



The Education Experience

at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

A Season of Change

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Fall! The weather is cooling and the days are getting shorter. And like the colors of the trees, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is changing and evolving to its next season.

This past summer was a very busy and exciting time. We have been blessed with extraordinary opportunities, fantastic partners and receptiveness to our services that we are embracing every single day. As we continue to broaden our reach, we are finding that unfortunately, there is no shortage of need. But our team has no shortage of enthusiasm to make a true change in the lives of our students – which is the motivation for our team that never changes.

The team has been energized by the many positive things that are developing at the Center. They don't slow down for a second and instead, are always going beyond the call of duty to support students as much as possible. Be sure to read in this newsletter what has happened for some of our students.

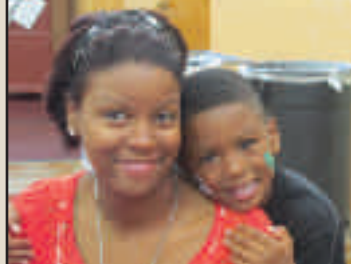
We also have had a celebration within our Center family. Our very own Sr. Marie Judith Haupt has been working hard as Director of Volunteer Services to meet our ever growing need for help. So it was our great pleasure to help her celebrate 50 years of service as a Daughter of Charity. Her lifetime of helping others is no small feat and we are honored that she is with us each day, as her kindness and generosity of spirit is such a big part of our history.

Broadening our reach to students has been only one aspect of change. We've also been developing partnerships and deepening our education commitment to the communities we serve. For example, as part of our membership in the Brightmoor Alliance, we have been invited to be part of the Brightmoor Career and College Access Network (BCCAN), which is a group focused upon increasing college enrollment and post-secondary options, so that residents can pursue and achieve more productive lives and enrich their community.

Equally as exciting is our new relationship with Wayne State University's Student Service Class. WSU offers an opportunity to work with a non-profit organization in exchange for class credit each semester. The Center has been invited to be one of five partner organizations and we are very excited to welcome Wayne State to our campus and give their students a chance to work with ours!

Someone once said that the only thing you can count on is change. For St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, we embrace that philosophy and hope you are enjoying your change of seasons!

Diane Renaud
Executive Director/CEO



Children's Education Experience

Summer Program – It was a summer unlike any other. It was an exceptional experience for our students, parents, volunteers and staff. We hope you'll visit our website to see the pictures of this memorable time!

Doubled students – Our campus partner, Christ the King School, generously allowed us to use several of their classrooms, enabling us to double the enrollment in the program.

Field Trips – Our gratitude is beyond measure to the Marc Suris Legacy Foundation for the sponsorship of our new field trip program. The children were treated to educational tours of some of the gems of the Detroit area, including the Detroit Science Center, Greenfield Village and more. These trips motivated the students (class attendance was mandatory to go on the trips) and it significantly opened their world to new things. One of our young men was so inspired after a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts that he began drawing as soon as he returned to the Center and didn't stop the rest of the summer.

Monarch Butterfly Project – The children had a new education experience this summer – breeding monarch butterflies. They learned about the butterfly's annual migration to Mexico and had the opportunity to interact with an online support program.

After-School Program – Thanks to our bus sponsor, we are able to double the amount of students that are enrolled in our program this year.



Adult Education Experience

More math – Our team has been diligently collecting data to learn more about the effectiveness of our programs. Understanding that math is the hardest segment of the GED to pass, we tested math specific sessions and have identified that our students are 2 ½ times more likely to pass math on the first try when they have gone through our supplemental math process. As a result, our curriculum has been refined and we will be adding several more math-only sessions to our weekly schedule, with the goal of moving more students through the program more efficiently.

More night classes – Last Summer, we launched our first evening sessions on our Main Campus. The response has been so overwhelming; we added another evening to our schedule.

Seminars – Through our College/Career Corner, we have hosted a number of higher education organizations, who have presented to our students. But this summer, we also had two different human resource professionals give interview seminars to our students. This fall, we will be hosting a mock-interview workshop, to provide real-life practice.



4 Adult Education Experience Locations!

We are extremely happy to announce our 4th Adult Education Experience location opened this summer. In developing these partnerships, it has become abundantly clear that our adult program is truly unique and really helps to fill the gaps for other organizations. In addition to our relationship with Friend of the Court, we have launched two more campuses at Focus: HOPE and Neighborhood Services Organization (NSO), broadening our reach literally across Detroit at no cost to The Center. Our student body is rapidly growing at each location and we are grateful to our new partners for their support.

Main Campus, N.W. Detroit: Corner of Grand River & Burt Road
20900 Grand River Ave., Detroit, 48219

Central Campus: Oakman & Linwood at Focus: HOPE
1200 Oakman Boulevard, Detroit, 48238

East Side Campus: N.S.O. Harper-Gratiot Service Center
9641 Harper Ave., Detroit, 48213

Downtown Campus: The Penobscot Building
645 Griswold Street, Detroit, 48226 - Friend of the Court Reception Room 139



Some of our Students

Lindsey

This summer we met an 18 year old woman named Lindsey. She came from a troubled domestic situation and was living in a shelter with no money and a medical condition. But she was bright and determined to get her GED, wanting desperately to get her life together. Lindsey needed someone to be on her side. And our team was there for her.

She worked extremely hard on her learning plan and was ready to take her GED test in two months. Lindsey didn't just pass the test. She became our all time top scorer for The Center. But she needed more support than just getting ready to take the GED. She was losing her place in the shelter in September and would soon be homeless.

Based upon her test scores, we were able to set up a meeting with the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center. (TRIO is a federal program that provides admission and financial aid information and application assistance for low income students.) Not only did we give Lindsey a ride, but we went with her to the meeting. Lindsey was provided with tuition to attend Wayne State University, housing on campus and medical support. That is how our team makes change that really matters.



Zahra (A thank you note from her mother)

"I just wanted to thank you and the staff for another wonderful summer camp program this year. As you know, this is my daughter Zahra's third year in the summer program. After her first year in the program, Zahra's teacher commented to me how well she had done, particularly in math. Zahra had the same teacher in first and second grade, so she was able to see the difference.

I continued to receive great comments from her third grade teacher as well. Zahra's strengths were recognized and she was placed in her school's gifted and talented program last year. I know that the Education Experience had a great part in helping Zahra retain the knowledge she gained during the school year over the summer, so that she is ready to tackle new material the next year.

Zahra really enjoyed this year's program because of the addition of the field trips. She also was very happy to spend her behavior bucks at the "store" yesterday. As I write this, I understand they are having a wonderful time at the end of the summer BBQ.

The blessing is that this wonderful program is no cost to the parents. Kids who might not have the means to participate in other camps like this because of financial concerns are able to benefit from it. I would recommend it to any parent who wants an educational and fun summer experience for their child. If the program should happen to expand to 4th graders, please let me know. Again, I thank you and your staff and wish you the best in years to come."



Easy Ways to Help Make a Change

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

Ask your employer – Does your employer have an Employee Giving/Matching Gift program? A volunteer group? Or give grants to educational organizations? Ask how St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center can be included.

In-kind - Visit our website at www.svsfcenter.org – We have a variety of needs. Something as simple as a roll of paper towel or batteries can help off-set operating costs.

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, child care, administrative assistance, or external relations, your assistance is appreciated.

Donations - We rely on donations to operate. Your contribution is not only tax-deductible, it also directly supports our programs. Your gift will help our kids to succeed in school and make our adults more employable, which has economic impact for our entire community – both now and in the future. We are able to accept secure donations on our website too!

Call us at (313) 535-9200 or visit our website and learn more about how you can contribute to change.



St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

16800 Trinity • Detroit, MI 48219-3968

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #908
Royal Oak, MI

Board of Trustees

Cynthia Chabie
Board Chairperson

Robert Asmussen
Sr. Xavier Ballance, DC
Dr. Calvin Brown
Sheila Cockrel
John Hessburg
Jane Perczyk
Bernard Schwartz
Christianne Sims

**For more information,
please call us at (313) 535-9200.**

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.

Our Values - The values of our founders continue to guide the expression of the Center's mission:

Simplicity - Honesty, integrity and openness in all of our words and actions

Teamwork - Working together in service to others

Advocacy - Advocating for those with no voice

Inventiveness - Being creative in everything we do

Respect - Showing respect for those we serve and everyone we contact on their behalf

Service Quality - Providing the highest quality services

