Dec. 21** Family Fun Night at the Pool
- Dec. 25 & 26 - Holiday Closure**

Find more at: stanncenter.org/calendar

Patio to be Proud Of



One of Carol Dickert's favorite spots is the patio just outside the Stein Campus

Outpatient Therapy Department. It's fitting that the peaceful place was dedicated in her honor.

Sr. Edna explained, "When I started the day care in 1983, I had three Sisters in their 80s and Carol helping me." She headed up the Therapy Department, working for two years without pay, Sr. Edna added. "She has taught me a lot about living the mission and sacrificing to maintain it."

A surprise patio dedication party was attended by Carol's family, staff and clients she's worked with as Vice President of Therapy. Looking at her honorary plaque, she said, "Everybody's name should be on this. Our success is because of the amazing therapists we've had over the years."