



201 East Garfield Street
 Michigan City, Indiana 46360
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Fall 2015

School Hours
 Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The Social and Learning Institute

WHERE SOCIALIZING AND LEARNING ARE KEY TO GROWTH

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since the sudden passing of co-founder Jim Guerrucci in March 2015, **The Social and Learning Institute** had been operating under the leadership of the Board of Trustees and its president, Sheridan Bell. At the annual meeting held in October 2015, Debbie Sellers was selected as the new Executive Director. When speaking of her new position she stated, "It is a privilege to carry forward the legacy of care and commitment established by Jim Guerrucci. I am excited to work with the teaching staff in expanding the SLI program, continually seeking opportunities to enrich the lives of our students, and pursuing additional avenues of funding for the Institute."

Debbie originally began her service to SLI in June 2012 as a member of the Board of Trustees. She now returns to SLI while continuing to serve as a part-time program officer for Unity Foundation of La Porte County. Prior to her non-profit experience at Unity, Debbie worked for nearly a decade in private school administration. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from Indiana University and brings experience in fiscal management and organizational leadership.

Debbie is available each school day from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. and may be reached at dsellers@socialandlearning.org. Contact her to learn more.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR ... A NEW ROOF!

No more drips! No more buckets! The roof of **The Social and Learning Institute** has been replaced! In January 2014 the area where the new addition and old roof connected began to leak. Over the next year the aged portion of the roof deteriorated much faster than anticipated. During last year's winter season the roof had over 15 different location leaks that required temporary patching. The recent harsh winters had taken their toll and the Board of Trustees realized the critical and urgent need to replace the flat roof on the original building. SLI was fortunate to receive grant funding from the Barker Welfare Foundation to establish **The Social and Learning Institute**

Roof Fund. Once work began, it was quickly determined that the damage to the flat roof and underlying surfaces was even worse than expected. With additional contributions from NIPSCO, generous individuals, and a line of credit extended by Horizon Bank, SLI was able to move forward with the roof replacement. SLI is grateful to AA Rain-Tite Roofing for their dedicated effort in completing this project before the beginning of the current school year. Donations to the Roof Fund continue to be accepted. For more information contact the school.



CELEBRATING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

The Social and Learning Institute Christmas Celebration will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 11:30 a.m. in SLI's Potratz Hall. This eagerly anticipated event brings students and extended SLI family together to share the joy of the season. **All are welcome to attend.**

December 17th
 11:30 AM (CST)

The always generous SLI family will provide a variety of side-dishes and desserts to accompany the main entrees of fried chicken and ham. Following food and fellowship, the students will present their Christmas Program under the direction of music instructor Dennis Brittain.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Music + Yoga + Technology = Enrichment!

Unity Foundation of La Porte County's Power for Good grant funding has been instrumental in expanding the enrichment opportunities offered to SLI students. In 2014 Unity awarded \$1,800 to begin a music education and therapy program. Not only are the students enjoying this activity together, they are enhancing their communication development skills (i.e., word usage, articulation, speech rhythm, and social communication). Dennis Brittain now leads music classes every other Tuesday.

This year, Unity awarded \$900 to allow for the continuation of a pilot therapeutic yoga program introduced in 2014. On alternating Tuesdays, Marsha Wenig, the founder of Yoga Kids International,

engages SLI students in physical and mental therapy developed to instill self-confidence in balance, movement, and eye/hand coordination. Students enjoy learning the movements and breathing exercises known to alleviate stress and anxiety.

An additional \$525 was awarded to purchase special needs educational software. The different levels of software selected can meet and challenge the educational needs of SLI's low, mid, and high functioning students. SLI has been fortunate to receive several gently used, yet still technologically relevant, computers for student use. Using these machines, the teaching staff now has the ability to guide select students into learning areas that cannot be approached in a group.

Thank You!
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"SPECIAL ARTS" EXHIBITION - LUBEZNIK CENTER FOR THE ARTS



This special exhibition will feature students work created for the "Gallery of Loved Ones" project. A special reception for this exhibit will be held on December 4th at the Lubeznik Center (101 W 2nd St, Michigan City) from 5:00-8:00 p.m. This event is open to the public as part of Michigan City's First Friday events. **Social and Learning**

Institute students receive weekly instruction at Lubeznik Center through generous grant funding from Duneland Health Council. Don't miss this opportunity to view "Special Arts" and meet our creative artists!

December 4, 2015 5:00-8:00 PM (CST)

2016 IS COMING ... SAVE THESE DATES:

March 6, 2016



LONGABERGER®

BINGO

\$25/ticket

Door Open 12:30 p.m.

American Legion Post #37
Michigan City

40th Anniversary Gala

Join us as we commemorate 40 years of **The Social and Learning Institute's** service to adults with intellectual disabilities. This milestone celebration will honor the life and legacy of co-founder James Guerrucci.

A committee has been formed to prepare for this meaningful occasion. Additional volunteers are welcome. If you would like to contribute photographs or stories to highlight Jim's devotion to the Institute and its students, please contact the school.

May 21, 2016



END-OF-YEAR
CELEBRATION

June 22, 2016

HAPPY
LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL



ALUMINUM CANS

The first Thursday of each month has been designated "**We Recycle Day!**" at **The Social and Learning Institute**. Students consolidate donated cans and prepare them for transport. All proceeds from the sale of collected aluminum are utilized for the purchase of gasoline for our two school vans. You may drop your cans off (in a secure plastic bag) at the school during operating hours. If you need someone to pick up a large load please call us at 219.879.2200.