

Dear Friend and Supporter,

We are calling this our Spring-Into-Action Appeal Newsletter!

In an effort to keep costs down, we are not mailing a separate appeal letter at this time but will greatly appreciate your consideration of a gift now. (A reply envelope is enclosed in this newsletter.)

Making a gift to Caring Solutions makes a much-needed funding difference that in turn makes a difference in the lives of the children and adults with developmental disabilities in our care!

Inside this issue you will see some of the needs and costs that are only covered by gift dollars.

You will also see some of the individuals your support impacts and read of their recent accomplishments. It was so good to get back to the happy occasion of presenting awards to them in their annual achievement ceremony.

Cheers and applause were given to each one who came forward to accept a certificate. Joyful music was played and the evening concluded with more music and dancing which is always a favorite--no matter if it's with assistance or from a wheelchair!

They celebrated their abilities!

THANK YOU for helping Caring Solutions make their celebrations possible throughout the year!



With much gratitude,

Shannan French
Executive Director

P.S. You may wish to make your gift in honor or memory of a loved one for their birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day or other special occasions. We will be happy to send a notification to those you designate. Thank you again for being part of Caring Solutions!



Thrilled to be honored at the achievement ceremony, April was recognized for learning to wash her dishes and put her clothes away in her dresser.

Here are just a few of the many accomplishments mentioned at the awards ceremony. (More on page 3 with photos!)

Walking with forearm crutches again

Bowling a 132!

Preparing a meal and setting the table

Winning at playing pool against the staff!

Making healthier eating choices and making it a lifestyle

Making their own lunches

Learning to play guitar from the computer

Exercising and gaining strength

Eating with utensils

Learning to use technological and adaptive equipment

Helping with laundry, selecting clothes to wear and dressing themselves

Decorating their room and keeping organized

Being courteous to others in the community



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HOW TO REACH CARING SOLUTIONS

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Web: caringsolutions.org

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St. Louis, MO 63146

EIN: 03-0374478

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



How YOUR Gift Dollars Make a Difference

Caring Solutions receives a designated amount of funding specific to the unique needs of each of the individuals with developmental disabilities approved to receive services through the Department of Mental Health. (averaging 100 served annually).

Still, for most there is a significant shortfall in many areas deemed vital - some even mandatory - for Caring Solutions to provide and not funded by any other source then charitable financial support.

When you give, your donation is helping to meet the shortfall and the following special needs:

START-UP EXPENSES to begin providing services for an individual averages **\$2-\$3,000**

TRAINING is ongoing for our employees and Caring Solutions excels at providing life-saving training and other critical curriculum and certification. Much of the expenses are not reimbursed—even that which is required. Paying the employees for hours in training plus the costs associated with the training averages **\$1,200 monthly**

NURSING STAFF are absolutely essential with the high needs of the individuals served, but costs are only reimbursed at approximately 45% for an average deficit of **\$10,000 monthly**

MOVING EXPENSES for incoming and existing clients averages **\$1,000 monthly**

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS in the homes sites plus the Valentine Place therapeutic respite home averages **\$900 monthly**

MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VISION basic costs are often only partially covered and specialty services such as sedation for dental services are often required but not funded and can cost **\$900-\$1,300**. Vision needs and glasses expense averages **\$90-\$300**

RENT/UTILITIES/FOOD/PERSONAL NECESSITIES can only be partially covered for those who qualify for monthly Supplemental Security Income which is only \$800-\$1,000 but several do not even receive this SSI funding

NEW AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS such as expansion of crisis and respite services are totally dependent on gift dollars!

Remember Caring Solutions In Your Will And Living Trust

Proud of Their Accomplishments!



1 Sheila was recognized for being active and going out more into the community including attending Prom! In this photo, she was happy to get to go out to eat for her birthday!

3 Jim was recognized as a hospitality hero at Holiday Inn Express.

4 Barbara and Felita were recognized for their several years of employment at the sheltered workshop. Their housemate Barbara was recognized for her active participation in her planning meeting and writing her own goals.

2 Michael was recognized for learning the difference between disposing items in the regular trash can and recycling. His impaired vision and lack of hearing can make this task more challenging. Michael and his host family staff, Sheila Hunter, enjoy going to concerts and shows together. Sheila was Michael's teacher several years ago in the Special School District. Sheila finds it especially rewarding to have re-connected with Michael and to be able to teach him now in his daily living in her home!

5 Becky loves going to the park and swinging on the all-abilities swing. She was recognized for interacting more with others and her willingness to try new activities.

6 Solomon and Matt were recognized for adjusting to their new home and attending their day program!

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FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Give STL Day sponsored by the St. Louis Community Foundation is **May 5, 2022**. Make your gift through the 5th at **GiveSTLday.org** *Online gifts directly to Caring Solutions are welcome throughout the year at caringsolutions.org.*

The Reggie Thorpe Memorial Golf Tournament for Caring Solutions at The Legends Country Club on **May 23, 2022**.

Title Sponsors: Excel Orthopedics, Alchemy, and Richard Kendrick. Major Sponsor: Edward Jones. The tournament is filling up quickly! Call us today at 314-942-7350 for registration and sponsorship opportunities or go to our website and click on "Events".

Orlando Resort Raffle - Win a week's stay in a 2BR Villa at Orange Lake Resort! Purchase tickets for only \$50 each at: **caring2022golf.givesmart.com**. Drawing will be **Tuesday, May 24th**. (You can bid on the auction items on the website, too!)

Plan now to join us on **Sunday, October 16, 2022** for **Caring Solutions 20th Anniversary Celebration!** at The Foundry Art Centre on Historic Main Street in St. Charles. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks while perusing silent auction items. Live auction and program to follow. *More details to come including registration and sponsor opportunities.*



Know someone who would be interested in working for Caring Solutions?

Please let them know we are hiring and would love to hear from them! 314-942-7350
More info also at caringsolutions.org (Click on "Jobs")

Scan the QR code with your phones camera to reach our website



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