

OUR LITTLE NEWS

FALL 2019

**Check Out Our New
Wells Fargo Discovery Center**

**Graduate Returns to
Our Little Academy**





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Cover Photo: Our Little Haven's Playground taken by Our Little Academy's Educational Therapist Danielle Farnam, MSW, LMSW

OUR LITTLE HAVEN MISSION

Our Little Haven is relentlessly committed to providing early intervention services for children and families. Our community of professional caregivers create a safe, secure, and healing environment for those impacted by abuse, neglect, and mental or behavioral health needs. We make the hurting stop, the healing begin, and the love last, one family at a time.

KIDS, COOKIES, & COMMUNITY



Our Little Haven believes that when we are born, God gives us a Cookie Jar and with each positive experience – every hug, each high-five, every success – we get a cookie in our Cookie Jar.

At about ten years old (the ending of our formative years) our Cookie Jar gets sealed up, and what we have in our Jar is what nurtures us for the rest of our lives. Now, most of our Cookie Jars are pretty full. The Haven kids do not have any cookies in their jars and it's our honor to invite the community to fill them.

That's what YOU do - YOU help fill Cookie Jars!

OUR LEADERSHIP

- P. Scott Hummel, MSW, PhD (hon), Executive Director**
- Kathleen Hummel, MSW, PhD (hon), Therapeutic Director**
- Michael P. Bahlinger, Director of Finance & Operations**
- Dr. Lizette Smith, PhD, Director of Clinical Programs**
- Chris Muñoz, CFRE, Development Director**



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LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

Leave a legacy of hope for generations to come.

For more about Our Little Haven's legacy giving, including tax-wise options call Mike Bahlinger

(314) 669-9320, mikebahlinger@ourlittlehaven.org



Mike Fitzgerald with his grandchildren: Vivian, Owen, and Michael (left to right).

IT'S NOT GOODBYE, IT'S SEE YOU LATER, MIKE!

After 10 years of service, Mike Fitzgerald will retire this November. During his tenure as Director of Community Resource Development, Mike has managed our foster care contract shared with our three partner agencies.

Of course, that's not all Mike is known for. Mike brought laughter to the lunch table, updates on his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers, and plenty of photos of his three beautiful grandchildren. If you ask Mike what he will be doing during his retirement, he will share his upcoming trips planned with Karen, his wife of 41 years.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing your time, expertise, and wisdom with Our Little Haven! You have made a significant difference on St. Louis's foster care system and impacted thousands of children and families.



THE HAVEN CLUB IS AT IT AGAIN

Every year the Haven Club Young Professionals get together to complete a service project at Our Little Haven. This year's focus was on the main floor of the Fr. Robert F. Weiss, SJ Administration Building.

Our Haven Club members arrived early on a Saturday in October ready to paint. With "hits of the 80's" blaring, the Haven Club got to work painting five rooms. These aren't just any old rooms at Our Little Haven. These are the rooms we welcome many special guests, community members, and

investors. No one visits Our Little Haven without a quick stop in our Administration Building to hear Our Little Haven's story, including our most beloved Cookie Jar Story (see page 3).

Thank you Haven Club for your continued support in our mission. We are honored to be a part of your efforts to give back to the St. Louis Community.

Interested in joining the Haven Club Young Professionals? Visit ourlittlehaven.org or contact Chris Munoz at cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org.



Chad Young & Julie Heitmann working in our dining room



Anna DiRaimando & Jill Baranowski painting our entry way

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SPACE

THE WELLS FARGO DISCOVERY CENTER

With the generous support of the Wells Fargo Foundation, we opened the Wells Fargo Discovery Center. Several Wells Fargo volunteers spent their summer renovating Our Little Academy Day Treatment Preschool's third floor. Renovations included painting, building bookshelves, and decorating the learning space.



The volunteers did not stop there! Hundreds of books were then organized and cataloged by subject matter, including: feelings, social interactions, growth, development, and families. Why is this a big deal? Along with the many other therapies offered at Our Little Haven, children are able to choose books that relate to their lives. If a child is struggling with an emotional issue, our team can quickly locate multiple books regarding that specific topic.



The Wells Fargo Discovery Center is available to over 500 children and their families we serve every year. These spaces will be enjoyed by many, all while helping build strong bonds between therapists, parents, and children. Thank you, Wells Fargo! We are grateful!

We still have some books on our wish list!
For more information contact
Chris Munoz at 314-669-9386 or
cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org.

YOUR INVESTMENT & OUR EARLY-INTERVENTION APPROACH

Graduate Returns to Our Little Academy

*A Recount from Program Manager at Our Little Academy Day Treatment
Sarah Thomas, MSW, LCSW*

In-service days at Our Little Academy Day Treatment Preschool typically consist of online trainings, discussing procedures, and consultations with our team. Last July, our in-service day was particularly special. We were expecting a visitor.

The doorbell rang at Our Little Academy. Normally I open the door, looking down to greet our preschoolers, but that morning my eyes were drawn up. I was greeted by a familiar face.

Standing at the door was one of Our Little Academy's first graduates. After welcoming him in and introducing him to our therapists, we showed him around Our Little Academy. Every turn we took, the Graduate shared another memory: birthday parties, art projects, gardening, and, of course, playing on the playground!

Over the years I've saved every drawing, letter, and card a child made me. In fact, I have something from every graduate from the past 12 years. That way, if a child ever returns to Our Little Academy, they will have proof that during their time here they were cherished. This Graduate's visit was no exception.

I had many letters, drawings, and even photos of his special moments at Our Little Academy. We looked over them together laughing and recounting so many wonderful memories of his preschool years. It was a magical moment.

Every day I see improvements in the children's mental and behavioral health. However, this day was truly special, because I witnessed the impact our program made years later. This young man is a powerful example of how our work, our compassion, and your support truly makes a difference.

As the statistics on page 7 demonstrate, working with children during their formative years is paramount to their continued development. Our Little Haven focuses on the best practices for early intervention. Many of the children we help are suffering from the effects of abuse, neglect, trauma, and behavioral or mental health challenges. Through our specialized programs, we are able to make a lasting impact.



In fact, I have something from every graduate from the past 12 years. That way, if a child ever returns to OLA, they will have proof that during their time here they were cherished.

-Sarah Thomas, MSW, LCSW

Program Manager at Our Little Academy Day Treatment

OUR NURTURING, TEACH HARD AT WORK

Research Supports Our Little Haven's Early Intervention Services

1 in 4 children suffer abuse and/or neglect¹

WHAT AFFECTS DOES CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT HAVE ON ADULTS?

80%

of 21-year-olds who reported childhood abuse met the criteria for at least one psychological disorder²

2.5

times more likely to participate in risky behavior, struggle financially, and have violent relationships or problems making friends.³

OUR LITTLE HAVEN OUTCOMES:

20,000+

children and families impacted since 1993

Graduated **225** children from Our Little Academy Day Treatment Preschool

Impacted **4,502** children and families through out Keystone Mental Health Services

Welcomed **2,285** children into loving family homes since 2005 through our Taylor Family Care Center.

1. Finkelhor D, Turner HA, Shattuck A, Hamby SL. Prevalence of childhood exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: Results from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. JAMA Pediatr. 2015;169(8), 746-754.

2. Silverman AB, Reinherz HZ, Giaconia RM. The long-term sequelae of child and adolescent abuse: a longitudinal community study. Child Abuse Negl. 1996;20(8):709-723.

3. Copeland W., Shanahan L., Hinesley J., Chan R. Karolina A. Aberg, PhD; John A. Fairbank, PhD; Edwin J. C. G. van den Oord, PhD; E. Jane Costello, PhD Association of Childhood Trauma Exposure with Adult Psychiatric Disorders and Functional Outcomes. JAMA 2018.

HELP US *SPREAD THE LOVE*

Happy 50th Birthday, Ron! Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary, David and Karen! Congratulations on hitting your annual goal, Team!

This year, many special milestones were celebrated with Our Little Haven. For each occasion, groups worked with our team to develop and share a personal webpage to support Our Little Haven, called *Spread the Love*.

Spread the Love is Our Little Haven's online giving platform that can be utilized by families, groups, companies, and individuals interested in supporting the children and families of Our Little Haven.

Here are some ways to *Spread the Love*:

- Celebrating a birthday? Together, we can design a website where gifts can be made in your honor to our children and families.
- Mark a company milestone by establishing a celebratory page offered to clients, vendors, staff, and/or supporters.
- Challenge your group or hold a friendly competition to raise funds. All while promoting the Our Little Haven's mission through your own personalized webpage.



To learn about starting your own *Spread the Love* webpage, contact Chris at (314) 669-9386 or cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org.

Last year Our Little Haven helped us design and launch a giving contest. Our companies sent their individual page to their supporters, raising over \$11,000! Thank you to our members and all who participated. We cannot wait until next year!

Kristy Stephens
Executive Director
Mechanical Contractors Association of Eastern Missouri

HOLIDAYS AT THE HAVEN

We will be back right after these messages from Our Little Haven!

- Martin Kilcoyne, The Press Box 590 The Fan

Our Little Haven goes live on the air this holiday season. Tune in to The Press Box with Frank Cusumano and Martin Kilcoyne each day from 10:00 to Noon on 590 The Fan.

Starting Monday, November 18, we will partner with local businesses to share all the great care provided by Our Little Haven. Every Friday will end with a giveaway from our partners: Herbies, Pietro's, Big Sky Cafe, and Noboleis Vineyards.

Join us live at the Noboleis Vineyards Pop Up Shop at the St. Louis Premium Outlets on Friday, December 13th from 10 to Noon. Martin and the

crew will be celebrating the holidays and accepting donations on our behalf. You can call in or stop by with coats, hats, gloves, toys, and more for the children and families at Our Little Haven. Sample some Noboleis wines and don't forget to purchase a bottle as a great gift!

For the latest updates, visit ourlittlehaven.org.



BENEFITING

OUR LITTLE HAVEN

Saturday, November 16th, 2019 at 10am
St. Nicholas Family Life Center
12550 S Forty Dr, St. Louis, MO 63141

Join us at our Annual Chic Boutiques Shopping & Fashion Show! The day will be filled with 20+ boutiques, lunch catered by Russo's, followed by our fashion show! Reservations starting at \$30. For more information visit ourlittlehaven.org or contact Heather Schmidt at hschmidt@ourlittlehaven.org or 314-533-2229 x 227.

HOLIDAY HUGS FOR THE HAVEN

Holiday preparations start early at Our Little Haven. With over 500 children and families receiving services, we have a lot of boxes to check off before celebrating the season. Does Joey have a coat, hat, & gloves? CHECK! Will Tanya have presents under the tree? CHECK! But we still have a lot more boxes to check off and we cannot do it without your help.

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Visit ourlittlehaven.org/wishlist or contact Chris Munoz at cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org or 314-669-9386.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Let us match you with a family at Our Little Haven! Office Manager Teresa will give you the family's wish list, making sure every child will find presents under their tree on Christmas morning. Contact Teresa Green at: (314) 531-3183x229 tgreen@ourlittlehaven.org



CHRISTMAS COOKIE JAR

Get your Our Little Haven cookie jar. In each jar are individually wrapped holiday Colleen's Cookies. On the back of each cookie is a special item from a child helped by Our Little Haven. Jars and cookies can be delivered to your office, group meeting, or conference and we are happy to share the cookie jar story of Our Little Haven with your group. Specific wish list price levels can be requested. Contact Chris Munoz at cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org or 314-669-9386.

HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE

Make a special gift to honor or remember a special person in your life. We will send a special card to that person or family recognizing the generosity you shared on their behalf. The card can feature a personal message from you. To learn more, or order your card, please visit our Donate page or call Heather Schmidt at (314) 533-2229x227 or hschmidt@ourlittlehaven.org





Anthony, Our Little Haven Alumni, featured in The St. Louis Review for giving back to our community.



Thanks Pietro's for continuing to include us in your anniversary celebrations.

PIETRO'S
Since 1960



Thank you USI Insurance Services for helping keep our campus looking beautiful.

**KIDS.
COOKIES.
COMMUNITY.**



The Servant Day Volunteers from Christ Memorial Lutheran Church shared their Saturday with us, doing yard work and planting mums. Thank you for your hard work!

Our Little Haven Team gathers to celebrate another successful year of caring for children and families. Mind. Body. & Soul.

Thank you to our Celebration Committee for planning another great event!



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THROUGH YOUR FAVORITE
SOCIAL NETWORKS



Visit ourlittlehaven.org and
subscribe to our e-newsletter
to receive the latest news.

Upcoming Our Little Haven Events

NOV
16

Chic Boutique
St. Nicholas Family Life Center

JAN
25

Haven Club Trivia Night
SLUH

DEC
12

Holiday Hugs for the Haven
Das Bevo

APRIL
26

Annual Spring Gala
The Chase Park Plaza

