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 possible these stories of our joyful intergenerational center.

More magic moments
Pg. 6

2024
Celebrating
25 Years
of
Intergenerational
Care!

2023 Annual Report
Inside...

Plus,
A playgarden with purpose
Pg. 2

***Letter from Sr. Edna- See Pg. 2 of Annual Report

Intergenerational PlayGarden Coordinator Kate McCartney (pink shirt) plans to add aquatics and music therapy to the Extended Learning Program.

Bucyrus Campus Cultivates Crops and Kindness

As the worst of the pandemic waned, Kate McCartney and Katherine Keller, instructors in the childcare wing of St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care's Bucyrus Campus shared lunchtime talks about how much the world had changed. How so many of us adapted to being indoor-loving homebodies, taking giant steps backward in important social skills and passing that on to the kids in our lives.

Realizing that they were especially like-minded about person-centered care and how time spent outdoors – the imagination and peace it inspires – could benefit all Bucyrus clients, McCartney and Keller teamed up on an evolving Enhanced Learning Program (ELP). Specifically, one that would allow staff to embark on learning what makes each Bucyrus participant tick, enhance classroom lessons, give adult clients new experiences, and get everyone out in the fresh air whenever possible.

"The analogy I use [to describe person-centered learning] is, you get a whole bunch of seeds, plant them, you don't know what the seeds are, and all these different flowers come up," Keller explains. "So, you get to know the water and the sunlight that each need to thrive. With even the little kids, there are all these different personalities, and it's just so interesting to learn what their talents and their interests are."

Raised in rural Wisconsin, Keller launched a nature-based program at the center in 2022, growing it into an intergenerational effort that teaches gardening basics, produces hundreds of pounds of produce in raised beds, and gets everyone admiring the birds, bugs, plants and trees around them. A certified recreational therapist, McCartney was drawn to the program, and now serves as the Bucyrus Intergenerational PlayGarden Coordinator.

This garden is a showstopper, one that you may not even realize is there as you drive past the sprawling campus in the 2400 block of North Ave. Go around back, however, and a whimsical sight awaits you. Four towering, wheelchair-accessible structures – a castle, a teapot, a fairy garden and a dinosaur – allow McCartney to shape little ones' social skills via lessons disguised as imaginative outdoor play, and invite to adult clients to read to or share wisdom with the tots in the cheeriest of settings.

Taking turns outside of the dinosaur playhouse.

"Through these themes that are taught in the playhouses, hopefully our play garden offer them tools to aid them in their journey of life," McCartney says. "We're hoping to teach kids things outside of classroom learning that will help enrich their lives and help mold them into the best people we can help them be."

Find out more about the extended learning program at **stanncenter.org/extended-learning**

5th Annual Indaba Ball – A Celebration of Community

Over 200 revelers enjoyed an extravaganza of brilliant colors, sparkle and style at the fifth annual Indaba African Ball at the Bucyrus Campus.

Kicking off Black History Month in the spirit of Akwaaba (an Africa-wide word for welcome, warmth, love and peace), the event raised more than $15,000 to support events at the Indaba Band Shell. Highlights included honoring local history makers; a fashion show starring guests in African garb, live music from Christopher's Project featuring Joe Jordan, and dining on Afro-Caribbean favorites.

New "Hall of History Makers" honored were: internationally known mental health expert Dr. Lila A. Knox; Dr. Dwight Cobbs, founder of the Milwaukee Steelers youth football and cheer program; and Mac Weddle and LaMarr Franklin, who oversee Garfield Days and have long served Milwaukee youth and under-resourced populations.

Campuses Celebrate Black History Month

Black History Month at St. Ann Center meant a variety of activities, from friends to food to films.

The Bucyrus Campus celebration included poems, commemoration of historical figures and a civil rights march re-enactment. A highlight was hosting friends from the Stein Campus; Bucyrus clients had earlier journeyed on a field trip to the Stein for a play and art show.

Throughout February, Stein clients enjoyed a weekly Black History Month film series, with titles such as "Hidden Figures," and "Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise."

Bucyrus Campus adults and children finished out the month with some cultural culinary favorites. The adults baked Southern Teacakes while the children learned about the modern-day "Father of Ice Cream," Augustus Jackson, who revolutionized ice cream making. In his honor, they made and enjoyed a a creamy, dairy-free, vegan strawberry ice cream – find the recipe on our blog at **stanncenter.org/black-history-ice-cream**

ISO: A Car in Good Working Order

If you have an automatic transmission car in good working order, one you no longer need, we could put it to good use and give you a tax deduction at the same time!

More Sisters are coming from Africa to work here, and we'd love to provide them with a car for commuting, grocery shopping and other needs. Because St. Ann Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, you could claim a tax deduction, if you itemize, for donating the car to us. We'll issue the IRS tax receipt for your records, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing your car is helping St. Ann Center

Interested? Call Lori Grzybowski at (414) 977-5064.

MAGGIE CARY RECOGNIZE A WINNER AWARD
WINNERS

Laura Ortiz
Stein Campus

Equally loved by the children in her classroom, parents and guardians, and her fellow St. Ann Center staff members, Ms. Laura sets a great example of Franciscan values for everyone around her.

Laura is patient, kind and thorough with her students and when training new staff, is always up to date on the latest software, and makes sure her Caterpillar classroom is an enriching place to be. She also brought our wonderful volunteer Mr. Tom to Stein Campus.

Natasha Crawley
Stein Campus

Originally a CNA in our Wellness wing, Natasha evolved into our Day Program Intake Coordinator thanks to her incredible ability to adapt and learn quickly to make potential clients, their guardians and other team members feel comfortable through the intake process.

Beyond those often-complex duties, Natasha continues to assist in all units and feed clients daily. She is a welcoming presence to all who come through the doors of St. Ann Center, and never fails to cheer up a client if they need it. Natasha's compassion is genuinely felt throughout the entire organization, truly embodying the Franciscan values we aspire to every day.

Matthew Roberts
Bucyrus Campus

"Above and beyond" is the way Matthew Roberts operates on campus. Always going out of his way to help others, his kindness cannot be understated.

Trustworthy and reliable, Matthew's consistency and commitment to the work allows St. Ann Center to remain a safe, clean and caring environment for our children, adult clients and staff members. And his efforts for our summer concert series, Indaba Nights, are indispensable, ensuring entertaining shows that run as smoothly as possible.

Matt shares the St. Ann Center mission and exhibits it daily as a member of our family.

A Feel-Good Yarn for Sure!

Through the frostiest winters, Geraldine Neiderheiser's caring has literally wrapped the adult clients of St. Ann Center in warmth.

The 92-year-old Bay View woman has been hand-knitting cozy lap blankets for our adult clients for 20 years, putting in countless hours to bring comfort and joy. Delma Vega, director of volunteers at the Stein Campus, says the colorful covers have been distributed as Christmas presents and bingo prizes over the years. Earlier, Geraldine had spent 50 years crafting blankets for a veterans hospital.

Thank you, Geraldine, for a lifetime of service warming so many hearts and souls.

New for You at St. Ann Center:

A gentle, non-invasive form of natural healing has been added to St. Ann Center's wellness offerings – Reiki.

Reiki is now available to the community!

While new to St. Ann Center, Reiki has ancient roots, and is practiced in hospitals, clinics and private practices worldwide. The practitioner uses gentle hand movements to guide the flow of life force energy through a client's chakras, or life energy centers.

It can be used with other healing treatments as well like massage, acupuncture, medicine or surgery. By promoting stress reduction and deep relaxation of mind and body, Reiki taps into the body's natural healing abilities.

The practitioner, with hands gently touching the client or held a few inches away, helps replenish or rebalance the client's life force energy, promoting health and happiness. During a session, you may feel the warmth emanating from the practitioner's hands, or nothing at all. Feeling nothing does not mean the treatment isn't working.

MaryBeth Johnson, St. Ann Center's practitioner, found Reiki useful in optimizing her own health, and so began the process of becoming a practitioner. She's now accepting appointments for **60-minute sessions** at either of our campuses. Cost is **$70/session.**

To schedule, contact her at (414) 977-5077 or mbjohnson@stanncenter.org

Bucyrus Beauty Salon Opens For Clients and Community

The Price is Right Beauty Salon is now open at the Bucyrus Campus by appointment Mondays and Wednesdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

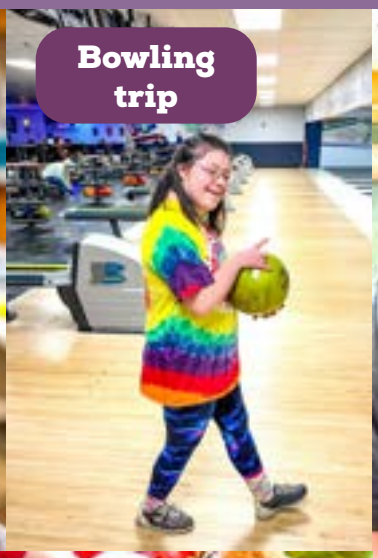
The salon offers shampoos and deep conditioning, haircuts and color, braiding, relaxers, silk press and more, at a fraction of salon prices elsewhere. Stylist Paris Robinson says business has been brisk.

She welcomes clients of all ages and abilities, working easily around wheelchairs and their headrests, and with clients who struggle with lengthy style times. She honed those skills while raising her differently abled niece, making sure the little girl knew her worth and looked as stylish as her peers.

As for her Bucyrus clients, Robinson says, "They love their hair-wash and braids. They love to get their hair braided, because it lasts longer and there is less maintenance."

Stein art show and play

Special holiday visitors



Bowling trip

Clients Barry and Francine celebrate their engagement at the Stein.

Pie Day!

Bucyrus clients celebrate Chinese New Year.

Indaba Nights Summer Concert Series Announces 2024 Lineup

Summer is coming, and with it Indaba Nights, the free family-friendly entertainment series each **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m., June through August** at the Indaba Band Shell, behind the Bucyrus Campus.

Over the past five years, Indaba Nights has become a popular tradition. People of all ages and abilities meet here for an early evening picnic, catch up with friends, and of course enjoy live music. This year, the series is showcasing jazz, blues and "old school" entertainment that takes you down Memory Lane. Free parking is available on site.

2024 Indaba Nights sponsors are: Milwaukee County Office of Equity; Gershia Coggs & G. Spencer Coggs; The Black Excellence Awards; Grandma Book's World; AARP; World Mission Ministries; Gloria Miller and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter

*** Schedule subject to change; follow facebook.com/indababandshell for updates, photos, videos and more.**

INDABA NIGHTS
2024 Schedule

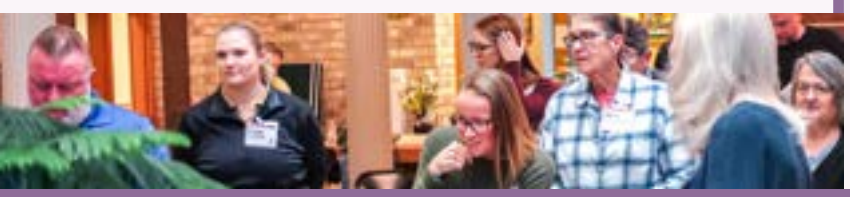
DATE	PERFORMER
June 5th	Tony T N T Washington & His Explosive Divas
June 12th	Stephen Hull
June 19th	Jazz Flux
June 26th	ESQUIRES II
July 3rd	Love, Peace & Soul Band
July 10th	Mahogany Soul
July 17th	Family Affair Band
July 24th	Cigarette Break
July 31st	Joe Jordan & the Soul Trio
August 7tg	Marvelous Mack
August 14th	Adekola Adedapo & Friends
August 21th	Holiday Revue Featuring Jeannie Holiday
August 28rd	Christopher's Project

Spreading the Word about Intergenerational Care Magic

Research has long confirmed that intergenerational care benefits both children and adults – and St. Ann Center is stepping up efforts to make it available to more people everywhere.

Last October, about 20 people – from as close as Jefferson and as far as Maine – attended the first intergenerational replication summit since the pandemic to learn the secrets of creating and maintaining a successful center. Attendees toured both campuses, participated in several intergenerational activities and soaked up the sessions on design, fundraising, programming and regulation.

The session was so successful that we'll offer a repeat of the event next October 10 and 11! If you know someone interested in opening an intergenerational care center, please share this link with them: **stanncenter.org/repsummit.**



Homecoming is October 5 – Save the Date!

St. Ann Center is bringing it all back home in honor of our **20th annual gala.** This will be a homecoming to remember, right **at the Stein Campus** where the gala began**, on Saturday, October 5.**

Whatever elegant attire you choose to wear, make sure you accessorize with fabulous athletic shoes – in true homecoming fashion, this is a "Sneaker Ball"!

Your evening will include:

- Plenty of heavy hors d'oeuvres, hot and cold
- Carefully curated wine pairings
- Wine pull & a gift card pull
- Tours of the campus
- Live auction and silent auctions
- Special surprises throughout!

Mark your calendar now – registration opens soon!

A "Super" Time at the Stein

Regardless of what the final scoreboard showed, it was clearly St. Ann Center for the win in Super Bowl pregame celebrations!

Clients, staff and kids donned their favorite teams' gear (not just for the Chiefs or Niners, either – the Packer backers were out in full force!) for the photo booth, touchdown dance and their very own karaoke show.

As often happens even with the NFL extravaganza, much of the excitement came from the special half-time guest – in this case, a quartet of Taylor Swifts (all representing her different "eras") who harmonized in the atrium and later on a tour throughout the building.

At St. Ann Center, football may not be life–but it's sure a good reason to have a great time!

On Our Wish List

Paring down? **The Stein Campus overnight respite care unit could really use these new or gently used items:**

- Regular size pillows
- King-size pillows
- Sheet sets – king, queen, full, twin
- King-size sheet set
- Comforters – king, full, twin
- Kitchen dishtowels & washcloths

St Ann Center for Intergenerational Care

Sponsored by Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

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) 977-5064 | mktg@stanncenter.org