

Happiest of Easter to Everyone!



Dear Friends & Families,

The New Year caught me by surprise when Sr. Veronica's visa expired and she had to return to Mexico earlier than I expected. That left the question of who would take over as Housemother in Marcellina Hall.

There is often a bit of a domino effect when one sister moves and the same proved true again. I moved from St. Joe's to Marcellina Hall, and Sr. Janet moved to St. Joe's, giving Sr. Samala sole responsibility in Guanella Hall. If that made any sense to you, congratulations—you are seasoned in the ways of MSJ!

While I miss my old gang in St. Joe's, I am enjoying my new cast of characters in Marcellina Hall. It does help me immensely in getting to know the residents and staff beyond my own little world in St. Joe's and in getting to understand the needs of the facility at large.

As ever, my intent is to make our ladies' residence feel like home. Hopefully, in the days and months ahead, you will start to see a difference.

Lastly, I am embarrassed to admit that I may recognize many of your faces, but do not remember your names. Please forgive me when I have to ask again.

Thanks to all of you for your continued interest, support and involvement in our life here at the Mount.

Yours in Prayer,

Sr. Kathy Stark



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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...



Springtime Gardening : God's Way

Plant 3 rows of squash:
Squash Gossip
Squash Criticism
Squash unkindness

Plant 3 rows of peas:
Patience
Perseverance
Politeness

Plant 3 rows of lettuce:
Let us be kind
Let us be charitable
Let us love one another

Plant 3 rows of turnips:
Turn up for meetings
Turn up to help
Turn up with a smile

We must have Thyme:
Time for generosity
Time to care for others
Time to pray

Water daily patiently
Feed with Love
The Lord will provide the growth!



GRANT RECEIVED FROM GCH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Mount St. Joseph was awarded a grant of \$23,000 in February. This enabled us to purchase 12 new laptops for use in the Day Program classrooms. Also purchased with these funds were 7 desktop computers for the use of QIDPs and other offices.



**We thank them and the Rychlick Family
who provided us with this contact!**

Staff & Residents

Praying for our newest Angels:

Cecilia S.
Jan J.
Yolanda M.

Welcome new Resident

Patty K (St. Clare)
Elly (Elizabeth) O. (Sacred Heart)

New Employees:

Kitchen

Victor M.

Sacred Heart

Ailin A.
Anabel M.

Nursing

Shari R.
Susan M.

St. Clare

Ruby N.
Nora B.

CDS/DT

Briana P.
Lilly O.

St. Joseph

Marytah R.

Guanella

Kahia W.

Marcellina

Stephanie P.
Aaliya K.
Kaitlynn K.
Yulisa P.



DAY TRAINING NEWS

Since the last newsletter, we have worked on the following topics: January—Winter fun/Circles Program; February—Hearts/Flowers; March—All Things Green. During the Spring and Summer, we will be working on the following topics: April—Weather; May—Dental Health; June—Ice Cream; July—Fireworks; August—All things Western. The staff implement creative ways to incorporate the “Theme of the Month” in their daily lesson plans and come up with very creative ideas.

We are blessed to have a volunteer to come twice a month and do a sing-along with each classroom.

This past February, we had our Annual DHS survey and received a 99%!!! Thanks to our staff for all their hard work. We have hired a new staff members and her name is Briana. She works with Yessica and the St. Joseph group but has been cross trained to work in any room if needed. Briana has a 2 year old son. In her free time, she has many hobbies but arts and crafts are her favorite.

We also have a college student named Lily who will be working with us over the summer. Lilly has been helping us since December, and on her Spring Break. When not working with us, Lilly attends University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana. Her major is in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences and she is working on becoming a Physician’s Assistant. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing cards, exercising and going for walks.

Wendy Wagner

Administrator/Director/QIDP—CDS Program

Day Training Wish List

We want to thank all of you that have donated items to our program!

The Wish List is available online at:

<https://www.myregistry.com/organization/mount-st-joseph-lake-zurich-il/3367880>

THANKS!



Cottage News

Guanella & Marcellina Cottages

I am new in my role as a QIDP, but have been at Mount St. Joseph for what will be four years this May. After I graduated high school, I started working as a Hab Aide in Guanella Cottage. During summers and school breaks throughout college, I worked in both Guanella & Marcellina. I just graduated from the University of Illinois—Urbana/Champaign in December and started working as a Q for Guanella Cottage at the beginning of January. While Genevieve is on maternity leave, I am covering for Marcellina cottage as well.

I love spending time with all the residents at Mount St. Joseph and am especially excited to take the ladies out and about as the weather gets nicer. I included a few pictures I've taken over the past couple of months. We've celebrated lots of birthdays recently, Jill W and Lisa H of Guanella and Joan O, Megan R, and Lisa A of Marcellina celebrated birthdays in February. Amanda S, Sandy E, Jackie T and Jean I are all of our March birthdays! In addition to birthday celebrations, the residents have been enjoying going on walks when the weather is nice. On a sunny day last week Eileen M, Kerry P, Lisa B, and I went out for Shamrock Shakes which they enjoyed outside. Walk On (horseback riding) has been a fun thing for the ladies to look forward to as well. There have been a couple parties recently including a Valentine's Day party and a St. Patrick's Day party.

Mia Salvi, QIDP



St. Joseph Cottage

The ladies welcomed a new Housemother—Sr. Janet replaced Sr. Kathy as Housemother for St. Joseph cottage. The ladies have adapted well. The ladies continue to keep busy and are looking forward to warmer weather. They attended an outing to see Snow White and reportedly enjoyed it. They are excited about Easter coming and have chosen to make an Easter basket for the sisters in Queen of Peace as their Lenten project. The ladies lost a dear friend of theirs in December—Carri W. passed away and the ladies attended her memorial service in January. The chime choir performed at the memorial. We miss her.

Sr. Janet, Housemother

We would like to thank the Ela Library for their generosity. They have agreed to continue providing books for the ladies to use in their day training program. These books are returned at the end of each month and exchanged for new ones. The Ela library also provides activities quarterly. We are excited to announce that they have agreed to donate books that they can no longer use and will be helping us establish a library of our own. They are also donating two carts to hold the books.

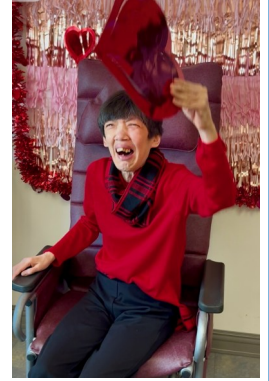


Cottage News

Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart has a new resident, Elly O. She joined our family on 1/9/25 and has adjusted beautifully and we are so happy she is with us. We unfortunately also lost a long-time resident Yolande M. on 4/1/25 and she is now an angel looking down upon us.

Sacred heart loves decorating any type of holiday cookies, eating special meals along with enjoying music. We are looking forward to Springtime weather and getting outside for walks, bon-fires and golf cart rides. Let me know if you have any suggestions for summertime fun and if you would like to join us for an adventure. We can always use an extra hand to help transport the ladies even if it is just going to the park for ice cream.



Michelle Curelo, QIDP



St. Clare

Our residents love to celebrate their, and each other's birthdays. We celebrated Jean F. birthday—she turned 96!!! Phyllis K. turned 87 years old. We also celebrated Rosemary B. and Cheryl M's birthdays.

We welcomed a new resident—Patty who loves Donny Osmond and Gilligan's Island.

On St. Patrick's Day we enjoyed Shamrock Shakes from Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Conrad.

Katie Rosetti, QIDP



Happenings at the Mount

NURSING NEWS:



Spring is here and allergy season is upon us. If you are struggling with allergies, you may want to try local honey. One to two teaspoons per day can be beneficial in reducing allergy symptoms. It may take up to 8 weeks for the allergy symptoms to subside, but the medicinal effects of honey will begin immediately.

TEN BENEFITS OF HONEY

1. Great antioxidant which reduces inflammation in the body.
2. Sooth your stomach and help with diarrhea
3. Can ease your cough and sore throat
4. Can help with depression and anxiety and greatly improve your mood.
5. The antimicrobial properties can boost your immune system.
6. It might increase your overall metabolism and help with maintaining a healthy weight.
7. A tablespoon of honey at night helps with a good night's sleep.
8. Helps with cognitive function and memory.
9. Ease sinus problems
10. Maintain healthy gums

Happy Spring and enjoy your honey!



Music at MSJ:



St. Joseph Chime Choir played, "How Great Thou Art" at the Ash Wednesday Mass on March 5th. Members of the group are: Nora K., Kathleen C., Sara S., Angela W., Dana A. (new member), Katelyn E., Sheryl G., Karen B., Lizzie C., Mary Agnes K., and Becca V.

Guanella/Marcellina Chime Choir played "Fairest Lord Jesus" at the St. Joseph Day Mass on March 19th. Members of the group are: Hean I., Lisa B., Katie J., Sandy E. (new member), Laura H., Sherri T., Kerry P., and Becca V.

All residents continue to enjoy sing-alongs in their cottage on a regular basis.



Meet Fr. Enzo

Fr. Enzo Addari was born in Corcumello (Az), Abruzzi province in Italy. He came to the USA a couple of years after his ordination.

He is a member of the Servants of Charity, a religious congregation founded by St. Louis Guanella in 1908, which is dedicated to the care of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors and parishes in low income areas.



He moved to Michigan in 1983 after finishing his masters degree in education administration at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. At the time he was appointed as Assistant Administrator of St. Louis Center.

He was a member of the organizing committee for the Jubilee Day for people with I/DD in the year 2000, December 3, and wrote all the texts used for this Jubilee Celebration.

He has been the CEO of the St. Louis Center, a residential facility for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (pwl/DD) from 2008 to 2023. Under his tenure the Center has moved from an institution to a Village where people with I/DD and people without could live on the same campus creating an integrated village. The community has accepted his vision contributing generously to the construction of the Village as well to the needs of the daily operation of the Center which relies on benefactors to balance its budget.

He has also been involved with many organizations because all people need the reassurance that God loves them.

He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Alhambra International, the Manresa Caravan, member of a few Italian Clubs: Italian American Club of Livonia, Italian American Club of Lansing, Federazione Abruzzese del Michigan, Italian Cultural Center.

His dream has been to see the completion of the construction of the St. Louis Guanella Village as a new way of providing residential services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are aging and don't have anyone to care for them. This for him as been the call of the Gospel: to bring hope to many people.

Since last November, after finishing his tenure at St. Louis Center in Michigan, he has been appointed to Mount St. Joseph as Chaplain.

Be sure to introduce yourself to Fr. Enzo—he says Mass every Sunday at 10:30 at MSJ.

Active Ladies



In the past, Mount St. Joseph has assembled a Special Olympics team of Athletes, lead by Sr. Madonna, and the head of the Recreation department. They competed in Track & Field in Spring (usually May), and Bowling and Bocce in the Fall. This program was paused during COVID. Our recreation director, Sharon Theil has retired, and the position is not yet replaced, and as our resident's age, it is getting more challenging to find a sport they are comfortable competing in. But, the main challenge to our participation is obtaining the volunteer Chaperones and Coaches to help make this program a reality.

The residents who have participated in the past love the challenge and comradery they get from their participation. If we can get a commitment of volunteers and coaches, we may be able to BRING THIS BACK!!!

Please spread the word, and if you are interested in being involved—contact Sr. Madonna. We need coaches and chaperones for Track and Field—both local competitions and the Down State competition. For bowling, we need help with transport to bowling alleys ahead of competition to practice and build an average—then we will need chaperones and coaches to attend the state and regional competition.



Mark your calendars

For our upcoming Fundraisers

Calendar Raffle! - Have you purchased your Calendar for the Raffle yet? There are still some left. You will get your name entered into the drawing each month for \$50, with the drawing in December for \$500. Contact Barb Byrd at the front desk, or go to our website to order your calendar to pick up or ship to you. Cost is \$45.

2025 Calendar Raffle



Stroll for Success
A Walk & Roll-a-Thon to Benefit the Residents of Mount St. Joseph
June 7, 2025
Mount St. Joseph
24955 N. U.S Hwy 12, Lake Zurich, IL

The banner features a yellow background with silhouettes of people walking and running on the left. In the center is a logo for the 50th anniversary (1974-2024) of the Mount St. Joseph Association. On the right is a black and white logo for 'walk&roll-a-thon STROLL FOR SUCCESS'.

18TH ANNUAL
MOUNT ST JOSEPH ASSOCIATION GOLF OUTING
Save the Date for the Annual Mount St Joseph Association Golf Outing!
AUGUST 18, 2025
Royal Melbourne Country Club

The poster features a green background with a golf ball on a tee in the foreground. The text is white and yellow.

Sunday, October 5, 2025—(11:30am—4:00pm)
Autumn Leaves Luncheon
With entertainment from Mike (Elvis) Bishop
DoubleTree by Hilton—Mundelein

2025 Acquisitions & Projects

- ◆ Quarterly Staff Appreciation Lunches
- ◆ Staff & Sisters/Father Birthday gifts
- ◆ Staff Birthday gift, and end of year gift
- ◆ Meals for Residents throughout the year
 - ◆ Cottage Committee Supplies
- ◆ Complete Multi-use Area (Fence, Ramp, ground surface, furniture)
 - ◆ Benches set along walking path areas
 - ◆ Bathroom Lifts

We have many more “projects” in the works that we are researching, so stay tuned for more great enhancements to benefit the Residents of Mount St. Joseph.



The Association would like to thank all of the volunteers for their time and effort. It would be impossible to accomplish all that we do at events, parties and fundraisers without your generous volunteerism!

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ASSOCIATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2025 Activities & Events Schedule—created by Lisa Clemments—Events Director

Saturday, April 12	Spring Boutique
Saturday, May 3	Disney Princess
Wednesday, May 7	Mike & Traci concert
Saturday, May 17	Cinderella Dance Theatre at Lake Zurich Performing Arts Cntr
Saturday, June 7	Walk-a-thon, featuring the Socially Distant Band
Saturday, July 12	ROZ Puppet Show
Saturday, August 16	Wacky Water Day (Tentative)
Saturday, September 13	Wild Daisy Band
Saturday, October 11	Dog Parade
Wednesday, October 22	Mike & Traci Concert
Saturday, October 25	Halloween Party

There isn't much scheduled yet in June & July and Lisa is working on filling in some events. If anyone has any ideas or have a lead on entertainment, please contact Lisa (ljclemments169@gmail.com)

This summer, Guanella will be having a couple of off campus picnics. If anyone is interested in organizing something for your cottage—picnics, theater, movies, festivals, zoo, etc..., the Association is happy to fund this for you. Please let me know if there is anything we can help you with.

Ongoing Mount St. Joseph Association funded activities:

Walk On Horse Therapy (twice per month)



Bloomin' Beauties Salon (twice per month)



Scott George Vowinkel

Scott George Vowinkel, born on March 16, 1951, died on March 21, 2025, shortly after his 74th birthday. He now stands in the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scott dedicated his service to the Mount St. Joseph Association and Mount St. Joseph for over 18 years. His tireless work to our mission has made a lasting impact on the residents and members of the Association. We will be forever grateful for his service.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

WE APPRECIATE YOUR KIND SUPPORT!

We appreciate your kind support...

The majority of Mount St. Joseph residents and day training clients receive funding through state and federal programs. The funds are stretched to cover expenses such as room and board, medication, dental and medical services, and adequate staffing. Therefore, we rely heavily upon our benefactors to help provide extra-curricular activities for the residents to replace outdated equipment and furniture, and to renovate buildings. St. Louis Guanella always said that God will not be outdone in generosity, and we are convinced that those who assist us in our mission are blessed in countless ways. The individuals we serve have a beautifully simple yet profound faith. One can rest assured that God hears and answers their prayers!

Will you please help us now with whatever financial support you can?

Mount St. Joseph is a registered sec. 501 ©(3) Charitable Organization. As such, your donations are deductible. A copy of our IRS determination letter confirming Mount St. Joseph's standing as a registered IRC sec. 501 ©(3) Charity is available upon request.

You can make a donation by mailing it to us using the form below, or you can visit us on the internet at: www.mtstjoseph.net to make a donation online with Give Central.

DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Donation Amount: _____\$500 _____\$100 _____\$50 _____\$20

Thank you for your donation. Please mail your donation to:

**Mount St. Joseph
24955 North U.S. Highway 12
Lake Zurich, IL 60047**

About The Mount

Mount St. Joseph

Mount St. Joseph is a health care facility called home by approximately 85 women with varying degrees of mental and physical disabilities. The facility was established by the Daughters of Saint Mary of Providence in 1935. The Sisters live on campus and collaborate with staff to provide exemplary care to each individual. In the spirit of our Founder, Saint Louis Guanella, we strive to promote the rights and dignity of the residents and assist them in growing to their fullest potential.



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mount St. Joseph
24955 North U.S. Highway 12
Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
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Mailing Address Line 5

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