

Committed to Health & Safety

In compliance with recommendations for minimizing exposure and slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, The Social & Learning Institute Board of Trustees moved to suspend all program activity on March 13, 2020. The Institute was very excited to welcome its staff and first small group of students back to school on June 2, 2020.

During these challenging and uncertain times, taking appropriate and timely action to protect the well-being of employees, students, their families and caregivers is the Institute's top priority. The decision to resume program activities was taken very seriously. Much consideration was given to the development of new operating protocols and procedures for safe social distancing and hygiene practices. The utmost care is being taken to hinder the potential spread of the virus in the program environment and allow for the safe continuation of program services moving forward.

New Student Tables:

Students wear masks and adjust to social distancing with tables placed six feet apart. Grant funding for the purchase of the mobile work tables was provided by Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation.



Health & Wellness Program:

Students continue to participate in weekly yoga while practicing social distancing. During their extended time apart, students were able to continue yoga at home through live videos posted to Facebook by instructor Stephanie Gordon.

When students returned to SLI, they found their garden had been prepared and planted by board member Mari Chapala. Mari also made a live video explaining what had been planted and actions students could take to maintain the garden bed and promote plant growth.

This program is supported by grants from Duneland Health Council and Healthcare Foundation of La Porte.



Life Skills Program: A generous donation allowed for the purchase of a new washer/dryer unit. SLI students are now able to practice laundry skills and keep their protective masks clean.



The Social & Learning Institute was able to acquire personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to resume program services through the generosity of private donors and the support of:



- Thermometers
- Hand Sanitizer
- Masks & Gloves



- Hand Sanitizer
- Masks
- Face Shields

Continued donations of the following items are appreciated:

- Disinfectant Spray
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Paper Towels



Students and staff are grateful for a donation of 80+ hand-made cloth masks.

The Social & Learning Institute is grateful to its students, families, staff, and supporters for their patience and understanding during this time of pandemic. The Institute is committed to continuing to adapt its program environment to provide adults with intellectual disabilities a protected place to socialize and learn together.

Happy Retirement

In May, our dear friend, Shirley Dolph announced her decision to retire.

Shirley has been an integral part of The Social & Learning Institute for nearly 25 years. Her daily presence will be greatly missed. Shirley's hard work, commitment, and unconditional dedication to our students are worthy of admiration.

We will celebrate Shirley's devotion and legacy at our Summer Celebration. We look forward to this opportunity to honor her and extend our heartfelt wishes for a well-deserved and happy retirement.



Summer Celebration Thursday · June 25th · 12PM

Please join us!

Creek Ridge County Park
7943 W 400 N • Michigan City

- Masks will be required and available for all attendees.
- All food will be prepared in a closed environment at SLI and transported to the park.
- Picnic tables will be separated to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Attendees may also bring their own lawn chairs if desired.



June 2020: Shirley & Don enjoying time in Florida with their daughter and family.

Together for 25 years ... Shirley, Bill and Barbara



The Social & Learning Institute

Where Socializing & Learning are Key to Growth

Responding to COVID-19 has presented many challenges. Our ability to engage in fundraising activities is one of them. As our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff, supporters, and community, the Institute has made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 Annual Raffle. This fundraiser annually provides nearly \$4,000 in vital operating revenue, allowing us to provide adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to socialize and learn together.

Supporters like you have sustained our program for nearly 45 years and a gift now is needed more than ever. Please consider supporting The Social & Learning Institute during these challenging times. You can be assured that all donations are spent carefully to enhance life-long learning and enrich the lives of the amazing individuals we serve.

Every gift makes a difference, especially today.

~ Debbie L. Sellers, Executive Director

- Ways to Give -

Online



Make secure credit card donations through our website

Mail



Send donations to
201 East Garfield Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

Volunteer



Download a volunteer application on our website

Corporate Partners



Giving offers beneficial marketing opportunities for your company

Employer Matching Gifts



Check with your employer & work with SLI to determine eligibility

Visit socialandlearning.org/giving or call us at 219-879-2200 for more information