

Time for a New Game...

Dear Friends:

When St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center closed the books on 2015, as usual we reflected upon how well we fulfilled our mission. We reviewed information on those that we served and in doing so, a very surprising fact revealed itself to us. Typically, the demographics of those we serve have been much like a chess board, where there are traditionally only two colors of pieces. However, that changed in 2015.

Last year, SVSF served several new (to us) cultural populations. What this means is that with all of the changes happening in Detroit, there is a changing "face" to the population as well. Detroit has always had its cultural "pockets" through the city, where people from the same origins were clustered. But we are now seeing new groups emerge throughout the City. Although the faces and backgrounds are becoming more diverse, there is a unifying factor.

Unfortunately, these newer populations share something with the existing ones – the need for help. At SVSF, we embrace the opportunity to provide support to those in our community that ask for help, regardless of their background. We strive to make all feel welcome and to truly embody St. Vincent's mission to us of helping others.

And perhaps in order to do so, we will need to find a game that includes more types, colors, shapes and sizes. Anyone want to play a game of marbles?

Yours,



Diane Renaud
Executive Director/CEO



Blue Care Network Engagement

BCN graciously invited SVSF to participate in two important days for their employees: Volunteer Sign-Up Days and United Way Employee Designation Days. We are so grateful for the wonderful partnership we have with BCN and its employees and truly appreciate opportunities like these!



Thanks Neighbor!



Thanks to Terri Waddell,
Resource Administrative Assistant
with **Meijer, Inc.** for the \$500 gift
card from our new neighbor!

"Brilliant" Bianca!

We were heartbroken to learn that our beloved Ms. Bianca (Spence), who has volunteered with SVSF since June, 2011 had to leave us. Having found us through the Corpus Christi Bulletin, she has worked with our kids for five years. Her patience with the children is amazing, giving them a contagious smile and encouraging good behavior. Her tag line is "Brilliant!", which is what she was with our kids, bringing out the best in them. Although we understand that she is relocating to Texas for her job, it doesn't make it easier to say goodbye. We'll miss you Ms. Bianca!!



Students Helping Students



Brian Cox, from Livonia and attends Catholic Central High School, is a volunteer for our Children's after-school tutoring program. He is the Founder of the **Youth Education in Detroit Club**.

His goal is to get as

many students as possible to tutor at SVSF. In the 2014/15 school year, he started with 5 students that came to tutor, but was optimistic for the 2015/16 school year, as he was reaching out to juniors as well as seniors.

"Initially, I started the club to have something to put on my college application, but now I realize the impact this experience can have on both the person tutoring and the child being tutored. The children seem to really connect with high school students and high schoolers are able to be inspired and become active in society." Brian informed SVSF that after his volunteer experience with us, he has decided that he wants to pursue a degree in Social Work.

We thank you Brian, for all that you have done for our kids. But we also thank you for being an outstanding example to other high school students (and adults) about the importance of helping others.

U.S. Forestry Department

David Goldstein, Ph.D., RPA visited with our Children's Program and spoke to the children about how math and science are used in the Forestry Department and the different types of jobs that are available. Further, plans are being made to visit a Forestry run property during the summer field trips.



GED Update

GED Testing Services has recognized the difficulty of the new test and has dropped the official "passing" score by five points.

APRIL is... Volunteer Appreciation Month!

2016 Volunteer of the Year – Laura Kull, M.S., R.D.

Back in 2012, SVSF was interested in starting a Children's Urban Garden. We thought growing a couple of tomatoes, a few squash would be fun for the kids and would teach them some science. At the same time, we had invited Laura Kull, the Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics and Assistant Professor of Madonna from Madonna University, to provide a healthy eating presentation to the children. Little did we know that Ms. Laura would take the two ideas and run!! Laura created an exceptional program benefitting our kids, where with her students, our kids prepare the garden, plant, weed and maintain the crops, as well as tutoring the children. But she didn't stop there. She also connected SVSF with other programs at Madonna to help coordinate STEM activities for children. But for Laura, volunteering is also a family affair. Laura is married and her two daughters (Emma Dot and Matilda) have also volunteered with the Children's Program, teaching classes and coordinating dance groups. Loved by the children, respected and appreciated by the staff and other volunteers, we are thrilled to celebrate Laura and her devotion to the children of SVSF!



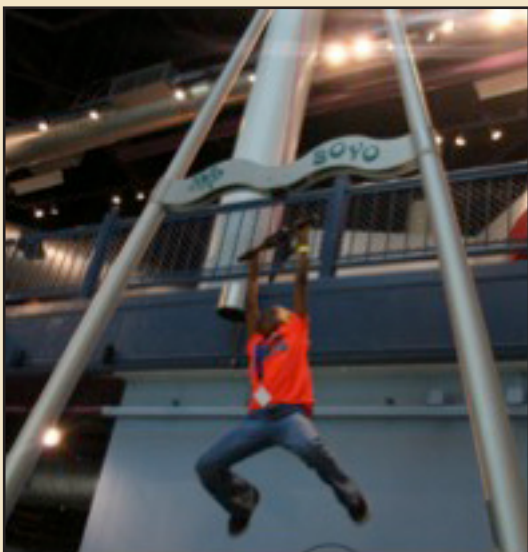
Laura Kull

Thanks for Five Wonderful Years!



SVSF is grateful to the wonderful supporters of the Marc Suris Legacy Foundation (MSLF), Brenda Suris and Bruce Clayton for their generous support of the Children's Summer Program for the past five years.

Through the donations of MSLF, each Summer our kids have experienced new and exciting parts of life through educational field trips. *Our kids and parents thank you!*



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.

AmazonSmile – Think of SVSF when you are shopping and Help Our Students! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center whenever you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com).

Charity Motors – Donate your vehicle and you can designate the proceeds to the SVSF. 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 a jean day that raise money? Ask how St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher 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 St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in your estate planning, to leave a gift that keeps on giving. We can help. Call Nancy Skula at (313) 535-9200, extension 3110.

Monetary 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!

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.

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 publicity and marketing, your assistance is appreciated.

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

Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter



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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**For more information, please call us at (313) 535-9200
or visit www.svsfcenter.org**



Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) Workforce

One Trailer visited the Center last Fall, to help GED Students to create their resumes, apply for job postings and receive tutorials on technology and work readiness. The Trailer will bring its free services back throughout the year to our Grand River Campus!

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.