

# LOVE LINK

**ST. ELIZABETH** ADULT DAY CARE CENTER  
EIGHT CENTERS SERVING THE GREATER ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY



## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### HOSPITALITY



In the last issue of LoveLink we spoke of the possibility of purchasing the building in Ste. Genevieve in which St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center is located. We are pleased to inform you that we are now the proud owners of the property situated at 765 Market Street in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Jean and Brad Fisher, the former owners, have graciously accepted the position of property managers so many of the challenges of being a landlord have been removed. The County Assessor is currently giving careful consideration to our request for partial tax exemption of the building. The Assessor is a Board member of SB40 which is the organization that approached us requesting that we establish a center in Ste. Genevieve. I quote from her letter: "Ste. Genevieve County is very thankful to the Sisters who provide a much needed service to those with developmental disabilities..."

### RESPECT



Currently St. E's is considering relocating our center at 3401 Arsenal and its administrative offices. We established this center in 1981 as our first location in an effort to provide this needed service to the residents of the surrounding area, and in an effort to utilize the then underutilized space at St. Elizabeth Academy and its adjoining convent. We have ministered in this space for 29+ wonderful years, but we are now feeling some growing pains. We are licensed for 36 participants and average about 34 participants per day—getting very close to our capacity. We have outgrown our administrative office space, leaving us nowhere to interview prospective families or employees. We can hardly invite prospective families to sit on the radiator!!

### CARING



We have become envious of the outside space that some of the other centers enjoy. While we do have some outside space, access is more difficult than we would like. In spite of the inconveniences, the 3401 center has some real plusses. Windows onto the inside corridors (built prior to air conditioning) to provide for greater air circulation afford an opportunity to observe our participants without following their every step, and rooms having more than one entrance enable all to navigate from room to room avoiding bottlenecks.

### DIGNITY



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Where would we like to relocate? Perhaps a little farther north and west of where we are. We have many participants that we transport from North St. Louis, and with our site at St. Andrew's, we could accommodate the residents of South St. Louis at the Lemay site and provide care closer to home for our Northside residents. Would we build or rehab?? It would be a real boon to be able to build; for once we could situate rooms where we would like them to be rather than make do with what is available, but we do live in a real world with its financial, political, and regulatory constraints.

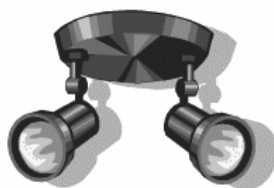
We have engaged staff members of the Community Program Development Corporation to assist us in our search for a suitable building and/or site. As always, we rely on your interest and prayers as we consider this next step in our journey. We pray that we will be open to the urgings of the Spirit who has guided and directed us this far in our ministry.

*Sr. John Antonio Miller C.P.P.S., Director, St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Centers*

### **Spotlighting Reverend Theodore**

by Becky Wohldmann, site manager at Olivette

Reverend Theodore Clark Jr. has been a regular participant at the Olivette Center since October 7, 2009. In that short period of time, he has become a touchstone for our group. Each day that he attends he brings the sunshine from his beloved garden with him. He makes it a point to touch and speak to every other participant and staff person on his way in. He is always impeccably dressed, including a hat to top off his look. He enjoys field trips where he can reminisce about previous visits in his life. Theodore actively participates in group activities, games and crafts and offers much personal encouragement to everyone surrounding him. He is just as engaging in one-on-one conversations about a wide variety of topics. He does not let his legal blindness hold him back. He speaks often about his garden at home and how many years it has taken him to get the soil to its current state—25 years! He says he looks forward to teaching his grandchildren how to work it and leave a living legacy. He is a very polite, caring, considerate man with a positive attitude. He always offers help to the staff and other participants. We are blessed to have him at our Center.



### **Spotlighting Lavonne**

by Kendra Fitzgerald, site manager at Overland

Lavonne Lathan started here at SEADCC Overland in March of 2006.

She has been an inspiration for participants and staff. She says that her experience working with the mentally challenged and Alzheimer's participants helps her to overcome her own trials and tribulations. LaVonne conducts daily devotions with participants which have strengthened her faith. LaVonne enjoys helping and assisting the participants with games and crafts. Story time is her best time. She acts out the story while she is reading it aloud to the participants, and it is like she takes them to the actual setting. When she is not in attendance we miss her, but that's not often because she is rarely absent. I can truly say she loves her job and what she does daily. We have an Overland quote she practices:

“Each person in your life can teach you something about yourself. We are like mirrors, reflecting ourselves to each other.”



## Vincentian Volunteers

For the past three years St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center has been blessed by the presence of a Vincentian Volunteer on our staff. **Vincentian Volunteers are a part of the AmeriCorps program, a domestic version of the Peace Corp.** AmeriCorps provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based, and other community organizations and public agencies to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. AmeriCorps volunteers are young men and women ages 18-24 who wish to spend a year of their lives in service.

Our AmeriCorps volunteers are designated Vincentian Service Corps because the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul administer the program. Vincentian Service Corps - Central has celebrated **over 25 years of service** with over 200 members, **both men and women**, who have served the needs of persons who are poor and have come to better understand how to **integrate service and spirituality**.

They **have been transformed** and have learned that **their lives of service make a difference**. The Daughters recruit college students and pair them with not-for-profit agencies where the students get basic hands-on, day to day experience of service to the poor and marginalized. Their Mission Statement has 3 objectives: service, prayer and community. The volunteers work 40 hours/week in a not-for-profit organization. Here at St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center they serve as hands-on activity aides, assisting our participants in all of their activities of daily living, and programs of the Center. The volunteers live together in community, sharing in the privileges and responsibilities of community life, and have the opportunity to deepen and grow in their Christian faith through communal prayer and the opportunity for guidance from a spiritual director.

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Each year, as a part of St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center's commemoration of Adult Day Care Week, we, the staff, gather for a period of prayer and reflection in preparation to rededicate ourselves to the ministry of caring for the folks entrusted to us. Lead by a Sister of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon Missouri, the religious community that sponsors the Center, we reflect on how behaviorally we embody the values of hospitality, presence, response to human needs, and reconciliation, in preparation for our recommissioning "to be and to experience Christ's reconciling presence." [from the Constitutions of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon Missouri.]

**Claire Ewersmann**, our first volunteer is continuing to work with the poor, assisting individuals and families who are having difficulty meeting their utility bills.



Claire Ewersmann

**Caryn Murray**, from year 2, is working and living in a community similar to L'Arche, a family-like home where people with and without disabilities share their lives together, giving witness to the reality that persons with disabilities possess inherent qualities of welcome, wonderment, spirituality, and friendship.



Caryn Murray

And **Huong Ngo**, last year's volunteer is returning to her home State of Texas to pursue her Master's degree specializing in working with individuals with autism.

**Josh Zink**, this year's volunteer, comes to us with a degree in accounting and a desire to spend a year in service, embodying the Vincentian Service Corps motto "...a year of service makes a lifetime of difference.

Welcome, Josh; we are looking forward to our year together.



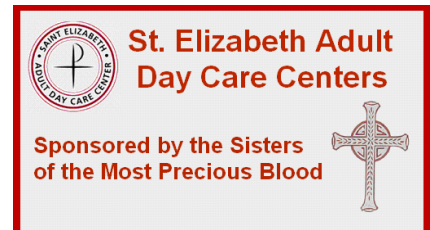
Josh Zink

**National Adult Day Care Week is observed this year from September 19-September 25.** In 1988, President Regan, in recognition of the increasing need and the increasing number of adult day care centers, declared the third full week of September as National Adult Day Care Week.

The number of older Americans and those mentally and/or physically challenged continues to grow, the result in part of advances in medical care and technology and better understanding of the ways nutrition, behavior, and environment affect health. Most citizens are active in their communities, but some cannot be so. For these older Americans and for other mentally or physically challenged citizens, **Adult Day Care seeks ways to continue every possible measure of independence, dignity, and integration in family and community life.**

Adult Day Care Centers are designed to serve individuals who are frail, disabled, or requiring regular medical care and who might otherwise need care in a long-term facility. These centers benefit the individual, and give a vital support to dedicated family caregivers so they can meet their own needs.

**St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center is somewhat unique in our field** in so far as we choose to serve not only the elderly, but other adults (whom the State of Missouri defines as an individual 18 years and older) and their families who find themselves searching for alternate ways of caring for their loved ones. *[Continued on page 3]*



**Come and visit any center any time during National Adult Day Care week, September 20 through September 25. Tours and refreshments are available throughout the week. Come and have lunch with your loved one. Since hospitality is one of our guiding values, guests are welcome at any time, at any center.**



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