

What's Happening ...

Fall 2018

Health & Wellness Program | SLI Welcomes Stephanie Gordon

I am excited and honored to have joined The Social and Learning Institute team! Through the support of grant funding from Healthcare Foundation of La Porte and Duneland Health Council, I have been able to design a holistic health program for SLI students. During our year round school calendar Thursdays are now jam packed with Yoga, Zumba, Health & Nutrition Education, Nature Exploration, and Mindfulness Meditation. These grants have made it possible to create a

type of holistic physical education and health program for students who are vulnerable to a variety of health conditions. We have goals to regulate body weight, blood pressure and flexibility. Already, students are providing positive feedback with flexibility, range of motion, less pain in the body, and sleeping better!

Grant funding also provided for the purchase of a fitness tracker band for each student ... they ♥LOVE♥ them! This simple and small device empowers them to see how hard they are working. I have noticed specifically in yoga class that students are developing a heightened state of quiet focus, they take it seriously and really put forth a lot of effort.



Stephanie Gordon
MSTOM, L.Ac
Health & Wellness
Program Coordinator



Thursday mornings begin with Yoga!



Individual Health Assessment

I am originally from Chicago and now live in the Dunes with my family. We love discovering new hiking trails and spending many lazy days at the beach. I am the founder and co-owner of Sacred Dunes Alternative Health, an integrative health facility in Michigan City. I am a licensed acupuncturist, have a Masters of Science, a Bachelors of Nutrition, and a background in education and special education. Sacred Dunes offers acupuncture, massage therapy, cupping therapy, nutrition consultation and coaching, herbal medicine and yoga.

Now that I have been with the school for a couple months I have grown to adore each and every student and program team member. This is an

incredible non- profit organization serving a very special and unique demographic of adults in La Porte and Michigan City. I feel like my family has grown by 30 and I have been receiving great feedback from students and their parents/guardians in regards to the program. I look forward to each opportunity to educate and motivate this amazing group of individuals to develop and maintain healthy habits. I encourage you to visit SLI on Thursdays. If we're not out and about exploring, we'd love to share our health and wellness excitement with you!



Students prepare vegetables for soup and learn about food as medicine. Did you know garlic lowers blood pressure, is antibacterial, antiviral and helps clear sinusitis?!!



Friendship Botanical Gardens
Michigan City



Dinges Farm Fall Harvest
Three Oaks, Michigan



Chickpea Fresh Mediterranean
Michigan City
Students were each encouraged to try at least one fresh item they had never tasted before. Fun and delicious!

A Program on the Move!

Amy Armstrong, Program Coordinator

In looking back at our calendar since the program year began in September, I am amazed at how many exciting adventures we have packed into such a short time. We have been busy out and about in the community attending the La Porte Symphony Orchestra's Education Concert, visiting Friendship Botanical Gardens, Dinges Farm and Chickpea Restaurant as part of our Health & Wellness Program, bowling at City Lanes Bowling Center, visiting Michigan City Public Library, attending art class at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, taking a journey through time exploring the history of Chellberg Farm and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and learning to canoe with Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.

At the Institute we have enjoyed visits from the Dunes Learning Center Dunes to You Program with science and nature education programs and women's quartet Chordially Yours, members of the The Great Lake Sound Chorus of Sweet Adelines in Valparaiso, with fun musical entertainment. In the classroom we have been building on our life skill curriculum, currently focusing on social behavior and manners, basic kitchen and cooking skills, and proper household cleaning methods. In the months ahead we will also begin practicing



Money Skills | Student Store

sorting and doing laundry. We continue to reinforce the importance of daily hygiene and frequent hand washing by practicing the techniques shared by our PNW College of Nursing friends. Our money skills program with SLI bucks and student store continues to be a favorite activity. Students have many opportunities to earn bucks each month through demonstrating responsibility in bringing birthday cards for their friends or improving their monthly bowling score, for example. When students receive their bucks, the SLI store is opened to practice currency exchange skills. The store merchandise is a collection of donated items (new or gently used). Students learn important skills and look forward to saving up to purchase that special something from the store.

With the snow already falling and holiday excitement in the air, we are now busy preparing for our Annual Christmas Celebration. We hope you will join us on Thursday, December 20th! When we return in January we look forward to adding additional programs with Reins of Life and Purdue University Northwest College of Nursing and American Sign Language students to our schedule.



Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile | October 2018

Students learned about water safety and canoeing at Jerry Pavese Park in Hobart. SLI's partnership with Dunes Learning Center is supported by a grant from Unity Foundation of La Porte County.



Since its establishment in 1976, The Social & Learning Institute has operated its annual program on a traditional September-June school calendar year, being closed during the months of January, July and August. To better serve

the needs of students and caregivers, SLI has adopted a year-round program calendar beginning September 2018. This program change has added additional days to the program and extended the length of multiple breaks throughout the year.

Knights of Columbus "Tootsie Roll Drive"



SLI is grateful to Queen of All Saints Council 12951 for generously including our program in the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, better known as the "Tootsie Roll Drive", for many years. Locally, funds raised during the October 2018 community drive will be distributed between: SLI, Paladin, and Share Foundation.

Summer Program 2018

For three weeks in July and August, SLI offered its students an opportunity to participate in summer programming. Students kept busy in the classroom with music, yoga, dance, art, and cooking. Community programs included visits to Luhr County Park, Indiana Dunes State Park, Washington Park Zoo, Creek Ridge County Park and a day camp experience at Reins of Life.



Painting the Horses
Reins of Life Mini Camp Day



Exploring Nature with Ranger Jim
Indiana Dunes State Park



Learning to Fish
Luhr County Park

2017-2018 PROGRAM YEAR IN REVIEW

We had an amazing year at The Social & Learning Institute, full of new experiences and many, many blessings! The fact is that none of our success would be possible without the continued support of people like YOU, who understand the importance of what we do. Please know that your generosity touches these very special adults every day and your commitment to them is one that does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

SLI students always have new opportunities to learn in the classroom, but they are often getting out into the community to learn about the world in which they live. Whether the day is spent in the kitchen preparing a healthy snack or hiking a trail in the Dunes, students are strengthening friendships, building on existing life skills, and learning new ways to do and say things that are important to them as individuals.

Along with families, caregivers and volunteers, we often have the opportunity to assist in the classroom and participate in outings. The level of respect and caring the students exhibit toward one another is remarkable. It is clear that these interactions are a result of the environment at SLI where the program staff is patient and kind and consistently teaching the students to be aware that they play an important role in their relationships with others. We encourage you to visit and experience this extraordinary sense of family and compassion for yourself.

On behalf of the students, staff, volunteers, and trustees at The Social & Learning Institute, we would like to thank you for your gift of time &/or financial support to a unique organization that has a very rich history and incredibly promising future.

Best Regards, *Mari Chapala* Board President *Debbie L. Sellers* Executive Director



Potawatomi Zoo | June 2018
South Bend



Shop with Our Cops | December 2017
Michigan City

End-of-Year Celebration | Creek Ridge County Park | June 2018

Annual Raffle tickets sales totaled \$3,875!
We appreciate the participation of so many & the efforts of all who make this annual event happen.



The SLI family gathered to celebrate with great food & fun activities. Students especially enjoyed throwing plates of whipped cream at the staff!



Trustee Amy Hammoud, Executive Director Debbie Sellers, Trustees Ann Metcalf, Mari Chapala, Tabb Gesse, and Jim Rice accept a \$500 contribution from Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial presented by Financial Representative Kurtis Iseminger.

SLI is grateful for the continued support of these dedicated community businesses and organizations who support our program through grants, fundraising and donations:

- American Legion John Franklin Miller Post 37
- The Barker Welfare Foundation
- Duneland Health Council
- Fannie May Confections, Inc.
- General Insurance Services, Inc.
- Healthcare Foundation of La Porte
- Kabelin Ace Hardware
- Kappa Kappa Kappa Inc. Michigan City Associate Chapter
- Knights of Columbus Queen of All Saints Council 12951
- LaBraid Fundraising, Inc.
- Michiana Lions Club
- Michigan City Christian Church Senior Adult Ministries
- Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation
- Michigan City Police Department, Shop with Our Cops
- Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial
- South Bend Chocolate Company
- Unity Foundation of La Porte County

Thank You

Board of Trustees

Mari Chapala, President
Transportation Coordinator, Paladin

Ann Metcalf, Vice President
Accountant, Angelos & Rardin CPA's

Tabb Gesse, Treasurer
Owner, Gesse Properties, LLC

Christopher Wheeler, Secretary
Medicaid Waiver Case Manager
Indiana Professional Management Group

Susan M. Angelos
Retired Teacher/Administrator
South Central Community Schools

Karen D. Donah
Clinical Assistant Professor and Coordinator
of American Sign Language
Purdue University Northwest

Joan E. Ganschow, MS, QIDP
Owner, Life Changes, LLC Therapies,
Behavior Services & Consultation

Amy Hammoud, MSN (Ed)
Registered Nurse and Coordinator of Chest
Pain Center and Stroke Center
Franciscan Health Michigan City

Kristin Lange
Client Relations Associate
Lakeside Wealth Management

Amber Poff, J.D. NCG
Executive Director
Indiana Guardianship Services

Roger Potratz, ALA
Owner and Architect, dh2w, Inc.

James Rice
Retired School Administrator
River Forest Community School Corp.

Christopher J. Yagelski
Sergeant, Michigan City Police Department

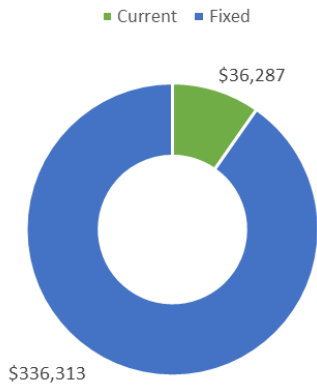


Lubeznik Center Art & Artisan Festival | August 2018

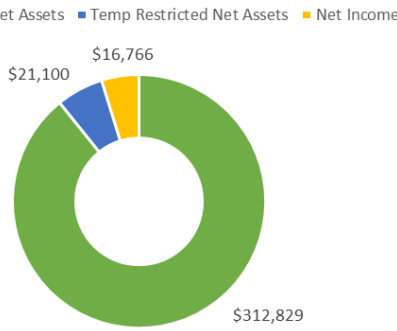
Many examples of unique art projects created by students of SLI were on display. The art program is supported by a grant from Duneland Health Council.

FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT | FISCAL YEAR ENDING 9.30.18

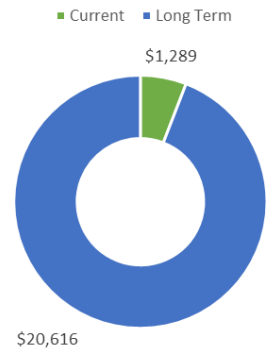
Assets \$372,600



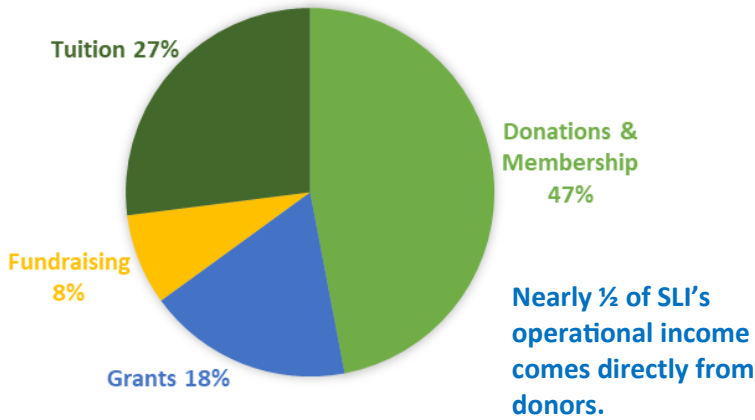
Equity \$350,695



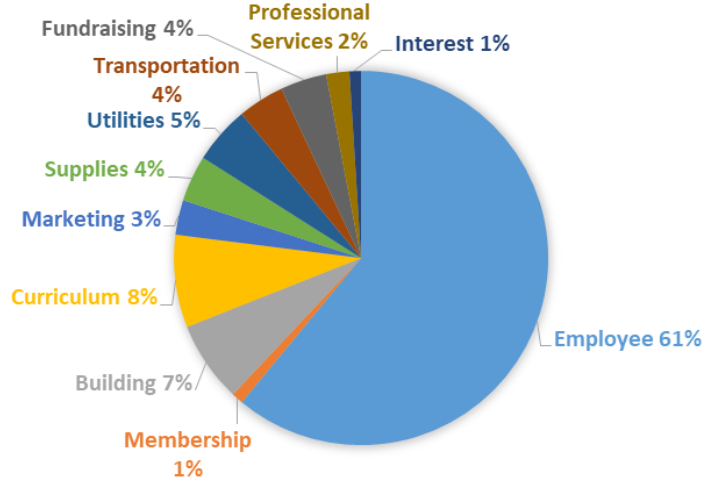
Liabilities \$21,905



TOTAL INCOME \$137,566



TOTAL EXPENSES \$120,801



Thank You - Donors are Key to our Sustainability & Growth!

The following individuals & organizations generously made a commitment to The Social & Learning Institute Key Sustainability Program during the fiscal year 10.1.17 - 9.30.18:

Key Sustainability Program Membership

The Founders Club (\$40 per month/\$480+ annually)

Dr. & Mrs. Amar Agrawal, American Legion John Franklin Miller Post 37, Susan & John Angelos, Mari Chapala, Matt & Kellie Duncan, Dennis & Pamela Edgington, Tabb Gesse, Katherine Gill, Yolanda & Robert Guerrero, Norma J. Hapke, Dennis & Janie Henning, Dan & Kate Kaminski, Joan Ganschow/Life Changes LLC, William Levandoski, Mary Lou Linnen, Maryann Becich & Al Lopez, Tim & Mary Kay Mark, Thomas P. McCormick/The Barker Welfare Foundation, Michiana Lions Club, Debi Nabhan, Larry & Barbara Pinkerton, Roger & Patricia Potratz, James & Robyn Rice, Gene & Ruth Skwiat, Terry & Stephanie Strawbridge, Gordon & Pat Tharp, Kevin & Diane Warnke, David & Monette Yetsko, Anonymous Donors

The Key Club (\$20 per month/\$240+ annually)

Susan Breland, Cynthia Beamon, The Carlson Families, Richard & Karen Donah, John & Amy Gaydos, Scott Gesse, Richard & Zella Hall, Joseph, Sharon & Michael Haynes, Tom & Kathy Levandoski, Sandy & Larry Kacher Jr, Kristin Lange, Roman & Barbara Macudzinski, Mike & Debbie Sellers, Christine Whorwell, Brenda Wolff, Anonymous Donors

The Friends Club (\$10+ annually)

Barbara A. Bankoff, Lorraine Barr, Dr. & Mrs. Henry J. Bausback, Sr. Angeline Benz, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bohn, Paul Brechtel, Howard Breneman, Will & Joan Brill, Barbara Brown, Margaret Caddo, Diane J. Calderone, Sue Cassler, Kevin Coleman, Robin Cross, Joe & Arlene Dabkowski, De Lau Landscape Maintenance, DeVries Tire Company, Tricia Dittmer, Richard Dolezal, Dolson Insurance Agency, Kara Donah, Joseph Doyle, JoAnn Engquist, Richard & Marie Galloy, Catherine Garrabrant, Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, Diane F. Hack, Janet Hall, Amy Hammoud, Barbara Hancock, Thelma Hubertz, Bernie & Pat Ioannacci, Bob & Wendy Kermen, Clement J. Kniola, Diana Kohn, Julie Kreighbaum, Lois Gray Rogers Lott, Francis Mark, Connie & John McKeague, Dan & Sarah Mc Nabb, Jeanne C. Meyer, Tara Miller, Melinda Nagle/Edward Jones, Frank & Dorothy Nowak, Ron & Dorothy Ostrega, Nancy L. Ramion, Kevin Rowley, Mark & Carol Rowley, Randy Scott, Betty G. Staples, Tiffany & William Weathers, Wayne & Antoinette Yackus, Christopher Wheeler, Christopher Yagelski, Anonymous Donors

Corporate Employee Matching Gifts received from: ArcelorMittal, BP Foundation, Inc. & Lakeside Wealth Management

Corporate Partners:

Edward Jones
ManDee Alevizos, Financial Advisor

Payless Self Storage
The Storage Place

TC WELDING AND DESIGN LLC
INNOVATIVE PRACTICAL CREATIVE
WELDING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS

Unity Foundation of La Porte County Endowment Funds

Agrawal Family Endowment for the Benefit of The Social & Learning Institute: Dr. & Mrs. Amar Agrawal

The Gardner & Guerrucci Memorial Endowment Fund for The Social & Learning Institute: ManDee Alevizos, Ed & Fran Merrion, William Trowbridge, Debra & Christopher Varnak, Michiana Lions Club, Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Anonymous Donors

A BRIGHTER FUTURE STARTS WITH YOU

At The Social and Learning Institute, our mission is rooted in the idea that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths and abilities—not by their disability—and that each person deserves every opportunity to thrive and participate fully in society. Our programming is designed to expand minds, teach essential life skills, and help individuals recognize their worth through a structured balance of socialization and learning activities.

We invite you to become a member of our community through our Key Sustainability Program. Individuals and organizations who participate in this program are the backbone of our organization and play key roles in shaping our future.

By becoming a member, you're giving someone a sense of community, access to fundamental education, and a meaningful life that might otherwise have gone unrealized.



Key Sustainability Program



THE FOUNDERS CLUB
 \$40/MONTH - \$480 ANNUAL

Donors at this level are celebrated for their dedication to continue and sustain the mission of the original founders.

With a generous gift of \$40 per month/\$480 annually, Founders Club members will be honored with the following:

- Gift of Appreciation
- Annual Founders Club Reception



THE KEY CLUB
 \$20/MONTH - \$240 ANNUAL

Donors at this level are "key" to the sustainability and growth of the Institute.

With a generous gift of \$20 per month/\$240 annually, Key Club members will be honored with the following:

- Gift of Appreciation



THE FRIENDS CLUB
 \$10+ ANNUAL

We are grateful for gifts of all sizes which allow us to continue to offer new experiences for adults with intellectual disabilities within our community.

Friends Club members support the Institute with a gift of \$10 or more annually.

You can make a difference in the quality of peoples lives!

Secure credit card donations may be made **online www.socialandlearning.org** or you may also complete and return the membership form below.

The Social & Learning Institute is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. Members can be assured that donations to the **Key Sustainability Program** will be spent carefully to enhance life-long learning and enrich the lives of the individuals served.

Thank You! You are the key to our sustainability and growth!

KEY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

 **FOUNDERS CLUB**
 \$40/MONTH - \$480 ANNUAL

 **KEY CLUB**
 \$20/MONTH - \$240 ANNUAL

 **FRIENDS CLUB**
 \$10+

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

PLEASE PROVIDE NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED ON GIFT ACKNOWLEDGMENT & DONOR LIST.

I/We prefer our giving to be ANONYMOUS and request that my/our name(s) NOT be included on donor lists published by the Institute.

Name _____

Address _____ PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- I am interested in leaving a gift of property, securities, or other financial assets to The Social & Learning Institute.
- I am interested in sponsoring a student by providing scholarship funds to The Social & Learning Institute.
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with The Social & Learning Institute.



CORPORATE PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to partner with us to further the mission of our program.

As a partner, you'd be giving our students a sense of community, access to fundamental education, and a meaningful life that might otherwise have gone unrealized.

At The Social & Learning Institute, our mission is rooted in the idea that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths and abilities — not by their disability — and that each person deserves every opportunity to thrive and participate fully in society.

Our programming is designed to expand minds, teach essential life skills, and help individuals recognize their worth through a structured balance of socialization and learning activities.

As a privately funded organization, contributions from individuals, service organizations, and our corporate partners play a key role in shaping the future of our program.



AREAS OF IMPACT:

EDUCATION

Learning for personal growth and independence

- daily living & social skills
- academic skill reinforcement
- health & nutrition
- arts & culture
- science & nature

TECHNOLOGY

Advancing the way skills are reinforced and opening doors to exploring new concepts

- interactive touchscreen display
- online learning platforms

COLLABORATIONS

Partnering with community resources

- Lubeznik Center for the Arts
- Dunes Learning Center
- Reins of Life
- Purdue University Northwest
- Purdue Extension, La Porte County
- Michigan City Public Library

COMMUNITY OUTINGS

An integral part of developing life skills and awareness of society

- live theatre & performances
- museums & landmarks
- regional events & attractions



Your support can change lives!

OPPORTUNITY LEVEL: \$250+

Newsletter, website & social media recognition

GROWTH LEVEL: \$1,000+

Newsletter, website & social media recognition

Corporate name/logo displayed prominently on all marketing material and at all events

Thank You! Your support is needed and appreciated.

The Social & Learning Institute is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. Your contribution may be tax deductible. Corporate partners can be assured that contributions will be spent carefully to enhance life-long learning and enrich the lives of the individuals served.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PLEDGE

- OPPORTUNITY LEVEL: \$250+
- GROWTH LEVEL: \$1,000+

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

PLEASE PROVIDE NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED ON PARTNER LIST.

Corporate/Business Name

Contact Name

Address

PO Box

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email

- I am interested in having my pledge utilized in program areas of greatest current need.
- I am interested in having my pledge utilized for a specific purpose:

- OPERATIONS
- COMMUNITY
- TECHNOLOGY
- EDUCATION

