

Ringing out the good news of St. Coletta's of Illinois

"Start by
 doing what's
 necessary;
 then do what's
 possible, and
 suddenly you
 are doing the
 impossible."

-St. Francis of Assisi

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Celebrating 75 Years of Service

St. Coletta's of Illinois marks milestone with evening
 of community, generosity and joy at Caritas Benefit.

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St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation
18350 Crossing Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487

Ph: 708-342-5200
Fax: 708-342-2579
www.stcolettasofil.org



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Illinois Foundation for St. Coletta's of Illinois.

A Letter from The CEO



Happy New Year! Each year at this time, I have a cycle of thoughts as we look ahead to the future. I reflect on the year behind us and am mindful of all the blessings that slip by us without a thought. I also look to the future with hope and joy that we are all granted this wonderful opportunity to wake up and try again. And lastly I am amazed at how fast time seems to move. It is a reminder that we are simply stewards of the ministry and its mission for a short time and we should make it count!

We are looking forward to so many things this year at St. Coletta's. We continue to expand our behavioral health services and are very happy that these services are now reaching some individuals who were unable to access them in the past. Each of our programs are growing in numbers with all members of the team committed to serving those who may not be able to be served elsewhere. It has been a wonderful experience to watch members of the team, including therapists, DSPs, QIDPs, nurses, teachers, and paraprofessionals rally around new individuals to develop a plan that works for their distinct needs. These are the moments when the Mission comes alive.

We hope that many of you have been able to see images from the last year via social media and print. We are grateful to everyone who follows the happenings at St. Coletta's and spreads the word to others. Please stay tuned as we continue to make it a priority to share as much as we can about the day-to-day events at St. Coletta's. We all enjoy reaching out to the community and hearing the feedback.

It is my sincerest hope that all those who are members of the St. Coletta's family greet the new year with a spirit of hope and gratitude. May abundant blessings fill your lives each day.

With Gratitude,

Heather Benedick,
CEO

Cover Story - Celebrating 75 Years

Nearly 200 gather to honor St. Coletta's legacy

St. Coletta's of Illinois celebrated its 75th anniversary of service with the annual Caritas Benefit on November 9, an event that drew nearly 200 parents, participants, staff members, community partners, and supporters. Together, we raised vital funds to support St. Coletta's mission of providing compassionate and comprehensive care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Guests were deeply moved by a story shared during the evening about two Kennedy School students in need of specialized wheelchairs. Inspired by their determination and the care they receive at St. Coletta's, donors generously contributed enough to purchase custom wheelchairs that meet the children's unique physical needs, ensuring they can navigate their world with greater comfort and independence.

Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed viewing historical images that showcased the organization's rich legacy and enduring values, which CEO

Heather Benedick described as "standing on the shoulders of those who came before us."



Sr. Wanda Sheber and Sr. Joanne Schatzlein look for familiar faces in photographs taken during St. Coletta's early years.



Thanks to the generosity of compassionate donors, a brother and sister from Kennedy School are now enjoying their new custom wheelchairs.



A group of Community Day Services participants were among those who enjoyed the festivities.



Richton Park Mayor Rick Reinbold and his wife, Tammy, went all out in true 1950s style to celebrate St. Coletta's 75th anniversary.





Coax & Folks, featuring Foundation Board member Dan Waddell on bass, provided fantastic musical entertainment while two large-screen



TVs showcased home videos filmed by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi during St. Coletta's early years. Guests also enjoyed a fun photo booth activity, creating memorable moments to take home.



The highlight of the evening was the heartfelt presentation of the Humanitas Award by CEO Heather Benedick to Pastor Don Borling and his congregation at All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park.

The church, celebrated for hosting a Thanksgiving feast for adult participants and organizing summer picnics, was honored for its steadfast support of St. Coletta's mission, inspiring the community through its kindness and generosity.

Parents Association hosts breakfast for staff

On December 6, St. Coletta's Parents Association (SPA) treated staff to a delicious hot breakfast in the staff lunchroom as a gesture of appreciation. SPA President Jack Angelus and parent Jo Swider greeted each guest warmly and presented them with a thoughtful token - a cozy knit scarf featuring St. Coletta's logo. Board members Andrea Ramirez-Justin, Susan Poole and Janet Barry helped dish up the food.



Parents Jo Swider and Jack Angelus



Board Chair Andrea Ramirez-Justin

The Parents Association meets quarterly and welcomes all parents, guardians and relatives to join. Their next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in the cafeteria. The topic will be the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule.

For more information, please email info@stcil.org.



Board members Susan Poole (center) and Janet Barry (right)

Kennedy School hosts Holiday Dessert & Craft Fair

Kennedy School students hosted their much-anticipated annual Holiday Dessert & Craft Fair on December 6 in the school gymnasium. The event was a festive showcase of creativity, with beautifully crafted holiday items and delicious homemade desserts. Families, friends and staff members came together to support the students' efforts, enjoying the cheerful atmosphere and picking up unique gifts for the holiday season. It was a wonderful celebration of talent and holiday spirit!



Inspirational Stories

Walking in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi



In February, Chief Financial Officer Gigi Fernando and Human Resources Director Gladys Ramirez will embark on a meaningful pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome, traveling alongside the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. They will have the extraordinary opportunity to visit the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi, immersing themselves in the sacred places that inspired his values and mission.

For Gigi, this pilgrimage is a deeply personal journey. She looks forward to reconnecting with her faith, having drifted away from her Catholic upbringing. Gladys is equally excited about the experience, especially the opportunity to visit St. Peter's Basilica, where she hopes to receive a special blessing from the Pope.

Selected through a competitive application process, Gigi and Gladys will participate in this annual pilgrimage to deepen their understanding of the Franciscan principles that shape our daily work and service. Last year, CEO Heather Benedick had the privilege of embarking on this inspiring journey.

Area churches spread holiday cheer

Thanks to the incredible generosity of area parishes, every student and adult participant at St. Coletta's had a special Christmas gift to unwrap this year, bringing joy and holiday cheer to all. Participating in this year's Giving Tree were:

- St. Mary Catholic Church, Mokena
- Our Lady of the Woods Parish, Orland Park
- St. Jude Catholic Church, New Lenox
- St. Julie Billiart Parish, Tinley Park
- St. Dennis Catholic Church, Lockport
- St. Fabian Catholic Church, Bridgeview
- St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Orland Hills
- St. Michael Parish, Orland Park
- St. George Catholic Parish, Tinley Park
- Sacred Heart Parish, Palos Hills
- St. Damian Church, Oak Forest



Community Partners

A huge thank you to the Knights of Columbus St. Mary of Mokena Council 6993 for their generous donation of 48 winter coats to keep our students and adult participants warm all season long. We are so grateful for their continued support and kindness!



We are incredibly grateful to the Knights of Columbus Council 15022 at St. Bernard's Parish-Homer Glen and Our Mother of Good Counsel for their generous support of St. Coletta's. In November, Knight Bill Shaub presented us with a donation of \$1,500 from their spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Many thanks to Dan Davis and Don Ward from Knights of Columbus Council 10858 at St. Michael Parish - Orland Park for making our annual Halloween party unforgettable by delivering an incredible 41 pizzas from Kenootz Pizza of Midlothian. Their generosity brought smiles and plenty of delicious fun to the celebration.



Much gratitude to the dedicated volunteers from All Saints Lutheran Church who generously lent their time and energy to help run the games at Fall Fest where they spread joy and created lasting memories for everyone who attended. Their support truly made the event a success!

A world of thanks to Ernie Beck and Wally Marquardt for dropping off a generous check for \$5,732.55 from UPS! Your kindness not only supports our mission but also brings back cherished memories of the Day at the Ballpark, an event UPS proudly sponsored. This generosity continues to make a meaningful impact on our participants' lives.



Events/Fundraisers

Winter Appeal

Just like a cup of cocoa warms the soul, your generosity can bring hope to children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Every donation makes a difference in creating brighter futures.

Please consider giving today.
Thank you for your kindness and support!



Appeal Code: 902
Donation Reason: "Winter Appeal"

SAVE THE DATES

ST. COLETTA'S OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION



AUGUST | 18TH | 2025



NOVEMBER | 15TH | 2025

CRYSTAL TREE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, ORLAND PARK, IL
info@stcil.org www.stcolettasofil.org

Donor Recognition

We are grateful for the generosity of these businesses, foundations and individuals for supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Donors are not listed by monetary giving levels.

A

Aleck Plumbing
Alera Group, Inc.
Lauren Alexander
S.A. Anderson
Aaron Angelini
Dawn Angelini
Jack & Betty Angelus
Gary Antesberger
Apple Chevrolet
Diane Arndt
Aleksas Aruna
Ashbrooke Hotel
Sangarappillai Asokan
Atlas Putty Products Company
Steven Azcona

B

Larry & Sandra Babb
Marianne Bannos
Michael Bannos
Robert Barlog
Janet Barry
Ryan Barry
Karen Bartmann
Gregory Bayles
Lawrence & Margaret Beaudin
Beggars Pizza
Ariana Belcher
Michael Bell
Bella Fiori Flower Shop
Eugene & Janet Bender
Heather Benedick
Linda Beneventi
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bentley's Pet Stuff
Justin Bernbrock
Xavier Berrios
Barbara Bevan
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Gail Blummer
Theodore Boecker
Donald Bowman
Reginald Bracy
Ronald Bracy
Ryne Braun
Patrick Brennan
Steven Bricker
Nancy Bruno
Robert Bruozas
Elaine Bucek
Eileen Buck
Louis Buescher
Dana Bynum
Glenn Bynum, M.D.

C

Joyce Calzaretta
Concetta Cammarata
David Campbell
Kim Cappelletti
Wayne & Donna Carstens
Randle Carter

John Casey
Will Casey
John Cassano
Chateau Chantal
Cherry Bekaert
Chicago Bears Football Club
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Cubs
Chicago Swim School
Chicago White Sox
Patsy Chick
Charles & Debra Childs
Thomas Christy
Joanne Chuvala
CIBC Bank
Victoria Cichy
Susan Colella
Complete Collision Care
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
Nancy Corbett
Alan & Joanne Corkill
Brett Cosich
Costco Wholesale
Josephine Cox
Beverly Croffet
Dale Crome
Samuel Cutrara
CVS Corporation



D

Moe Daoud
Vanessa Davis
Thomas Davy
Dealer FI Services
Maria Dehoyos
Mary Ann DeMarco
Wayne Dendler
Dermatology Associates
DeSoto House Hotel
Makaylah Diaz
Mike Diericks
Jan Dinnocenzo
Paula DiOrio
Thomas Donahue
Down Home Guitar
Linda Dozier
William & Mary Ann Droel
Drury Hotels
Drury Lane
James Dykas

E

Kelvin Echols
Ed & Joe's Restaurant & Pizzeria
Edmond & Alice Opler Foundation
Donald Ehrhart
Shawn Ellis
Tia Elston
Gerald & Vicki Engelberg
Jennifer Evans
Timothy Evoy

F

James Faciana
Donna Falls
Geraldine Fernando
First Trust Portfolios L.P.
Adam Fischer
Fox Valley Fire & Safety
Franciscan Health Olympia Fields
John Frankovich
Rochelle Frantz
Dennis Fredrickson
Ron Fries
Scott Fries
Frykman Studio Gallery

G

James Gallagher
Fred Garfield
Kevin Gibbons
Go the Distance Baseball, LLC
Danielle Goga
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Dean Greco
Jacqueline Green
Nicholas Green
Jim Guth

H

Waleed Haddad
Aiman Hamdan
James Hannon
Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva
Nia Harris
Jason Harrison
Hawaii Fluid Art
Hearts & Flowers
Tom Heimsoth
Lavern Henry
Gael Heppner
Kandi Herrera
George Hess
William Hess
Selena Hock
Thomas Hogan
Scott Horton
Nancy Howley
Azzie Hudson

I

Slavko & Vilka Ilic
Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra



J

Jackson Charitable Foundation
Jeffrey LaMorte Salon & Spa
Jenny's Steak House
David Jensen
Jewel Osco
Joe's Italian Villa
Jones & Cleary
Phillip Jones
Charlene Joyce
Robert & Andrea Justin

K

K1 Speed
James Kadela
Joan Kadlec
Mike Kamierczak
Shawn & Julie Kane
Nancy Karczewski
Kathleen Weinstein Photography
Michael & Julie Kazmierczak
Kelly's Healing Touch Massage
Beulah Kidd
Kevin Killips
Chong Kim
Douglas Kirsch
Eric Kitchell
Thomas Knieps
Jim & Lisa Knight
Knights of Columbus #10926
Knights of Columbus #15022
Eileen Knockemus
Joseph Kobel
Kodo Care
Sue Konczak
Dan Koors
Alanna Korak
Koval Distillery
Chris Kowalis
Jeff Kowalis
Ryan Kowalis
James Kresach
James & Kristen Kummerer
Mark Kummerer
Virginia Kummerer

L

Lake Geneva Cruise Line
Paul & Lynn Lang
Fred Langer
Ryan Langer
Dave & Kathy Langevin

Donor Recognition continued

Steven Lebre
Cathleen Lehocky
Patricia Lesniak
Lexus Central Area Office
Lexus of Orland
Sue Linn
Joseph & Linda Lopez
Derrick & Christine Lott
Mary Lou Lovell
Linda Luce
Ronald Luce
Russell Luce
Jose Luque
Lush Color Bar & Hair Salon
Lux 131 Salon & Day Spa
Elizabeth Luxem
Lynfred Winery

M

Rudolph Mahalik Jr.
Adam Malak
James Mangan
Daniel Marcuccilli
Eric Marmoll
Mars Medical
Chad Maykuth
Kristine McCanney
Ed & Catherine McColgan
Kevin McCool
Brenda McCraven
Ken McCrea
Jeffrey McCroy
James McElligott
Joseph McGrath
Tosha McKinney
Dave McLaughlin
Katie McLaughlin
Patrick & Cynthia McNalley
James & Maureen Meenan
Badraddin Merchant
Eva Merriweather
Jessica Meyer-Dodoer
Daniel Michalak
Christopher Miller
Clifford Mock
Lauren Mock
Lisa Mock
Jimmy & Carla Moloney
Martin Moloney
Michael & Nora Moloney
Patricia Moore
Robert & Mary Moroney
Bill Morrison
Edward Mulcahy
Susan Murphy
Music Box Theatre



N

Sonja Naumovska
Victor Navarette
Helen Nelson
Bill & Marilyn Nero
Thomas Neumeyer
Nicor Gas
Bill Nolan
Mary Ann Nolan
Nothing Bundt Cakes

O

Oak Park Festival
James O'Boyle
Meredith O'Brien
Off the Wheel Pottery
Marty & Diane O'Grady
Marek Okreglak
Old Plank Trail Community Bank
Greg Olsen
Olsson Roofing
Joe O'Malley
Keith O'Meara
Timothy O'Reilly

P

Barbara Palmer
Paradise Casino
Al & Annette Paschal
Barbara Pasquinelli
Patio Food Products
Donald Payne
PayPal Giving Fund
Alan Pelt
Dale Penn
Arlene Perry
Jennifer Plesnicar
Susan Poole

Q

Amy Quinn

R

Kelley Radochonski
Gladys Ramirez
Jeffrey Ray
Tamika Readus
Terry Ready
Rick Reinbold

Kathleen Ring
Rob Cook's Marine Services, Inc.
Rocco Vино's
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
John & Liz Rodney
Melvin & Barbara Rodney
Andrew Rybak
Bill & Jane Rybak

S

Safari Land
Sanders Fine Portraits
Claudio Scancich
Robert Scheive
Dave & Sharon Schiller
David Schmitt
Denise Schwieger
Nick Schwieger
Anthony Seaman
David Seaman
LaGaryne Sears
William Shaub
Julie Shellberg
Jozel Shwatal
Nicole Sibley
Nathan Simons
Sip Wine Bar
Mark Siwiec
Annette Skafgaard
Joseph Skender
Joseph Skupien
Bruce Slimp
Lynn Sorich
Andrew Sprogis
St. Anthony's Catholic Church
St. Bernard's Parish
Staller Vineyard & Winery Estate
Standard Industrial & Auto Equipment
Ronald Stark
Regina Stiles
Stone's Throw Winery
Gabrielle Strunka
Mike & Gerry Strunka
Jerry & Jo Ann Swider

T

Pete Takacs
Suzanne Teixeira
TF Boland & Sons Decorating Inc.
The Anthony R & Mary Ann
Pasquinelli Foundation
The Field Museum
The Forge Lemont Quarries
The Joffrey Ballet
Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce
Joyce & Michael Tokarz
Toyota Financial Services

Trader Joe's of Orland Park
Kevin Tregoning

U

United Way of Champaign County
UPS

V

Laura Vander Meulen
Diane Vellender
Briseyda Villalpando
Miguel & Elizabeth Villalpando
Leslie Villasenor

W

Daniel Waddell
William Waddell
Walt's Food Center
Warehouse Direct
Alexis Watson
Randy Watz
Jerry Weberling
Craig Weins
Barbara Weithaus
Mary Whitten
Wild Birds Unlimited
Shaleka Wilkins
Wines for Humanity
Roben Winters
Nancy Wolniak Cook
Edward & Maryann Wood
PW Wooten



Y

Nathan Young

Z

Zanies Comedy Club
Ali Zayyad
Dani Ziebart
Zuki Japanese Steakhouse

Thank you for supporting our mission. Your generosity empowers St. Coletta's of Illinois to offer life-changing programs and continuous care for over 300 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We apologize for any oversights or inaccuracies. If our records are incomplete, please reach out to the Foundation Office.

Tribute Gifts

These donations were made by our generous donors in memory or honor of loved ones between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

In Memory Of

James Flanagan

Frank & Peggy Harmon
John & Mary Ann McNicholas
James M. Kramer
Patricia Connelly
Susan Wilson
Lee Ellen Wilson
Donna McLaughlin
Anna Dunne
Edward Collins
Janet Murray
Stephanie Cunnane
Robert Fitzpatrick
Mary Ann Corr
Emma Hennessy
Sandra Flanagan
Matt Maloney
Annemarie Guinane
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Susan Meyer
Mary Drummond
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Ruth Longman
Chuck & Jo Shomo

James O'Brien

Paul & Lynn Cahill

Larry Wsol

Charles Durham & Kristin
Pruitt
Ed & Catherine McColgan
Sharon Wsol
Shelia Sosnicki
Kristen Plaehn
Ron & Pat Fisher
Marc Wsol

In Honor Of

The Berrios Family

Anne Marie Leofanti

Great Nephew

Barbara E. Blackburn

James Kummerer

Adjuster's Association of Chicago

Kevin Kummerer

Sharon E. Kummerer

Stephen Lykins

Barney & Carolyn Lykins

Jimmy Pasquinelli

Mark & Sue Reinstra

Mel Rodney

Dan G. Ferris

Bill Rybak & Ed Wood

Ellen Carnahan

Bill Waddell

Felix Kaczynski

Jack Wsol

Sharon Wsol

We apologize for any oversights or inaccuracies. If our records are incomplete, please reach out to the Foundation Office.

2024 IMPACT REPORT



In 2024, St. Coletta's of Illinois expanded its services to better support individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities by introducing Self-Direction Assistants to help families manage care for loved ones living at home and opening a Behavioral Health Clinic to address mental health needs. These initiatives reflect St. Coletta's ongoing commitment to empowering individuals and their families.



65

Number of students enrolled at Kennedy School



169

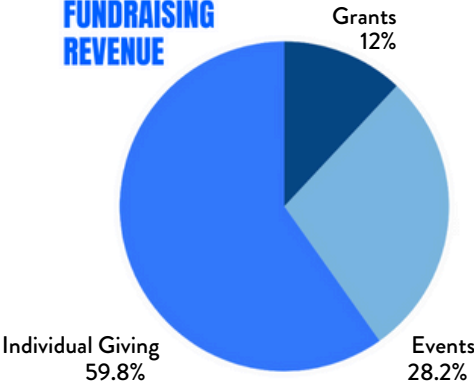
Number of adults in Community Day Services program



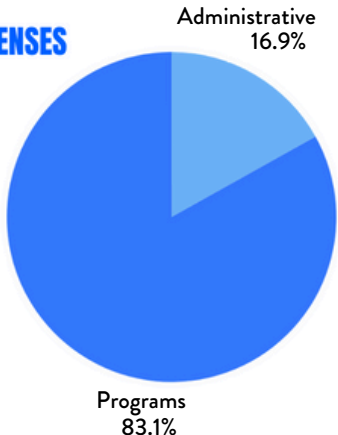
111

Number of staff members supporting programs

FUNDRAISING REVENUE



EXPENSES

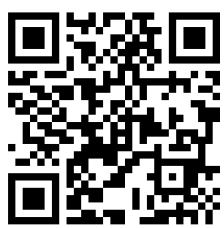


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Donate Now!

Donations can be made by visiting our website at www.stcolettasofil.org.
All proceeds support adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



St. Coletta's mission is to serve children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can achieve their greatest potential within society.

St. Coletta's provides a lifelong continuum of care beginning in early childhood. Our educational and vocational training programs provide a home for individuals that enhances their independence and well-being.

We serve participants without regard to race, religion or economic background.
St. Coletta's meets individuals' needs and abilities while providing the least restrictive environment for growth.