

Celebrating 180 Years

svsf St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

SPRING, 2024

A Leap of Faith Leads to Change

Dear Friends:

This year, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center turns 180 years old. SVSF certainly has evolved in many ways, many times since the days when the Daughters of Charity first arrived in Detroit to start St. Vincent's Academy. Think of that. 180 years ago, these women of faith started a journey, not knowing what to expect, with only \$8.50 in their pockets. It's hard to believe that their legacy still exists in this ever-changing world. But as one of the oldest, continuously operating organizations in Michigan, it is quite a testament to the Center's rule of thumb: to evolve as the needs of the community change. What does it take to change something? Faith.

Faith takes many forms. Faith in a higher power, faith in a mission, faith in yourself or others. In many cases, it takes a combination of all types of faith to be open to, embrace and stick with change. You don't know what is on the other side of the door and you can't see down the road. You have to have the courage of conviction and a belief that what you are doing is the right thing – that somehow, someday, it will work out. Which is scary and why change is hard.

Over the 180 years of the Center, change has been necessary and ultimately inevitable. And it is the faith of those that support the Center, that have been able to make its evolution possible. Just as it was an enormous leap of faith on many levels to purchase our building, it has made significant change possible and the opportunities that we now have would not have been possible without that leap.



After all these years, it's impossible to calculate the number of people that have been served by the Center. And who knows how many more will be served in the future. But it's the shared faith in our mission that will continue to propel the Center and all the volunteers, supporters, and staff. We are grateful for all those that believe in us and our work.

Especially now in a turbulent world and with so much change happening every day, this Holy Season should be a time of reflection of what our individual faith structures really mean and enable us all to recommit to those beliefs. From our family to yours, wishing you a reflective Lenten Season and a Happy Easter. And thank you for your faith in SVSF!

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Renaud". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Diane Renaud
Executive Director/CEO



Celebrate the Center **2024** Award Winners!

Volunteer of the Year: Eileen Johnson

For almost 30 years, Eileen has been a driving force in making our kids' Christmas wishes come true.

Tutor of the Year: Dora Moore

A devoted tutor in both the Adult Education and Children's Education Programs, Dora's support and connection with the students has given our kids a safe and trusted place to learn.

Special Service Award: John and Vicky Wingert

Celebrating 30 years of partnership, John and Vicky are family to the Center, devoting long hours and back-breaking work in managing our every need.

We hope you will join us to celebrate these remarkable individuals who are highly valued supporters of the Center. Their devotion to the community and our students is inspiring and we are grateful.



Exciting News!

SVSF now offers: **GED Tests!**

SVSF, in association with Pearson Vue (who runs the GED test on behalf of the Department of Education), now has a Testing Site that is open to the public, as well as our own students. The reason that this is a very important accomplishment is that in the City of Detroit, there is only one other testing site in the City's 140 square miles that is open to public testers. And passing the GED Certification Test is a key to obtaining sustainable employment.

The schedule has been completely full since the site opened and we welcome sponsors that enable us to open the site for more days/hours. If you are interested in sponsoring the testing site, please contact April Patti at apatti@svsfcenter.org.

ST. VINCENT AND SARAH FISHER CENTER

2023 REPORT CARD

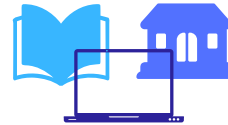
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CHILDREN ENROLLED

- 1000 Meals Served
- 250 Meals Donated
- 27 STEM Projects
- 10 Outreach Events
- 10 Guest Presentations
- 3 Field Trips



ADULTS ENROLLED **551**



- 654 Program Inquiries
- 1205 Total Adults Provided Outreach, Resources, and Information
- 32 GED Graduates
- 59 GAP Refresh Completions

2023 GED GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- Employed and Involved in College or Job Training: 63%
- Employed Only: 25%
- Attending College or Job Training: 12%



*Based upon graduates who responded

5,045 VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,776 INTERN HOURS



- Interns from Wayne State University, Madonna University, Detroit Urban League, and City of Detroit's Grow Detroit Young Talent
- 70 New Volunteers
- 6 Platforms for Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteers are at the heart of the Center and enable critically needed programs and services to be provided to the community. There is so much need and we need help to meet that challenge. If you can spare some time and want to make a difference, please contact Deirdre.hope@svsfcenter.org. We are waiting for you!

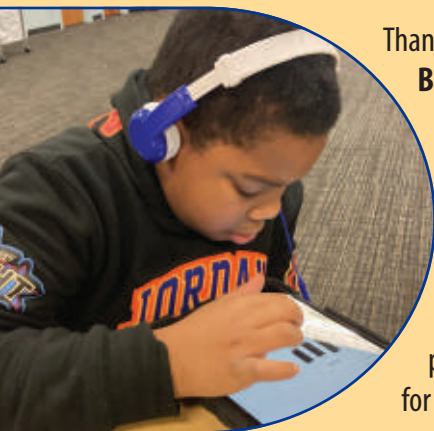


Mark your Calendars!
2024
GRADUATION

Saturday, June 15th

More details will be coming, including a link to live stream the event.

Other News:



Thanks to **Andy Blank** and **Beth Monicatti Blank**, the Children's Program received much needed computers. This will allow the Center to re-implement ScootPad, which allows for module learning for the kids and provide better measurements for skill gains and testing.



The Center is very happy to have become a new partner in the City of Detroit's **Learn to Earn** program. L2E provides stipends to Detroit adult learners for milestones as they progress through the program, to help them obtain their GED faster.



Coming

Soon!

CLEP Pilot Program SVSF was selected as part of a statewide pilot program (the first in the nation) to promote and offer testing and support for adults who want to attend college. The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a series of tests that adults can take to earn college credit for their undergraduate degree, eliminating the time and expense for many basic courses. Essentially, it helps adults to "test out" of pre-requisite classes, which helps them to complete their degree faster. SVSF is delighted to be one of two non-school districts in Michigan selected for this pilot program and expect the program to open in the Summer of 2024.

Celebrate the Center SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

SVSF Center is thrilled to announce the return of our **Presenting Sponsor** for our **April 10th** event:

Doetsch
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

We are grateful to Doetsch for the support of our educational and workforce development programs. Their commitment to their customers and the community is a testament to their integrity of their company! **Thank you!**



easy ways to Help make a **Change**

It's easy to be part of all of the positive changes at SVSF Center and help in ways you may not have considered before.

Charity Motors – Donate your vehicle and you can designate the proceeds to the SVSF Center. Visit www.charitymotors.org for more information.

Ask your employer – Does your employer have an Employee Giving / Matching Gift program? A volunteer group? Give grants to non-profits? Or are there employee activities such as Jean Days that raise money? Ask how SVSF Center can be included.

Check with your place of worship – Many faith communities have funds that they designate to community efforts.

Designate us for Busch and Kroger Community Rewards programs – log on to their websites and select St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center to receive a donation from your grocery shopping.

Leave a Legacy – Consider naming SVSF as a beneficiary in your estate plan. Your commitment now will impact generations to come. Call April Patti at (313) 535-9200 ext. 300

Monetary donations – We rely on the generosity of our community to operate. Your contribution is tax-deductible, and directly supports our programs. Your gift will help our kids to succeed academically and empower our adult learners to achieve their educational goals and become more employable. Your support has a direct economic impact for our entire community – both now and in the future.

In-kind – Contact April Patti at April.Patti@svsfcenter.org and request the Center's Amazon Wish List. Something as simple as office supplies, school supplies, or batteries helps to off-set operating costs.

United Way designation – If you or your company participate in the annual United Way campaign, you can designate your gift toward St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center.

Volunteer – It doesn't take a lot of time to make a difference. And we have a variety of ways that you can help. Whether it is tutoring, administrative assistance, or projects around the Center, your time is appreciated. Contact Deirdre Hope at Deirdre.Hope@svsfcenter.org

Call us at (313) 535-9200 or visit www.svsfcenter.org to learn more about how you can contribute to change.

Our Mission – We provide educational programs, basic skill building and academic enhancement for at-risk children and adults, designed to build self-sufficiency skills for academic and employment success, personal achievement and dignity.

Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram



Facebook is a wonderful way to stay connected to all of the announcements and activities of the Center. Help us expand our social network by "liking" us!

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

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Join Us for Celebrate the Center 2024

Tickets
on Sale
NOW!

Join Us for breakfast at the

Detroit Tigers Comerica Park

to honor our extraordinary students and volunteers!



April 10th, 2024

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

2100 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201

On **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center will hold its annual Celebrate the Center breakfast at a brand new location inside the Comerica Park Tiger club in the heart of downtown Detroit. This signature fund-raising event will be attended by approximately 250 of the organization's closest supporters.

Sponsorship of this event includes marketing opportunities to our donor base of over 3,000 Southeastern Michigan residents—a reach of over 23,000 social media impressions!

Presented By

Doetsch
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

For more information, contact April Patti at 313-887-1752 or april.patti@svsfcenter.org