

OUR LITTLE NEWS





Fall is a season of reflection and renewal at Our Little Haven. As children return to school and families settle into new routines, our programs - Community Family Services, Our Little Academy Day Treatment, and Keystone Mental Health Services - remain steadfast in providing early intervention and compassionate care. Just as the season reminds us of change and growth, we continue to walk alongside children and families on their healing journeys. In this edition, we're honored to share more about our early intervention services and how you can join us in making a difference.

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The warmth of autumn light reflects the hope and healing found at Our Little Haven. Each season, we remain committed to walking with children and families through the critical formative years, creating brighter futures filled with trust, safety, and love.

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Visit ourlittlehaven.org homepage and click to join our newsletter!



Text [ourlittlehaven-donate](https://www.ourlittlehaven.org) to (833) 504-7815 to make a donation.

THE HAVEN COMMUNITY

We believe that when we're born, God gives us a **Cookie Jar** and with each positive experience – every hug, each lesson learned, every positive interaction – we get a cookie in our Cookie Jar.

In the earliest years of life, that jar is wide open. It's the easiest time to fill with the building blocks of emotional health and resilience. But for many of the children and families we serve, that process has been disrupted. Trauma, instability, and loss may have left their jars far too empty.

As children grow, the lid begins to tighten. Life gets more complex, and it becomes harder - though never impossible - to add those same kinds of cookies. That's why early intervention matters. Through our services – we provide the support, tools, and care to fill them, as well as give them the recipe to make their own cookies for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for helping us fill these **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

- P. Scott Hummel, MSW, PhD (HON)**
Executive Director
- Kathleen Hummel, MSW, PhD (HON)**
Therapeutic Director Emerita
- Michael P. Bahlinger**
Director of Finance & Operations
- Dr. Lizette Smith, PhD**
Director of Clinical Programs
- Brittany Milford**
Director of Development
- William Newbold**
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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Together, We Keep Moving Forward

This fall, we reflect with gratitude on the incredible difference your support makes at Our Little Haven. Thanks to you, our programs - Keystone Mental Health Services, Our Little Academy Day Treatment, and Community Family Services - are thriving and transforming lives through early intervention and compassionate care during the critical formative years.

This issue celebrates the impact you’ve made possible and highlights the many ways you can continue to help. From joining us at events like Chic Boutiques, to exploring new program overview videos by scanning the QR codes on the program page, we invite you to see firsthand how your partnership fuels healing and hope.

Every milestone, every smile, every step forward begins with you. Thank you for walking with us and for being such an essential part of our community.



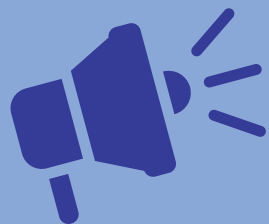
SAVE THE DATE:
OLH CHIC BOUTIQUES
Saturday, November 22, 2025

Shop, Sip, and Celebrate – Honoring 20 Years of Our Little Academy

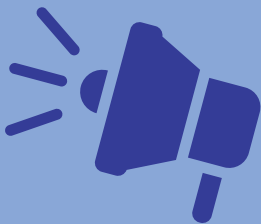
Mark your calendars for a festive and unforgettable day of boutique holiday shopping, mimosas, lunch, and community support. Chic Boutiques returns this November to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Our Little Academy Day Treatment, our program that has helped young children and their families build bright futures through early intervention and compassionate care. This milestone year brings together local vendors, unique finds, and a community united in support of children and families at Our Little Haven.



REGISTER ONLINE AT:
[OURLITTLEHAVEN.ORG/
CHICBOUTIQUES/](https://ourlittlehaven.org/chicboutiques/)

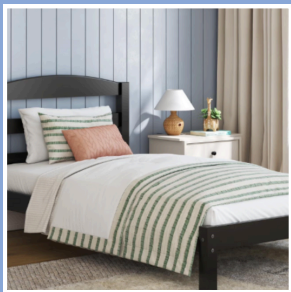


Supporter Shoutouts



**Computer
St. Louis**

OLH’s New IT
provider



**Farmers
Insurance**

In-kind donation
of a bed for client
in need



**USI Insurance
Services**

On-site
“Done in a Day”
volunteering



PFI InStore

In-kind donation of
OLH branded ice
barrels for events



**Katey Charles
Communications**

Donation of our email
marketing software
and ongoing support



**OLH Golf
Sponsors**

New and returning
sponsors for our 2025
Golf Tournament

Our Services, Our Impact

Early intervention changes everything, here's how it's making a difference every day

Together, our three core programs form the foundation of our work and demonstrate the life-changing impact of comprehensive care and support during the critical formative years.

Keystone Mental Health Services



The start of a new school year can bring both excitement and anxiety. For some children, it means reconnecting with friends and learning new skills; for others, it magnifies challenges with for example, attention, social skills, or emotional regulation. At Keystone Mental Health Services, our clinicians provide a safe space for children and their families to manage these challenges through appropriate therapies, such as play therapy and family therapy, or psychological evaluations and psychiatric support. With this care, children learn to manage anxiety, strengthen resilience, and build confidence in the classroom and at home. The impact reaches beyond the child - families gain healthier ways to support their children, and teachers are better equipped to meet student needs. Back-to-school season reminds us of the vital role early intervention plays in helping children navigate change and thrive.

[Click here to watch our Keystone Program Overview Video](#)

Our Little Academy Day Treatment (OLA)



Recently we had a client who struggled with debilitating separation anxiety. Staff would have to greet our young client in the parking lot and coax him into the building. He would cling to his parent and begin screaming, crying, and hitting the second he saw our front door. It would take hours for him to recover and agree to participate in the program - keeping him from engaging in the services he badly needed. After collaboration with the family, we created a plan. Together we created a specific morning routine for our client. The staff crafted a custom social story to help our client decrease stress and better understand his morning routine. The staff created a morning routine chart the client could review in the car on the way to treatment. There were successes and setbacks, but within a few weeks our client was arriving with smiles every morning. He could give a hug, say goodbye, and walk himself to his classroom. He felt proud and safe. Sometimes walking through the door is a success worth celebrating.

[Click here to watch our OLA Program Overview Video](#)

Community Family Services (CFS)



When a young child entered foster care with no known relatives, CFS's Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS) team immediately began the process of uncovering family connections. Within days, they identified more than 20 potential relatives and reached out to each one. After careful screening and conversations, a maternal aunt came forward, eager to provide a safe and loving home. Our DORS team guided her through background checks, paperwork, and preparation so she could be ready to care for her niece. Instead of remaining in foster care, the child was able to reunite with family and begin healing surrounded by familiar love. This outcome reflects the heart of CFS, restoring family connections, guiding permanency, and creating stability for children in uncertain times.



Nurse Shari Sullivan, RN, BSN, our Coordinator of Medical Services, works to ensure children in foster care receive the medical, dental, and developmental care they need. She is often the steady guide for families navigating an overwhelming system, closing the gaps in care that foster children so frequently face. She approaches every child and family with dignity, respect, and a commitment to making sure no one feels alone in the process.

[Click here to watch our CFS Program Overview Video](#)

Behind the Scenes: Sharing Our Story on Film



This year, Our Little Haven partnered with Jesse Adam Creative for a three-day video shoot showcasing our programs and mission. From Keystone to Our Little Academy to Community Family Services, the footage captured the everyday moments of care and connection that define our work. We're grateful to Jesse and his team for highlighting both the professionalism of our staff and the heart behind our mission. The videos, linked throughout this page, offer a powerful way to see the impact of your generosity.



[Click here to watch our Full OLH Overview Video](#)



Under the Big Top and Beyond Celebrating Our Mission, Together

At Our Little Haven, events are more than fundraisers - they're celebrations of community, connection, and the mission we share. This spring, nearly 400 guests gathered for Under the Big Top: Our Little Haven's Greatest Show, a gala filled with fun, excitement, and inspiration. From dazzling circus-themed moments to heartfelt stories of impact, it was an unforgettable evening in support of the children and families we serve.

[Click here](#) to watch the highlight video and relive the magic!

In August, our Golf Tournament at Sunset Country Club brought together supporters for a day of friendly competition, camaraderie, and generosity. Both events remind us how powerful it is to come together, not only to raise critical funds, but also to celebrate the hope and healing that begins at Our Little Haven.

We can't wait to share even more opportunities to connect in the year ahead. Mark your calendars for March 28, 2026, when we'll gather at the St. Louis Science Center for OLH's Night of Possibility. It promises to be another inspiring evening filled with joy, community, and support for the children who need us most.



Supporting OLH: Ways to Give & Get Involved

Make a Gift



Make a donation online or sign up for monthly giving by clicking the orange "Donate Now" button, or mail a check to OLH at PO Box 23010 St. Louis. MO 63156-3010 to support our program services.

Program Wish List & Gift Cards



Our team identifies specific items needed to better serve children and families. Each program has an online registry linked to our website, making it easy to contribute directly. Gift cards donations also help families year-round.

Become a Fundraiser



Through our online donation page, donors can create their own personal fundraising page to raise funds with family, friends, or colleagues for special occasions, team-building, or community challenges.

Done-in-a-Day Volunteer Program



Groups of 5-15 volunteers can spend a half or full day on our campus tackling important but simple projects that enhance our space for children and families. Activities include landscaping, maintenance, and organizing.

Email **Brittany** at bmilford@ourlittlehaven.org if interested.

Our Little Haven thrives thanks to the generosity of our community. Have an idea for a group activity, corporate give-back day, supply drive, or another creative way to support OLH? We're excited to brainstorm and build it with you!

Holiday Hugs for the Haven

*Adopt a Family
this Holiday Season*



Bring holiday joy to children and families through Holiday Hugs for the Haven's Adopt a Family program.

Your generosity ensures holiday wishes are granted and families feel the love of our community.

We're proud to partner again with One Heart Family Ministries, founded by Emily Nienhuis, a previous Our Little Haven volunteer and staff member, to extend this impact to even more foster children and families.

Sign up using our website. After registering, our Development team will match you with a family and provide their Wish List and drop-off details. Thank you for helping us make the holidays brighter, one family at a time.

Visit ourlittlehaven.org/adopt-a-family/ to sign up!

Our Little Haven Volunteer Leadership

Guiding Our Mission, Strengthening Our Future

At Our Little Haven, leadership extends far beyond our staff. We are grateful for the many volunteers who dedicate their time, talent, and expertise to ensure our mission thrives. Together, our volunteer leaders provide governance, guidance, and generosity, keeping us accountable to the children and families we serve.

Executive Board of Directors

Our governing body, the Executive Board of Directors, carries the responsibility of overseeing the financial, administrative, and legal direction of Our Little Haven. Their stewardship ensures that every decision is rooted in sustainability, integrity, and alignment with our mission to provide early intervention and compassionate care.



Our Executive Board of Directors provides steadfast leadership and oversight, working closely with Our Little Haven's administrative team to ensure strong governance and a clear path forward for our mission.

Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees is a diverse group of supporters and community leaders who bring their expertise, networks, and passion for service to Our Little Haven. Trustees represent a wide range of industries and areas of expertise. This breadth of experience strengthens our organization and ensures that our mission is supported from many angles.

Trustees serve as advisors, advocates, and ambassadors, helping to amplify Our Little Haven's story and extend our reach. Their work includes opening doors to new community connections, championing fundraising initiatives, and lending their voices to raise awareness about the importance of early intervention for children and families.

While the Executive Board of Directors focuses on governance, the Trustees create momentum through relationships and advocacy. Together, they embody the belief that it takes a community to care for children well—and they bring that community to life through their ongoing commitment, generosity, and leadership.

Trustee Committees

Development Committee

Launched this year as part of the Board of Trustees, the Development Committee is led by Director of Development Brittany Milford. The committee helps drive fundraising and engagement priorities, working closely with staff to strengthen donor stewardship, expand outreach, and create new opportunities for community support. Already, the committee has played a key role in growing sponsorships, launching campaigns, and inspiring broader participation in our mission.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee provides expertise in financial oversight, ensuring that Our Little Haven's endowment and other invested funds are managed wisely. Their guidance helps safeguard our long-term sustainability so that we can continue serving children and families well into the future.

Compensation & Audit Committee

This committee offers critical oversight to uphold accountability and transparency. By reviewing financial audits, compensation policies, and organizational practices, the committee strengthens trust among our staff, donors, and community partners.

Thank you to our 60+ volunteer leaders who give their time and talents to Our Little Haven. Your leadership makes healing possible.

Rooted in Friendship, Growing Through Community



When Our Little Haven first opened its doors in 1993, the seeds of our mission were planted not only by our founders, Scott and Kathleen

Hummel, but also by the friends who stood beside them. Many of those original supporters came from relationships built during their time at Rockhurst University, where lifelong connections and a spirit of service took root. Those



friendships, and the shared commitment to making a difference, became the foundation for Our Little Haven's earliest days.

This summer, we were reminded of those beginnings at our annual Golf Tournament, where many Rockhurst alumni once again gathered in support of our mission. Seeing those familiar faces, alongside new friends who have joined us over the years, highlighted the incredible journey of growth we've experienced together.

What began with a small group of passionate supporters has blossomed into a wide-reaching community across St. Louis. We are deeply grateful for every person who has walked with us on this journey - from those who stood with us in 1993 to those who are just learning about Our Little Haven today. Together, you have built and sustained a community of care that continues to change lives.



Rockhurst connections and longtime friends came together at our 2025 Golf Tournament, continuing the tradition of support that has carried Our Little Haven forward for more than three decades.



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(833) 504-7815 to make a donation.

Visit ourlittlehaven.org to donate,
sign up for monthly giving, and
subscribe to our e-newsletter!



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 22ND, 2025

CHIC BOUTIQUES

St. Nicholas Family Life Center

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

HOLIDAY HUGS FOR THE HAVEN

Our Little Haven

MARCH 28, 2026

2026 GALA - OLH'S NIGHT OF POSSIBILITY

St. Louis Science Center



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www.ourlittlehaven.org ~ bmilford@ourlittlehaven.org