

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.



A Place to Create

If you ask Gale Smith to describe her favorite type of music, she'll tell you, "It's the kind you just can't sit still to." Whenever there's entertainment at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus, she's usually the first one on the dance floor.

A client in the new dementia care wing, Gale grew up immersed in music. "I learned to play the violin when I was young," she said. "As a teenager, I was part of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra." Nowadays, the friendly 63-year-old still treasures her polished wood violin. When she glides the bow across its strings, she beams.

Life hasn't been easy for Gale. Challenged by health and cognitive issues, she enrolled in St. Ann Center's adult day care program three years ago. Her sister Teresa, who works for the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, thinks it's a perfect fit. **"I appreciate the umbrella of services,"** she said, citing the convenience of having a medical and dental clinic, beauty salon, warm-water pool and massage therapy under one roof.

"We both love the African-inspired décor," Teresa added. "Gale is very culturally aware—and heritage is important to her." A fan of African dance, Gale is a former member of Milwaukee's Kho-Thi Dance Company. The rhythms and steps are still ingrained in her body. "Whenever African drummers perform here," she said with a smile. "I have to get up and dance."

Gale is quick to share her love for all things musical with others. **Her fellow clients enjoy her impromptu violin concerts. And the childcare kids love to mirror her West African dance moves.** "Those little ones are so agile, they pick it right up," she said.

Teresa is happy that her artistic sister has a place where she can socialize, make friends and stimulate her mind instead of staying home and watching TV. As Gale puts it, **"This place restores my soul."**

Your support helps Gale hold onto the things that bring her joy.

Dear Friend,

I have learned so much over my years of working at St. Ann Center. Among my best teachers are the adults and children in our day care programs. They constantly inspire me.

The other day, a physician assistant student from Marquette University was helping two of our clients with bingo.

"One of them had won a game, and the other one hadn't," she told me. When the lucky client realized that he had won a second time, she said, "he quickly and secretly switched his card with the other client's, so she would win a prize, too. The smile on her face was a mile wide! It was the perfect example of how St. Ann Center unites its clients, different and alike, together as a family."

That student will learn many things as she pursues a career in health care. But this client has taught her a very important lesson—the fact that caring isn't a one-way street. It's a partnership. While we care for our adults and children, they keep us focused on the importance of respecting human dignity and offering compassion by modeling it themselves.

I've heard books have been written on how to win at bingo. But our client's method is guaranteed to work every time.

J. Edna

ON OUR WISH LIST

- Portable stereo with radio & bluetooth/aux cord
- Flat-screen TVs
- DSLR camera with HD video capability
- Queen- & king-size comforter sets
- King-size sheet sets
- Pool noodles and sinking pool toys
- Crayons
- Washable markers

Our wish list is updated online:
StAnnCenter.org/Wishlist

Childcare wish list is on Amazon:
StAnnCenter.org/Amazon



An Open & Shut Case

After 20 years of service, the sensor that

automatically opens the Stein Campus front doors recently needed to be replaced. We took a look at its magnetic counter and discovered the number of times those doors had opened since the campus' opening day in 1999. Can you guess?

(Find the answer at the bottom of page 6.)



amazon

Toys Challenge Stereotypes

Leave it to the teachers at St. Ann Center to **think outside of the toy box**. Mixed in with the Legos, trucks and model dinosaurs in our childcare classrooms are dolls wearing hearing aids, seated in wheelchairs and walking with Seeing Eye dogs.

The colorful plastic figures are called inclusion dolls. **"They help show our children how to celebrate people's differences,"** said Latisha Hickson, Director of Childcare at the Stein Campus. The dolls are multi-ethnic with different abilities that represent a diverse population in a respectful way.

Books, puzzles and action figures featuring people with disabilities can be found in the older children's classrooms, as well. "During creative playtime, we've seen 3-year-olds building a house with blocks for their inclusion dolls to live in," Latisha said. "They make sure it has an elevator."

You teach our kids that diversity is strength!



One-year-olds play with inclusive toys that positively represent people with disabilities.

Stories for the Ages

What does an 80-year-old man know about love? Students from Pathways High School found out for themselves during recent visits to the Bucyrus Campus.



Bucyrus Campus clients and high schoolers find they have life experiences in common.

"One of our students was chatting with an adult client who told her he'd once had three girlfriends—all at the same time," said Pathways teacher Molly Spector. "His story was so moving and funny, she remembered every word of it."

Pathways, a free public charter school, partnered with St. Ann Center on a unique class project. Each student picked a topic, wrote a personal story about it and then interviewed preschoolers and older adults at the Bucyrus Campus to get an

intergenerational perspective.

"Some of their topics included love, family, music, art, phobias and childhood shenanigans,"

Molly said, adding the finished project will be a book compiling each generation's stories. "By listening to other people, we can find commonalities that connect us—regardless of age."



Knit One, Pray Two

When Claudine Willoughby introduced her knitting circle to St. Ann Center, it was the beginning of a match made in heaven.

Claudine, a longtime St. Ann Center volunteer, is also a member of Contemplative Outreach, an international network of people who practice centering prayer as part of daily life.

"One of our prayer groups uses knitting and crochet as a way of keeping their minds focused while praying," she explained.

To connect their prayer to community service, the group donates the beautiful fruits of their crafting to St. Ann Center and other nonprofits.



Claudine Willoughby and Sr. Ann Koerner gift Tyrielle, age 4, with a handmade blanket.

"We've made hats, scarves and washcloth and soap sets," she said. "We tell our group about the organizations that will receive their work.

That way, they can knit and pray with them in mind. One of our knitters who's a 93-year-old grandmother made blankets for St. Ann Center's children."

Sr. Ann Koerner, local chapter coordinator of Contemplative Outreach, sees the partnership with St. Ann Center as a mutual blessing. "Each item comes with a card that reads, 'A gift for you lovingly hand-knit,'" she said. "Praying while working. Asking graces for the maker and the receiver."

Ties that Bind



Our partners make us stronger

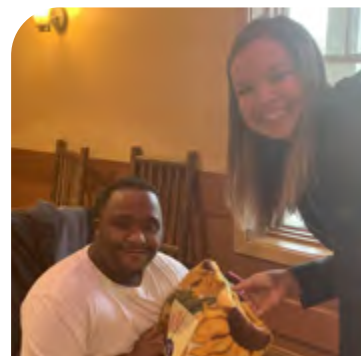
Jessica Kuula and her roommates, all sophomores at Wisconsin Lutheran College, literally sent warm wishes to our Bucyrus Campus recently – in the form of 15 cozy, hand-tied fleece blankets.

Jessica led the effort as part of a project for a leadership class, and worked with a group of about 20 people to make the blankets one

night. A Google search led her to St. Ann Center as the perfect place to bring the blankets to people who'd appreciate them.

She and three of her roommates brought their cozy handcrafts to our Adult Services staff—who immediately set off to share the blankets with the clients. It was obvious the older clients found great comfort in the cheery colors and soft texture as well as the warmth the blankets provided.

"The story behind the start of St. Ann Center was specifically very inspiring to my roommates and me," Jessica said after touring the campus. **"We also love how dedicated and passionate all of the staff members and volunteers are about their work! It's very cool to see."**



Marquette Students Hone People Skills

Beyond organic chemistry and molecular biology, the physician assistant (PA) students at Marquette University are learning a lot about people this semester. As part of their experiential education, they leave the classroom to spend quality time working with St. Ann Center's adults and children.

"For students who don't have young children or older adults in their lives, this is a chance to practice how to interact naturally with them," said

Courtney Warren, Clinical Assistant Professor in Marquette's Department of Physician Assistant Studies. "We've been fortunate to have this partnership with St. Ann Center. It's a blessing to our staff and students."

Sarah Hoffman, in her second year as a PA student, has special memories of her time at the Stein Campus. She quickly became acquainted with the children's developmental milestones. "The different ages are all so unique, and they have their own little personalities," she said. "It was a blast getting to know some of them."



Marquette student Sarah Hoffman joins clients in the atrium for a friendly game of bingo.

While working with the adults, Sarah helped feed a woman who appeared to be nonverbal. "I soon discovered she communicated well using a board with letters and phrases," she said. "By the end of lunch, I'd learned about her hobbies, her favorite part of the day and even got a smile out of her."

Sarah is convinced her time at St. Ann Center will make her a better physician assistant. "Having the knowledge to treat a child is one thing, but being able to make them feel comfortable is equally important," she said. "And the adults helped me recognize the value of making sincere connections with all patients, regardless of their abilities."



Stein Campus children thank police officers with a banner they made with help from the adult clients.

A True-Blue Thank You

In honor of National Law Enforcement Day, January 9, the Stein Campus kids created a banner of appreciation and invited St. Francis police officers over to celebrate.

The officers were impressed by the children's handiwork and by the baked goods they presented to say thank you. The youngsters were fascinated to meet **K9 Bane**. The 7-year-old German Shepherd is the first canine officer to join the St. Francis Police Department.

St. Ann Center Grad Makes Good

What happens to St. Ann Center's childcare kids when they grow up? Ask Derek Puczykowski.



He may be one of St. Ann Center's newest employees, but Derek's connection to the Stein Campus dates back 20 years.

The newest member of our IT staff, he was introduced to the center at just 7 years old when his parents enrolled him and his brother in the

Stein Campus' very first child day care class. Now a father himself, Derek has noticed a few changes at the Stein Campus—including the addition of an overnight respite. "But the mission of St. Ann Center hasn't changed," he said. "Helping people of all ages live the best quality life possible."

Twenty-one years ago, you might have found Derek playing in the Stein Campus ball pit or swimming in the warm-water pool. Nowadays, he's busy working at both St. Ann Center campuses, troubleshooting computer problems and offering desk-side support.

Looking back, he sees a benefit in attending an intergenerational preschool. "It teaches children at an early age to accept people's differences," he said.

Keeping Clients in Stitches

On Mondays, in a sunny room bursting with brightly colored fabrics, the hum of a sewing machine underscores happy chatter. As Bucyrus Campus clients filter in, volunteer Inadelle Crawford smiles and greets them.

Adult clients meet twice weekly with Inadelle in the new Art and Multi-Fiber Studio to work on projects. "I pick items that we can make and take home to use," Inadelle said. So far, the class has tackled mug rugs and cell phone pouches.

A typical class includes young women who have never sewn a stitch to great-grandmothers who made clothes for their children. Some try Inadelle's portable sewing machine. Others opt for hand-sewing. Everyone delights in sorting through her stash of fabric and buttons.

At age 82, Inadelle is thrilled to share her hobby. "It's a chance to meet new people," she said, "and help others along the way."

Thank you, St. Ann Center volunteers!



An avid quilter, Inadelle Crawford helps Bucyrus Campus clients discover their inner seamstress.



Inadelle comes up with sewing projects to fit every level of expertise.

African Ball Supports Arts, Culture



Sr. Edna Lonergan, Gloria Miller and Geneva Atkins joined guests at the Indaba African Ball—a night of fun, fashion and fundraising.



St. Ann Center's inaugural Indaba African Ball was a feast for the eyes, ears and taste buds. Close to 100 people gathered at the Bucyrus Campus on Feb. 1 to raise funds for the Indaba Band Shell, at the north side campus. Our thanks go to generous sponsors, donors, volunteers and friends for ensuring a summer of free family-friendly entertainment for the entire Milwaukee community!



INDABA NIGHTS

Join Us at Indaba Nights!

Bring the whole family to a free entertainment series held at the Indaba Band Shell, located at St. Ann Center - Bucyrus Campus, 2450 W. North Ave. Performances, appropriate for all ages, begin in June and run through September.

**Indaba Nights will take place on
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

For updates on summer events, visit FB.com/indababandshell.

16th Annual
*Dream
Together*
GALA

Dream Together Gala

Friday, August 21, 5:30pm | Discovery World
\$150/ Ticket | Sponsor opportunities available!

Enjoy dinner, silent and live auctions, plus stories of how you change the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

Call (414) 977-5062 to RSVP or visit:
StAnnCenter.org/gala



Stu's Benefit Golf Outing

Saturday, September 12
at Western Lakes Golf Club

\$125 includes cart, 18 holes & dinner

Call (414) 977-5062 to register or visit:
StAnnCenter.org/golfouting



Want to Host a Jewelry Party?

**Looking for a reason to get together with friends?
It could be Sr. Edna's handmade jewelry.**

It's fun and oh so easy!

If you have a group of six or more guests, we will help you plan a benefit jewelry party in your own home, church or business. Sr. Edna Lonergan will be your personal jewelry consultant, helping you choose from close to 100 of her beautiful creations. And as a host, you'll receive a piece of jewelry of your choice as our way of saying thank you.

All proceeds from the sale of these unique items go directly to support the children, frail elders and people with disabilities who come to St. Ann Center for care.

Sr. Edna began designing jewelry years ago, as a pastime and a way to supplement St. Ann Center funding. "I enjoy making each piece," she said. "Knowing it benefits someone in need at St. Ann Center makes it all worthwhile." **Contact Chris Macek to plan your party at (414) 977-5040 or cmacek@stanncenter.org.**

2020 Annual Report *Inside...*

Plus,
read about some
intergenerational
handiwork.

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