



MOUNT
St. JOSEPH

News from

LOOK TO THE MOUNT

Spring, 2023

What's New at the Mount:

With COVID almost behind us, we have started getting reconnected with the local communities. This year, we welcomed students from a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program for their clinical experience. The students loved their time here and had a very positive experience with our resident population. We also got six new employees from the endeavor!



We have also connected with a few local Catholic parishes. Last summer, the youth group from St. Mary's in Vernon came out and did two days of yard work for us. This summer, they will come back for one day of yard work and one activity day with the ladies. Another church, St. Peter's in Volo, has connected with us to use our chapel and gym for a one-day women's retreat. The parish invited us to put our flyers and information about the Mount in their church. We now have a new part-time nurse! The same parish is using our gym to put on their high school play, A Mid-Summer Night's Dream. The ladies are invited for a private viewing of their dress rehearsals.

After COVID ends, we will be able to invite these young people to interact more closely with our ladies. We hope this will lead to more people joining our team as employees. I've heard many of our current staff say about prospective employees, "We just need to get them in here! Once they meet the ladies, they're hooked!"

We will be hosting a different type of group this summer. The Lake Zurich Chamber of Commerce will be using our gazebo for an After-Hours event in June. Each new contact holds the possibility of welcoming new friends for Mount St. Joseph who can help us to continue our mission of serving our special ladies with love and dedication.

Let's Dive In!

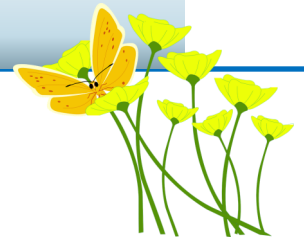
Although we keep up with the required maintenance for them, our two swimming pools here at the Mount have been left unused since COVID started. We'd like to change that soon! And we are almost there. Two of our new DSPs are also lifeguards (yay!) and are looking forward to lifeguarding for the ladies as soon as the pools open. Currently, we are trying to get a minor pool repair done and looking into replacing the lift chair for residents who cannot get in and out of the pool without this assistance. Both are required before we can reopen, but both have proven to be hard to get. As always, we welcome qualified volunteers (in this case, qualified in pool maintenance and repair, or a volunteer with connections!) to help. If you or someone you know can help us get the pool opened, please contact Sr. Rhonda or Kamila Stoch (our new Recreational Therapist and continuing St. Clare QIDP). Thanks and God bless you!



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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...



Happy Spring!

I am happy to share the news that the Public Health Emergency that prompted all of our stringent COVID regulations will end on May 11th. Yay! What does that mean for us? I'll find out for sure at the IDPH Webinar on May 5th, but it should mean no more masks, no requirement for specific vaccinations for volunteers, and an open welcome to healthy friends, family, and visitors. In other words: life the way it was before COVID.

With the help of our trained family volunteers, we have already managed to restart a number of activities for the ladies in recent months. In Guanella Hall, we've had family volunteers leading weekend activities every weekend, and sometimes twice. The ladies love it, and the staff love that activities are provided while they attend to the personal care needs of the residents.

We've also started welcoming community groups on the grounds, although most have not yet been able to interact with the ladies. A local church group held their one-day retreat here, and shortly afterwards, a new nurse was added to our staff. We've also had some Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) students through Harper College do their clinicals here. Because of their training and medical clearance, these "volunteers" were able to work with the residents, and 6 of them have since signed on as staff. I've heard many people say that we just need to get people in the door, and then they'll want to work here.

Staffing continues to be our primary concern. Our staff and volunteers have joined forces to post signs locally and attend job fairs. We have advertised on the internet through Indeed and local college job posting sites. We've welcomed youth groups for service projects and adult groups for prayer days, and we announce job openings on our marquee on highway 12. With all this, the most effective measures so far have been the MSJ Association's employee referral incentive and the CNA clinicals program. WE'VE also signed on many agency / temporary employees. Still, we continue to be very short staffed, leading to countless hours of overtime for the current Staff and Sisters. Please join us in praying and working to recruit many new employees, especially for the afternoon and weekend shifts in the cottage.

Sr. Rhonda

Town Hall Meeting

Some of our families have been asking us to restart the in-person meetings that used to take place here at the Mount. They have expressed an interest in knowing more about what's happening on the grounds and with the Family Association. Of course, all of this information is included in our newsletter (both this one and the Association Newsletter). Still, sometimes it's nice to hear it in person and have an opportunity to ask questions. With the Public Health Emergency ending soon, I'd like to restart the in-person meetings, too.

We have scheduled a Town Hall meeting to which all families are invited. We will recap the highlights of what has been happening here these past few years, share our hopes for the future, and give you a chance to ask questions and make suggestions. If things go as planned and our PHE really is over on the 11th, we will hold the meeting in the gym on Sunday May 21st at 1:00pm. Details to follow.

Staff & Residents

Praying for our newest Angels: **Cathy L.**

Welcome new Resident – **Lizzie C.**

New Employees:

DSP: Olivia Giglio, Colette Garrels, Suzanne Porebski,
Isabella Liszka, Kiri Kolansinski and Daania Bhatti

Nursing Anne Anderson

DAY TRAINING NEWS

The Mount St. Joseph CDS program continues to focus on [monthly themes](#). Here is a list of the themes we have done and will be doing:

January—Beverages

February—Flowers

March—Folk Tales/Classic Stories

April—Dinosaurs

May—Festivals

June—Farmers Market

July—At the Beach

August—Pets

September—Leaves and Pine Cones

October—Scare Crows

November—Food Groups

December—12 Days of Christmas

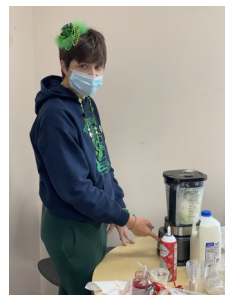
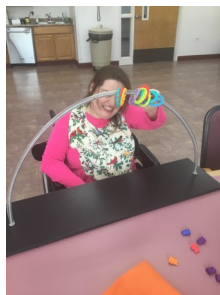
Monthly Newsletter:

If you know anyone who would also like to receive the monthly Newsletter, please have them contact me at the above contact number or email, and I will add them to the list.

All of us at the CDS Program would like to thank you all for your support. We are lucky to spend the day with your loved one doing fun activities!!!



We are still looking for additional staff to join our awesome team so we can bring everyone up to full-time status. Hours are M-F, 8:30am—4pm. If you know anyone that may be interested, please have them contact me at: wwagner@msjlakezurich.org, or at 847-438-5050, ext. 145. We also have a monthly newsletter that is sent to guardians via email.



Cottage News

Marcellina Hall—from the House Mother:

We had some joys and sorrows this winter in Marcellina Hall. Cathy Lozen left us for heaven this winter. We know she is happy in heaven now, but we still miss her. The void was filled a bit when the ladies welcomed a new resident, Lizzie W., to their cottage. Lizzie previously lived “next door” in Guanella so she already knew all her new peers. We are also happy to welcome three new employees. Yellecsi (or Lexy)



transferred over from St. Joseph cottage, and Kiri and Daania came to us through the CNA clinicals program. The residents are all enjoying our lovely, new employees.

In their leisure time, the Marcellina ladies have been enjoying Uno games, dance-ercise, puzzles, and van rides with staff throughout the winter and early spring months. We had a run of birthday parties this winter, too, with 8 of our 15 ladies having birthdays in February and March. Needless to say, we had a lot of parties during those two months, with the MSJ Association's Valentine's Pizza party being a special favorite. With Spring blooming around us – and the COVID Public Health Emergency ending soon – the ladies are looking forward to many more outdoor walks, golf cart rides, and outings.

Sr. Rhonda, House Mother

Guanella Hall - From the House Mother:

We've had a few resident changes in Guanella Hall this winter and early spring. Lizzie moved next door to Marcellina, and Sherri T. moved over from St. Clare Cottage. A few weeks later, Lisa H., joined us, also coming from St. Clare cottage. Everyone seems to be settled in and everyone is happy to welcome our new friends.

The ladies in Guanella are blessed to have a very active family volunteer group. Our families have been providing enjoyable activities almost every Friday and Saturday, including games, crafts, walks, cookie decorating, snowball fights (with cotton snowballs), and many others. We are looking forward to moving some of our activities outdoors as the weather gets nicer. Our patio chairs are already on the front porch and in the gazebo, waiting for the warm weather to return.

Van rides were another fun activity during the winter months. Our destination was anything we could do from the van (driving through nature preserves, checking out holiday lights at Christmas time, or just enjoying the countryside), but almost always included a drive through at McDonald's for diet pop.

Sr. Rhonda, House Mother

Guanella & Marcellina—from the Q:

The Ladies of Guanella/Marcellina Hall are enjoying the emerging Spring. On Sundays we have taken short road trips to watch the green grass and leaves emerging from their winter hibernation. Afterwards, we stop by McDonald's to pick up pop for Sunday dinner. The ladies have also been having Spa Sunday where they can get their fingernails and toes painted. We are all very much looking forward to the Covid-9 restrictions being lifted and are in discussions for what we might like to do as summer approaches. We continue to celebrate birthdays & Holidays, go for walks outside, and do seasonal crafts and activities.



Jennifer Snow, QIDP

Cottage News

St. Joseph Cottage

St. Joe's ladies have been keeping busy. The ladies celebrated Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. They are looking forward to Easter. They will be baking their usual Easter treats, dying Easter eggs and making an Easter basket for the Sisters in Queen of Peace.

Several of the ladies in St. Joes will be participating in the upcoming Spring Games Special Olympic tournament (track and field) the week after Easter.

The ladies went on a movie outing in March with their CDS staff and had a great time.

As the warmer weather approaches, we hope to do more outings. The ladies are also very excited about the prospect of the pool reopening.

We would like to welcome two new staff members, Fabiola and Veronica to St. Joseph cottage. We hope everyone has a fun filled and safe summer!

Linda Egli, St. Joseph QIDP

Sacred Heart Cottage

It's been a long winter and we are looking forward to warming weather and enjoying bon-fires, golf cart rides and enjoy the fresh air. Cottage is all decorated for Easter and the ladies will be decorating cookies and coloring eggs. Sr. Madonna will be asking for Spring and Summer clothes soon, so touch base and she will get the Winter clothes packed up for you. We are finishing up with the last of the annual staffings so this should free up some time and get the ladies on some off-campus outings.

Any concerns or questions, always feel free to contact me—847-438-5050, ext 349

Michelle Curelo, QIDP



St. Clare Cottage

St. Clare cottage had a new experience this winter. The cottage welcomed two groups of CNA students who did their clinical experience here at the Mount. The students are from Barrington High School and the program is offered at their school through Harper College. They came in two separate groups of eight, each staying for four consecutive Sundays, and the students quickly fell in love with our ladies. Six of them are now employees here. We are grateful to the St. Clare staff who welcomed the students and "showed them the ropes," passing on their love for the ladies and their joy in caring for them.

The ladies were sad to say goodbye to two of their friends, Lisa and Sherri, who both moved to Guanella Hall recently. But it's never really goodbye since the upcoming end of the Public Health Emergency will allow the cottages to mingle again. St. Clare shares a gazebo with Marcellina and Guanella cottages, so we are hoping to meet in the middle for some fun summer activities. We have been doing some golf cart rides with the recent nicer weather and the ladies have been getting outside for walks and day program has also been taking place outside when able.

Kamila Stock, QIDP

Happenings at the Mount

Happy 95th Birthday!

Happy Birthday to Sr. Theresa Tamburo who turned 95 on March 21st this year. She still visits CDS/DT Weekly and covers the front office from 2 until 3:30 pm every week day.



Music at MSJ:



The St. Joseph Chime Choir played on March 20th at the St. Joseph Feast Day Mass. Members of the group are: Karen B., Kathleen C., Elizabeth C., Katelyn E. (absent that day), Sheryl G., Mary Agnes K., Nora K., Sara S., Angela W., Carrie W.

Beth McQuaid, CDS Music

Hiring & Volunteer Opportunities



Thank you from Ann Thill!

We currently have 36 people who have completed the volunteer program! I'd like to personally thank all of you who joined me either in person or virtually for the orientation. It's been so fun to meet people who are "new to me," but whose loved one I probably know quite well.

Feel free to contact me with any questions—and, as you've likely experienced, I may or may not get back to you in a timely manner! :)

Ann Thill
Director of Employee Development
847-438-5050, ext. 107



Mount St. Joseph is Hiring

Home to women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Mount Saint Joseph is currently hiring for a number of positions at their Lake Zurich campus.

Join their team: Work with your heart and LOVE your job!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- Caregiver/DSP • QIDP/Case Manager
- Community Day Services • LPN/RN

Mount St. Joseph
24955 Route 12, Lake Zurich
Human Resources 847-438-5050 Ext. 109
Visit them at www.MtStJoseph.org.



Spring Games:

All of the ladies who participated in Special Olympics did very well and we are very proud of them! We have 2 new Gold medalists who will be going to State on June 9—11 for a total of 4 ladies going down to state. We made the best of the rainy weather that day and didn't let it stop us! All ladies participated in the softball throw and unfortunately the rest of the events were cancelled after 11:30am that day. We had Coach Sharon Thiel come out to help us with Special Olympics and the ladies were happy and excited to see another familiar face :)

Kamila Stoch, Recreation Dept.





MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
ASSOCIATION

Care for each other.

The Mount St. Joseph Association Events Committee and the Cottage Committees continue to be very active with the ladies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET INVOLVED!!!

Mike & Traci Concert—May 17
Socially Distant Band Concert—June 10
M-Hart String Quartet Performance—June 28
Mike & Traci Concert—September 13
M-Hart String Quarter Performance—September 20
Wild Daisy Concert—October 21

Cottage Committees is an ongoing activities program where volunteers in each cottage plan their own activities. Coined: Fun Days in the Cottages. It could be an art project, activities in the gym, a cooking project, or anything fun you can think of. The ladies so enjoy the activities no matter what they are.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

To get started as an on-campus volunteer, fill out the application at the Mount St. Joseph website (<https://mtstjoseph.org/volunteer>) and review the training requirements. The application will be processed by Cecil Natividad, Mount St. Joseph's Director of Human Resources.

Once you have registered, Ann Thill, Director of Employee Development at Mount St. Joseph will send you the Infinitec online training links. She will also set up a date with you for on-site training at Mount St. Joseph.

This program is so valuable to our ladies right now as staffing across all of Health Care is very low. Please consider taking the time and getting involved!





MOUNT ST. JOSEPH
ASSOCIATION

Care for each other.

16th Annual Golf Outing



Monday, August 21, 2023

Royal Melbourne Country Club, Long Grove, IL

Tickets are available for pre-purchase online. They are great gifts for Mother's Day, or Father's Day!

<https://mtstja.com>

Check out the Mount St. Joseph Association on-line shop. Any purchase will show your Mount St. Joseph Spirit! Our on-line store manager is: Lisa Clements.



Mount St. Joseph will soon have its very own beauty salon. We know our residents will love being pampered with manicures and professional haircuts! The anticipated opening is late May or early June.

A BIG "Thank You" goes out to:

Sponsor: Patricia Lavelle

Coordinators: Ann Petersen & Lisa Clements

Muralist: Jill Capps

Sign Designer: Maureen Roberts

Electrician: Jack Collins

MSJ Maintenance Staff: Mark Ribandt & Jeff Moskivich



**There will be a "SHOWING" of Bloomin' Beauties Salon at the May 21st Town Hall Meeting.
We can't wait to show you and the ladies!**

STAY IN TOUCH— STAY CONNECTED

Website: Mtstja.com

Our website is frequently updated, so look here for the latest news and extra photos!

Social Media: Find us on Facebook and Instagram—link appears on our website!

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 125 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.



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

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