



St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Opens Campus at Skillman Branch of Detroit Public Library for GED Tutoring

November 12, 2012 - DETROIT -- The GED program of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has a new downtown address: The Skillman Branch of the Detroit Public Library. The new campus joins three others offering the Center's free, individualized GED tutoring for adults 18 years and older.

“St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is delighted to launch this new partnership with the Skillman Branch of the Detroit Public Library,” said Diane Renaud, Executive Director/CEO, The Education Experience at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. “We share a unified purpose in helping our community through education and literacy. The Center is honored to collaborate in providing free adult education to the Downtown Detroit area and, in turn, making our City better together.”

Renaud said the new campus is perfectly located -- providing better access along three major bus lines, Woodward, Grand River and Gratiot. It's also near the Cadillac Center People Mover Station, Compuware Corporation Headquarters and Campus Martius Park.

The Rose and Robert Skillman branch of the Detroit Public Library opened in 1932. Formerly called the “Downtown Library,” it was renamed to honor a generous gift from the Skillman Foundation. It currently houses the National Automotive History Collection, regarded as the nation's premier public automotive archive.

Joel Anyim, Manager of the Skillman Branch, agrees the collaboration with St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher is good for the library.

“We are glad to promote and support programs aimed at increasing the literacy of our citizens, and providing them a chance at a better future,” he said.

Student assessments show the Center's work is paying off. While the first-time pass rate for the GED test in Detroit is 25 percent, the Center's students are passing at an incredible 85 percent. Many are going on to community college, university, vocational school or finding work immediately. Between 8,000 and 10,000 students drop out of Detroit Public Schools annually. It is estimated that more than 200,000 adults in Detroit have neither a diploma nor GED, making employment opportunities scarce.

"We have to fight the generational resistance to education," Renaud said. "People can no longer survive being functionally illiterate. The city's tax base won't be fixed until residents are employable.

Find out more by calling 313-535-9200.

About St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

Founded in 1844, the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center began serving Southeastern Michigan as a residential/foster care agency for children. In 2006, the Center closed its residential campus and returned to its roots of providing educational programs. For more information, visit <http://www.svsfcenter.org/>

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher: GED Tutoring Locations

Main Campus, N.W. Detroit: Corner of Grand River & Burt Road
20900 Grand River Ave., Detroit, 48219
Orientation: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

East Side Campus: N.S.O. Harper-Gratiot Service Center
9641 Harper Ave., Detroit, 48213
Orientation: Mondays 9:00 a.m.

Central Campus: Oakman & Linwood at Focus: HOPE
1200 Oakman Boulevard, CAT Building, Detroit, 48238
Orientation: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Campus: The Skillman Branch, The Detroit Public Library
121 Gratiot, at Woodward & Grand River
Orientation: Mondays 1:30 p.m.

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