



Director's Letter

Happy holidays from the staff, board, families, and residents of St. Louis Life! We hope this edition of our eNewsletter finds you enjoying the season and all the opportunities for fun, family, and friends it brings. 2010 has been an amazing year for St. Louis Life. We have experienced significant growth in our resident community (6 new residents!), more than any year so far. We have added new staff, activities and programs, community partners, and a vehicle. We successfully hosted our first fundraising event this fall, bringing in new donors and friends to the organization. At the board level, we have begun a planning process for future facility growth. As we reflect at year's end on our accomplishments, we have much for which to be thankful. 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 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 Fall Fundraiser Raises \$30,000

Over 220 people participated in St. Louis Life's first fundraising event on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Chandler Hill Winery in Defiance, MO. The event included dinner, an oral auction, music (featuring the Falling Martins and Soulard Blues Band), and a fireworks display from Spirit of '76 Fireworks. By the end of the evening, the event had raised \$30,000 (after expenses) to support SLL's mission. SLL would like to thank all the participants, volunteers, and 18 sponsors in making this event a huge success. Mark your calendars—the 2011 Fall Fundraiser is set for Friday, September 30th at Chandler Hill Winery.

2010 Annual Giving Campaign

The 2010 Annual Giving campaign is currently underway, asking donors to support the programs and services of St. Louis Life. While SLL does charge a program fee to its residents and their families, this fee does not cover the costs of SLL's programs and services. Additional fundraising has to occur. Please consider supporting the 2010 Annual Giving campaign as the year ends. St. Louis Life is a registered

nonprofit corporation in the state of Missouri and has 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service. All donations to SLL are tax-deductible. Click [HERE](#) to access a Donation Form.



Follow SLL on Facebook

Earlier this year, SLL created and implemented a Group Page that features updates, pictures, and videos on resident and agency activities and events. We want to invite each of you to follow SLL on Facebook by subscribing to our Group Page. Subscribers must have an existing account on Facebook. Once logged in, click on the Groups link, search for St. Louis Life, and then click on the Request to join box. For security reasons on behalf of our residents, SLL staff has to approve every subscriber. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Riley at 636-561-1900 or 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 (Nancy Jo) 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?** *It's fun! I like having my own place.*
- **How do you like living on your own?** *I like it. Actually I love it!*
- **Which rooms do you like the most at St. Louis Life?** *I like the movie room and the kitchen. I pretty much like all of them.*
- **Describe a recent activity at St. Louis Life that was fun.** *We went to Winter Wonderland to see the Christmas lights. That was really fun.*
- **What kinds of meals do you like eating here? Do you help fix them? What things do you do to help?** *I like eating Pasta and Tacos. Yes sometimes. It is fun to learn how to cook them. I would like to help the cook prepare meals more.*
- **What else would you like to tell others who are considering living at St. Louis Life?** *It's the best place in the world!*



More Resident Voices

Below is an essay submitted by Megan Layton, a resident at SLL since November 2007:

St. Louis Life is a place for independent living. Independent living is living by yourself and on your own. When I look at independent, I look at the word depend. Depend is a word of helping.

St. Louis Life is independent, but in certain and different ways. Social, household planning, employment, volunteering, and health and wellness. Social means you hangout with people in group events and in the stuff you like doing. When you are being social, you put yourself out there. How do you ask? If they would like to do something with you or with you and other people.

Employment is being employed with a job. Having a job is you getting paid with money. Sometimes you don't have to be paid and you are just doing it out of the kindness of your heart, and when you do that you are volunteering. When you have a job or you just volunteer you go through a job assessment which is talking about what you are interested in and what you can do that will get better ideas of what the job is.

St. Louis Life is about household planning for your one bedroom apartment that has the essentials of a house that you live in. House or apartment, you have responsibilities. Like doing your own laundry and cleaning.

Health and wellness are considered exercise, what to eat, controlling what you eat, and how you eat it. This has something to do with taking care of yourself, which affects you and others.

Admissions Update

St. Louis Life has added its 13th resident to its community in November as interest continues to grow. 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.

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 continues to partner 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 your 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](#) to request more information.

Thank You!

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