



# GILLIS At A Glance

## Our Vision

That all children will live in emotionally stable, safe and nurturing families.

## Our Mission

To help at-risk children and their families become contributing members of the community through education, counseling and social services.

## Our Core Values

Family  
Relationships  
Safety  
Learning/Growth  
Diversity  
Integrity  
Strength-focused

## Planned Giving

Planned Giving gives you an opportunity to ensure that Gillis is here for future children and families who need our services. To find out if planned giving is right for you, please contact your professional estate planner. **The Ella C. Loose Heritage Society** is Gillis' planned giving program. For information on the Society, please contact George Robbins, Vice President of Development at 816-508-3548 or [george.robbins@gillis.org](mailto:george.robbins@gillis.org)

## A BOY'S NIGHT OUT

In late 2000, our first child – Marshall – was born. We were all blessed that he was perfectly healthy and lived in a warm, loving home with two parents to care for him. I quickly realized that not all boys in life are this fortunate. As a native Kansas Citian, I wanted to find a way to help disadvantaged children, as well as give back to our great community. I sought out Gillis because of its rich history in helping at-risk children live in emotionally stable, safe, and nurturing families. I became involved with Gillis and was asked to join the Board of Directors in late 2001. Since joining the Board, I have been involved with several things such as facilitating the annual Board strategic planning process, chairing the former Internal Operations committee, helping on the Golf Classic committee, helping generate more sponsorship and volunteer support for Gillis Pies, assisting with the initial Gillis website redesign, chairing the Board Development committee, and serving as Secretary on the Executive Committee.



Recently, Marshall (now seven years old) and I, along with eight other father/son pairs that we know, came out to have dinner with several of the younger Gillis boys. After eating, all the boys paired up to plant colorful purple Viola flowers in small ceramic flower pots. Then, each pair of boys jointly painted a flower pot. Before we left, our boys gave these flower pots to each Gillis boy as a gift to keep in their room representing their new-found friendship.



Based on the excitement of the boys and several notes received from Gillis leadership and staff after the gathering, this activity proved quite impactful for the Gillis boys, but I can tell you it was just as impactful for our boys and fathers. Over the years, I have learned that the boys at Gillis are really great kids and in small ways such as this simple activity, we can leave a lasting positive impression on them. I would encourage each of you to find a way to get involved with the tremendous teachers and staff at Gillis so you too can experience the wonderful feeling we had interacting with these boys, and more importantly, bring a smile to a deserving child's face.



**Brian Wietharn**  
Board Member

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends:

Happily spring has finally arrived bringing vibrant color, the fragrance of lilacs, warm sunshine and new growth to Gillis. From my window I see a lot of energetic and carefree activity on the playground. Although the kids experience it, they don't really understand what it takes to make this a safe and beautiful campus, help them heal their trauma or provide experiences and activities that are "normal", fun and enriching for their growth and enjoyment. That's as it should be. But I understand.

Everyday at Gillis we strive to live our vision that "All children will live in an emotionally stable, safe and nurturing environment". Our dedicated staff provides the healing relationships, daily care, therapy, education and supportive services that help the 800+ children and families we serve each year, but it isn't enough. Fortunately Gillis and the children and families we serve are blessed by the time, talent, generosity and many acts of kindness by our volunteers, board, donors and friends. Recent examples:



- Renovated cottages and gym and all new lights to enhance the comfort, safety and self-esteem of the children who live and play here.
- All new kitchen appliances greatly decreasing costs and increasing efficiency in the preparation of 900+ nutritious meals a week for growing children.
- Tickets to sport and cultural events for kids and families who rarely get the opportunity to participate in such things.
- A family emergency fund to keep the lights on or fix a car enabling a parent to keep their job and their kids at home.
- Numerous individuals and groups that plant flowers, show up monthly to provide healthy games, build a sand volleyball court, mentor a lonely child or read to children who have no home to visit on rainy afternoons.

The list is endless and the impact on the children and families profound. The healing effect of fun, laughter, knowing somebody cares, finding a safety net or feeling special cannot be easily measured. It must also not be underestimated. It is what many of you, our volunteers, board, donors and friends provide.

I hope your spring and summer are happy and full of fun and all good things and if you are feeling energetic this season, you know where to call.

Warmest regards,

*Mary Ellen Schaid*

Mary Ellen Schaid  
President/CEO

## Squeaky Clean

Boys will be boys. They work hard and play hard and at the end of the day they hit the showers. Think a minute about what it takes for you to keep yourself, your son or grandson "squeaky clean". Now imagine what it would take to keep 38 boys "squeaky clean" 365 days a year!!! Here at Gillis we spend more than \$12,000 doing just that.

We're reaching out to you to help us. Please consider donating some of the items below to the "squeaky clean" campaign. Ask your neighbors, family and friends to join in this project with you. Ask your fellow employees, and maybe even the company you work for to hold a hygiene drive for Gillis. Here's what we need:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| ⌘ Hair and Body Wash combo (all in one bottle) | ⌘ Toothpaste            |
| ⌘ Stick deodorant (no sprays)                  | ⌘ Hair Gel              |
| ⌘ Hair Grease (jars)                           | ⌘ Wash cloths           |
| ⌘ Sleeping Caps (no do rags)                   | ⌘ Shower Shoes          |
| ⌘ Standard and ethnic combs                    | ⌘ Brushes               |
| ⌘ Toothbrushes                                 | ⌘ Mousse                |
| ⌘ Medium and Large Towels                      | ⌘ Ethnic (wave) brushes |
| ⌘ Underwear                                    | ⌘ Socks                 |



## THE “SPIRIT” OF VOLUNTEERISM

On Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, more than 400 people gathered in the Count Basie Ballroom at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown to honor 7 volunteers at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas City Spirit Awards Celebration.

Five recipients were honored for their outstanding service to agencies and organizations throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. The nominations were made by the general public and the selections were made by an independent panel of prior recipients.

### The 2008 Kansas City Spirit Award Recipients



*Sandra Doolin Aust, Michael Chesser, Rafaela “Lali” Garcia, and Retia Grant are seen here with emcee, Phil Witt, Fox 4 News. James B. Nutter was unavailable but was with the group in spirit.*

The recipients of the 2008 Karen Pecis Gillis Volunteer of the Year Award were two Rockhurst High School students who undertook a fundraising campaign for the renovation of the Gillis residential buildings. These two young men raised more than \$108,000 through their efforts. Congratulations to:



*Carter Clause and David Belpedio*

This special celebration raised over \$200,000 for Gillis. All the proceeds will be used to enhance the services provided in our Special Education School.

Congratulations to each and every one of this year’s recipients! Our community is a better place to live because of your efforts.



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To volunteer contact:  
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To give a gift-in-kind contact:  
Carol Johnson, Communications/Development Associate  
815-508-3556 or [Carol.Johnson@gillis.org](mailto:Carol.Johnson@gillis.org)

## **A NEW LOOK FOR GILLIS**

On May 1, the Communications Committee of the Gillis Board of Directors unveiled the new Gillis logo shown below. The logo will be soon seen on letterhead, envelopes, business cards and the next edition of Gillis At A Glance. In this issue we wanted to show you our new logo and tell you what it represents.



**The Circle** represents community and inclusiveness. It is calm without any hard corners. It is strong and resembles a seal.

**The Tree** represents protection, strength, growth and knowledge. It implies a solid foundation (history and longer-term roots). It is a symbol of rebirth/regeneration.

**The Colors.** Deep blue symbolizes strength, trust, calm, soothing and acceptance. Warm green represents harmony, balance, restoration, peace and a friendly atmosphere.

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**OUR NEW LOGO REFLECTS ALL THAT WE STAND FOR!**