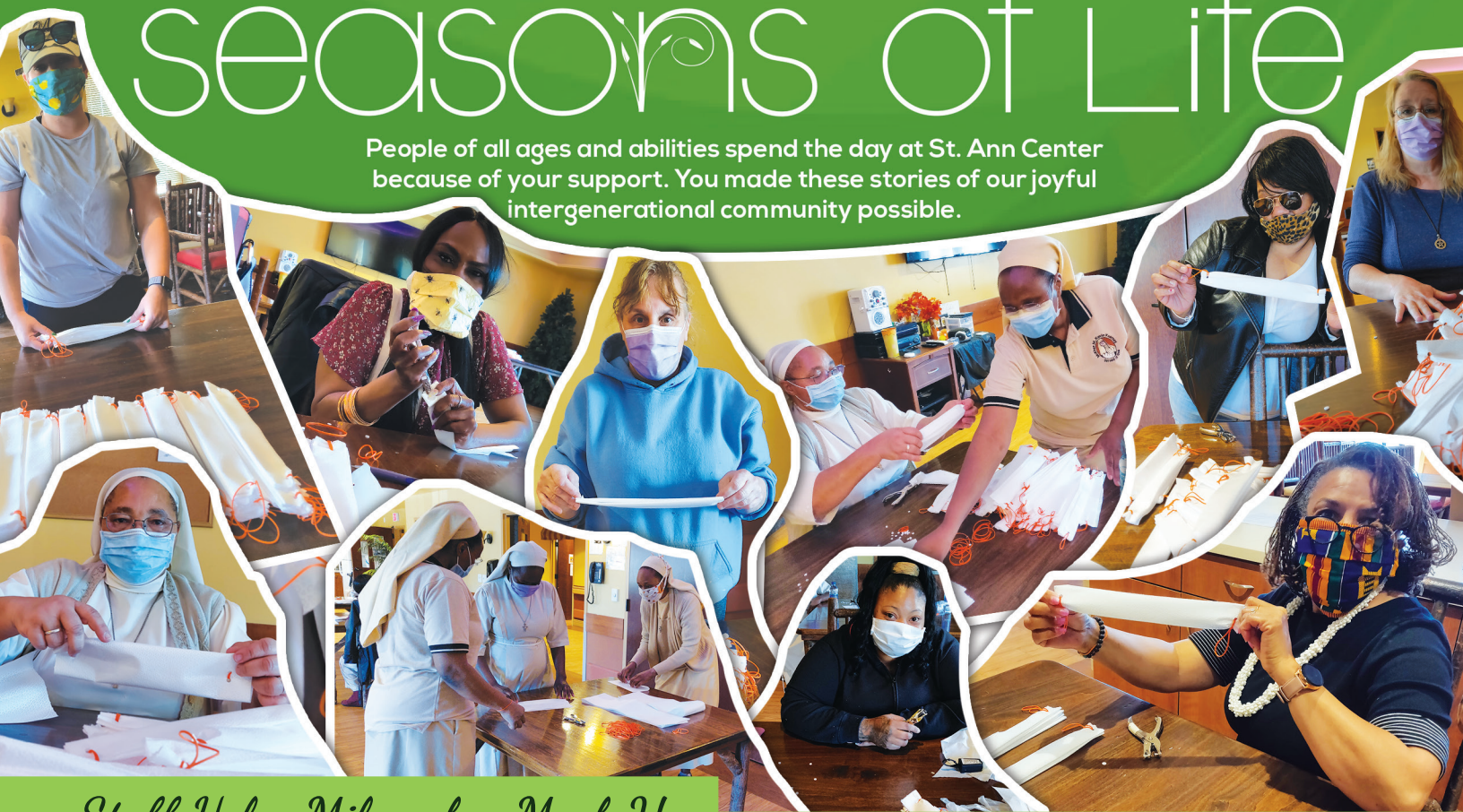


St. Ann Center's Seasons of Life

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.



Staff Helps Milwaukee Mask Up

The Bucyrus Campus doubled as a mini mask-making factory in mid-May. During St. Ann Center's temporary closure, staff members joined forces to make 1,400 masks, addressing the urgent need to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Staffers volunteered as part of the **MaskUpMke** challenge to create **3.5 million homemade non-surgical masks** for essential service providers in Southeastern Wisconsin. Teachers, nursing assistants and administrators spread out in two large adult day care rooms and got busy.

The effort was a way for St. Ann Center to give back to the neighborhood so many of our staff members, clients and children call home. Milwaukee's north side was particularly hard-hit early on by the novel coronavirus.

St. Ann Center partnered with United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County in staging this successful two-day "maskathon." Since client units were empty, there was plenty of room for social distancing. Each volunteer had an entire table as a work station.

After a 72-hour quarantine period, the face coverings were distributed to the community under the guidance of the Medical College of Wisconsin. As a thank-you, several of the lovingly made masks were returned to St. Ann Center to be used by staff as they work to keep our children and adult clients safe and healthy in the months ahead..

Dear Readers: This issue of Seasons of Life was produced during the onset of COVID-19, when, for the first time in 37 years, St. Ann Center was temporarily closed. Our deepest thanks go to the donors who supported us during this critical time.

Dear Friend,

As I write this, St. Ann Center has just reopened after nearly three months of being closed, and the world is finding its way through a historic pandemic. Like all of us, I'm experiencing many emotions.

Loneliness. Social isolation may not be as bad as COVID-19, but it's a close second. Now that we've all tasted what it's like to be at home—separated from friends, family and co-workers—I hope we can better understand what many of our clients would be facing without a place like St. Ann Center.

Gratitude. I am enormously grateful to our donors, who literally helped us keep the lights on during our closure. Thanks to you, both of our campuses received masks, gloves, lab coats, face shields, goggles, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizers to prepare for our reopening.

Admiration. I admire the staff members who have been busier than ever during the quarantine. You'll see what they've been up to in this issue. They've also allowed us to keep our Overnight Respite Unit open, caring for clients whose caregivers needed a break.

Fear. That's a big one! I wouldn't be honest if I didn't say I'm anxious about keeping everyone at St. Ann Center safe and healthy. I'll probably be a "big bear" about making sure everyone's wearing masks and staying six feet apart.

Hope. During this year of separation, I have great hope that we'll come closer together. I've seen how deeply our children and adult clients care about one another—and that pure compassion is more important now than ever. I wish you health and many blessings!



J. Edna



We are so grateful to UnitedHealthcare and all our donors, who are there when we need them most.

A Very Special Delivery

An antidote to isolation is in the bag thanks to UnitedHealthcare. The managed health care company donated 200 activity bags to St. Ann Center for distribution to clients.

Jesus Hernandez, Community Outreach Representative for the company, and Adam Collins, president of Collins Insurance Group, delivered the bags to both the Stein and Bucyrus Campuses. St. Ann Center staff then drove the surprise packages to clients' homes.

"We brainstormed and came up with items that would be useful, fun and valuable healthwise," Adam said. The bags—chockful of medication dividers, pens, chip clips, lip balm, socks, jar openers, playing cards and water bottles—were also "a reminder that someone is thinking about them and wishing them well."

Heroic Clients Author a Book

Stand back, Batman! There's a new family of comic book heroes in town! Six clients in St. Ann Center's adult day care program are the authors of a new publication, "The Adventures of The Righteous League." The soft-cover book is the result of a collaboration between St. Ann Center and TimeSlips, a program that uses imagination and storytelling to enhance people's lives.

Over the past two years, the clients, ages 22 to 70, have met weekly with TimeSlips Master Trainer Elaine Maly in the Stein Campus art studio. "It all began with a simple question: If you could have a superpower, what would it be?" Elaine said.

The Righteous League's members are Super Jake (Jacob Lukowski), a brilliant billionaire, Energy Man (Marcus Semenske), a high-powered helper, and Party Animal (Christine Biersack), a fun-loving heroine. Super Jesus



(John Krall) wields the power of prayer, Super Reader (Diane Gundlach) reads stories to keep people calm, and G-Man (Gabriel Rodriguez) uses graffiti to fight crime and add color to life.

Elaine decided the heroic adventures they created were the makings of a book. Milwaukee artist Daisy Gertel was commissioned to illustrate the publication which was funded by the Harry G. and Charlotte H. Slater Family Fund, the William and Alicia Schoenrich Arts and Culture Fund and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

The League joined a roomful of fans at a book launch held at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (before COVID-19 social distancing), where the authors read from and signed books and posed beside Daisy's comic-style posters.



Gabriel Rodriguez and John Krall sign copies of the book they helped write.

Postcards Send Caring Messages

A pandemic was no match for the talent of students from Escuela Verde High School.

The students are part of ArtWorks for Milwaukee, a nonprofit that combines the arts with workforce development through paid internships for teens.

Under the leadership of artist Jenni Reinke, they began visiting adult clients at the Stein Campus. "We played games, made crafts and got to know one another," Jenni said. The interns were about to start TimeSlips creative storytelling sessions with the clients when they were interrupted by COVID-19.

"We redesigned our internship to support St. Ann Center clients and our own career development," Jenni said. The result was "CareSlips"—creative postcards the interns handcrafted and sent to clients, featuring uplifting messages and original artwork.



Compassion's On-Call

Nothing can ruin your weekend like a dental emergency when your dentist's office is closed. That's the situation a patient of our Gardetto Family Dental Clinic found himself in—on a Saturday, during the Easter weekend, amid a pandemic.

The patient is quadriplegic and needs a clinic that's accessible to him and his power wheelchair. St. Ann Center's special-needs clinic, the only one in Wisconsin designed to serve exclusively people with disabilities, was the one place that could help him.

Although the Bucyrus Campus was closed due to COVID-19, Brian Hodgson DDS, St. Ann Center's part-time dentist, and Zenobia Davis, a registered dental hygienist, arranged to open the clinic and meet the patient there.

"Keeping patients out of pain is vitally important to maintaining their dental health," Dr. Hodgson said. The clinic has since reopened, Zenobia added, "We're ready to provide not just care, but compassionate care."



Zenobia Davis makes sure a patient is comfortable before beginning his dental hygiene treatment.

Buildings Closed, Learning Continues



Teachers dedicated days to cleaning their classrooms in preparation for their students' return.



St. Ann Center's childcare teachers spent the spring closure missing their students like crazy. But separation inspired some creative ways to stay connected and prepare for a happy reunion.

"Our teachers called parents regularly and shared resources for at-home learning," said Sr. Lucy Marindany, Vice President of Education and Childcare Services. "They did Zoom visits with their students, reading them stories and singing songs together."

Bucyrus Campus Childcare Director Carrie Davis connected with Early Head Start families. "She arranged for parents to stop by the center and pick up supplies like wipes, diapers and Pull-Ups," Sr. Lucy said.

Many of the teachers became students themselves, taking online courses to help them hone their skills and earn additional credentials. They also made sure their classrooms were ship-shape—organizing books, toys and cubbies.

Most of all, they looked forward to having the children back, Sr. Lucy added. "All their smiles, stories and antics bring us joy."

Holidays Must Go On

How do you cope with a disorienting national shutdown? St. Ann Center decided a great way to help the community combat stress and cabin fever was some good, clean, all-ages fun.

The week before Easter, colorful cardboard eggs started popping up in St. Ann Center windows. "We invited families to join in our drive-by Easter egg hunt," said Lori Grzybowski of the Marketing Department. "We promoted the event on our center's Facebook page, and people were asked to post the number of eggs they'd found in the comments."



Egg-hunting skills earned these sisters an Easter surprise!

Among the eagle-eyed egg hunters was Jessica Baker. "Thank you for doing this!" she said, explaining how she and her two young daughters had a blast finding every last egg. Their family was chosen from all who submitted a correct guess to receive a spectacular Easter basket.

When the quarantine stretched to include Mother's Day, a May scavenger hunt was quickly prepared at both campuses. "This time, we hid cardboard flowers in our windows," Lori added. "Since the weather was warmer, we welcomed families to put on their masks and take a walk around the building looking for flowers."

Therapy Dog Provides Comfort Online

A big-hearted dog is used to bringing big smiles to St. Ann Center clients. Although that couldn't happen during coronavirus precautions, Sofie the Bearded Collie didn't let social distancing stop her from spreading cheer.

"Sofie and I have been visiting St. Ann Center for three years," said her owner, Ellen Cook, whose sister Sandy is a client at the Stein Campus. A working dog, Sofie's breed is prized for its sheepherding skills. "She loves to be in the middle of people, making sure she knows where everyone is," Ellen added.

"Where is everyone?" was the question on this dedicated therapy dog's mind during St. Ann Center's recent closure. "I have a special tote bag I always bring to the center, so when Sofie saw me with it one day, she got so excited," Ellen said. She could tell her pup was disappointed when no trip to St. Ann Center followed. So, she decided to do something about it.

A professional photographer, Ellen made a video featuring her photogenic pet. Using a free app, she made Sofie "talk"—telling clients how much both Ellen and Sofie missed them. In another video, Ellen and Sofie read a book to the center's children and adults, and reminded them, "It won't be long until we see one another."

The videos were shared on the center's Facebook site to rave reviews. "St. Ann Center is a community," Ellen said. "So, if we can use a silly video to remind us that we're still that community—that we're safe, cared for and loved—it will make our days at home brighter."





BEFORE



AFTER

Eco-Friendly Exercise

With time on their hands, St. Ann Center staffers got to their feet during COVID-19 and stepped up efforts to make Milwaukee cleaner and healthier.

More than 25 staff members converged on the Bucyrus Campus on a brisk May morning, equipped with face masks, work gloves, trash bags and grabbers. "They dug right in and cleaned every inch of our 7-acre property," said clean-up organizer John Jansen, Vice President of Grants and Neighborhood Development. And when they were finished, "we went across the street and tackled an entire block to the east."

The litter warriors, including employees from several different departments, were smiling wide behind their masks. "It gets tough being at home all this time, and people missed one another," John said.

Besides providing fresh air and exercise, the event inspired a renewed sense of pride in St. Ann Center and stewardship for the environment. "I hope this shows our neighbors along North and Fond du Lac Avenues that we love the north side, and we want it to be clean, healthy and successful," John said. "We're definitely going to make this an annual event."



Simplicity Is Her Bliss

Anyone who used quarantine time to tackle home improvement projects will relate to Sr. Mary Jeanne Michels. When her work in the Mission Integration Office at Cardinal Stritch University slowed due to campus closure, she had another challenge waiting in the wings.

An invitation from Sr. Edna brought her back to St. Ann Center where she'd previously worked for six years in Pastoral Care. "I'm very grateful to be doing what's in my DNA," said Sr. Mary Jeanne. "When I'm tidying up and making things beautiful, I'm in my glory!"

An expert organizer, Sr. Mary Jeanne has taught workshops on how to clear clutter from life and make space for harmony and serenity. She put these skills to work in recent weeks at St. Ann Center, deep-cleaning, sanitizing and sprucing up rooms in both the adult and childcare areas.

Working five mornings a week, she straightened cupboards, sorted books, categorized craft supplies and rearranged furniture. She added artistic touches, too, washing and dyeing drab curtains in rainbow colors for Shepherd House, the Alzheimer's and dementia care unit.

"Our Franciscan value of living simply and reverencing creation comes in handy during times like these," Sr. Mary Jeanne added. "Not only at St. Ann Center, but all over the world, people are needing to let go of things—like going out to eat and gathering together. **We have to let go of how we think life should be and make the best we can of how life is.**"



Turning 21 in Quarantine

St. Ann Center's Stein Campus celebrates its milestone 21st birthday this year. Although it still looks beautiful, it's beginning to show the maturity that comes with two decades of use by thousands of adults and children.

As a gift to this well-loved campus, our building and grounds crew used the COVID-19 closure to give the facility a facelift. Staff and volunteers primed and painted several rooms and hallways in both the adult and childcare wings.

In addition, Stu's Flooring, longtime sponsors of St. Ann Center's benefit golf outing, installed new vinyl tile flooring in the adult units. "One positive of our closure is being able to do this work without disrupting services to our adults and children," said Chief Development Officer Chris Jackson.

The campus grounds received plenty of TLC, too. The spring blooms brought to life a quote attributed to St. Francis, "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."

A Gift of Music

Music affects our brains, bodies and behavior in important ways. And soon, many more St. Ann Center clients will be enjoying its benefits.



Donor Meg Kasch has started an endowment fund to expand the center's music therapy program. The donation was made in honor of her friends Tom and Maripat Dalum, longtime St. Ann Center supporters.

Meg's background as a special education teacher motivated the generous gift. "I believe in the positive impact the arts have on our lives," she said. "Music and art programs are often overlooked when it comes to funding."

Hannah Goodness, St. Ann Center's music therapist, agrees it's hard to get reimbursement for her services from many public and private insurances. "This gift will let me have more one-on-one sessions with clients," she said. "Music gives them a powerful tool for self-expression."

"When I heard about the endowment, I immediately thought of Robert," she said of a client who loves making music, despite severe physical limitations. "In a private session, he'll be able to play instruments that may help him get some arm movement back. It's an important step toward improving his quality of life."

VIRTUALLY FANTASTIC

Dreams come true when generous people like you come together to make an important difference.

JOIN US FOR OUR VERY FIRST ONLINE DREAM TOGETHER GALA!

Your gala experience includes:

- A free virtual event filled with inspiring stories of how you are making a life-changing difference for so many children and adults
- Exciting party packages for sponsors delivered right to your doorstep
- Online shopping for Sr. Edna's Jewelry Creations
- Reduced pricing on sponsorship with brand-new perks
- A chance to win great giveaways with your registration

Together we aim to raise \$230,000 to fund:

- Personal Protective Equipment needed to keep children, adult clients and staff safe in the face of COVID-19, and to offset financial losses caused by emergency campus closures
- An award-winning early childhood curriculum system, and (at the Bucyrus Campus), installation of clean, safe, and durable artificial grass playground surfaces
- One year of compassionate care for 30 clients in St. Ann Center's Adult Day Care program

**Our Mission Isn't Canceled...
We Need You Like Never
Before. Register Today!**

For More Information & to Register,
Visit: StAnnCenter.org/GALA

16th Annual

Dream Together

VIRTUAL GALA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 7 P.M.

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**Facing a historic
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