

OUR LITTLE NEWS



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.

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Spring is a season of growth and new beginnings at Our Little Haven. As the days grow longer and signs of new life emerge, our programs - Keystone Mental Health Services, Our Little Academy Day Treatment, and Community Family Services - continue to provide early intervention and compassionate care to children and families. Just as spring represents renewal and possibility, we remain committed to walking alongside those we serve on their healing journeys. In this edition, we're honored to share stories of impact and ways you can be part of the hope unfolding every day at Our Little Haven.

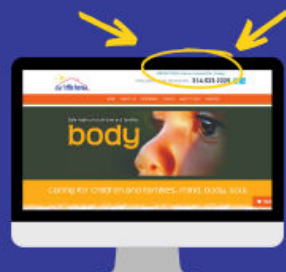
CONTENTS ON THE COVER

A simple moment - watering, nurturing, growing - reflects the heart of Our Little Haven's work. Just as a garden needs care, patience, and the right support to thrive, so do the children and families we serve.

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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.

Looking Ahead with Hope

Springtime is when growth becomes visible, possibilities take shape, and hope feels closer than ever.

At Our Little Haven, we are experiencing that same sense of renewal. This spring, we are actively engaged in a strategic planning process that will guide the future of our organization - ensuring that we continue to meet the evolving needs of children and families in our community with excellence, intention, and impact.

As we look ahead, we are also excited to share a glimpse of what's to come: a new website that will better tell our story, highlight our programs, and connect our community more deeply to the healing work happening every day at Our Little Haven.

While much is evolving, one thing remains constant, our unwavering commitment to early intervention and to the children and families we serve.

Because of you, healing continues.



NIGHT OF POSSIBILITY: A GALA TO REMEMBER

On March 28, our community gathered at the Saint Louis Science Center for an unforgettable evening - Our Little Haven's Night of Possibility.

From the moment guests entered the "Moments of Discovery" cocktail hour to the inspiring program in Boeing Hall and the high-energy after party, the night was filled with connection, generosity, and hope.

Our Night of Possibility Gala was a beautiful reflection of what can happen when a community comes together with a shared purpose. The spirit of the evening reflected the hope, light, and possibility that each of you brings to our mission.

One guest shared that the experience felt like stepping back in time, capturing the childlike wonder and curiosity they remembered from visiting the Science Center growing up. That sense of discovery, imagination, and joy - the very feeling the Science Center is designed to inspire - was alive throughout the night, reminding us all of the power of possibility when we see the world through a child's eyes.

Because of our supporters, sponsors, guests, vendors, staff, and volunteers, this evening was more than an event. It was a celebration of healing, and the power of community.

Every act of generosity helps ensure that children and families in our community have access to the care, support, and early intervention they need to thrive. Together, we are creating a path forward - one filled with safety, stability, and opportunity.

We are so grateful to everyone who made this night possible. Your support is what allows us to continue this important work.

[CLICK HERE](#) to relive the evening!

Save the Date: Join us on April 10, 2027 at Anheuser-Busch Brewery for our next Gala!



SUPPORTING OUR LITTLE HAVEN: WHY WE SERVE. WHY WE GIVE.

Behind every child and family we serve is a community of individuals who choose to show up with their time, their hearts, and their resources. We are honored to highlight two perspectives that make our mission possible: service and giving. Through their own words, members of our community share why they remain committed to Our Little Haven, and the impact they've experienced along the way.

Why I Serve: *Matt Stroble, Board of Trustees*

Q: Why do you believe Our Little Haven's Mission matters in our community right now?

A: Mary and I have three grandsons under the age of five, which serves as a constant reminder of how easy it is to forget the challenges of raising young children. The early years - marked by attachment, engagement, and a nurturing environment - are critically important. Our Little Haven helps provide that foundation for families who may be facing hardships we cannot fully understand. Supporting those in need is a value instilled in me by my parents, and it is one I strive to continue.

Q: What keeps you engaged and committed to serving Our Little Haven today?

A: The challenges surrounding early childhood development are ongoing and significant. I have seen friends navigate these challenges with access to resources, and I have also seen families who are not as fortunate. Those families need a safe and supportive place to turn. It is not a problem we can simply expect others to solve. Remaining involved allows me to contribute, even in a small way, toward making a meaningful difference.

Q: What does it look like to model service for the next generation?

A: Our parents, both 95 years old and married for 73 years, continue to inspire us through their example of love, commitment, and service. My father worked tirelessly to provide for our family, while my mother devoted herself to raising five children. Despite those responsibilities, they remained actively involved in supporting others. Their example left a lasting impression. We have always felt a responsibility to carry forward the values they instilled in us. Our two daughters have witnessed that example through both their grandparents and us, and today they are involved with Our Little Haven as well. The importance of giving back and staying engaged has clearly been passed on.

Q: What do you hope your family's involvement represents to others?

A: Our Little Haven is fortunate to have multi-generational support - from the founding Rockhurst classmates and their families to those who became involved in later years. That continuity of commitment is what distinguishes OLH as more than a charity; it is truly a mission sustained across generations.

Q: What would you say to someone considering getting involved with Our Little Haven?

A: I would encourage anyone interested to learn more by visiting the organization's website, speaking with Brittany, Scott, or others who are involved, and most importantly, visiting the Haven in person. Experiencing the mission firsthand leaves a lasting impression. I am confident that those who do will feel inspired to become part of the OLH family.



Why I Give: *Ken & Roxann Nugent*

Q: What inspired your first gift to Our Little Haven?

A: While we cannot recall exactly how we first discovered Our Little Haven, we continue to support the organization because of the incredible staff and the comprehensive way they address the needs of every individual, child, and family.

Q: What would you share with others thinking about giving?

A: We tell others about Our Little Haven because we feel our donations help keep families together, stronger, and give them hope for a better future.



Stories of Impact

The impact of Our Little Haven is best understood through the voices of those we serve. The following reflections come directly from clients and families served through Our Little Academy Day Treatment and Keystone Mental Health Services, as well as case managers who our Community Family Services team supports in caring for foster children and families.

Each story is a glimpse into what happens when early intervention, compassionate care, and a dedicated community come together - creating real change in the lives of children and families.

Keystone Mental Health Services

Our outpatient mental health practice providing assessment, evaluation, treatment, and community consultation.

"I love that my child's assessment results are explained to us in a way we can understand and use them."

"I like that we are included in my child's treatment plans from start to finish!"

"My clinician has stuck with my son through thick and thin."

"I feel like they really care about us getting better."

"My therapist has never given up on me. She listens, talks, and helps."

"Coming to Keystone is the highlight of my child's day; my child loves coming here!"

Through therapy, evaluation, and family support, Keystone helps children decrease symptoms and increase functioning, creating a foundation for lifelong wellbeing.

Our Little Academy Day Treatment

Our full-day therapeutic program for children ages 3-5 unable to participate in traditional preschool or daycare due to behavioral or emotional challenges.

"My child used to dread going to school and now has such a strong and positive relationship with it. At home he is so much better expressing his frustrations verbally rather than physically."

"We feel so blessed to have found OLA, which has offered our child an overwhelming amount of support including occupational therapy, psychiatry, and of course the daily school supports. We are so fortunate to have found this incredible place and this incredible team."

"The staff build such trusting bonds with caregivers and the kids. The staff are unshakably supportive to families and kids."

"I can't believe a resource like this exists. It dramatically improved the lives of everyone in our family."

With individualized care and a 1-to-2 therapist-to-child ratio, children gain the skills they need to succeed both in school and in life.

Community Family Services

Serving the foster care and adoption community through Coordination of Medical Services (COMS) and Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS).

Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS)

"DORS has located relatives and even close family friends who have become placements or supports for our kiddos. DORS has been able to do deep dives into relative finding that has helped us expand the children's family connections as well as provided the parents with additional support. Diligent searches has given us an opportunity focus on crisis and provided us with support just as much as it has for our families. This program is meeting a need that case management struggles with. I am so grateful for you all!!"

"DORS was able to locate a great aunt for a child who had not had regular visits with family in so long. They began to have monthly visits and the child even had a birthday party for the first time in years that was thrown by his great aunt."

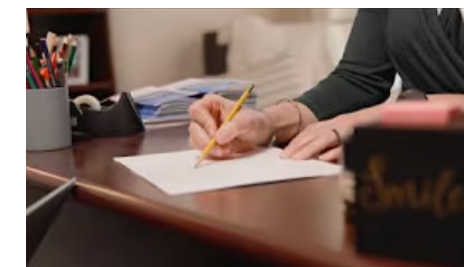
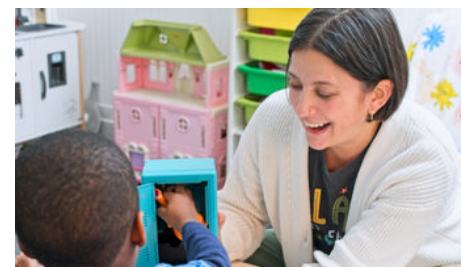
Coordination of Medical Services (COMS)

"When I was placing a child diagnosed with a complex medical condition in a foster home, the foster family had so much help during his first year of life, ensuring he was getting all his appointments scheduled and possible services explored. The foster parent was so grateful to have an extra resource at appointments and helping coordinate behind the scenes as there was so much to take in and learn."

"The placement provider has become much more involved in the children's medical upkeep and overall health. She pays closer attention to the small details now. She provides updates proactively, and I know she understands so much more about these children than when we first started. Honestly, so do I - because of COMS."

By partnering with case managers and families, Community Family Services creates stability, connection, and clarity during times of uncertainty.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch "Early Intervention Changes Everything | Stories of Healing at Our Little Haven" and see the impact your support makes possible.



Supporting Our Little Haven: Ways to Give & Get Involved

Our Little Haven continues to thrive because of the support of our community, and there are so many ways to get involved. Whether you choose to give, volunteer, or engage your network, your involvement helps create a safe, healing environment where children can thrive.

Make a Gift

Your financial support directly sustains our programs and ensures children and families have access to critical early intervention services.

Make a one-time or recurring gift online by visiting our website and clicking "Donate Now," or mail a check to: PO Box 23010, St. Louis, MO 63156-3010

Support Through Our Wish Lists

Each of our programs maintains a curated list of items that enhance daily care and therapeutic services. These registries are available on our website, making it easy to give tangible items that meet real, immediate needs. Visit ourlittlehaven.org/wish-list/ to learn more.

Gift cards are also incredibly impactful, providing flexibility to support families throughout the year.

Start a Fundraiser

Turn your network into a force for good. Whether you're celebrating a birthday, hosting an event, or organizing a workplace initiative, you can create a personalized fundraising page to support Our Little Haven and invite others to join you in making a difference. Contact Brittany at bmilford@ourlittlehaven.org to set up your personal fundraising page.



Volunteer as a Group

Our Done-in-a-Day volunteer opportunities are perfect for groups looking to give back together. Teams of 5-15 can spend a half or full day on campus completing projects that enhance our space - such as organizing, maintenance, or seasonal projects. Contact Brittany at bmilford@ourlittlehaven.org to learn more.



Garden Club Opportunity

We are currently seeking a garden club or volunteer group to partner with us on a monthly basis to help maintain and beautify our campus grounds. This is a unique opportunity to create a welcoming, peaceful environment for the children and families we serve. Contact Brittany at bmilford@ourlittlehaven.org if interested.



Let's Build Something Together

Our Little Haven is so grateful for our community that shows up in creative and generous ways. If you have an idea - whether it's a corporate give-back day, supply drive, or new way to get involved - we would love to partner with you! Reach out to Brittany at bmilford@ourlittlehaven.org.

Mental Health Month

May is Mental Health Month.

It's time to reflect, raise awareness, and consider what it means to truly feel well. This year's theme, "More Good Days, Together," invites us to ask: What does a "good" day look like? For a child, it might mean feeling safe, expressing emotions, or connecting with others. For families, it might mean fewer struggles and more moments of peace.



But for many of the children and families we serve, good days don't come easily. Mental health challenges can show up early through big emotions, anxiety, behavioral struggles, or difficulty in relationships. Without support, even small moments can feel overwhelming.

Mental health is not meant to be navigated alone. It takes families, caregivers, clinicians, educators, and a community of support to recognize when a child is struggling and respond with care. When we increase awareness, we reduce stigma and create space for more open, supportive conversations.

Together, we can notice the signs, take the first step, and connect children and families to the support they need, when they need it most. Because when we do, we create the opportunity for many more good days ahead. More good days are possible, and they start with all of us, together.

Visit <https://mhanational.org/mental-health-month/> to learn more.



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Text **ourlittlehaven-donate** to
(833) 504-7815 to make a donation.

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



SCAN HERE TO DONATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Kick off the fall with connection,
competition, and camaraderie at our annual:*

**ICON MECHANICAL CLAY DAY
OCTOBER 2ND, 2026**

St. Louis Skeet & Trap

*We're taking our annual golf tournament to
a new course this year:*

**OLH GOLF TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 5TH, 2026**

Meadowbrook County Club

*We are excited to introduce a fresh take on
one of our favorite events! This year,
Chic Boutiques evolves into:*

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
NOVEMBER 21ST, 2026**

St. Nicholas Family Life Center

*Save the date for an unforgettable evening
celebrating community and impact:*

**2027 Our Little Haven Gala
APRIL 10TH, 2027**

Anheuser-Busch Brewery



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