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eNewsletter

Spring/Summer 2010, Issue No. 9

Director's Letter

I am both pleased and proud to announce that St. Louis Life celebrated its 3rd year anniversary this past June. The vision created by our late founder, Robert J. Trulaske, Jr., has clearly become a reality. This has not been a simple or easy path but one that has taken time, patience, tenacity, and much effort by many individuals, families, and organizations. This past year, growth and change have become our mantra at St. Louis Life and we are very thankful for the continued interest in and support shown for our organization and efforts. Amidst this change and growth, our commitment to enabling individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve independent living and live full and enriched lives remains. We welcome the new faces in our board, staff, volunteer, donor, family, and resident communities. As we celebrate our 3rd anniversary, we look to the future with optimism and excitement. We invite you to come and visit us as we work together toward fulfilling our important mission of supporting young adults with special needs.

Andy Conover
Executive Director

SLL Fundraiser at Chandler Hill Winery, September 11, 2010

Mark your calendar for St. Louis Life's first annual fundraising event this fall on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Chandler Hill Winery in Defiance, MO. The event will include dinner, music (featuring the Falling Martins and Soulard Blues Band), and a fireworks display from Spirit of '76 Fireworks. Invitations will be mailed out in late July. Sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals, families, and companies. For more information about this event, click [HERE](#), call 636-561-1900, or log onto www.stlouislifeline.org.



Summer Program 2010

SLL's second annual summer program begins July 11th and runs for 3 weeks, with six participants currently enrolled. Following a structured approach, the program will include a volunteer experience, social events, educational classes, and recreational activities featuring many St. Louis area attractions. **Summer in St. Louis** is ideal for individuals who might be considering St. Louis Life as a long-term program destination.



Partnership with Washington University Olin Business School

Last fall, St. Louis Life was selected to participate in the Taylor Community Consulting Program (TCCP) offered by the Washington University Olin Business School. TCCP provides nonprofit organizations with expert consulting from Olin students. Participating nonprofit organizations benefit from this six-week, pro-bono consulting program in which student consulting teams address business issues in the area of market research, brand audit, financial

assessment, operational assessment, and strategic planning. The Program concludes when the teams deliver a final presentation and report highlighting their achievements and recommendations before representatives from the nonprofit organization, Olin faculty, and executives from Enterprise Rent-A-Car. The focus of the partnership with St. Louis Life was on enhancing SLL's marketing and recruitment efforts. SLL would like to formally thank the students and staff at TCCP for the efforts to strengthen our organization.

Capacity-Building Grant Award from Missouri Foundation for Health

St. Louis Life was selected by the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) to receive a nearly \$20,000 award this May to support strategic planning in fund raising for the organization. Over the course of the next 12 months, SLL staff, board members, and families will be working closely with a consultant to create this strategic plan. MFFH is a philanthropic organization whose vision is to improve the health of the people in the communities it serves. SLL would like to recognize and thank the MFFH for its support.

Admissions Update

St. Louis Life has added its 10th resident to its community this spring as interests continues to grow. An 11th resident is scheduled to join St. Louis Life in September. With current capacity of 16 residents, applications continue to be accepted for its residential program. The decision to enroll in a life-long program is a significant one. St. Louis Life's application process reflects this. Admissions decisions are made based on the "goodness of fit" between the applicant and the program. Families are encouraged to review our admission criteria carefully.

Click [HERE](#) to link to St. Louis Life's Application and Instructions which are available as a Microsoft Word document in the Admission sub page of the St. Louis Life website, www.stlouislife.org.



Site Tours for Families Now Available

While a picture can paint a thousand words, a site visit offers families and potential residents a first hand look at the facility and a better understanding of the philosophy on which it is based. Site visits are a critical key in determining whether or not your son or daughter is a good fit with St. Louis Life.

If you are interested in scheduling a site tour, please contact Andy Conover,

St. Louis Life's Executive Director, at 636-561-1900 or via email by clicking [HERE](#).



Resident Voices

It is easy for the staff at St. Louis Life to write about its programs and promote its wonderful amenities, but sometimes it is best to hear from the residents themselves. Recently, one of SLL's new residents (Susie) was asked about living at St. Louis Life. Here is what she had to say:

- **What things do you like about living in your own apartment?** *I like the responsibilities and for once I don't have to share a shower. It feels great!*
- **How do you like living on your own?** *I feel very independent.*
- **Which rooms do you like the most at St. Louis Life?** *My room, the computer lab and of course I love the theater room!*
- **Describe a recent activity at St. Louis Life that was fun.** *It was a lot of fun to play laser tag and going to the movies with my friends.*
- **What kinds of meals do you like eating here? Do you help fix them? What things do you do to help?** *I am trying to lose weight so I like to eat the healthier meals.*
- **What else would you like to tell others who are considering living at St. Louis Life?** *St. Louis life is a fun and great place to live where you will be able to live independently and make a lot of choices on your own.*

Looking for a Practicum or Internship or Community Service Opportunity?

St. Louis Life welcomes interest from students at the high school, undergraduate, or graduate-level who are seeking a practicum, internship, or community service opportunity. St. Louis Life currently is an approved field education site with many local institutions of higher education. Contact Shawn Riley at St. Louis Life at 636-561-1900 or via email by clicking [HERE](#) for more information.

Partnership with Schnucks Grocery Store and the eScrip Program

St. Louis Life is partnering with Schnucks, a St. Louis-based grocery store chain, to implement the eScrip program. eScrip, along with merchant partners like Schnucks and others, have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to a designated school or charity. Up to 3% of your purchase at Schnucks will go directly to St. Louis

Life.

Here is how you can participate:

1. Pick up your card at Schnucks.
2. Activate your card by calling 1-800-931-6258 or by logging onto <http://www.eScrip.com>. They will ask for your contact info, the card number, and what charity you want to contribute. St. Louis Life's ID # is 500016113.
3. Swipe their registered card each time you make a purchase at Schnucks.

Please tell your friends and family to enroll and designate St. Louis Life. Schnucks has a long history of being a strong supporter of both people with disabilities and the agencies that serve them. Call the St. Louis Life office or click [HERE](#) for more information.

Thank You!

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