

OUR LITTLE NEWS

SPRING 2021

GINNY TOMAN

ALWAYS IN YOUR HEART

**THE OUR LITTLE
HAVEN SHOW**

JOIN US THIS SUMMER

SPRINGTIME IS HERE

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN


our little haven

CARING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES. MIND. BODY. SOUL.®



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On the Cover

An illustration by Jesslyn Murphy from Ginny Toman's book "Always In Your Heart". Page 6

KIDS, COOKIES, & COMMUNITY

Our Little Haven believes that when we're born, God gives us a Cookie Jar. 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 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.

OUR LEADERSHIP

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

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CO-FOUNDERS SCOTT & KATHLEEN HUMMEL

OUR SUMMER EVENTS

THE OUR LITTLE HAVEN SHOW

"I'LL BE IN MY TRAILER," shouts Martin Kilcoyne as our director takes five...again. We are on location in the Central West End shooting our second installment of St. Louis's most popular variety show, *The Our Little Haven Show*. Shooting on location comes with some extra hurdles that are easily avoidable in the studio, but the team from Outreach Studios has a plan.



The Our Little Haven Show, first aired in Summer of 2020, will make a triumphant return this summer featuring a firsthand tour of Our Little Haven. Situated in four historic buildings in the Central West End, Martin and his special guests will share with you all the wonderful spaces of Our Little Haven where children and families receive the compassion, care, and support they need from our dedicated team.

The Our Little Haven Show is made possible by our generous show sponsors. Sponsorships are featured as special guests of the show or through commercial spots. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to find out how you can help, call Chris at (314) 669-9386 or cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org

Check your local listings for show date and times or visit www.ourlittlehaven.org

ALL THE COLORS OF OUR LITTLE HAVEN OUR ANNUAL GALA

From the colors you see around our campus to the colors that make up our community, you will find bright and vibrant colors everywhere you turn at Our Little Haven. This year, we are bringing those colors to our Annual Gala. We invite you to join us this summer for an in person celebration on July 11 at The Chase Park Plaza.

While we are hopeful for a limited in person celebration, we will remain in touch with local and state health officials. We are continuing to monitor the on-going pandemic and will adapt as needed for the health and safety of our community.

For up-to-date information regarding our Annual Gala, please visit ourlittlehaven.org.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Through the help of Collaborative Strategies, Our Little Haven has entered into the 2021-2025 action phase of the strategic planning process. The Strategic Plan is a multi-year process that reflects the mission, goals, and foundation of Our Little Haven. The five Strategic Priorities are aligned with community needs and will guide the process over the next five years.



"We are committed to improving the well-being of vulnerable and under-served clients. We will do so by ensuring that clients have access to highly-effective, coordinated and comprehensive mental health care, and foster care case management through the strategic planning process."

Lizette Smith, PhD, Licensed Psychologist, Director of Clinical Programs



Always In Your Heart

Five Little Monkeys
MY LITTLE BOOK OF
ABC'S

Bill Martin Jr. Eric Carle
Brown Bear, Brown Bear,
What Do You See?

O L A
L O V E S
T O
R E A D

Wiggle Waggle
by Anna Kang

You
My Dinosaur

Pete the Cat
I Can Read!
Pete the Cat
PLAY BALL!

MARGRET & H.A. REY
Curious George
and the Poppin'

The Counting Book

ALWAYS IN YOUR HEART FINDS A PLACE AT OUR LITTLE HAVEN

Holding baby Callahan in her arms, Ginny Toman often remembers her late Father, John. She wonders what kind of grandfather her dad would be, if he would be called Grandpa or something different, and how much he would spoil his granddaughter.

In early 2019, Ginny and her family lost John to a neurological disease. Her family's loss was shared by all of us at Our Little Haven. John Seiler was a long time board member and friend of the organization. John shared his passions and his time with Our Little Haven, always bringing his humor and wit to events and gatherings.

For Ginny and her family, John's memory lives on. Losing a loved one is always difficult. To help understand loss, the emotional journey she has taken, and offer support for others, she put her thoughts to paper. *Always In Your Heart* is a cleverly written and beautifully illustrated book for young children and adults coping with the loss of a family member. Her hopes are that her daughter will learn who her grandfather was and how special he was to those around him.

With the help of illustrator, Jesslyn Murphy, and Ginny's husband, Scott, they self-published *Always In Your Heart* last year. To commemorate their book release, they dedicated a few copies to the Our Little Academy's Discovery Center Library at Our Little Haven.

John's legacy lives on at Our Little Haven, each year the Our Little Haven Golf Tournament is played in his name and directly supports the John R. Seiler Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship provides tuition assistance to families who attend Our Little Academy Day Treatment. Scott and Ginny Toman also share their time as members of the Haven Club Young Professionals Group at Our Little Haven.

"John was a good friend, leader, and guide for many years at Our Little Haven. We are honored to help keep the memory of his impact alive through the scholarship and proud that Ginny and Scott continue his legacy as members of the Haven Club. *Always In Your Heart* will be available for children and families to enjoy for many years." Scott Hummel, Executive Director

Loss and grief are concerns that are addressed through two of our programs, Keystone Mental Health Services and Our Little Academy. These programs provide exceptional mental health treatment for young children and their families. Our Director of Clinical Programs, Lizette Smith PhD, Licensed Psychologist, manages Keystone Mental Health Services and Our Little Academy Day Treatment is managed by Sarah Thomas MSW, LCSW.



THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS

With the current pandemic and over 500 children and families to help, we were a little nervous for what the 2020 Holiday Season would bring. Would every child be "adopted" and have gifts under the tree?

Our worries were quickly put to rest when over 90 families, friends, companies, and churches reached out to participate in our "Adopt-A-Family" program.

Every child, parent, and staff member at Our Little Haven received all the items on their wish lists. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support in such a difficult time for so many people.



Santa, Mrs. Clause, The Grinch, and the Acertus Team delivered toys, clothes, gift cards, and more! Thank you Acertus for helping over 20 families receive everything on their wish list this 2020 Holiday Season.

"My team and I put together a wish list of over 70 children's books to add to Our Little Academy's Discovery Center Library. We never expected for ALL 70 books to be donated, but there they were at our door!" said Danielle Farnam, MSW, LCSW, Day Treatment Psychotherapist, after using several of the books for group and individual therapy. "Our supporters are truly amazing. My team and I are incredibly grateful for their kindness and belief in our mission."



"If my phone wasn't ringing, the doorbell was. We had so many new and returning faces at our door dropping off gifts for the children in our foster care program. Not only did people go above and beyond for our kids, but they wanted to help the biological and foster parents with grocery and clothing gift cards" said Teresa Green, Administrative Assistant at our Taylor Family Care Center.

Thank you to Trinity Products, one of our many Adopt-A-Family supporters, for helping over 10 families this 2020 Holiday Season.

2020 was tough for many of our children and families, but because of the support of our community, together we were able to finish out the year with a lot of hope, joy, and smiles from our children and families.

YOUR LEGACY CONTINUES AT OUR LITTLE HAVEN

Dear David and Diane,

Thank you again for meeting with me at Our Little Haven recently. We are honored that you are considering making Our Little Haven a part of your legacy through a planned gift. Your support will directly impact the future of Our Little Haven and help to build a strong foundation for the futures of children we help each day.

Working with your financial advisor to find a giving strategy that fits your financial needs and reduces your taxable income makes all the difference. Thank you for including Our Little Haven in your decision-making process. We look forward to sharing the impact your future gift will make and welcoming you back soon to Our Little Haven.

Thank you again for your continued support and for making Our Little Haven a part of your financial future. Please pass along our greetings to the kids and grandkids

Chris Muñoz, MA, CFRE
Our Little Haven



Legacy Giving at Our Little Haven supports the Our Little Haven Courage Fund. This fund gives Our Little Haven the “courage” to develop and implement programs and services that focus on early intervention mental and behavioral health care for young children. Legacy Giving can take many forms that can be fit to meet your financial goals.

Gifts That Help Today remove taxable assets and give immediate tax relief. They can be appreciated stock, Donor Advised Funds, and property.

Gifts That Help Tomorrow reduce immediate taxable income, help to reduce future taxes on heirs, and ensure the future strength of Our Little Haven. These often include wills, IRA beneficiaries, and insurance beneficiaries.

Gifts that Return an Income to You are set up to provide you with a fixed income for life or a period of time while reducing your taxable assets and ensures the future strength of Our Little Haven.

If you are interested in discussing ways your Legacy can make a significant impact on the future of Our Little Haven, or to share that you or your family have already designated Our Little Haven as a beneficiary of your estate, please call Chris at (314) 669-9386 or cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org

Thank you for including Our Little Haven in your estate planning, but please remember to consult your financial planner or tax advisor to learn what is right for you and your family.

SPRINGTIME AT THE HAVEN

Springtime is upon us and the preschoolers at Our Little Academy Day Treatment are hard at work nurturing their garden with the help of Missouri Botanical Garden's Therapeutic Horticulture Program. Through our partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden, a Horticulture Specialist visits our preschoolers outside at our campus garden a few times per month. The Specialist provides creative nature-based activities to further enrich the physical, mental, and social lives of our kids.

“On garden days our kids are beside themselves with excitement. They love every second they get to spend with our beloved “garden lady”. Our collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden’s Therapeutic Horticulture Program has helped our preschoolers explore the world around them and develop a deeper sense of wonder, empathy, and responsibility.” Sarah Thomas, MSW LCSW Day Treatment Program Manager



MEET OUR HAVEN CLUB YOUNG PROFESSIONAL LEADERS

Our Haven Club Young Professionals are made up of over 30 members from all different backgrounds in the St. Louis Community. Typically our Haven Club hosts two fundraising events and one on-campus volunteer day. They are led by two leaders, Conner Caps and Kelsey Renner.



Conner Caps

Conner is in his second year of his two year term as Haven Club Leader. Originally from Springfield, MO, Conner has a background in finance and works as a Private Wealth Advisor for e3 Wealth. Along with serving as a Haven Club Leader, Conner offers his expertise to our Investment Committee.



Kelsey Renner

Kelsey, our newest leader, has been a volunteer and supporter of Our Little Haven for some time. She is an Assurance Manager for Baker Tilly and loves volunteering at our Annual Golf Tournament. We are excited to have Kelsey on board for the next two years as she brings a deep passion for helping children and their families

Interested in joining our Young Professionals? Visit ourlittlehaven.org/haven-club.

"LOOK FOR THE HELPERS"



In the early hours on Thursday February 18, 2021, Our Little Academy Day Treatment Preschool was filling with water. Freezing temperatures caused our fire suppression system to burst, gushing water into the halls at an astonishing rate.

Len Kissel was awoken by the St. Louis Police Department letting him know that water was gushing out the door cracks and streaming down Lindell Blvd. Len arrived at Our Little Haven's Program Building greeted by a sheet of ice in the back parking lot, the St. Louis Police Department, the St. Louis Fire Department, and a Fox 2 News crew.

With the help of two firefighters, Len opened the door to find almost two feet of water. Toys, chairs, books, and copy paper came floating out of Our Little Academy and onto our parking lot.

"It was quite surreal, Our Little Academy was scheduled to welcome children back after a long weekend and two snow days, now their building was engulfed in 22 inches of water"
-Len Kissel

The Our Little Academy Team has faced the past year with courage and grace; asking the families and children they serve to be ever flexible as we navigate the pandemic together. Now they ask again for patience while we face this added challenge.

Fox 2 News featured the story later that evening. The pictures shown were bleak; broken pipes, water-stained walls, soggy carpet, and ruined toys. But what shined bright, were the faces, the spirit, and our renewed commitment to the mission. When times get rough, we turn to our heroes, those whose voices give us comfort. For Our Little Haven, it was the words of Mister Rogers.

"When I was a boy, and I would see scary things on the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

For the disaster that struck Our Little Academy, we look and we see you. We see the 3rd grade class that gathered books. We see the local company that helped us rebuild the kitchen. We see the quick action of the demolition crew. We see the outpouring of support from our community as we surveyed the damage and started to rebuild.





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to receive the latest news.

Upcoming Our Little Haven Events

JULY 11		Gala The Chase Park Plaza	OCT 18		Enterprise Bank & Trust Golf Tournament Sunset Country Club
JULY 18		The Our Little Haven Show Virtual	NOV 13		Chic Boutique St. Nicholas Family Life Center
OCT 8		icon Mechanical Clay Day St. Louis Skeet & Trap	JAN 29		Haven Club Trivia Night NEW LOCATION St. Nicholas Family Life Center

