

# INSIGHTS

Delta Gamma Center

Fall 2018 Newsletter

## Annie Donnell Navigates the World with Confidence

With a warm and energetic spirit, Annie embraces life and all its possibilities. “I never let being blind or visually impaired stop me,” Annie said, “I pretty much forget about it; I just go about my day like normal. Yes, it is part of who I am but it doesn’t define me.” Annie views any challenges as opportunities, eager to explore the world around her.

Born at 26 weeks, the doctors discovered within a few months of birth that Annie had developed retinopathy of prematurity. Annie was immediately sent to surgery to stop the progress of bleeding and detachment of the retinas. Parents John and Libby were overwhelmed. “There’s a lot of emotions that come into play when you find your daughter or son is visually impaired at birth,” John expressed. Annie had five surgeries in her first two years of life. “For us, it was important to try everything we could do,” Libby added.

From Annie’s early childhood and throughout her school-age years, the Donnells considered the Delta Gamma Center another home. “Until she graduated high school, there wasn’t a month that she didn’t do something with Delta Gamma” Libby said, “We

“I think she felt comfortable trying things at her school because she was exposed to Delta Gamma, who totally taught those kids that they could do anything they wanted to do.”

- Libby Donnell, Annie’s Mom

definitely felt like a partner to Delta Gamma Center, we felt comfortable there.”

THANK  
YOU

for giving children like Annie the confidence to navigate the world.



Children like Annie are often the only student at their school who is blind or visually impaired. Annie remembers GRADS (Group Recreation and Developmental Support) at DGC as a chance to meet others, make lifelong friendships, and grow together. “We all are from different perspectives, but we have being blind or visually impaired in common,” Annie shared, “Getting together every month and being able to support each other on the challenge trips as well, that really helped.” Whether it was climbing the rock wall at DGC, putting on plays and musicals, or exploring Colorado, Utah, and California

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Read Annie’s perspective on Run for Sight, page 5



## Volunteer Spotlight

**DOROTHY HANPETER**

Dorothy Hanpeter is known for her delicious homemade peanut brittle and kind heart. While at Washington University, Dorothy pledged Delta Gamma and has supported our mission for more than 65 years.

For many years, shoppers at Shining Light Tree Lot would look forward to Dorothy's mouth-watering sweets and bright and cheerful smile. The peanut brittle was a tasty tradition that raised funds for Delta Gamma Center. Dorothy hung up the apron in 2016. We hope the peanut brittle tradition can continue with a new generation of Delta Gammas.

We are so grateful to Dorothy for giving her valuable time and talent in so many ways. Dorothy has served on the Investment Committee, sharing her expertise to help further our efforts and generously supported the Envision Building Campaign as a donor and as a volunteer. Dorothy's many contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of many children.

In 2017, Dorothy received the Jean Andersen Award recognizing her long and dedicated service to Delta Gamma Center. **Thank you, Dorothy, for your thoughtful support over the years!**



**Thank you volunteers, YOU make a difference!**

## Camp Buddy Builders



As our kids approach their third birthday and the time to enter preschool nears, parents fear that their children may face big challenges. Parents are concerned about the obstacles their kids will face in understanding their environment, advocating for themselves and just "fitting in." Camp Buddy Builders was designed to be a stepping stone for the transition between home and school.

Children with a visual impairment experience unique challenges in developing social skills such as acknowledging others, turning toward a speaker, and seeing peers as potential friends rather than something that gets in their way. They lack the basic skills for making friends.

Our kids need specialized support for learning to communicate and socialize with peers. While early intervention services meet the needs of individual

families in their homes, our children often don't have a chance to interact with other children in a social or learning setting. This can make transitioning to preschool an especially anxiety-provoking time for our parents and kiddos.

Thanks to a generous grant and partnership with Fontbonne University, Delta Gamma Center piloted Camp Buddy Builders in January 2018 to support the development of social competence for two to three-year-olds. Through structured and unstructured activities, the program promotes an understanding of social actions such as turn-taking, problem-solving, direction following, and the use of body proximity.

The first pilot showed very promising results (see Lela's story) – all children who participated made observable progress. One parent shared, "It's amazing how much she's progressed from the first day to the last day. I'm not scared at all for preschool now."

**What's Next?** We're working to develop resources to further develop the program design with additional pilot groups. Our goal is to offer more comprehensive support to our families.

# LELA SOARS!



Lela, two years old and blind with only light perception, receives early intervention services at DGC. In January, Lela participated in Camp Buddy Builders, a pilot program for children with visual impairments getting ready to transition to preschool.

During the short pilot program Lela made huge strides in social development. The program boosted Lela's ability to interact with peers and helped her mother, Carrie Sutherland, better understand Lela's needs. Carrie shared that on the way home from camp, Lela said, "Mama! Friend! Big girl! I so proud." And with Carrie's support, Lela's social skills continue to develop.

A few months after Camp Buddy Builders ended, Carrie sent a letter to share her story with the hope it would help us develop the resources to make the benefits of the Camp available to more kids.

Excerpts from the letter share the impact the Camp had on Lela and how she has continued to build on the skills she developed:

"During the time Lela attended the camp she went from ignoring other children and actively avoiding them to turning toward them when therapists or teachers were prompting interaction... Since that time she has continued to improve on those skills and is now turning toward peers without prompting, is tolerating peers in her personal space, and is showing interest in peers at church and at the park.

All of this knowledge and growth came together in an amazing way last week when we took a trip to the park. Lela (for the first time) walked away from me traveling independently with her cane and approached a small family who she heard talking. She walked into the middle of them and stood, obviously curious and interested in interaction... Because of my new understanding of Lela's social skills development, I was able to encourage them to allow their child to touch Lela and talk to her. Lela responded by sharing her name and age (with prompting) and by allowing the other child to touch her cane. I have no doubt that had we encountered this family just two months earlier that the interaction would have been very different."

Lela continues to reach new heights, discovering ways to interact and form relationships. Way to go, Lela! With the SUPER strength and backing of her INCREDIBLE team, Lela is ready to take on the world.



Family and friends of Lela suited up to support this tiny but mighty superhero at the 2018 Run for Sight. A new team to the annual event, they made an INCREDIBLE impression as one of the top fundraisers.

**THANK YOU!**

to our supporters for making a **POWERFUL** difference in the lives of children like Lela!

## SUPER Supporter

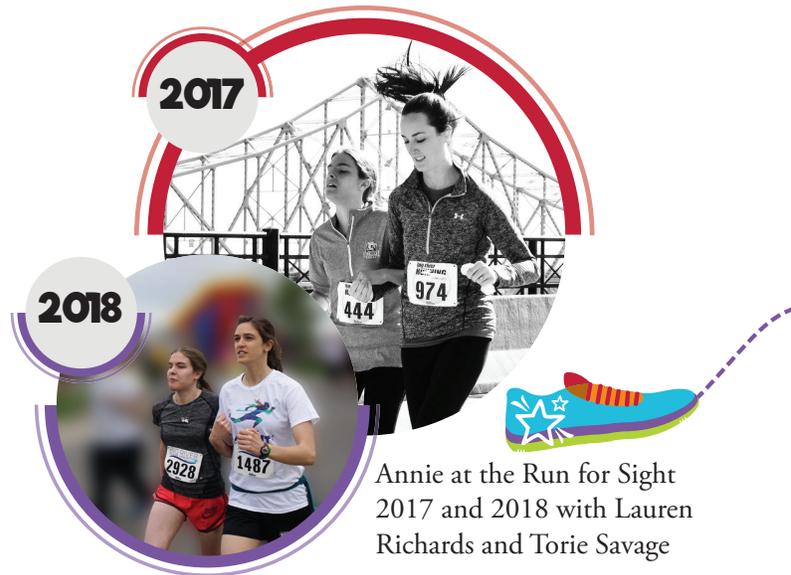
### SARA FRANCO



We are so grateful for supporters like Sara Franco and her husband Brandon Franco, captains of the top fundraising team two years in a row, Team Reese Cup. “It’s absolutely our pleasure to give back whatever we can,” Sara said. Sara’s motivation and inspiration to fundraise is her eight-year-old daughter, Reese. “She’s just a rockstar,” Sara beams.

The family has received services from Delta Gamma Center since Reese was three months old. The Run for Sight event is a chance to come together in support of Reese and the organization. “Looking back and seeing hundreds and hundreds of people walking behind you and all the support for children who are visually impaired, it’s just very inspiring,” Sara said, “It makes you feel like you’re not alone.” Through events like Run for Sight and the Center’s family activities, parents like Sara and Brandon have a network that provides resources, relationships, and reassurance.

When asked for tips for fellow fundraisers, Sara encourages others to reach out to their employers to see if they are willing to do a matching program. She also advises fundraisers to try creative strategies. “Don’t be afraid to be creative and capitalize on whatever strengths or resources that you have,” Sara shared, “Don’t be afraid to reach out to people, you’d be surprised how generous people can actually be.”



Annie at the Run for Sight 2017 and 2018 with Lauren Richards and Torie Savage

## Annie the Adventurer

Story continued from page 1

on challenge trips, Annie was surrounded by people who believed in her and wanted her to succeed.

“She did a musical for Delta Gamma. She did it at her middle school and high school, so it transferred,” Libby explained, “I think she felt comfortable trying things at her school because she was exposed to Delta Gamma, who totally taught those kids that they could do anything they wanted to do.”

Through the GRADS program, Annie had a space to grow and feel empowered to participate in her community. “She experienced it and built the confidence at Delta Gamma to really participate in her school,” John added. In addition to musicals, Annie also ran for her school’s track team and was a member of the St. Louis Children’s Choir. “I feel I’m not as afraid to try new things because of all the GRADS activities,” Annie said, “I’ve definitely learned a lot and then have taken what I’ve learned back to school and in my life outside of GRADS.”

Now starting her senior year of college at Belmont University, Annie continues to be active and ambitious in her pursuit of a degree in communications with a minor in education. While having a visual impairment presents a few obstacles, Annie never let it stop her. “You definitely learn so much from going out of your comfort zone, I know I have,” Annie said. She hopes others feel encouraged to look for opportunities. “Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and try new things. It might be difficult at first, but it’s worth it,” Annie shares.

Annie Donnell, Delta Gamma Center alum, returned to DGC as a communications intern last summer and wrote this article about participating in Run for Sight.

## My Experience Running in the Run for Sight

By Annie Donnell



On May 7th, 2017, I ran in the Run for Sight. This was the first time I had run in the event, because every other year I walked the 5K. This year, I had the opportunity to run with a sighted guide. Her name was Lauren Richards, and we linked arms for the entire 3.1 miles. She had not previously ran with someone who was blind or visually impaired, so I was so excited to show her how it works. I told her the importance of verbalizing everything and letting me know before a turn by saying to turn left so I am not surprised when we start making an abrupt turn.

I just completed my sophomore year at Belmont University, but I have gone through all the (DGC) programs from early intervention through being a part of the GRADS program till I graduated high school. Being able to run in the event was an honor. I ran track in high school, and this year at school began running with Achilles Nashville which is an organization which pairs athletes and guides. The group is for anyone regardless of ability or disability. People walk, run, and some participants even use hand cycles. Running is something I love, and when I run I do not think about anything else.

While running this particular 5K, I thought to myself, Wow. Am I really running in the Run for Sight



## My Investment in a Child's Future

**Yes, I want to help a child see possibilities.**

Make a gift online at [dgckids.org/support](http://dgckids.org/support) or mail this form and your check or credit card information to:

Delta Gamma Center  
1750 S. Big Bend Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63117

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

supporting the Delta Gamma Center? The Delta Gamma Center is such a wonderful place, and it has contributed to how independent I am today. Seeing everyone at the run who has been such an integral part of my life was incredible. It truly was such an honor to be able to run in this 5K, because the Delta Gamma Center means so much to me as well as to my family.

“ Seeing everyone at the run who has been such an integral part of my life was incredible. It truly was such an honor . . . ”

One of my favorite parts while running the 3.1 miles was getting the opportunity to run on the Eads Bridge. What usually is a bustling highway was a peaceful part of our route. It was so great to be able to run on the bridge for the majority of the route. For me, I could feel my hair blowing in the wind, and I could hear birds chirping in the distance. What you would not normally think as a quiet and enjoyable place to run was for an hour when it was blocked off, an amazing place to run.

It was so nice to have people cheering all of us on along the route. This helped keep my momentum as well as contributed to me finishing strong. Even though I had not met Lauren before, we were very synchronized and our pace was very similar. It was so great to be able to have a guide to run in the Run for Sight. It is an amazing race, and I am so lucky I was able to run to support such a great organization which has made such an impact in my life.

Annie laced up her shoes once again and participated in the 2018 Run for Sight with Torie Savage, sighted guide by her side. Thank you Annie for sharing your experience, your passion, and your skills with us last summer!

My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. ✨ ✨

Please charge my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

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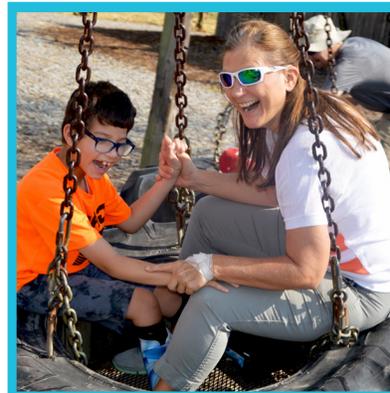
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

Delta Gamma Center hosts family fun activities at popular venues throughout the St. Louis community. These activities provide opportunities for the whole family to participate in activities together, feel empowered to enjoy community activities on their own, and develop a network of peers.

- 1** Missouri History Museum
- 2** Fall Family Day at Daniel's Farm
- 3** Ice Skating at Webster Ice Rink
- 4** Beeping Egg Hunt
- 5** Magic House



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

to our families, volunteers, and donors.  
**YOU** promote positive experiences  
 for our children!

## ABILITY AWARENESS

### Our Top Tips for Interacting with a Child with a Visual Impairment



Together we can increase awareness, promote understanding, and create a supportive community for our children with visual impairments. You can make a difference by adopting these tips and sharing them with your family, friends, and coworkers.



Identify yourself when you approach a child with a visual impairment. Use the child's name. Don't assume they'll recognize your voice or know that you are talking to them.



Tell them before you touch them, make an unusual sound, or walk away from them.



Speak naturally, in a normal volume and tone of voice and speak directly to them.



Be descriptive. Use accurate and specific language that gives direction and location (e.g. to your right as opposed to over there).

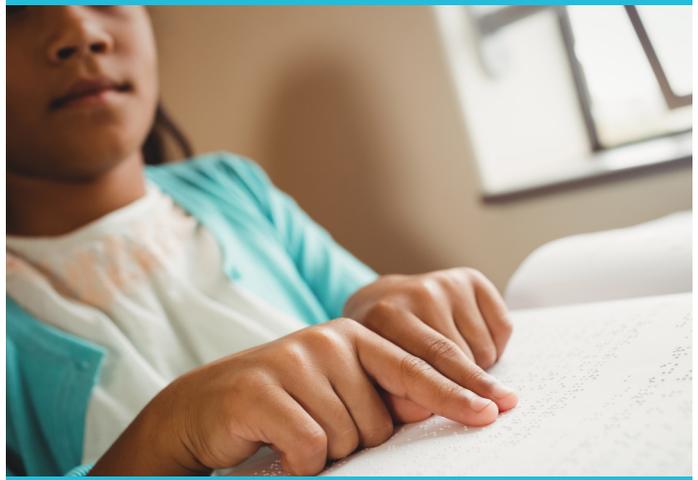


Always ask first to see if help is needed and wanted.

For more tips and information, contact Anne Silea, [asilea@dgckids.org](mailto:asilea@dgckids.org) or 314.776.1300 x120.

## BRaille BILL

### Defending the Rights of Students



Delta Gamma Center elevates the voices of children with visual impairments and their families through policy advocacy efforts.

Last year, a Missouri state bill was proposed to remove barriers to braille instruction. When DGC reviewed the bill language, we found the bill would unintentionally violate the rights of our children to receive the individualized services that best fit their learning needs.

DGC worked with local and national advocates and after multiple visits to the Capitol, conversations with legislators, and outreach to parents and vision professionals, the bill was amended to address these concerns. The amended bill passed in May 2018 and ensures children with visual impairments have access to the tools and technology they need.

### SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Senator Hummel for his leadership and commitment to children with visual impairments, as well as Children's Center for the Visually Impaired, Lighthouse for the Blind - St. Louis, and St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired for their efforts during the 2018 session.

# Debbie's Memorable Moments

Retiring from Delta Gamma Center after 25+ years was not easy for former executive director Debbie Naucke. Debbie first joined Delta Gamma Center in November 1987 as the family services coordinator.

In November 1993, Debbie and her family relocated to Philadelphia, returning in 1995 to serve as executive director until her retirement in 2017. We asked Debbie to reflect on her time at the Center and share some memories. Her deep connections and passion continue to make an impact as she volunteers her time and talents.

**Thank you, Debbie.**



**Parent-infant classes.** Part of the reason I was hired in 1987 was my experience directing parent infant classes. Having witnessed the impact of bringing parents together to share and learn, I was thrilled to help the DGC team start this program.

**A Look Into our Ps.** The sibling book project was magical from the start: a great group of siblings who were members of Sibshop, leadership from a local author, commitment from Barnes & Noble for meeting space, and an amazing process with young authors taking on all aspects of this incredible publication.

**The fire of 1988.** Only a few months into my first job at DGC, the building on Henry Road was destroyed by fire. The smells, the response from volunteers, the subsequent scrambling to continue services without a home, all stayed with me for a long time.

**The Face of America.** In June of 2002, our challenge trip for GRADS (a new group at the time) was to ride

110 miles on the Katy Trail. What a wonderful experience! Following that trip, World Team Sports called to offer us to send 4 tandem teams to participate in Face of America. The 280-mile trip to commemorate 9/11 went from Ground Zero to Washington D.C. The ride was grueling, exhilarating, a battle of the elements and will, and life changing.

**A new home!** February 15, 2008. This is the date that we closed on the property on Big Bend. Little did I know how it would change the future of the organization – services, new offerings, and more.

**The 50th anniversary.** The highlight of the year was a concert by Jose Feliciano. A personal favorite of mine, and blind from birth, he seemed a perfect fit for this occasion. Mary Behnke and I shared a moment with the band during their ritual pre-performance sip of cognac. It certainly took the edge off stepping on that stage to welcome the guests that evening!

## Tributes and Commemorative Gifts

**January 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018** A gift of remembrance or in tribute, is a loving and thoughtful way to acknowledge friends, family members, and loved ones. Delta Gamma Center regrets the misspelling or omission of any gift. Please contact Cheryl Ehrhard with any corrections at [c ehrhard@dgckids.org](mailto:c ehrhard@dgckids.org) or 314.776.1300.

### In Honor of

#### All Children with Visual Impairments

Kathy Pusateri

#### Dillon and all the children helped by DGC

Eleanor Hoeffle

#### Ellie

Joan Seymour

#### Glen Abramowski

Kenneth Mares

#### Olivia Allen

Andrea Osman

#### Nico Arambula

Francisco Arambula

Angelica Arce

Eddie Garcia

Ofelia Gomez

Diana Hernandez

Juanita Hernandez

#### Pam Arbeiter

Leslie Quarles

#### Elijah Boltas

Shirley Gadson

#### Ruby Bond

Andrea Aughinbaugh

Lori and Ken Heise

Joanie Kemry

#### Tom Brown's birthday

Ken and Carol Stillely

#### The Buechner Family

Kathleen Carr and

Dick Sutton

#### My Best Friend -

#### Sarah Brooks

Aarthi Arunachalam

#### Carina Busso

Judy Busso

Diane Haywood

#### Janet Creath

Henry and Debbie Allhoff

#### Ally and Franklin Crust

Stacy Baker

Bernice Kehlenbrink

#### Drs. Cruz, Davitt and Ghabban

Brian, Michelle and Gus Beck

#### Hugh DeSantis

Kathleen Carr and

Dick Sutton

#### Martinna Dill

Mr. and Mrs. Derick Driemeyer

#### Jake Donnelly

David Donnelly



**Patrick and Joan Duggan**  
Leo and Janie Garvin  
Timothy and Mary Leahy

**Renaud Duval**  
Jana Lichtenfeld

**Margot Epstein**  
David and Janice Epstein  
Laban Jackson

**Dalton Filla**  
Betty Boehmer  
Lawrence Kopp  
Rodney Rohlfling

**In Celebration of the  
Wedding of Betty  
Freeman and Toby James**  
Carol Ottsen

**The Frenkel Family**  
Kathleen Carr and  
Dick Sutton

**Gay Friedman**  
Kathleen Carr and  
Dick Sutton

**Dr. John Galanis and the  
staff of Galanis Cataract  
and Laser Eye Center**  
James Washburn

**Megan and Charlie Gauthier**  
Nancy and Jack Gauthier

**Mary Kay Graham**  
Dolores Stefanik

**Katie Halloran**  
Elizabeth Newport

**Joyce Hanks**  
Elizabeth Hanks

**Bill Hansen**  
Joyce Inman

**Reese Harmon**  
Janet and Dave Alexander  
Brandon and Sara Franco  
Loren Granger

**Jan Huneke on your  
first anniversary as  
Executive Director**  
Gretchen Ross

**Lela Imhoff**  
Tracey Auer  
Tammy Marlotte  
Danielle Portell  
Nora Sutherland

**Will Jennings**  
Rhonda Proske

**Cassidy Johns**  
Stacy and Lee Zobrist

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Kappelmann**  
Pam Batchelor  
Sharon Holtmeyer  
Kathy Mizgate  
Todd Obermark  
Marisol Odum  
Margaret Rohn  
Deb Schneider  
JoAnn Struckhoff  
Kitty Temm  
Carol Timpone  
Joanne Londoff Walsh

**Vicky Kappelmann**  
Michelle McMurray

**Ashley Keegan on  
Spencer's third birthday**  
Zach and Julie Leeds

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Cynthia Austad  
Allie Coppin  
Al and Dorothy Leary  
Tammy and John McNeely

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Glenn and Laura Mahnken  
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Randy Mattson**  
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Leslie and Kathleen Banwart

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Melissa Kimble  
Katie Schnettgoecke

**Frederick Mayer**  
Lila and James Hershfelt

**Justin McCann**  
Cecilia Gray

**Chandler Meurer**  
Jerry and Pamela Castellano  
Lori Foelsch

**Anne Mount**  
Steven and Kerry Pozaric

**Two super kids Franny  
Muehl and Rowdy Shea**  
Barb and Rick Hrach

**Debbie Naucke**  
"Happy Holidays"  
Jo Russell-Brown

**In Celebration of Debbie  
Naucke's Retirement**

Anonymous  
Kary and Jason Bachert  
Laura Cooper  
John and Libby Donnell  
Anne Grossmann and  
Brandon Blakey  
Joan Grossmann  
Lila and James Hershfelt  
Kendra and Brian Hjorth  
Carol B. Kenney  
Dr. Gregg and  
Cindy Lueder  
Gretchen Ross  
Nanne B. Simonds  
Carol and George  
'Butch' Welsh  
Patrick Tyburski and  
Tom Wethington  
Chris and Lisa Wilson  
Bridget and Doug Young  
Mimi Fishman Foundation

**In Celebration of Marie  
Oetting's 90th Birthday**  
Jean Kipp Ruhe and  
William Ruhe

**Colton Olson**  
Brett and Megan Bayless  
Jason Bunge  
Ron and Lylas Chatmon  
David Daspit  
Traci and Steve Harper  
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Brenda Rentel

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**Kris Poore**  
Stacy and Lee Zobrist

**Manuel Ponte**  
Andrew Kanefield and  
Lois Soffer Kanefield

**Dr. Farheen Kazi Raja**  
Lawrence and  
Hannah Langsam

**Dr. Oscar Ramirez**  
Marsha Robinson

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Carol Fleisher**  
Robin Cannon

**Darryl Redhage and  
John Russell**  
Mary Mitchell  
Virginia N. McDonald  
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Caron Pollock  
Dustyn and Evelyn Tienter

**Johnathan Roberson-  
Team Seeing Double**  
Eric Legrand

**Jan Robinson**  
Kathleen Carr and  
Dick Sutton

**In Celebration of  
Gretchen Ross and  
Ruth Spence Nelson  
For 40 Years of Vision  
Screening Service**  
Delta Gamma Alumnae  
Chapter - St. Louis

**In Celebration of the 80th  
Birthday of Gretchen Ross**  
David and Constance Ross  
Delta Gamma Alumnae  
Chapter - St. Louis  
Ladue Chapel  
Nursery School

**In Celebration of Gretchen  
Ross' Birthday 2017**  
Carol and George  
'Butch' Welsh

**Gretchen Ross**  
Lois Leslie

**Jo and Tom Brown**  
"Happy Holidays"  
Chris and Melissa Russell  
Evan Russell  
Margaret Russell  
Rachel, Mark and  
Greta Schopmeyer  
Ken and Carol Stillely

**Jo Russell-Brown**  
Chris and Lisa Wilson

**Blake Shapiro**  
Ann and Mark Shapiro

**Nanne B. Simonds**  
Illegene Anderson

**Carol and Ken Stillely  
at Christmas**  
Tom and Jo Brown

## Tributes and Commemorative Gifts Cont'd

**Gary and Pam Swanson**  
"Happy Holidays"  
Ken and Carol Stillely

**Carter Temm**  
Tom Kempfer

**Jude Torres-  
Team Baby Groots**  
Nanzuit Acosta  
Rose Hefley

**Luke Vatterott**  
Laura Reeves

**In Celebration of the  
Birthday of Carrie  
Rowe Viglione**  
Margaret Tedder

**W. Stanley Walch**  
"Happy Holidays"  
Melissa LaBelle

**Peggy Welker**  
Anna Brueggemann

**Tori Welker**  
Kim Johnson  
Beth Welker  
Daniel Welker  
Ken Welker

**Tori and The Welker Family**  
Mark and Pam Kaiser

**Faith Wildschuetz**  
Linda Kutzgar

**Cate Williamson**  
Georgia Colwell

**Diane G. Wilson, O.D.**  
Jon Wilson

**Peter Wilson**  
Chris and Lisa Wilson

**Doug Winters**  
Lauren Budde

### **In Memory of**

**Jayden Altizer**  
Delta Gamma Center Staff

**Edna Mae Baer**  
Barbara and Rick Hrach

**Dorothy Bartels**  
Janet Creath

**Mary Schorr Behnke**  
Stacey Hutchens  
Nanne B. Simonds  
Mary Beth and Allen Soffer  
Valerie Walch

Carol and George  
'Butch' Welsh

**Jaci Blount**  
Delta Gamma Center Staff

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Lynn Ricci

**Mary Breeding**  
Oscar and Mary Cruz

**Brynlee Carter**  
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**Talon Corbitt**  
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Thomas Dunn

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Melissa and Pat Brueggeman  
Thomas Dunn

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Stanley Winkler

**Albert "Jerry" Jarosik**  
Joseph and Rosemary  
Aimonette  
Stephen and Colleen Blaes  
Richard Maskell  
Mary Smallwood

**Shirley Kabele Johnson**  
Dorothy Mill  
James and Lila Hershfelt

**Mike Kampmeyer**  
Nancy and Jack Gauthier

**Elizabeth Heideman Kaynor**  
Shirley Johnson

**Mya Elizabeth Kertz**  
Genevieve and  
Matthew Jessee  
Mary and Justin Jones  
Emily and Marc Lampkin  
Margaret Russell

Karen Svoboda  
Betsy and Robert  
Wildschuetz  
Stacy and Lee Zobrist  
Delta Gamma Center Staff

**Donald Kidwell, Sr.**  
Mark Castelli and Family  
Joan Mueller

**Charles E. Kies**  
Jeffrey Kies

**Anne Limbaugh**  
Marie Oetting  
Nanne B. Simonds  
Delta Gamma Center Staff  
Valerie and Stan Walch

**Michael Littmann**  
Marianne Bouras

**Jaylen Martin**  
Delta Gamma Center Staff

**Charles Milliken**  
Carol and George  
'Butch' Welsh

**Heidi Oschner Mugler**  
Carol and George  
'Butch' Welsh

**Lora Leigh Nottke**  
Mary and  
David Bonacker  
Donald and Ann Boyce  
Barbara Brinkman  
Charles and  
Carolyn Brinkman  
Gary and Nancy Brinkman  
Nancy Brinkman  
John and Terri Bufka  
Helen Cox  
Lane and Kari Culver  
St. Louis Paper and Box  
Jill Hanna  
Matthew and Julia Hinrichs  
Gordon and  
Daniella Kronsbein  
Cold Water School  
Jennifer and  
Carey Merzlicker  
Rosemarie Miller  
Alan and Pamela Nottke  
William Nottke  
Kara Schmidt  
John and Cheryl Schnurbusch  
Mike and Lois Schumacher  
Mary and Jim Wilson  
Missouri Charolais  
Breeders Association

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**Julia O'Shea on her  
17th birthday**  
Mark and Joy Bussen  
Joan and John Koppe  
Jill and James O'Shea

**Julia O'Shea  
Christmas 2017**  
Mark, Joy, Jack and  
Sarah Bussen  
Christa O'Shea  
Jill and James O'Shea

**Julia O'Shea's  
Birthday, May 24**  
Mark and Joy Bussen  
Brian and Denise Monsma  
Jill and James O'Shea

**Katherine Ponte**  
Andrew Kanefield and  
Lois Soffer Kanefield  
Dorothy Mill  
Delta Gamma Center Staff

**Henley Laura Pulliam**  
Brooke Baldwin  
James Briseno  
Brenda and Nathan Davis  
Sharon Main  
Scott and Karen Martin  
John McNay  
Jo Anne Rodgers  
Joseph Spadoni  
Delta Gamma Center Staff  
Ronald Vecchie  
Katie and Eric Wait  
Georgia and James West  
Karen and Greg Zanger  
Prairieland FS, Inc.  
Sysco

**Robert D. Rainey**  
Dick and Sue Forbis  
UniGroup Friends  
Glenn and Mary Jane Kiepe  
Joe Kulka  
Nancy Ann and Joe LaFiore  
Brad Cohea and Kathy Lynn  
Bill and Debbie Naucke  
Beth Pilarski  
Margaret Russell  
Eileen Sumner and  
Chuck Carter  
Loretta and Andrew Tappert  
Valerie Walch

**Michael Ramming**  
Gloria Richman

**Dana “Dan” Reifsteck**  
Christina Reifsteck

**Joan and Frank Reznicek**  
James and Megan Reznicek

**Loie Lee Reihl**  
Gretchen Ross

**Mike, Jeff and Don Rogers**  
Susan Crane

**Muhammed Nur Salmo**  
Delta Gamma Center Staff

**Dorothy “Dottie”  
Boyle Schmidt**  
Mary and Richard Butler  
Carol and Ronald Froesel  
Lila and James Hershfeldt  
Joan Hollinshead  
Anne O’Connell

Marie Oetting  
Jeanine and  
Patrick Schierbecker  
Charles Schmidt  
Carla and James Sedgwick  
Delta Gamma Center Staff  
Joan and Calvin Yeckel

**Albert “Red” Schoendienst**  
Golden State Foods  
Jo and Tom Brown  
Mary and Peter Caine  
John Caswell  
Vincenzo and Ellen DeSapio  
Charles and Martinna  
Marion Dill  
Charles and Shirley Drury  
and Family  
Peter Fenner - Compass  
Clinical Consulting

Betty Hemus  
Joanne Grau Holt  
Carole Less  
Allison Mooney  
Jim and Joan O’Neill  
Mary Pandjiris  
Ken and Karen Rekowski  
Sandy Roll - Genesis  
Jazz Project  
The Ruzniewski Family  
The Schless Family  
Terry and Sally Schnuck  
Kevyn Schroeder  
Ted and Maryanne Simmons  
Delta Gamma Center Staff  
Olive Thompson  
Valerie Walch  
Spencer Wolling  
Fabick Charitable Trust

Members of the Woodard  
55+ Tennis Team

**Richard Simpson**  
Carol Welsch

**Raeleigh Stegall-Connor**  
Armstrong Elementary

**Sue Schorr Vaughan**  
Connie Schaller Schmidt

**Barbara Vickroy**  
Delta Gamma Center Staff  
Phyllis Westin

**Travis Alexander Wist**  
St. Louis Mini Club

**Millie Wolling**  
Spencer Wolling



**You make dreams a reality for our children!**

● **Every heartfelt gift to Delta Gamma Center supports services that embrace our children and strengthen our families. Thank you.** ●

## **In Memoriam** **MARY SCHORR BEHNKE**

We share the great sadness and sorrow for the loss of a dedicated supporter and dear friend Mary Behnke on March 11, 2018. Mary was a lifelong champion for children and an ambassador for Delta Gamma Center for more than 30 years. She was well-known for her kindness and compassion. Her smile and joyful personality could light up a room.

Mary served on the DGC Board of Directors and the Shining Light Friends Board. Former and fellow board member Mary Beth Soffer recalls, “Mary Behnke helped elevate the organization’s presence in the community and inspired many, many people to support its mission.”

In 1990, Mary was a leader in organizing Holiday House, the annual fundraising event that includes a tour and dinner party at beautifully decorated homes. Former development director, Val Walch remembers the energy and enthusiasm Mary brought to both the Holiday House and first Run for Sight in 1992, “We didn’t know what we were doing, but we had fun doing it!”

As founding members of Circle for Sight at the Visionary Level and key supporters of the Envision Building Campaign, Mary and her husband Ernie contributed generously to DGC. Mary maintained a strong connection with DGC over the years and enjoyed the bond of sisterhood she had with fellow DGs.

Delta Gamma Center is so grateful for Mary’s friendship and her compassion for children with visual impairments. She is greatly missed.



# Delta Gamma Center

1750 S. Big Bend Boulevard  
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# VOLUNTEER

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of a child with a visual impairment!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Shining Light Tree Lot**  
November 23 to December 22, 2018

**Holiday House**  
December 5, 2018, Portland Place

**2019 Run for Sight**  
May 5, 2019, Forest Park



## OUR MISSION

To help children who are blind or visually impaired reach their full potential through family-centered, specialized services and community support.



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