

svsf St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

SPRING 2018



Celebrate THE CENTER

Dear Friends,

For those who have supported St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center for a long time, do you remember “The Garden Party”? For those that don’t go that far back, did you know that the Center used to have a big, three-day long celebration of the Center on our former property? Like many other big events, it was a spectacular act of love by many donors and volunteers. However, after a long, wonderful existence that raised significant funds for the Center’s programs, it ended when the Center went through its transition and moved back to Detroit.

Times have changed – we are no longer a residential facility, with extensive grounds on which to have a luxurious event. Instead, we have modified our approach to keep our overhead lean, so that we can put more resources directly into services. But two things have not changed – the mission of the Center to help at-risk families through free educational programs and the need to recognize and honor our students, as well as the many, many volunteers that give selflessly to help others.

It is with great pleasure that we announce a new event called “Celebrate the Center”. It is a recognition breakfast to show our appreciation for the people that are not only making a difference for themselves and their families, but also for the people that have a true impact in other people’s lives. We will also recognize our 2018 Volunteer of the Year!

In keeping with the times, we have made a concerted effort to create a simple, but powerful low-cost event that more people are able to enjoy, without taking up your entire day. (Details and ticket information are available inside this newsletter.)

There are so many people that have reached out to us over the years, but because of their work schedule, family commitments or health concerns, they are unable to volunteer. Well, here is the opportunity for you to support the Center in person. We sincerely hope that you will join us and meet some of the people whose lives have been changed by all of the friends and supporters of St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. This is your celebration too – and we can’t wait to see you!

Yours,



Diane Renaud
Executive Director/CEO

A BIG Thanks!



SCRIPPS HOWARD
FOUNDATION

Sometimes Thank You doesn't seem like enough. Especially when you are appreciative of not one, not two, but THREE donations from some very special people!

In time for the Holiday Season, SVSF Center received an extraordinary donation of 5,600 new children's books from the Television stations WXYZ (Ch. 7) and WMYD (TV 20). The funds were raised through the employee "If you give a child a book" Campaign, sponsored by their parent company, the Scripps Howard Foundation. The Center was featured in a segment on the stations and distributed the books across Detroit, through the Center's partnership network, in addition to the children and families served by the Center.

Some of the books went to NSO's Youthlink program, where some participants have achieved up to 11th or 12th grade in the Detroit Public Schools, but are not reading at age appropriate levels. For example, one 17 year old in particular is reading at the first grade level. His case manager was thrilled to receive the books, because we specifically selected the books to progress with grade level. She told us that these will be a big help in his learning plan. So these book aren't just helping the children of our community, but adults too!

activities, games and awards for our first through fifth graders. Ms. Clifford spent timing talking with and then reading to the children and the kids are still talking about her!

But it wasn't over yet. Our wonderful guests then surprised us with a \$10,000 donation from the Scripps Howard Foundation to support the Children's Program at the SVSF Main Campus and the Family Learning Program at our Midtown Campus (at COTS). Support like this is humbling and overwhelming. Thank you just isn't enough for the generosity of spirit from these amazing organizations and team members.



2018 National Reading Day
Check Presentation.

The Scripps Howard Foundation strives to advance the cause of a free press while also building healthy communities and an improved quality of life through its support of education, vital social services, enriching arts and culture, and inclusive civic affairs.



2018 C. Clifford Reading to Children

THEN, WXYZ/WMYD General Manager Mike Murri surprised us with a year-end donation of \$1,000 from the Scripps Howard Foundation.

THEN, Mike and his colleagues from WXYZ, Phil Wrobel and Carolyn Clifford, showed up again at the Center on January 23 for National Reading Day! But they didn't come alone! They brought with them representatives from the Scripps Howard Foundation to participate in the reading



11.14.17 SVSF Center Reading Corner2.

Think of
SVSF when you think of Spring!

We could use your help to make our grounds more beautiful! While you are out buying your Spring flowers, think of SVSF and pick up an extra perennial!

We are looking for both shade and sun loving perennials. If you would like to make arrangements for your donation, please let us know by calling (313) 535-9200.

Special thanks to Eastown Distributors and a special visitor from the North Pole for a special visit, which provided ALL of our kids with toys, gift cards, boots and coats!

thank you!



100+ Women Who Care Motown

help launch the new Family Learning Program

SVSF Center was selected by 100+ Women Who Care Motown to receive a donation of more than \$14,000. The funds have helped to support the Center's new Family Learning Program (FLP). The Family Learning Program is an expansion of the existing SVSF GED™ program at its Midtown Campus, which is located at Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS), a cherished partner to the Center.

One of the populations of Detroit that is in critical need of assistance is that of the transient family, whose educational needs are often interrupted by being in survival mode. As COTS helps families to get back on their feet, the FLP will provide the education to help them become economically self-sustaining. The critical element that has not been addressed for transient families is really understanding how or if these families have education as part of their daily routine. The program will provide not only independent tutor to the children and parents, but also guidance on how to create educational "habits" that become part of their family's culture.

100+ Women Who Care Motown is a group of more than 100 women from Metro Detroit who meet quarterly to raise funds for Detroit-area charities. The Center came to the group's attention by Sally Kolar. "SVSF has been involved with Detroit since its inception as an organization, so it was a prime candidate," she said.

Kolar became interested in SVSF after talking with two women who had once tutored adults in SVSF's GED™ program. Following her presentation and subsequent selection of SVSF by 100+ Women members, Kolar and the former tutors who had inspired her, Sally Grierson and Mary Jo Henry, paid a visit to the SVSF Center in Detroit. Not only was the visit informative for Kolar, but the former tutors were able to see what has changed since they were tutors in 2012.

Ms. Kolar has told us "SVSF struck a particular chord with me. The significance of the Family Learning Program is huge."

The Center is so grateful for the support of this amazing group, to our former volunteers Sally and Mary Jo and of course, to Sally Kolar for her belief in our mission and program.



Sally Grierson and Mary Jo Henry

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.**

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.



You are invited to



New **Recognition
Breakfast**



Help us celebrate our extraordinary students and volunteers, including the

2018 Volunteer of The Year



Detroit Athletic Club

241 Madison Street, Detroit, MI 48226

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

☐ **Graduate Sponsor: \$1,000**

- 1 Named Table of 10, including one Adult graduate and their guest
- Event Screen Recognition
- Included in sponsor listings in 2018 Spring SVSF Center Newsletter and social media promotions

☐ **Table Sponsor: \$400**

- 1 Named Table of 10
- Event Screen Recognition

☐ **Individual Tickets: \$35 each** X Number of Ticket(s): _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

☐ **I am unable to attend**, please accept this donation of \$ _____.

Business Attire (Complimentary Valet Parking included in ticket price.)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sponsor/Company Name *(Please indicate how table card should be printed):*

Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____
Number and Street Name City State Zip

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

☐ Check *(Made payable to SVSF Center)*

☐ Credit Card:

Card Number#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name Printed on Card: _____ Security Code: _____
First M.I. Last

Billing Address: _____
Number and Street Name City State Zip

Signature: _____ Total Charge Amount: \$ _____
(From other side of form)

Please submit with payment no later than APRIL 1, 2018

Only reservations accompanied by payment will be accepted.

Consult with your tax advisor regarding the tax deductibility of your gift.

GUESTS NAME:

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Please join us and help To



For additional information, other sponsorship opportunities or to purchase your tickets by phone
Please Call 313-535-9200 Or Visit Our Website: www.svsfcenter.org