

What's Happening ...

Spring/Summer 2018



Students of The Social & Learning Institute
We proudly welcome our newest students - Kris S. Kevin K., Kara D., Kevin R., Austin S. & Jimmy N. (not pictured)



New Vehicles on the Way!!!!!!!

In March, The Social & Learning Institute applied for a **Federal 5310 Capital Vehicle Grant** to acquire two new fifteen-passenger, wheelchair accessible vehicles. This grant program, administered by the **Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)** provides 80% of costs associated with the vehicle's purchase. To submit an application, SLI was required to generate a 20% community support match. An additional grant request was submitted to **Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation** who generously awarded SLI **\$10,000** toward the required match. The remaining **\$12,000** was made available through the overwhelming support of private donors.

In early May, the Institute received notification that it would not be awarded the 5310 Capital Vehicle Grant. Miraculously, days later INDOT requested the submission of additional documentation for award reconsideration. On May 18th SLI received the *incredible, fantastic, amazing* news that our grant award was approved!!! The new vehicles are expected to arrive Fall 2019.

The Institute is beyond grateful to the many individuals and organizations whose faithful support, effort and determination led to this exciting time of celebration.



Big Blue Retiring - 1990 Chevrolet
Thanks for 28 years of fun adventures!



SLI is ...
Thankful!
Grateful!
Blessed!
Overjoyed!

Melissa White-Warnke Scholarship Fund

The Social & Learning Institute is honored to announce the establishment of the Melissa White-Warnke Scholarship Fund. The Institute is grateful to Melissa's parents, Kevin & Diane Warnke for choosing to celebrate the life of their daughter by providing an opportunity for others to attend SLI.



Melissa & Diane—June 2015

"Our daughter Melissa White attended The Social & Learning Institute most of her adult life. In Melissa's world there was nothing more important to her than "her school". Melissa's favorite part of the school was the socialization with her peers, many she had attended high school with and were like her family. Trish and Shirley were her idols! She always called them "my teachers". She took such ownership of her school. Melissa looked forward to the outings, Christmas parties, and the traditions that the school carried on year after year. After Melissa's passing Kevin and I wanted to create a memorial of some type for her. We decide one of the best ways to keep our precious Melissa's memories alive was to start a scholarship program for another student. Not only will this keep our daughter's memory alive, it will provide another student with the same blessings Melissa received. We are so happy the school provided her with many years of happiness, fun, friendship, and learning!" ~ Diane Warnke



Program Growth

Over the past few years there has been much discussion amongst students, families & caregivers, staff, and community partners regarding the continued Mission and Vision of The Social & Learning Institute and how to best meet the needs of the individuals served. These discussions have focused on options for extending daily program hours, adding days of programming, and providing a year round schedule.

As a result of the collaborative efforts of the Board of Trustees and stakeholders of the Institute, SLI is proud to announce that it will be providing a year-round program beginning in September 2018. The Institute will no longer be closed during the months of January, July & August and students can look forward to additional opportunities to explore our community in the warm summer months.

Summer Program 2018! SLI will be offering students a fun and active 3-week program July 17-August 2. Activities will include creative crafts, music, games and science experiments. Community adventures have been planned at Washington Park Zoo, Reins of Life Barn, Stone Lake Beach, Luhr County Park, Creek Ridge County Park, and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Staff of
The Social & Learning Institute
Front: Shirley Dolph, Tricia Dittmer
Back: Debbie Sellers, Amy Armstrong

Celebrating our Partners

The Social & Learning Institute is grateful for the generosity of time and talents offered by the staff and students of **Purdue University Northwest**. SLI has been working with the **College of Nursing** and **College of World Languages & Cultures** at the Westville campus to provide unique education & enrichment opportunities. The partnership has been mutually beneficial for both groups of students:

"Our partnership with The Social & Learning Institute has been an excellent addition to our students' learning experiences. This semester our community health nursing students prepared several health education lessons for the SLI students. We were able to host the SLI on our campus, allowing them to experience campus life and provide a little bit of education. Our students

presented some information about hand hygiene, then led an activity practicing good hand washing. They also talked about nursing school and the nursing profession, telling SLI what kinds of things they learn and do in school. At the end, PNW students took blood pressures, height and weight measurements, and other typical assessments for the SLI students. With dual stethoscopes, SLI students were able to listen to their own hearts, lungs, and bellies!

This partnership is a valuable part of our curriculum, as we strive to give our students opportunities to work with diverse populations. Education is an important skill for nurses, so having the opportunity to effectively educate the SLI students was a great experience." – **Karen Hernes, MSN, RN Purdue Northwest Assistant Professor of Nursing**



"PNW American Sign Language students enjoyed their time with SLI participants. It was nice to see the SLI participants enjoy learning ASL and having fun with the activities. There was a lot of interaction between them and the PNW ASL students. Comments from the PNW students included things like:

"I had never spent any length of time with people who have special needs, I'm glad I got this opportunity."

"They are kinder than most other people I have met in life."

"They love to hug people, tell stories, and compliment others."

"The people that work with them are so patient, and it is easy to tell that they love them."

- **Karen Donah, Assistant Clinical Professor, Purdue University Northwest**



Purdue Extension La Porte County

Reins of Life

Dunes Learning Center



Nutrition Education & Cooking Class



Making salads for the horses



Maple Sugar Time at IN Dunes National Lakeshore

As a privately funded organization, contributions from individuals, service organizations, and our corporate partners play a key role in supporting the programs we provide.

AREAS OF IMPACT:

EDUCATION

Learning for personal growth and independence

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

COMMUNITY OUTINGS

Engaging in the community to encourage self-efficiency, self-reliance, and bolster self-esteem

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

TECHNOLOGY

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

- Interactive touchscreen displays
- 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



Learning with Interactive Touchscreen Technology



Visit to Purdue University Northwest College of Nursing

We are inviting our business community to partner with us to further the mission of our program.

CORPORATE PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

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

To Learn More Contact

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Executive Director
219/879-2000
dsellers@socialandlearning.org

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

Key Sustainability Program Membership 2017-2018

The following individuals & organizations have generously made a commitment to support The Social & Learning Institute:

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

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

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

Susan Breland, 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, James & Robyn Rice, Mike & Debbie Sellers, Terry & Stephanie Strawbridge, Christine Whorwell, Brenda Wolff, Anonymous Donors

The Friends Club (\$10+ annually)

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

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

Contributions to Unity Foundation of La Porte County Endowment Funds 2017-2018

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



Thank You! Donors are Key to our Sustainability & Growth



End-of-Year Celebration & Annual Raffle

June 27, 2018 - 12:00PM

Creek Ridge County Park - 7943 W 400 N, Michigan City



You're invited to join the students of THE SOCIAL & LEARNING INSTITUTE as they celebrate their activities & accomplishments of the school year. This annual celebration is a wonderful opportunity to

experience what The Institute is all about ... being a place where SOCIALIZING & LEARNING are KEY to growth.



RAFFLE DRAWING AT 2:00PM

Top Prize \$500 Cash

Need not be present to win



THANK YOU!

Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL



The La Porte County Chapter of **Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial** will be matching funds raised from the sale of raffle tickets! Funds will be used to support the purchase of additional technology equipment, online learning applications, and supplement program related expenditures for the 2018-2019 program year.

A current listing of raffle prizes may be found at: www.socialandlearning.org

ANNUAL RAFFLE TICKET REQUEST FORM

Event registered with Indiana Gaming Commission | Need not be present to win

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ P.O. Box _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

YES! I would like to purchase _____ raffle tickets.

Amount Enclosed: _____ (checks payable to: The Social & Learning Institute)

Please mail receipt & ticket stubs to the address provided above.

Please DO NOT mail receipt & ticket stubs. I will pick them up at the event on June 27, 2018

TICKETS
\$1.00/each
or
6/\$5.00

Complete and mail to : The Social & Learning Institute, 201 East Garfield Street, Michigan City, Indiana 46360

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.

