

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.

When Esther Bryant was raising her daughters, she told them they could do anything they put their minds to. Now a great-grandmother, she's taking her own advice.

"My mind's always going, thinking about things I want to do," said Esther, a client at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus. "The Bible says, 'Work the works of Him who sent you, while it is day.' You've got to do all you can, when you can."

Staying busy has been a way of life for Esther. A cosmetologist, she owned a salon until age 75. After her children were grown, she became a foster parent, raising kids of all ages. Her concern for children motivated Esther to start her own nonprofit, Lighthouse Visions, aimed at empowering foster children with life skills that build respect for themselves and others. **"There's nothing better than helping young people understand they can be whoever they want to be," she added.**

Esther's daughter Milwaukee Municipal Court Judge Valarie Hill recalls leaving voicemail messages for her on-the-go mom: "It's ten o'clock...do you know where my mother is?" But then, in March of 2016, Esther suffered a stroke, severely affecting movement and sensation on the left side of her body. Two years ago, Esther moved in with her daughter and, soon after, enrolled in St. Ann Center's adult day care.



A Menton for Life

You give Esther a place to keep doing what she loves.



Her many talents aren't going to waste. Esther recently began directing the Bucyrus Campus adult choir. "I played piano and organ in my church for 60 years, so this is fun for me," she said. She's also using her past experience teaching in a beauty and modeling school. "I would love to do a fashion show here," she said, imagining her models. **"Older people, little kids, people in wheelchairs. We all need to remember we're beautiful."**

Dear Friend,

They say there's a silver lining in every crisis—and that's certainly the case for St. Ann Center. As we emerge from the darkness of COVID-19, we are seeing signs of hope and new growth all around us.

Enrollment in our adult and child day care is steadily climbing. It's exciting to see longtime clients returning and reuniting with friends. We're also welcoming new clients looking for the stimulation and socialization our programs provide. And, our childcare numbers are growing as fast as the little ones themselves.

We're also excited to be reopening services that were paused due to the pandemic. In June, our Outpatient Therapy Department began seeing clients again—providing vital physical, occupational and restorative therapy. And our aquatics program will be expanding swimming lessons at both of our campuses.

Our medical clinic has been busy, making sure our community has access to the COVID-19 vaccine. **As of mid-May, we'd vaccinated more than 350 people, and counting!**

Plenty is happening outdoors, too. Indaba Nights, our summer concert series is bringing world-class entertainment to our band shell for the Milwaukee community to enjoy. We're digging into gardening—in a big way, with raised garden beds at our Bucyrus Campus and newly planted fruit trees at our Stein Campus.



This time last year, I'll admit, I was worried about St. Ann Center's future. **But God has continued to bless us—and you, our faithful supporters, have continued to believe in the work we've been doing together for 38 years. For that, I'll be forever grateful.**

J. Edna

On Our Wish List

- Noise-canceling headphones
- Laptop computers
- Overbed tables
- Beauty salon chair
- Dollhouse furniture

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



- Excellerations® Rainbow Tunnel
- Summer umbrellas/hats
- GeoSafari Jr. Talking Microscope
- Bingo prizes
- Intraoral dental camera

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



Service with a Smile 😊

There are always plenty of grins to go around at St. Ann Center. But, they're shining brighter than ever, thanks to "Smiles for Sr. Lucille."

This oral hygiene education program was started 12 years ago by Laura Cherek-Laabs, a registered dental hygienist. "At that time, I was volunteering at St. Ann Center, helping with activities in the adult day care program," Laura said. "I noticed a client who was nonverbal. He was rocking and slapping his jaw. I thought, 'I bet he has a toothache!'"

Soon, Laura was scheduling one-to-one sessions with clients—teaching them the basics of tooth brushing. **"We named the program after Lucille Walsh, a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi, and the first Sister to earn a Doctor of Dentistry Degree from Marquette University," she explained.**

Averaging 100 brushing sessions a week, Laura splits her time between the Stein and Bucyrus Campuses. Her portable dental cart is well-stocked with brushes, toothpaste, floss, bibs and a suction machine. A typical session finds her standing behind the client, patiently coaching them on best brushing techniques.

Special thanks go to the Wisconsin Dental Association, which has funded the Smiles for Sr. Lucille program for more than a decade.



Laura Cherek-Laabs believes everyone deserves a healthy smile. She helps clients brush up on their brushing techniques.



Now We're Cookin'

Love good food? Join the club! The Bucyrus Campus Cooking Club, that is. The adult clients get together once a week in their unit's kitchen to whip up something delicious.



Taste, touch, sight and smell—cooking activates them all. Besides increasing sensory awareness, "cooking encourages our clients' fine and gross motor skills and eye-hand coordination," said Monica Yarn, director of Adult Day Services. "After the isolation caused by the pandemic, it's nice to be able to socialize in small groups—and have fun while we're at it."

The Cooking Club recently tackled a strawberry shortcake recipe, with help from Sahdayna Wilson, St. Ann Center vice president of food service. Sahdayna was careful to use whole wheat biscuits, fresh strawberries and sugar-free ice cream. Just a bit of decadence was allowed in the whipped cream topping.

Recipes will become a little more complicated as the club gains experience. "We'd like to help our clients learn to make dishes that they could replicate at home—starting here in a safe, supervised environment," Monica added.

Club member Cathy is excited about the culinary opportunity. "My family is Sicilian," she said. "So, I'm good at making spaghetti and meatballs." Gerry also has some cooking experience. "But to be honest with you," he admits, "I like KFC!"

The Cooking Club thanks Saint John's on the Lake for funding kitchen utensils and ingredients that make this activity possible.



Chef Sahdayna demonstrates the secret to strawberry shortcake.

Siblings Get in the Swim

"When I hear, 'People aren't ready,' it's like telling a person who is trying to swim, 'Don't jump in that water until you learn how to swim.' When actually you will never learn how to swim until you get in the water." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Those powerful words from the civil rights leader struck a chord with Althea Stover. "I saw that quote in a newspaper ad for St. Ann Center swim lessons," she said. "It was Black History Month, everything was closed because of the pandemic, and my granddaughters were asking to go swimming." A week later, Zaria, 10, and Jalaya, 5, were poolside at the Bucyrus Campus. "Back when I was their age, we'd go to pools in the park—but we never learned to swim the right way," she said. "This is a skill I want my granddaughters to have."



At first, the siblings were afraid to put their faces in the water. "But now, Zaria is diving down to get toys from the bottom of the pool. And Jalaya is doing well with floating," Althea said. "The instructor, Kristen, is so patient with them. She looks like she's having as much fun as they are!"

The proud grandma is happy with how quickly her grandkids are progressing. She's also glad they're challenging the stereotype that Black people don't swim. "The right to swim was important to Martin Luther King," Althea pointed out. "It was something he learned to do as a young boy and enjoyed with his family."



Althea Stover is thrilled with her granddaughters' swimming skills.

Safe Sleep for Babies

Babies and parents are resting easier thanks to a gift Children's Community Health Plan (CCHP) donated to St. Ann Center. Two hundred sleep sacks were given to the center's childcare program by CCHP, an HMO affiliate of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

A type of wearable blanket, a sleep sack is designed to keep babies under one year old safe and warm—replacing loose blankets that may become sleeping hazards. According to

Sleep sacks donated by Children's Community Health Plan are used in St. Ann Center infant rooms and offered to parents to ensure safe slumber at home.



Milwaukee data (2019 to date), about 25% of infant deaths in the city were sleep-related.

"We're happy to provide sleep sacks to St. Ann Center, knowing the great work you do caring for infants and reaching out to neighborhood families," said Linda Schauf, manager of the CCHP Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby program. Along with sleep sacks, educational materials were provided in English and Spanish.

Raised Gardens Elevate Nutrition

Kids aren't the only thing growing fast at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus. Dozens of newly built raised garden beds are thriving.



"Fruits and vegetables are such an important part of a healthy diet—but they can also be expensive," said St. Ann Center President Sr. Edna Lonergan. "We want to make sure our children and adult clients have meals filled with nutritious produce. So, we decided to grow it ourselves."

In April, St. Ann Center staff and volunteers rolled up their sleeves to construct 27 cedar garden beds, measuring 4 x 8 feet each. Located in the northeast corner of the campus, the beds will soon be brimming with a cornucopia of fresh veggies—peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, collard greens, carrots, peas and squash, included.

Sr. Helene Mertes got the gardens growing by donating plants she started in the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi hoop house. The gardens' supervisor Artaynia "Arty" Westfall will oversee planting, weeding, watering and harvest of the beds...with a little help from her friends.



The Bucyrus Campus day care children and adult clients will have a chance to cultivate their green thumbs this summer, too. "Many of our older adults have fond memories of gardening, plus it's healthy exercise at any age," Sr. Edna said. Getting moving in the garden helps build strength, flexibility, endurance and aerobic capacity.

"It won't be hard to convince the children to eat their vegetables when they've grown them themselves," she added. "We're already thinking of some delicious recipes our kitchen staff can make from our bounty."

St. Ann Center's Stein Campus will soon be adding cherries, apples, pears and plums to the menu. A dozen fruit trees are being planted on its lakeside grounds.



Finished garden beds are a promising source of produce.

Growing won't stop when the gardens are put to bed come autumn. **"We're looking into an indoor hydroponic system," said Chief Development Officer Chris Jackson. Hydroponics is the process of growing crops with nutrient-rich water instead of soil. "That way, we could garden year-round."**

Special thanks to our "Gardening Angels" for making this project possible: **The Sisters of St. Francis Sacred Heart Charitable Fund, We Energies Foundation, the Greendale Woman's Club and Northwestern Mutual: Generations Employee Resource Group.**

Her Art's in the Right Place

The wall in Becca Felden's office is a picture-perfect example of why she likes working at St. Ann Center so much. It's papered floor to ceiling with a collection of artwork she considers absolutely priceless.

"Clients have been making pictures for me since I started working here five years ago," said Becca, St. Ann Center's marketing development assistant. "At last count, I had 75, including drawings, coloring sheets, homemade cards, construction paper and yarn crafts."

Becca was introduced to St. Ann Center as a high school senior, completing a week of volunteer service. She enjoyed it so much, she applied for a job, working as an activity aide with adult clients during summers and school breaks all through her college career. "Of course, I hung up clients' art in my dorm room, too," she added, "so I'd always have a bit of St. Ann Center with me."

Graduating in the middle of the pandemic with a graphic design degree, "I was super grateful to be hired for a marketing position here," Becca said. Now, she spends her days taking photos of kids and clients for St. Ann Center's Facebook page and designing ads, banners, signs, murals and newsletters to spread the word about intergenerational services.

Luckily, she hasn't had to give up her special connection with the clients she considers her second family. "Every Friday, I go back downstairs to work as an activity aide," she said of the job she fell in love with in high school.

"One of my favorite artists and poets, Morgan Harper Nichols, describes how I feel about working at St. Ann Center," Becca said
"Always remember why you do what you do; Always remember you are part of something so much greater than you."



Becca Felden's office doubles as a gallery for client artwork.



Kids and Critters Connect



Old MacDonald has nothing on the kids at the Bucyrus Campus.

They met a menagerie of animals when GEE (Great Educational Experiences) Funny Farm paid a visit, thanks to the partnership between St. Ann Center and Next Door's Early Head Start program.

A flock of fowl included a day-old turkey chick, a newly hatched emu, friendly Indian Runner ducks and a crested Polish chicken. The children learned the difference between soft and hard as they took turns petting "Boaz," the Flemish giant rabbit, a Dutch bunny named "Sam," and "Shiloh," the hard-shelled tortoise. Other guests included a fox, parrot and miniature pig who showed off his puzzle-solving ability.

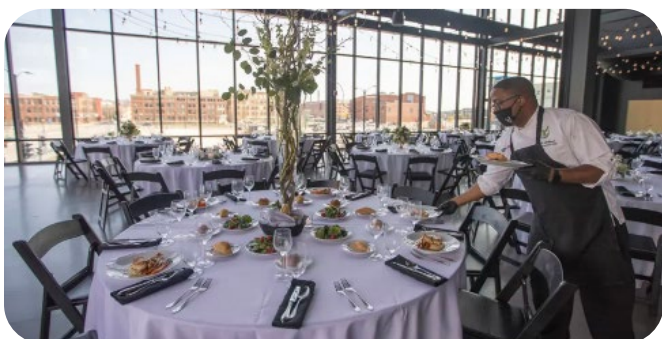


Friday, August 13th, 5:30 p.m.

Dreams come true when generous people like you come together to make an important difference in the lives of children, frail elders and adults with disabilities.

Join us for our very first "hybrid" Gala. It's a fun-filled fundraiser you can enjoy either in person or virtually online from the comfiest seat in your house!

Our in-person Gala is in an exciting new spot this year! We've moved from our originally planned location in the Fiserv Forum Beer Garden to an indoor/outdoor space around the corner. We'll party at **Gather at Deer District**, 333 W. Juneau Ave., a beautiful 6,000-square-foot entertainment venue above Good City Brewing.



In-person guests enjoy:

- Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres
- Dinner by Levy Restaurants
- Sr. Edna's Art in Jewels
- Silent/live auctions and raffles
- Valet parking
- A livestreamed program packed with heart-warming stories of how you touch the lives of so many at St. Ann Center

Attend virtually online

Guests who do not feel comfortable being at a physical location or those too far away to attend will have the option of choosing a virtual event ticket. Bid on silent auction items and watch the Gala program online LIVE to enjoy special features designed exclusively for virtual viewers. Reserve your ticket, and we'll send you a link to the livestreamed event. The virtual program will begin at 7:30 p.m. (approximately).

\$150/Ticket | Sponsor opportunities

available! Virtual Ticket: Free (donations are welcomed and encouraged!)

**Register to attend: StAnnCenter.org/gala.
Questions? Call Chris Fabbri at
(414) 369-9024.**

STU's
FLOORING LTD.

St Ann
CENTER
for Intergenerational Care

Benefit Golf Outing

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Western Lakes Golf Course, Pewaukee

Chip in to give children and adults, of all ages and abilities, a caring place to spend their day.

Meet us on the greens!

11:30 AM Check-in

12:30 PM Tee off

\$125 per person (\$130 day of)

Sponsor opportunities available!

Individuals & foursomes are welcome to enjoy:

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Lunch & dinner
- Raffles & prizes

Call to register: 414-744-9400 or register online: StAnnCenter.org/golf

INDABA NIGHTS

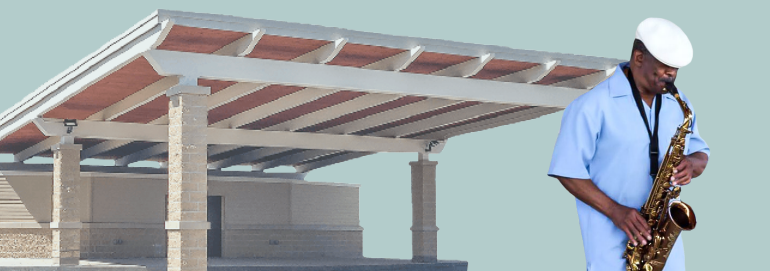
Join Us for a Summer of Entertainment!

Bring your friends and family to a free entertainment series at the **Indaba Band Shell**, at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus, **2450 W. North Ave.** Indaba Nights takes place **every Wednesday**, through August, **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** (Masks and social distancing will be observed.)

Here's the Exciting Lineup:

Date	Starting at 6:30pm	Starting at 7:30pm
July 7th	• Festival City Symphony*	• Sorry, We're Open Band
July 14th	• Nite N'Day Band	→
July 21st	• The Florentine Opera Company*	• Skylight Music Theatre Soul Review*
July 28th	• Milwaukee Ballet's Ballet Beat*	• Starz Dance Academy
August 4th	• Skylight Music Theatre- Three Tenors MKE*	• Adekola Adedapo & Friends
August 11th	• Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra*	• Danceworks*
August 18th	• Milwaukee Black Theater Festival Youth Night	→
August 25th	• Christopher's Project Band	→

* Presented in partnership with United Performing Arts Fund's UPAF Connect



\$250,000 Charity Cash Raffle

St. Ann Center's Charity Cash Raffle #2 begins on July 15th. The prize drawing takes place on **Saturday, Oct. 23rd.**

The raffle supports people of all ages and abilities who spend their day at St. Ann Center. **For details on how to purchase tickets, visit: StAnnCenter.org/charity-cash-raffle.**

Hands-on
experience
with animals

Inside...

Plus,
See how our
new gardens
grow!



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