

Excel Orthopedics & Alchemy

Present

Caring Solutions Golf Tournament

Monday, May 24, 2021 at The Legends

Lunch provided by Texas Roadhouse
Appetizers and drinks on the patio
following play!

Sign up online at www.caringsolutions.org

Don't golf? You can still participate in our
Online Auction and Orlando Resort Raffle!

Details at: <https://caring2021golf.givesmart.com>



20th Anniversary GALA Celebration!

September 25, 2021

Purser Center at Logan University

Silent & LIVE Auctions

Entertainment provided by
The Ralph Butler Band



Discovering Abilities


Caring Solutions
caringsolutions.org

Caring Solutions designs and provides services to meet the unique needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, giving them the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives.

Spring 2021

Faced with Challenges, Caring Solutions Still Delivers

Like all of America and the world, Caring Solutions has had to deal with the pandemic over the past 12 months. Not an easy task when serving 100 children and adults with varying degrees of developmental disabilities in over 50 community-based home settings throughout the St. Louis region and surrounding Missouri counties.

Add to that finding and training direct care staff to provide most of those individuals with 24-hour care and assistance. Caring Solutions employs more than 250 people.

“It can be a challenge anytime but definitely since March of 2020 it has been an extra challenge,” said Shannan French, executive director. “We are pleased with our staff who have often gone above and beyond.”

While there were some staff and clients who did contract the virus, most were asymptomatic or had only minor symptoms. Sadly, Caring Solutions did lose a long-term member of our staff to the virus.

“Barbara Shipp was one of our staff who had assisted Tami and Margot in their home and in the community for many years—decades! She was a wonderful person. It was heartbreaking for Caring Solutions and for all who knew Barb. We miss her.”



Patricia “Tish” Hendren has been an employee of Caring Solutions for nearly 20 years. When her husband Terry passed away in October, she designated that memorials go to provide a fun day of fishing. It was one of Terry’s favorite pastimes and was a much-needed and fun outing recently for Caring Solutions staff and residents! *[Gifts in honor or memory of loved ones are welcomed and appreciated. We can also supply remittance envelopes like the one in this newsletter.]*

“Finding and keeping good staff can be very challenging, especially over the past year,” said Guankita Henry, assistant executive director. “Caring Solutions provides ongoing training, certifications and support for employees. We truly do care about them.”

Caring Solutions is proud of our staff who have kept those in our care encouraged, safe, engaged and well. If you or someone you know is interested in being part of the Caring Solutions’ team, contact us at (314) 942-7350.

Staff and clients line up for their vaccinations in the Caring Solutions’ office.



In This Issue

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St. Louis Children's Hospital
and Caring Solutions

Assuring the Future

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Preparing to Celebrate
20 Years of Caring Solutions

Mark Your Calendar!

May 6
Give STL Day

Find Caring Solutions on
GiveSTLDay.org
You can give and even
create your own giving page

May 24
**Caring Solutions
Golf Tournament**

Online Auction &
Resort Drawing (see back page)

September 25
**20th Anniversary
GALA Celebration**



Board of Directors

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Greg Beasley | Joyce Eisel |
| Pearson Buell | John Hutchens |
| Donald Buckner | Joseph Ilges |
| Michael Corry | Zac Loraine |
| DeAnna Cottrell | Mike Mertens |
| William Couch | Sarah McGough |
| Amy Davis | James Tarter |

Advisory Council

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Priscilla Bass Timmerberg | Rick Jones |
| Justen Beasley | Tom Kraatz |
| Angelia Bunch | Rebecca Miedema |
| Dale Chamberlain | Rick Nagle |
| Cherie Dobbs | Mark Palmer |
| Angela Dorn | Ted Ruzicka |
| Rene Duckworth | Darlene Skaggs |
| Tom Earll | Carol Teaney |
| Judy Faires | Tom Tenhula |
| Mark Felten | Trudy Busch Valentine |
| Jeanne Gladden | Todd Watts |
| Kirby Gould | Dennis Woldum |
| Frank Haase | Jim Zimmerman |
| Mike Hogan | Mallory Zota |
| David Hotle | |

Shannan French - Executive Director
Madi Haw - Founder

HOW TO REACH CARING SOLUTIONS

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May 24th Golf Tournament In Memory of Reggie Thorpe

Caring Solutions lost a good friend when Reggie Thorpe passed away on April 11th.

Reggie had first served for five years as an Advisory Council member and more recently on the Board of Directors and was active on the development committee. He was on the golf committee for the past eight years and is probably best known for coordinating our annual golf tournament since 2014 with his business Event Management Direct.



Reggie always went the extra mile by giving his time, expertise, financial support and many in-kind gifts to Caring Solutions. He kept us on track in tournament planning. We will miss him greatly not only with this year's tournament but as the caring and giving individual he was. Reggie believed in Caring Solutions' mission and was always pleased to hear of the accomplishments of the residents and staff.

Caring Solutions would especially appreciate support for this year's tournament on May 24th at The Legends that will be in honor and memory of Reggie.

Contact us today to sign-up or go to our website. You don't have to be a golfer to participate in our online auction as part of the tournament. Check out the auction items at: caring2021golf.givesmart.com You can also purchase chances to win a week's stay in an Orlando resort villa. Drawing on May 25th.

**Working Together for Children with Special Needs
St. Louis Children's Hospital & Caring Solutions**

It started with a chance meeting when working out at the gym. Former Caring Solutions Board President David Hotle was telling John O'Connell about Caring Solutions and its Valentine Place therapeutic respite home. John is active on the hospital, foundation, and research boards of St. Louis Children's Hospital.

"David started telling me about Caring Solutions and I thought it sounded fantastic. I imagined the need, but I had no idea there was an organization doing such a great job fulfilling it," O'Connell said. He had heard many times about how there would often be no place for hospital patients—those with developmental and behavioral needs-- to go once their medical needs for being hospitalized had been addressed. Individuals could be "stuck" in the hospital for weeks and months. So after he heard David talk about Caring Solutions and specifically Valentine Place, John asked if there was some potential for a joint solution.

The first former patient from Children's Hospital is now being served at Caring Solutions Valentine Place. Landre Kingdon with Children's Hospital has helped facilitate the process.



"What you guys do, you do very well," Kingdon said. "The question now is so how do we continue to do it well and how can we do it more."

Caring Solutions continues to look for a way to do more. A second therapeutic respite home is being planned for 2022 in Jefferson County. Promise Community Homes (formerly Rainbow Village) will build the home and services are to be delivered by Caring Solutions.

In our last newsletter where we featured Al and his mother on the cover, we mentioned a video on our website home page. Al was first served in our Valentine Place therapeutic respite home and is still receiving services. Go to caringsolutions.org and click on "Al's Story" to see this 6-minute video. Al's story is similar to many families who have children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Stuart Zimmerman: A Legacy of Giving and Caring Solutions

By Madi Hawn, Founder and former CEO of Caring Solutions

Our dear friend and wonderful supporter of Caring Solutions, Stuart Zimmerman, passed away September 12, 2020. Stuart was first introduced to me in the 90s by the late Christopher M. Smith when I was the Executive Director at NBA Gateways. Chris told me “You NEED Stuart”. He was so right. Stuart taught us how to combine compassion for the mission with prudent financial management. (He wanted me to save the stamp rather than sending him a thank you letter.)

From 2001 to 2004, Stuart served on the founding board for Caring Solutions. He was instrumental in getting Caring Solutions off to a good start and told me we needed to raise \$50,000 before we could serve even a single client. But he didn't just say this, he worked very hard to help us reach that goal. He sent letters to over 100 of his friends and acquaintances asking for help with start-up funds for this new charitable organization. He and his wife, Kathy, didn't hesitate to introduce Caring Solutions to many people who remain involved with Caring Solutions to this day. Stuart helped us through some really rough times—even giving us loans so that we could make payroll--loans which later would quietly be forgiven. Stuart was an astute businessman and helped us so much but he also was a very humble person. He truly cared for the people with developmental disabilities we support.

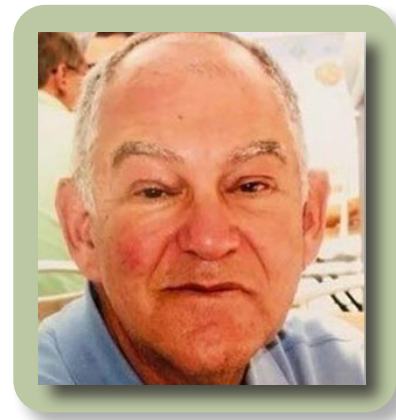
We will never forget Stuart and all he has done to help Caring Solutions grow into the organization it has become today with over 250 employees, 100 children and adults with developmental disabilities served annually. Stuart has helped many start-ups. This was his passion and I know he was very happy with what he has helped to accomplish here. We are forever grateful for his life and the lives he has impacted through Caring Solutions!

We are grateful for Stuart's life and his giving spirit!

Stuart's concern for Caring Solutions was to ensure longevity and reserves so that we can overcome funding shortages and reduce dependence on government funding.

When Stuart passed, Kathy graciously informed me that memorial donations should be made to Caring Solutions in honor, memory and celebration of Stuart's life. We are so very grateful for her thoughtfulness. All these gifts went to our “Assuring the Future” fund which was established in 2018 to begin building reserves for Caring Solutions' future.

NOTE: Stuart's brother, Jim Zimmerman currently serves on Caring Solutions Advisory Council, and Stuart's niece Sarah Zimmerman McGough currently serves on Caring Solutions Board of Directors. We are grateful for the Zimmerman tradition of serving Caring Solutions.



Stuart Zimmerman

UPDATE: Building on the memorial gifts already contributed in Stuart's memory, we are pleased that relatives, friends and other caring supporters have enabled us to plant a seed for growth with Caring Solutions' first named fund for endowment—the Stuart Zimmerman Endowment Fund. We look forward to watching it grow.

If you would like to contribute to this named fund or to find out how you can establish a named fund for Caring Solutions, contact Sally Boyd, Director of Development at Caring Solutions.

Thoughtful Giving

Making gifts to Caring Solutions in honor of Mother's Day, Father's Day or other occasions as well as in memory of loved ones for Memorial Day is a thoughtful way to give. Caring Solutions can notify those you designate that a gift was made in honor of them or their loved ones.

Consider gifting **highly appreciated stock** and/or setting up a **charitable remainder trust** to Caring Solutions. This can result in substantial savings to you by eliminating capital gains tax. Other giving options include naming Caring Solutions as **beneficiary of an insurance policy** or giving **funds from your IRA**. Have you remembered Caring Solutions in your **will and living trust**? We will appreciate hearing that you did this for the benefit of the children and adults with developmental disabilities who receive our services.