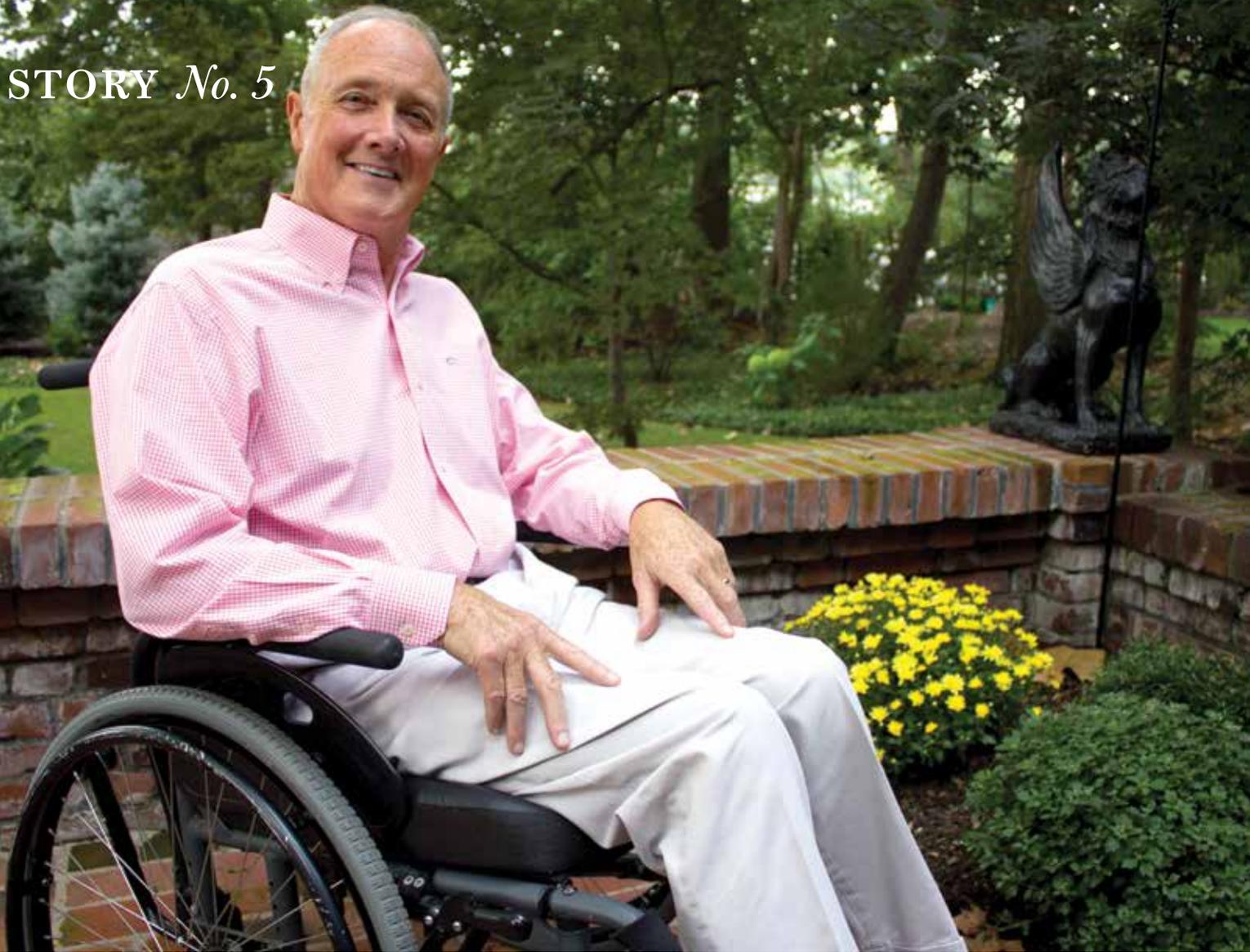


STORY No. 5



E. Michael Houlihan, President,
Houlihan Development Co.,
Homes Without Limits,
Leadership St. Louis® 2001-2002

FOCUS Highlights

Move & Shake! was held on November 3, 2012 at The Third Degree Glass Factory. More than 400 individuals supported this special event.

Fifty-seven corporations and foundations supported FOCUS in this fiscal year.

FOCUS continued to serve as an alliance partner for BoardLink.

Fifteen Leadership Circle members (individual annual donors of \$1,000 or more) celebrated their 16th anniversary of support and investment in the work of FOCUS.

Board of Directors giving was 100% percent and raised \$30,715 in income. Twenty-one board members were also Leadership Circle members.

Influence Positive Community Change: Leadership St. Louis[®], Homes Without Limits and St. Louis Civic Pride Foundation

While E. Michael Houlihan was in the Leadership St. Louis[®] 2001-02 class, he felt compelled to figure out what he could do to improve St. Louis. "I really felt like I was part of an exceptional group of people who had the same mindset: 'How do we make a difference?'"

During a moving exercise in LSL, Michael saw for the first time how people like him experience prejudice. "I never thought of myself as someone who experiences prejudice, but I do, because I'm in a wheelchair. It opened my eyes to a whole world of advocacy." He was energized to create a new business, Homes Without Limits. Homes Without Limits builds and renovates homes to allow people of all abilities to live comfortably and as independently as possible in their own homes.

Michael also saw an opportunity to change the culture in St. Louis from focusing on what we're not, to taking great pride in what we are. In 2011, with the leadership of the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission (CVC), Michael helped form the St. Louis Civic Pride Foundation, a regional initiative dedicated to helping people appreciate and share the many assets and amenities we enjoy in the St. Louis region. As one of their first projects, the CVC now trains all cab drivers in the St. Louis area on hospitality skills and knowledge of local attractions. The St. Louis Civic Pride Foundation has several more initiatives in the works, including an ambassadors program to grow the movement in the community.

"All of these feelings were stirred up in Leadership St. Louis[®]. To some, changing the culture seemed like too big a project to take on. To me, it seemed like a great way to spend my life."

Customized work included returning clients Bank of America, Thompson Coburn, LifeSkills and work on the OneSTL regional plan.

More than 6,783 volunteer hours were contributed to FOCUS during the fiscal year by 773 volunteers and nine interns.

FOCUS increased its social media presence and had 1,061 fans on Facebook and 5,299 followers on Twitter at the end of the fiscal year, a nearly 63% increase.

FOCUS upgraded office and IT systems in 2012-2013 in an effort to meet changing technology demands and deliver better customer service.