

Celebrating



YEARS

ST. COLETTA'S CARITAS BENEFIT

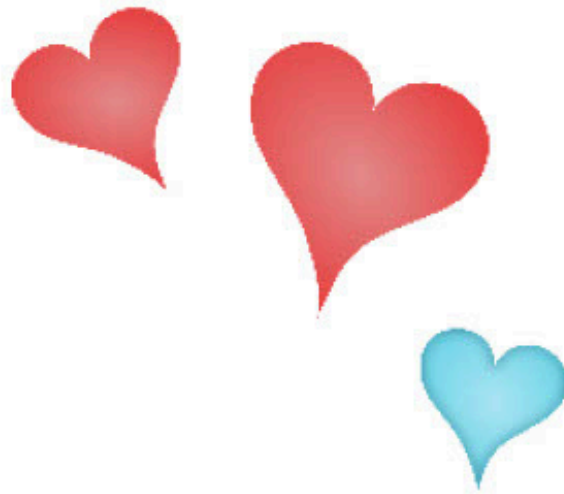


November 9, 2024

✦ THE ODYSSEY ✦

**In Memory of
Len & Helen Wolniak**

Laura, Tinka & Karen



Nancy, Janet & Families



THE MEANING OF CARITAS

Welcome to our Caritas Benefit! The word "Caritas," rooted in Latin, means charity—but it embodies so much more. It reflects the selfless love, compassion, and generosity that drive our mission. Caritas is about extending kindness and support to those who need it most, building a community where love and care are at the forefront.

Tonight, as we gather for this special event, we celebrate the spirit of Caritas, united in our commitment to uplift lives and make a lasting impact.

Thank you for being part of this meaningful journey with us.





TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres

Silent Auction and Photo Booth Open

Scavenger Hunt and Split-the-Pot Tickets Available

Open Bar

7:00 PM

Welcome & Invocation

7:15 PM

Dinner Service Begins

7:30 PM

Humanitas Award Presentation by Heather Benedick, CEO

Award Recipient: Pastor Don Borling & Congregation, All Saints Lutheran Church

8:10 PM

Entrees Served

8:40 PM

Fund-A-Need Appeal

Scavenger Hunt & Split-the-Pot Raffle Drawings

9:00 PM

Silent Auction Closes

Entertainment by Coax & Folks

Photo Booth Open

Open Bar



MENU

HORS D'OEUVRES

6:00-7:00 PM

Cocktails and Passed Hors d'Oeuvres

SOUP

Cream of Chicken

SALAD

Mediterranean Salad

mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, olives, and
red onion with Italian or Balsamic Vinaigrette

ENTREE

Pan Seared Chicken Breast &

Midwestern Filet Mignon

rosemary roasted potatoes, herb butter

heirloom carrots

DESSERT

Assorted Petit Fours

with Caramel & Chocolate Drizzle

raspberry and white chocolate, double chocolate,
Italian rainbow (chocolate, pistachio and cherry)



LETTER FROM CEO HEATHER BENEDICK



Dear Friends of St. Coletta's of Illinois,
We are thrilled to welcome all of you to our Caritas event. As conversations began last year about planning for the event and selecting a theme, we all reflected upon the significance of the 75th Anniversary of the agency. We quickly decided that we wanted to celebrate our anniversary with a look back at all the people and places of our storied past. We hoped to honor all the hard work and dedication of our founders and celebrate the values that they instilled in the Mission that is carried out today.

The team began the work of diving into all the pieces of history that we could get our hands on. We looked through stacks of old photos, opened long closed drawers, and read a mountain of agency newsletters from the past. What began as an effort to find a few images that might highlight the agency became a treasure hunt into all the amazing events that shaped who we are today. The planning of the event became its own unexpected blessing. Everyone became invested in the process and in learning as much as we could about the individual moments and images.

As we searched and talked, so many things came into focus for us. We were incredibly humbled by the commitment and perseverance of all those who came before us. Each of us gained a renewed sense of purpose in carrying on the Mission with joy, compassion, and Christian stewardship. It is my sincerest hope that all of you will be touched in your own way by the images we are sharing at the event.

Our exploration of the past has also helped us move confidently toward the goal of serving those who need it most. The agency has launched two new programs over the last year, including a Behavioral Health Clinic. This program is able to provide these services to those who may not otherwise have access due to lack of funding. We also continue to explore opportunities for growth in areas where services are lacking in our community.

We are grateful to all our donors, families, staff and supporters. Most importantly, we are grateful for the people we serve each day. They are so often the best examples of the Franciscan Values that should guide each of us through life.

Wishing each of you abundant blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Benedick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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The History of St. Coletta's of Illinois

Founded in 1949 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Coletta's of Illinois began its mission from a modest farmhouse in Palos Park. The organization's purpose was to provide a Christian environment where children and adults with developmental disabilities could thrive. In its inaugural year, St. Coletta's served 29 boys, laying the foundation for a community centered on compassion, respect and individualized care.

As enrollment increased, St. Coletta's expanded its facilities to better serve its growing community. The campus soon included residential cottages, a school, a dining hall and a church. These additions allowed St. Coletta's to offer a comprehensive range of services designed to enhance the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of its clients.

By 1990, efforts were underway to de-institutionalize the organization. Kennedy School was relocated to a vacant public school building in Palos Hills while residents were moved from dormitories on the Palos Park Campus to various group homes in the southwest suburbs.

The Vocational Training Program moved to a rented industrial facility in Bedford Park.



In 2001, St. Coletta's moved to its current location in Tinley Park, bringing its school and Vocational Training Program under one roof. The building was planned, designed and constructed for people with developmental disabilities in mind.



The organization continues to evolve and expand, providing new opportunities, programs and experiences to challenge participants to be as independent as possible.

In 2022, St. Coletta's transitioned all but one of its group homes to a fellow provider, allowing it to concentrate more fully on its core services: special education, vocational training, supported employment, and community support services.

In 2024, we introduced two additional services: Home-Based Services, pairing Self-Direction Assistants with families who choose to care for their loved ones at home rather than residential care facilities; and a Behavioral Health Clinic, providing specialized care and support to developmentally disabled individuals who also struggle with behavioral issues.

With your continued support, the future of St. Coletta's shines brightly, as we remain committed to empowering those we serve to reach their fullest potential.

Historical Timeline

1941

St. Coletta's, a school for boys with disabilities, is founded in Longmont, Colorado by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

1949

Chicago Archbishop Samuel Cardinal Stritch commissions the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi to open St. Coletta's of Chicago in Palos Park

1963

The Kennedy Training Center opens as a job training center for school graduates and provides vocational training to adults

1990

Residents move from dormitories on the Palos Park Campus to various group homes throughout the southwest suburbs

2017

Transition Town opens, providing job readiness and life skills to students ages 14-22

2022

St. Coletta's transfers its CILA license to Envision Unlimited

1948

A pivotal decision is made to relocate St. Coletta's from Colorado to Illinois, bringing it closer to the motherhouse in Milwaukee

1952

The Sisters rename their school the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. School for Exceptional Children after receiving a \$1.25 million grant from the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation

1984

Girls are admitted for the first time, expanding St. Coletta's mission of service

2001

St. Coletta's moves to its current location in Tinley Park after building a facility tailored to individuals with developmental disabilities

2019

St. Coletta's launches its Autism Program, offering specialized care to address the growing needs of the community

2024

St. Coletta's expands its services by opening a Behavioral Health Clinic and introducing Self-Direction Assistant (SDA) services to support families of children and adults who choose to live at home












The
Mission
Continues





Humanitas Award

The Humanitas Award recognizes an individual at the national or local level who represents to the greatest extent possible, a role model for society both in a person's public and private life.

Principal among the criteria for selection of this award are demonstrated leadership qualities, involvement with children and adults who are special needs individuals, commitment to community affairs, excellence within a given field or endeavor and a desire to help people.

Long-term commitment towards social growth is one of the most significant criteria in choosing the Humanitas recipient.

The recognition of an individual who excels at this level acknowledges these qualities and forms the building blocks of a positive social growth.

Humanitas Award Recipient



Pastor Don Borling & Congregation All Saints Lutheran Church

Pastor Don Borling and his congregation at All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park have been steadfast supporters of St. Coletta's of Illinois for many years. Their commitment to St. Coletta's mission is evident in Pastor Don's ongoing involvement with the participants, regularly visiting the campus to hold church services and share moments of spiritual connection. His gentle presence and heartfelt sermons resonate with the participants, offering them spiritual guidance and comfort.

Beyond the services, Pastor Don and his congregation go the extra mile by organizing summer picnics that bring joy and fellowship to the St. Coletta's community. These gatherings are filled with delicious food prepared and served by the church members, who spend quality time playing baseball and other games with the participants. These summer outings not only create cherished memories but also reflect Pastor Don's dedication to fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion.

All Saints Lutheran Church embodies a mission that aligns with Pastor Don's efforts, aiming to teach God's Word and its application to everyday life. Through meaningful worship, education, and outreach, the church inspires its congregation to be a positive force in the world, offering both spiritual and personal nourishment. By reaching out to St. Coletta's participants, Pastor Don and his church live out their mission, making a lasting impact on the lives they touch.

Humanitas Honorees Through the Years

1964	President John F. Kennedy	1992	Mr. William K. Murphy
1965	Governor Otto Kerner		Chevrolet/Mr. Bill Stacy
1966	Dr. Samuel A. Kirk, Ph.D., M.S.		Mr. Eugene Kowalis
1967	Dr. Robert E. Cooke	1993	Mr. Earl T. Leonard - Coca-Cola Company
1968	Dr. Frank J. Hayden		Mr. Richard J. Potter - Eastman Kodak Co.
1969	Mr. Cliff Robertson		Mr. Sergeant Shriver
1970	Capt. James A. Lovell Jr., U.S.N.		Administrative Team, Sisters of St. Francis
	Mr. Michael A. Lombard	1994	Mr. Jim Gibbons
	Hon. And Mrs. William D. Walsh		Geraldine Wurzburg "Educating Peter"
1971	Mrs. Janet Leigh	1995	Mr. & Mrs. Ju Hyun Kim
	Sister Mary Inez, O.S.F.		Ms. Anne Turnbull
	Dr. Elizabeth M. Boggs		Mr. Shinji Sakai
1972	Mr. Oleg Cassini	1996	Ms. Grace Harding
1973	Ms. Janyce Sarnoff		Mr. Dave Thomas
	Dr. William A. Bricker		Ms. Deloris Jordan
	Mr. Rafer L. Johnson	1997	Dr. Margaret McLaughlin
1974	Drs. Curt M. and Clarence J. O'Reilly		Ms. Juanita A. Hord - Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
1975	Hon. John Brademas	1998	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Kowalis
	Mr. Don Moss		Ms. Elizabeth O'Donnell
1976	Dr. Merle B. Karnes		Ms. Sue Swenson
	Mrs. Jack Mabley	1999	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bobb
1977	The Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation		Mr. Larry Levy
1978	Mr. Robert Terese	2000	Mr. Bruno A. Pasquinelli
	Ms. Corrine Owen		Mr. Anthony R. Pasquinelli
	Ms. Anne McGlone Burke		Mr. Robert F. Bernard
1979	Sister Mary Theodore Hegeman	2001	Mr. Yoshimi Inaba
	Sister Rosemary Connelly, R.S.M.		Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wolniak
1980	Rev. James H. McCarthy	2002	MTI Construction
	Sister Mary Therese Harrington, Society of Helpers		Waterford Crystal
	Sister Susanne Gallagher, S.P.	2003	Fifteen Community Fire Chiefs
1981	Ms. Susan Saint James	2004	United Parcel Service
	Mr. Bill Kurtis		Toyota Motor Sales
1982	Mr. Tom Boerwinkle	2005	Mr. Ernie Banks
	Mr. Beau Bridges	2006	Mr. Matt Lamb
	Mr. Ricky Wittman	2007	Mr. Bob Loquercio
1983	Mr. Dick Sargent	2008	Mr. Gregory Paetow
	Sheriff Richard Elrod	2009	Dr. Bennett L. Leventhal
1984	Ms. Cathy Lee Crosby	2010	A Tribute to Gene Kowalis
	Mr. Larry Lujack	2011	Reverend Don Borling
	Mr. Tommy Edwards	2012	Randolph Lewis - Walgreen Company
1985	Mr. Francis P. Kelly		McDonald's USA
	Mr. Doug Buffone	2013	The Payton Family
1986	Mr. Peter Dunne		Atlas Putty Products Co.
	Ms. Susan Howard	2014	Mr. Rob Johnson
	Ms. Janet Marchese		Senator Maggie Crotty
	CBS Television	2015	Thomas F. Shirey
	WBBM Television		Dr. Brian Chicoine, M.D.
1987	Mr. Myer Feldman	2016	The Caritas Society
	Rev. William J. Finnegan	2017	Barbara & Jim Pasquinelli
1988	Sr. Elaine Weber, O.S.F.		Cathy & Michael Pasquinelli
	McDonald's Corporation	2018	Dr. Osama ElShafie
1989	Mr. Michael Braverman "Life Goes On"		Dr. Joseph Matheu
	Mr. Dominick DiMatteo Jr.	2019	The Kennedy Family
1990	Mr. James M. Benson		Chef Fred Ferrara
	Hon. Lee A. Daniels	2022	Mr. William Waddell
1991	Mr. Anthony K. Shriver "Best Buddies"	2024	Pastor Don Borling & Congregation, All Saints Lutheran Church
	Mr. Chris Burke "Life Goes On"		
	Mr. & Mrs. Al Baldermann		

Tonight's Entertainment Coax & Folks



We're excited to welcome Coax & Folks tonight, a 7-piece powerhouse band featuring our very own Foundation Board member Dan Waddell on bass!

The band's musical bond dates back to Johnny and Coax's high school days at St. Rita on Chicago's south side, where Johnny played in the alternative rock band "My Friend Ken" and Coax was part of "Deuce," featuring Mike Hallagan on keys. They performed as the duo "Johnny & Coax," gaining popularity with weekly shows at Stash Leahy's in Blue Island.

Linzy, a talented vocalist, joined after meeting Coax through a mutual friend, enhancing their acoustic performances.

The band grew with the addition of Doug on sax, Dan on bass and Joe on drums, transforming into "Coax & Folks." This versatile ensemble delivers unforgettable musical experiences at weddings, corporate gatherings, and more, continuing to create cherished memories with their dynamic performances.

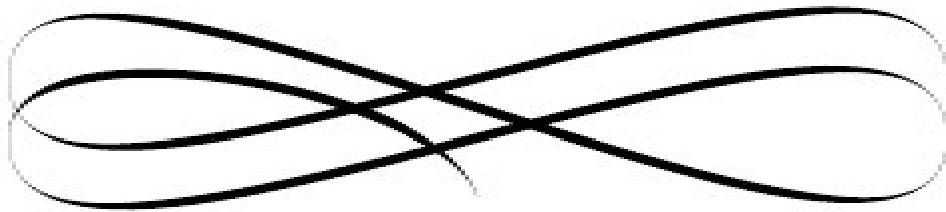


The Anthony & Mary Ann Pasquinelli Family Foundation

Continues its support of

St. Coletta's of Illinois

For their ongoing service to the community!



P | F

ANTHONY R + MARY ANN
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Congratulations

Congratulations to St. Coletta's of Illinois on 75 incredible years of service!
Your dedication to supporting children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities has transformed countless lives and built a stronger community.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and compassion—here's to many more years of making a positive impact!

Gigi & Yohan Fernando

St. Coletta's of Illinois and

The Kowalis

FAMILY
OF DEALERSHIPS



"Caring Together Since 1985"



THE KOWALIS FAMILY OF DEALERSHIPS



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SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY APRIL 11 & SATURDAY APRIL 12

THE ODYSSEY COUNTRY CLUB

19110 S Ridgeland Ave, Tinley Park

VIP 6:00PM-11:00PM, GENERAL ADMISSION 7:00PM-11:00PM



ST. COLETTA'S OF ILLINOIS

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MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

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St. Coletta's is committed to meeting the unique needs and abilities of each participant while ensuring a supportive and least restrictive environment for their growth.



St. Coletta's Parents Association



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sons, daughters, brothers & sisters
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1964 - 2018



ST. COLETTA'S
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Stay Connected with Our Community and Mission


JOIN US FOR PARENT MEETINGS

We warmly invite all parents and guardians to participate in our quarterly Parent Association (SPA) meetings. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to stay informed, share your ideas, and help build a strong sense of community. Details can be found on our website at www.stcolettasofil.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 on Facebook @StColettasofIL

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 **708-342-5200**

OUR SERVICES :



Kennedy School



Transition Town



Intermediate Care
Facility



Community Day
Services



Supported
Employment



Behavioral Health
Clinic



Home-Based
Services

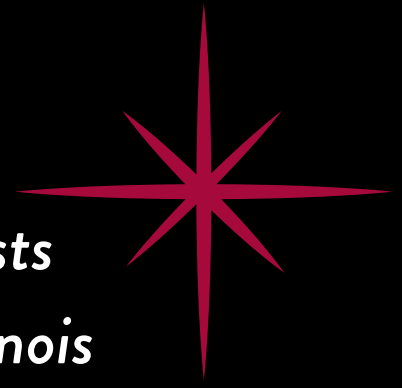
Tree of Possibilities



The "Tree of Possibilities" is a meaningful and lasting way to honor someone's memory, celebrate a special occasion, or recognize an outstanding achievement. This permanent wall display in our lobby features engraved leaves, stepping stones, boulders, and doves, each symbolizing a unique contribution to St. Coletta's mission. Individuals, families, community groups, and organizations are invited to participate by purchasing an engraved item. Leaves are available for \$250, stepping stones for \$750, boulders for \$2,500, and doves for \$5,000. Your contribution not only creates a lasting tribute but also supports the vital work we do at St. Coletta's.

Thank you

*Donors, Sponsors, Honorees and Guests
for your support of St. Coletta's of Illinois*



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The Anthony R. & Mary Ann
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Lexus of Orland Park

Complete Collision Care, Inc.

Silver Sponsor

The Wolniak Family

Old Plank Trail Community Bank



Split-the-Pot Raffle



Get ready to test your luck and support a great cause with our Split-the-Pot Raffle! By purchasing a raffle ticket, you not only have a chance to win big but also help us continue our mission. Every ticket sold increases the jackpot and directly supports our programs. Don't miss out on your opportunity to win and make a difference -- grab your tickets now!

1 for \$50

3 for \$125

4 for \$400





Fund-A-Need Appeal



Your support is crucial for our Fund-A Need appeal at St. Coletta's of Illinois. Donations will directly help cover essential medical expenses that Medicare does not, such as dental care and specialized wheelchairs. Every contribution ensures that these individuals receive the comprehensive care they deserve.

Please consider making a donation today to make a meaningful difference in their lives.



SCAN
ME!



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