

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.



Gigi knew St. Ann Center was the right place for her. She came to the center three years ago through SER Jobs, a program that gives mature workers useful training through community service. On any given morning, you'll find her making the rounds of the adult day care, going client-to-client pouring water and coffee. "I ask them how they're feeling...let them know I'm glad to see them...maybe tell a couple of jokes," she explained. "This is our bonding time."

Forced to retire early after several eye surgeries, Gigi thought her vision problems might limit her opportunities. She needn't have worried. "I was asked to help out at the reception desk," she said. "I sat down and found somebody had enlarged the instructions so I could read them easily," "That's the kind of place this is."

Her Heart's in the Right Place

Volunteer Gayle "Gigi" Simmons made her way around St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus, patting backs, rubbing shoulders and giving hugs.

When she reached Jerome, one of the adult clients, she stopped and looked at him closely. "His mouth was twisted," she said, remembering. "So, I told the staff about it." Her keen observation detected the early signs of a stroke. Jerome was immediately transported to the hospital. "He's back here with us now, and he looks good," Gigi said. "I was at the right place, at the right time."



"I always remind them, we're family," Gigi said.

A few months ago, she unexpectedly needed to find day care for her 10-month-old godson. "Everyone was helpful, and I was able to enroll him at St. Ann Center," she said. "I think the intergenerational idea is great. Whenever the children come around, the clients get wrapped up in the happiness."

Gigi was honored as this year's Bucyrus Campus Volunteer of the Year. "I remind people someone cares. My prayer is 'God, let them see your love through me.' I believe that's what He's doing."

Dear Friend,

Thirty-five years ago, when I opened an adult day care in the basement of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Motherhouse, I thought to myself, "I have arrived!" Little did I know then how far we would come. Many of you have been a vital part of this exciting growth—and so, I'd like to share some ideas I've had about St. Ann Center's future.

People always say, "Edna, you think outside the box." Not really. Instead, I gather everybody's boxes, and I put them into my box. For instance, in the years ahead, I hope to visit Hogeweyk outside Amsterdam—dubbed "Dementia Village" to learn about their model, which allows people with dementia to safely live a normal village lifestyle. I also hope to share our own intergenerational model more widely. This fall, I am traveling to Taiwan to help experts there learn how our model can meet the needs of their older adults and children. Closer to home, if God shows me that we need to build a third St. Ann Center, we'll explore that possibility. I'm hoping each time it will get easier!

One thing that's certain about our future is the importance of you, our supporters. You have blessed us with your trust and encouragement, and you've made life better for thousands of children, frail elderly and adults with disabilities. We are grateful for all your donations, large and small.

Thank you for your consideration as we plan our future of caring for loved ones of all ages.

J. Edna



Joining Cardinal Stritch University's Class of '18 at the May 20 commencement, **Sr. Edna Londergan was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters** to recognize her 35 years as founder and president of St. Ann Center. Sr. Edna gave the keynote address at the undergraduate ceremony on a core Franciscan value—creating a caring community. Cardinal Stritch is also a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.

ON OUR WISH LIST

John Deere lawn tractor with attachments:
snow blower, mower deck, tire chains

Salter for plow truck

Four wheeler with plow blade

Double infant strollers

Play kitchen

Toddler pool

Crayons/colored pencils/markers

Gel wrist rests for keyboard and mouse

Ceramics bisqueware

Paintbrushes

Acrylic paints

T-shirts (XXL)

Shower curtains

Beach balls/noodles

Dehumidifier (for storage closet)

Shoe rack (tall)

Earring tree

Large plastic storage bins

Hanging jewelry bag

Queen-size sheets

Matching twin bedspreads & mattress covers

Our wish list is updated online:

stanncenter.org/wishlist

Childcare wish list is on Amazon:

<https://goo.gl/fNI92V>

A Family Affair

When brothers Luc and Asher Gagnon started coming to St. Ann Center, they brought a special friend with them—their grandfather John.

"Both boys are in the afterschool childcare program, so I thought I'd see if I could get involved with St. Ann Center, too," John explained. Retired from the Navy, with time on his hands, he paid a visit to Volunteer Coordinator Delma Vega and told her, "Put me anywhere you need me."

That's how John ended up volunteering in Shepherd House, the Stein Campus' specialized Alzheimer's and Dementia Care unit. Two days a week, he greets clients and eases them into the morning, pouring them coffee and making conversation. "I try to make a little time for everyone," he said. "We talk about whatever is important to them." Sometimes, they walk while they talk. Other times, they sit and chat about their day. "They enjoy it, and I enjoy it," John said. "Simple as that."



A grand example, John shows his grandsons the importance of helping others.

An advocate of mixing the generations, John sees the benefits firsthand in Shepherd House.

"The clients light up when the 2-year-olds from childcare come to visit," he said. "They watch the children and join in activities. It's rewarding for both the adults and the kids."

John sees his grandsons growing from their St. Ann Center experience. The boys have "learned to trust people who are different from them," he said. "They get to know folks who are older or who have a disability, and they respect them." Luc, 11, and Asher, 4, also respect what their grandfather is doing. "I think it's pretty nice that he helps out the adults," Luc said. Asher agreed, adding, "When he's done volunteering, he comes to the Bumblebee Room to say hi to me."

Want to volunteer?

Contact Delma at (414) 977-5034, delmav@stanncenter.org or request more information through our website contact form at stanncenter.org.

It Takes a Village

St. Ann Center parents were true guardian angels for a little girl in the Bucyrus Campus neighborhood.

The parents were on their way to pick up their son from our childcare program when they spotted a young girl sitting alone on a porch. Seeing the worried look on her face, they stopped and asked if she was okay.

She told them that her school bus had dropped her off early and that nobody was home. While the mom stayed with the girl, the dad drove to the Bucyrus Campus, where he asked Carrie Davis, Director of Childcare, for advice.

"I told him to call the police," Carrie said. The police arrived at the house quickly, and after questioning the girl, took her to the home of a nearby relative. "These parents did a great job of creating a caring community," Carrie said, quoting one of St. Ann Center's Franciscan values. "I'm glad we were able to help."

RX for a Healthy Community

Emily Lynch sees patients coming and going. "They often come to us overwhelmed about their health," she said. "And they leave feeling empowered."



Emily, an AmeriCorps VISTA Development Coordinator, has spent the past year helping the Bucyrus Campus clinic achieve standards set by the Wisconsin Association of Free & Charitable Clinics to provide quality health care to economically disadvantaged patients.

Working with clinic directors Emily has helped the young clinic grow. For example, "we are now enrolled in the Emergency Department Care Coordination program," Emily said. "Emergency rooms refer patients who don't have primary care providers to our clinic."

"We listened to the people we serve to find out what the community needs," Emily said. As a result, the clinic is providing lead level testing and programs to improve heart health and blood pressure control.

A graduate of UW-Madison, Emily plans to pursue a master's in public health. Her experience at the Bucyrus Campus Clinic strengthened that decision. "It's been amazing working in a place that's doing so much to help people overcome health care barriers," she said. "I see and hear it making a difference every day."

A Marathon Not a Sprint

When Terry Sexton dashes down the streets of South Milwaukee, he's chasing more than a runner's high. The 65-year-old finds running is also a powerful way to stay ahead of Parkinson's disease.



Terry is a member of the Parkinson's support group that meets monthly at St. Ann Center. Diagnosed with the disease five years ago, he's refused to let it slow him down and has a drawer full of medals to prove it.

"When you find out you have this condition, you deal with it," he said. "I do that by running."

Thanks to medication and exercise, he's been managing his problems, averaging 20 races a year—and one every weekend during summer. "It keeps me limber and mentally alert," he said. Doctors confirm that regular exercise can benefit Parkinson's disease patients by improving their gait, balance, coordination and mobility.

Terry also keeps moving by volunteering. While attending the Parkinson's support group, he heard about St. Ann Center's need for volunteers. Currently, he helps out at the Stein Campus in the Senior Wellness unit. Three days a week, he escorts frail clients in, serves them snacks, chats and leads singalongs on his guitar. "Volunteering keeps me connected socially," Terry said. "It's a way I stay positive and contribute to the community. I feel I've slowed my Parkinson's by running and having goals in my life," he said. "I'm not going to stop."

The Parkinson's Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Ann Center's Stein Campus. For information, call Kathy Japp at 414-212-8255.



Kids Are Her Niche

When Sarah Bongard packs for her day at St. Ann Center, she grabs a few books from her personal childhood stash.

A client in the Stein Campus' young adult unit, Sarah recently began "moonlighting" as the chief storybook reader for the Bumblebee Room.

"Sarah glows every time she's around our class," said lead teacher Trinika Walker. "She helps with everything—getting ready for lunch, assisting on the playground and in the swimming pool. You should hear her read 'Green Eggs and Ham'!"

Like all of the adult clients at St. Ann Center, Sarah, 35, participates in intergenerational activities with the childcare kids. "I liked it so much, I wanted to do more," she said. "Being with the children is the favorite part of my day."

The 4-year-olds quickly became comfortable around Sarah, coming to her for help with knotty shoelaces and stuck jacket zippers. "The kids love her as much as she loves them," Trinika said, adding that the Bumblebees are always eager to make new friends of all ages. "Our motto is: teamwork makes the dream work. And we have an amazing team!"

From A to Zumba

Bucyrus Campus teachers are shedding pounds and shaping up by busting out dance moves after school.

Latisha Hickson, lead teacher in the Mongoose Room, is a certified instructor of Zumba, a high-energy, dance-based fitness class driven by Latin and international beats. "It doesn't feel like we're working out," she said. "It's more like getting together to have an hour-long dance party."

Every Monday and Wednesday, after the campus closes at 6 p.m., the teachers don their workout clothes and head to an empty classroom for some music-infused cardio and camaraderie.

"We've had as many as 20 people in a session, and anyone is welcome to drop in," Latisha said of staff members who participate, including Sr. Lucy Marindany, childcare vice president, and COO Diane Beckley.



"We're a close-knit group, and we encourage one another to keep coming and work as hard as we can."

Some of the Zumba regulars are also part of the campus' Biggest Loser Challenge. "We have a poster right outside my classroom where we write our goals, words of support and tips about nutrition and exercise," Latisha said.

Besides its health benefits, Zumba offers the teachers an enjoyable way to dance away their stress. "Most important," Latisha said, "it gives us the energy we need to keep up with the kids!"

On-the-Job Caring

On busy days, dental hygienist Zenobia Davis could use a spare pair of hands. Luckily, Isaiah Gordon is eager to lend her his.

A recent graduate of Golda Maier High School, Isaiah spent the spring practicing his chairside manner as an assistant in the Gardetto Family Community Dental Clinic.

"Isaiah is awesome," Zenobia said of her 18-year-old protégé, who assists with everything from sterilizing instruments to using a Hoyer lift to get patients who use wheelchairs up and into the dentist chair. Working in the Bucyrus Campus dental clinic, one of the few in the Midwest that specifically serves children and adults with disabilities, is rewarding, Isaiah said. "Inspiring things happen here every day."

Among his favorite duties is calling families on the clinic's lengthy waiting list to make an appointment. "They are so excited!" he said, explaining people with serious disabilities and their caregivers often struggle to find dentists with the ability and desire to take care of their teeth. "One lady came in with her mouth closed tight, not wanting to show her teeth. After Zenobia finished doing a cleaning, she hugged everyone in the clinic. When I escorted her to her car, she was smiling all the way."



Sterilizing equipment is just one of the jobs Isaiah handles receiving hands-on training as an assistant in our dental clinic.

Living just a couple of blocks from the Bucyrus Campus, Isaiah welcomes the opportunity St. Ann Center gives him "to get some real-world experience working with patients," he said. In the fall, he'll attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison with the goal of becoming either a nurse or a doctor.

"I'm learning how to help patients have a good experience—keeping them calm by holding their hand, playing their favorite music, or with kids, making sure they have their special toy," he said. "Little things like that are important."

Job Opportunities!

Positions the dental clinic seeks to fill immediately include:

3 Dental Assistants:

- In need of one dental assistant capable of assisting during surgeries in the hospital operating room

Dentist (One-full time or two-part time dentist positions available)

- Comprehensive dental background
- Desire or skills to work with patients with disabilities.

Competitive benefits & rewarding work.
Call (414) 210-2440 for more information.



Upcoming Events

Construction Heats Up

Excitement is building around St. Ann Center as Catalyst Construction puts the finishing touches on several major projects at the Bucyrus Campus.

The majority of construction costs will be covered by a \$5 million grant the center received from the State of Wisconsin plus contributions from capital campaign donors. "Catalyst has been very good about doing what we need while staying within our budget," said Chris Jackson, St. Ann Center's Chief Development Officer. "They ensure workforce diversity by hiring from the neighborhood."

The campus build-out includes:

- **a secured Dementia Care Unit** with three separate rooms for adults with different levels of dementia, a circular wandering path, quiet room, two whirlpool baths, laundry, and offices for a social worker and unit director
- **a nine-bedroom Overnight Respite Wing** with a commercial kitchen, living and dining rooms, intake room, nurse's office and a whirlpool bath. The décor will reflect the southern U.S.
- **a second-floor suite of offices**
- **an Aquatic Center** with a warm-water pool and wheelchair ramp, two mini lap lanes, hot tub with a lift for accessibility and men's and women's changing rooms
- **two childcare rooms for infants** with bathrooms, kitchenette and changing tables
- **a two-chair hair salon** with a shampoo station
- **an art and fiber crafts room**, spacious and well-lit with a craft storage area
- **the Indaba Band Shell** with an extended roof to create a shaded audience area, two backstage changing rooms, men's and women's bathrooms and a nearby refreshment center, a sloped hill with lawn seating for 350 on the front and a super slide for all ages on the back, plus paved walking paths
- **a splash pad** with ground nozzles that spray water upward and other water features, located in the fenced playground area

MEET US @ THE MARKETS

Sister Edna's Creations

Cathedral Square Market, 520 E. Wells St.
Saturdays, June 2-Oct. 6, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Jams, Jellies, Salsas & Soups

South Shore Farmers Market, 2900 S. Shore Dr.
Saturdays, June 16 – Oct. 13, 8 a.m. – 12 noon



TEE UP FOR FUN, SATURDAY, JULY 28

Stu's Golf Outing

To golf in the charity outing, contact Casey Rozanski at:

(414) 977-5062 or crozanski@stanncenter.org.

Details at: stanncenter.org/golfouting

LET'S COME
Together
FRIDAY, AUG. 10TH

DREAM TOGETHER GALA

Friday, August 10 | 6 pm

Discovery World Museum

RSVP online: stanncenter.org/gala

DOORS OPEN MILWAUKEE: BUCYRUS CAMPUS

Sept. 22 & 23 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Bucyrus Campus is part of behind-the-scenes tours of more than 150 buildings

For more, visit: doorsopenmilwaukee.org

**Help the
Dental Clinic**
Inside...

Plus,
stories of two
St. Ann Center
families making
a difference!



STEIN CAMPUS

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

BUCYRUS CAMPUS

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

CALENDAR UPDATES

July 4	Both Campuses CLOSED
July 6	First Friday Business Group
July 17	Parkinson's Support Group
July 19	Cash Raffle #2 tickets on sale
July 27	Family Fun Night at the Pool
July 28	Stu's Flooring Golf Outing
Aug. 1	Caregiver Support Group
Aug. 3	First Friday Business Group
Aug. 10	Dream Together Gala
Aug. 10	Family Fun Night at the Pool
Aug. 21	Parkinson's Support Group
Sept. 3	Both Campuses CLOSED
Sept. 5	Caregiver Support Group
Sept. 7	First Friday Business Group
Sept. 14	Family Fun Night at the Pool
Sept. 18	Parkinson's Support Group
Sept. 22-23	Doors Open Milwaukee

More info at: stanncenter.org/events

*That's a
Wrap!*



Cathy Feldkamp's creative wheels started turning when she looked at the blank canvases that were St. Ann Center's buses used to transport childcare kids to and from school and carry our adults on outings.

"I thought of the different kinds of wheels that people use and how they could represent all the ages of people who spend the day together at the center," said Cathy, St. Ann Center's Director of Marketing. These wheels became the theme of colorful vinyl wraps heat-sealed by Sign Effectz onto both buses.

The bus wrap happened to show the support of two special donors: the Donald Driver Foundation, which helped us purchase one of the buses, and WaterStone Bank, a contributor to our childcare programs.