

St. Ann Center's seasons of Life

People of all ages and abilities spend the day at St. Ann Center because of your support. These are the stories of our joyful intergenerational community.

HELP IS CLOSE AT HAND



As a mother and preacher's wife, Annie lived a life of caring for others. Now dealing with progressing dementia, her conversations stop and start and memories elude her. But she hasn't lost her purpose.

"Miss Annie is one of our client volunteers," said Monica Yarn, director of Adult Day Services at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus. "These are clients who assist with activities under staff supervision. For Annie, it's second nature to start wiping off tables or folding laundry. New memories fade, but she hasn't forgotten how to help others."

Client volunteer duties run the gamut from pushing wheelchairs and leading exercises to talking to someone who looks lonely. "We all need to be needed—and having these responsibilities makes clients realize they're an important part of this world," Monica said.

That's the case with Charles Brown who kiddingly refers to Monica as "boss lady." He explains, "If I can help somebody feel better, then I feel better, too." A master at playing cards, Charles can often be found patiently teaching

other clients the intricacies of Kings in the Corner, Crazy Eights or Spades.

St. Ann Center benefits from having these special people to call on. "Our client volunteers are always on the lookout for people in their unit who need assistance," Monica said. "It's wonderful for our staff to have extra pairs of hands and eyes when we need them."

Someone Monica has come to depend on is Cathy Roza. A multi-talented client with more than 60 years of dance experience under her feet, she's adept at everything from ballet to ballroom. "I especially love teaching the little ones how to move their bodies," Cathy explained her passion for working with St. Ann Center's childcare kids.

She's also proud of a certificate St. Ann Center awarded her for her volunteer efforts. "I framed it and hung it on my wall," she said.

You help clients share their gifts.



Clients Charles (above) and Cathy (top) share their talent for cards and dance.

Dear Friend,

Drop into St. Ann Center around 8 a.m. any weekday, and you're bound to hear a joyful noise. Between our adult clients chatting, babies babbling and staff sharing the day's schedule—it's a symphony of voices.

As an organization committed to diversity and inclusion, we strive to create an environment where people of different ages, races, cultures and backgrounds can participate and have a voice. As caregivers, we constantly remind ourselves to listen carefully and respectfully to those around us.

I think of Huxley, just turned 2, and already a pro at making his voice heard. He and his father visit me regularly before they head to his classroom. He delights in pointing at things in my office and telling me what color they are. It's thrilling to think of Huxley and his young classmates being encouraged to speak up.

Our adult day care units are seldom silent. Walk past the door, and you'll hear clients sharing their opinions about everything from world events to what's for lunch. The more animated the discussions, the better!

The freedom to be heard also applies to children and clients who for a variety of reasons are unable to communicate in words. That's when we need to listen not only with our ears, but with our eyes and our hearts. Many of our volunteers are experts at this. As they feed a client, they are on hyper-alert—picking up on facial expressions, sounds and movements.



**As we begin a new year,
I hope we'll tune into
the diverse voices that
have the power to unite
and inspire us and
drive positive change
in the world.**

J. Edna

A Poem for the New Year

In this world filled with so many voices,
Our deepest hope, our most tender prayer,
Is that we learn to listen.
May we listen to one another with openness
and interest.
May we listen to plants and animals with wonder
and respect.
May we listen to our children,
And in so doing, empower them to speak their truth.
May we listen to our elders,
Knowing these experts on living are our guides to
the future.
We do not ask for a perfect world.
But we do ask for a better world,
In which we work together and listen deeply.

On Our WISHLIST

- ★ Smart TV
- ★ Laptops
- ★ Men's & women's pants (all sizes)
- ★ Queen- & king-size sheet sets
- ★ New towels: bath, kitchen, washcloths & dishcloths
- ★ Science kits
- ★ Sport Squad portable soccer goal net set
- ★ ELSKY Circuits for Kids 335 Electronics Discovery Kit

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

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

Mounted Patrol Is Mane Attraction Ω

One of the Milwaukee Police Department's biggest officers paid a visit to St. Ann Center, to the delight of dozens of animal-loving clients.

A three-quarter-ton draft horse named Jill was accompanied by Officers Aja Chirpke and John Pederson Jr., who are part of the MPD Mounted Patrol. Clients were impressed by Jill's sweet demeanor and towering stature. A Percheron/Quarter Horse cross, she stands just over 16 hands (5 feet 4 inches) at the withers and tips the scales at 1,700 pounds.



Milwaukee MPD trotted out patrol horse Jill at the Stein Campus.



Besides getting a chance to stroke the gentle giant's neck and shoulders, the clients learned some interesting facts about the 92-year-old Mounted Patrol Unit. For instance, the patrol horses are St. Ann Center neighbors, living in the MKE Urban Stables on East Lincoln Avenue in Bay View. And, the sheer size of the horses makes them a superior crowd control tool, rating above bikes, squad cars and Segways at maneuvering through the public.

Not to mention the photogenic equines are selfie magnets!

Paw-Inspiring Blessing

St. Ann Center's parking lot doubled as a dog and cat park on October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. To celebrate the patron saint of animals and his reverence for all creation, pet owners brought their furry friends to the Stein Campus to receive a special blessing.

Deacon Pat LaPointe, pastoral coordinator of South Shore Parishes of Milwaukee, gave an individual blessing to each animal and its owner. A lifelong animal lover himself, Deacon LaPointe has two dogs and nine cats.

Stein Campus clients started preparing for the event a week early—making healthy dog and cat treats, bandannas and tug toys for the four-legged visitors. Client Marilyn Santiago, was excited to get a virtual blessing for her sibling's dogs. "I brought their pictures on my cell phone," she said.



Pets and their owners receive blessings and treats.



Clearing the Air



It just got easier being green around St. Ann Center. Three hybrid minivans have been added to the fleet of vehicles used to

transport our childcare students to school and to run errands around both campuses.

The Toyota Sienna hybrids are powered by an internal combustion engine and an electric

motor, which uses energy stored in the vans' batteries. **"We'll save on fuel cost—going from 20 miles per gallon to more than 35,"** said Chris Jackson, chief development officer.

"It also fits our Franciscan values of protecting the environment," he added.

New vans offer clean air solution.



Nourishing the Neighborhood

If an apple can keep the doctor away, imagine adding tomatoes, squash, peppers, yams and lettuce.

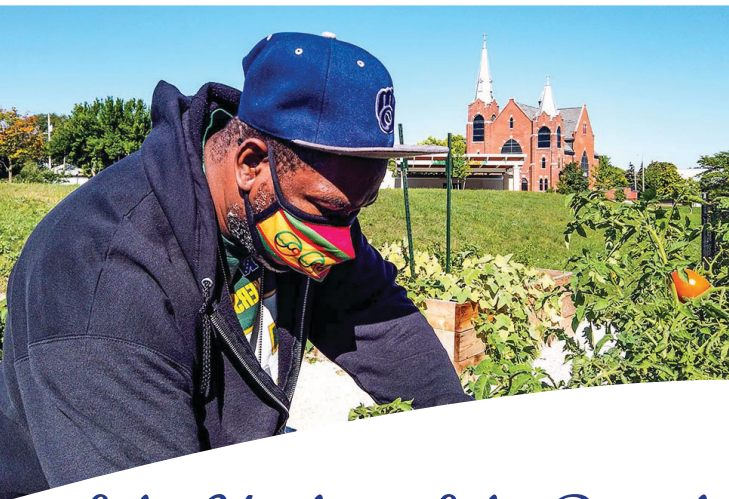
That's just some of the bounty 27 raised bed gardens yielded at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus this past summer. Built by staff and volunteers, the gardens were lovingly tended by a cadre of green thumbs, including St. Ann Center clients and day care children.

During a typical gardening session, clients were abuzz with questions and memories. "I call this my Garden of Eatin'," chuckled an affable client named Kenny as he checked on the progress of an eggplant. "My grandmother would make the best collard greens," his friend Charles added. "And, she'd take a squash like this one and bake it with brown sugar and butter."

More than simply gardening, it's horticultural therapy. Clients in the St. Ann Center Garden Club use their bodies—walking, bending, picking and stretching. Plus, every day, there's something new to see, touch, hear, smell and taste.

The kids in the Bucyrus Campus childcare program took to gardening like bees to flowers. They delighted in hunting for butterflies, getting their hands dirty and checking on ripeness. "We love this garden candy," one 4-year-old noted, as she popped a cherry tomato into her mouth.

The North Avenue location where the Bucyrus Campus is located is considered a food desert, which means there is limited access to fresh produce and healthy foods. At the peak of harvest, clients, staff, volunteers and childcare parents regularly headed home with bagfuls of fresh produce, and a personal connection to the gardeners who grew it. We're already planning for next season!



Raised gardens bring new growth opportunities to clients and kids.

Like Mother, Like Daughters

When Jordan Alvarez drops her children off at St. Ann Center, she experiences a bit of déjà vu. Not all that long ago, she was in their shoes, attending the Stein Campus child day care program.

"My mom was a teacher at St. Ann Center for years, so I practically grew up here," Jordan explained. "I was enrolled in the after-school program when I was 8."

As a teen, Jordan joined St. Ann Center's Buddy Program, a mentoring and service learning

project for youth ages 11 to 14. "I spent most of my time in Shepherd House, working with clients dealing with dementia," she said. This experience may have shaped her future career path. She now works as a CNA at a memory care facility.

When it came time for Jordan to find day care for daughters, Yanieliz, 3, and Liyana, 1, she didn't think twice. **"I trust St. Ann Center," she said. "One of my daughters has autism, so I worry about things like bullying. The children at St. Ann Center have been so accepting. Probably, because they are around people of different ages and abilities every day."**



You're Invited!



A CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE AND CULTURE

3rd ANNUAL INDABA AFRICAN BALL
SATURDAY, FEB. 5th 5:30 PM

LOCATION: ST. ANN CENTER
BUCYRUS CAMPUS, 2450 W. NORTH AVE.

St Ann
CENTER
for Intergenerational Care

BUCYRUS
CAMPUS

Register online today!
StAnnCenter.org/IndabaBall

Enjoy an evening of great fun at the 2022 Indaba African Ball, a fundraiser supporting the Indaba Band Shell and its upcoming summer season of family-friendly entertainment.

Join us at the beautiful Bucyrus Campus, with decor showcasing the rich African-American culture of the neighborhood.

Your Ball experience includes:

- Entertainment by **Christopher's Project** and the **Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra's Steel Pan Ensemble**
- Elegant African and Caribbean-flavored **hors d'oeuvres** by Events by Day
- Guest fashion show and photo booth. **African and Afrocentric attire encouraged!**
- **Sr. Edna's Jewelry Creations**, a chance to win great **prize giveaways** & much more!

Tickets: \$65

Together, we aim to raise \$10,000 to fund the 2022 Indaba Nights summer entertainment series at the Band Shell, including stipends for local entertainers.



Save the Date! Aug. 12th, 2022, 5:30pm

ST. ANN CENTER'S 18TH ANNUAL **GENERATIONS TOGETHER**

FRIDAY, AUG. 12TH, 2022, WISCONSIN CLUB



Join our family of "Care Champions" and make a life-changing difference for children, frail elders and adults with disabilities who spend their day together at our all-ages care center. Our gathering will take place in a new, yet historic venue this

year---The Wisconsin Club in downtown Milwaukee. We'll gather in the circa 1848 landmark mansion's Grand Ballroom.

Enjoy a delicious dinner, entertainment, silent and live auctions, plus Sr. Edna's designer jewelry creations. Then, sit back and experience inspiring stories from the children and clients who are at the heart of St. Ann Center's mission.

Watch for more information:
StAnnCenter/Gathering

A Pumpkin Invasion

The Great Pumpkin paid a visit to St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus in October at the First Annual Pumpkin Palooza.

"We were excited to offer children a few hours to celebrate the season safely," said Gloria Miller, the Center's special events director.

The event featured pumpkin decorating and giveaways, entertainment by Clowning Blinky, a Halloween photo booth and tours of St. Ann Center's Intergenerational Play Garden.

Event sponsors include All of Us Research Program, North Avenue Marketplace Business Improvement District 32, Pete's Fruit Market and Saint John's on the Lake.



**More than 80 pumpkins
 were given away during
 Pumpkin Palooza.**



Art's in the Right Place

The instant Frank Mulvey saw a dazzling 12-by-8-foot mosaic, he decided it needed an audience. And he couldn't think of a better one than the children and adults who spend their day at St. Ann Center.

Called "Celestial Mirrors," it's the work of Indie La Londe, a young Bay View artist now living in Los Angeles. Her creation was on display at her mother Shelly's business, South Shore Gallery & Framing, when Frank, a friend and neighbor to St. Ann Center, discovered it.

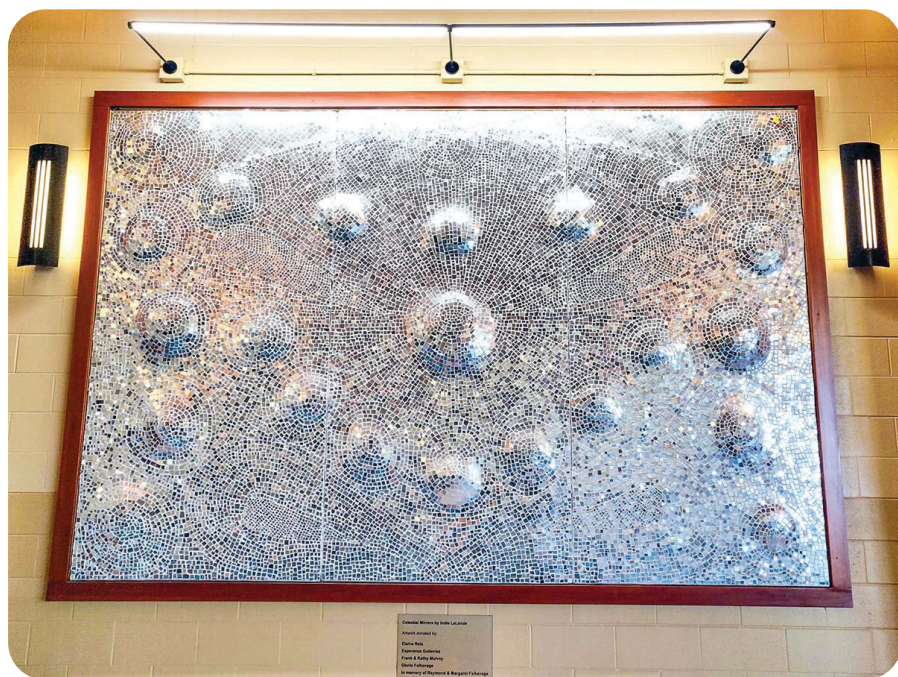
"Viewing this mosaic is like looking at a sky full of stars," Frank said, describing the triptych made of 100,000 nickel and dime-sized pieces of hand-cut mirrors. Sr. Edna agreed it would look beautiful at St. Ann Center. And she knew right where to display it—the Bucyrus Campus' indoor Aquatic Center.

Undaunted by the artwork's \$10,000 price tag, Frank and his wife, Kathy, launched a grassroots fundraising campaign—reaching out to friends and former co-workers from Milwaukee County Social Services for support. Their son Peter, a veteran singer and songwriter, got in on the act, too. "He did a show at Anodyne Coffee and donated part of the proceeds from the gig," Frank said. "Things started ballooning from there."

Personally invested in the project, Frank had the mosaic in mind when he spotted a help-wanted ad in the Shepherd Express newspaper. "They were looking for a delivery driver," he said. Frank applied, got the job and commenced donating his paper route paychecks to the mosaic fund. "Our kids thought it was pretty funny that their dad went back to work," the retired social worker added.

The Aquatic Center allows plenty of natural light to wash over the shimmering showpiece. "You view it one minute, and it reveals something different the next," Frank said, explaining how the 3-D piece continually changes with the room and the people around it.

For Indie, watching the future of her mosaic unfold has been exciting. **"I love the idea of it being on the wall of a pool since both the mirrors and the water are reflective," she said. She's also happy that her piece has a home in the heart of a community where it can be freely seen and enjoyed by children, adult clients and visitors to the Bucyrus Campus. "It's the perfect space!"**



Brilliant artwork by Indie La Londe graces Bucyrus Campus pool, thanks to donors Frank and Kathy Mulvey (top).

Join the Club!

Some clubs pride themselves on their exclusive membership. At St. Ann Center, the opposite is true. Everyone is welcome to these clubs.

"We have photography club, cooking club, book club, science club and a long list of others we're thinking of forming," said Kae Wiberg, activities coordinator for adult clients at the Stein Campus.

On any given blue-sky day, you'll find the photography club exploring the campus' picturesque grounds, looking for subjects to capture. "We've shot fall colors, steeples, even close-ups of bumblebees," Kae said. "Clients especially love taking pictures of one another."

On a recent field trip, Kae worked with John and Jennel, clients who are visually impaired, "Directly in front of you are some gorgeous maple trees, and the sun is shining on their leaves," Kae described as she helped them aim and focus the camera. After several clicks, Jennel decided, "This is so cool! I think I want to be a paparazzi."

Meantime, in the adult unit kitchen, cooking club members are busy whipping up everything from apple cobbler to stew chockful of produce from St. Ann Center's gardens. "Our favorite part is going around the building and sharing samples of what we've cooked," Kae said.

Beyond teaching new skills, the mission of the clubs is to encourage friendships and a sense of belonging. "People who may not have known each other well start chatting and mixing up a recipe together," Kae said. "And all of a sudden, I hear, 'Hey, this is my friend!'"



Clubs click with St. Ann Center clients, as they share the fun and rewards of such hobbies as photography, reading and cooking.

Winning with a Packers Grant

The Green Bay Packers Foundation has lined up to help St. Ann Center's Gardetto Family Dental Clinic—the only one in Wisconsin built exclusively to care for people with moderate to severe disabilities.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation stepped in with a \$125,000 Challenge Grant that will match every dollar St. Ann Center raises for the dental clinic up to that amount. The Center has currently raised 20% of its goal and needs \$100,000 to turn \$125,000 into \$250,000, which will allow the hiring of an additional dentist and hygienist.



Sr. Edna sports a Super Bowl ring ->



An Above Par Event

The sky was blue and the greens were perfect for the 19th Annual Stu's Flooring Benefit Golf Outing on Saturday, Sept. 11th, at Western Lakes Golf Club.

Ninety-eight golfers teed up for a great cause, raising a record-breaking \$13,228 to support the children, elders and adults with disabilities who spend their day at St. Ann Center.

Our thanks go to Stu's Flooring, their family, friends and partners who make this event possible year after year.



Crash, Rattle & Bang!

Pots, pans and skillets...They're not just for cooking anymore. They're also key instruments in a tuneful new structure gracing the Bucyrus Campus' Intergenerational Play Garden.

"We call it our Kitchen Band," said Sr. Edna, pointing out a rustic hand-built structure bedecked with cooking utensils. You'll find kettles, metal bowls, strainers, tin cups and pails affixed to a wooden frame. "When you hit them with soft mallets," Sr. Edna demonstrated, "they make the most beautiful music."

The idea for this melodic novelty came from a trip to China Sr. Edna took in 2019. "I was part of a trade mission, sharing our intergenerational concept with an Asian delegation," she said. "During my free time, I happened upon a group of children playing pots and pans. They were having a blast! I knew I had to duplicate it at St. Ann Center."

A call for recycled kitchenware netted a raft of recyclables including an antique washboard. The Kitchen Band will be open to St. Ann Center children and adult clients for music-making sessions, as well as to visitors from the community.



Kids release their inner musician on recycled kitchen implements.

See the fruits of
our planting

Inside...

*Plus, special events
you won't want to
miss!*



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) 369-9024
or cfabbri@stanncenter.org

A Gift of Health

Advocate Aurora Health Care donated a vanful of personal protective equipment (PPE) to St. Ann Center's two campuses to help combat cold, flu and COVID-19.

The windfall includes non-surgical and N95 masks, gloves and disinfecting wipes.

"We're proud to support the mission of St. Ann Center by providing PPE so their staff and guests can gather safely," said Vincent Lyles, system vice president of community relations with Advocate Aurora Health.

"Masking and social distancing are important measures to help keep our community safe. Ultimately, vaccination is our way out of the pandemic. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves and those around them."

