

FALL 2018

The Past and the Future

Dear Friends:

As you know, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has been around for a LONG time! Part of the challenge of longevity is paying homage to the past and appreciating the Center's evolution, while being open and embracing the future. This past year, we had to think about that a lot, as we launched our new Celebrate the Center event and prepare for our 175th Anniversary in 2019. Sometimes the past and the future come together in unexpected ways.

For example, our Celebrate the Center in April was a great success, due in large part to supporters from the past, as well as newer friends, that demonstrated their commitment to the residents of Southeastern Michigan. We want to thank the 250 attendees that filled the room to capacity and helped us to Celebrate some amazing students, volunteers and staff that all give of themselves to make the Center a valuable part of the community. If you didn't believe in us, our services wouldn't be possible.

We are grateful too for the many sponsors that came forward to support the event and also want to acknowledge the many Table Sponsors, donors and ticket buyers that enabled the event to be a big hit!

Finally, we appreciate that everyone was able to share the unique story of our 2018 Volunteer of the Year, Anika Jane Beamer! Anika Jane and her organization, Blessed Birthdays, have been providing birthday parties to our children for many years. She has impacted so many lives by making our children feel special, when they may not have the luxury of birthday cakes, presents and games at home. She is a caring, compassionate and unique individual who knew about the Center from its past and has been a significant contributor to its glowing future. Thank you Anika Jane and Congratulations!

The future for the Center is indeed bright and we are excited to get to 2019, so that we can begin to commemorate our 175 years of continuous service! (See page 3 of this newsletter to see how you can be a part of the Celebration!) Be sure to mark your calendars for April 10, 2019 for our next Celebrate the Center event!

Ticket information will be provided in the coming months – you will want to be part of it!

Best regards,



Diane Renaud, Executive Director/CEO



Anika Jane Beamer



Some 2017 Graduates at the 2018 CTC Event.

Learning Is *Not* Just About Content

Stephen Goodrum, Director of Adult Education/Workforce Development

A frequently asked question we receive at the Center is “Why don’t you just give online classes? Wouldn’t it be easier? Faster? Cheaper?” Yes, online learning is a good supplement and we do use it at the Center – but online learning has its limits. With the advent of computers, laptops, tablets, and smart phones, there has been an acceleration of online learning. It has become the panacea of adult education in the last 10 years. It hasn’t produced the magic success that was promised. This should be no surprise.

Sitting a student down in front of a book and saying “go to it” rarely produces a success rate either. What is missing with “just books” is the same that is missing with “just computers.” A teacher, a tutor, a mentor – a person. Learning is not just cognitive. Learning is relational. Without a good relationship, learning is likely impossible. Think about it for yourself.

In school you eventually found a favorite subject. Favorite subjects are most likely taught by a favorite teacher. When you liked the teacher, you liked the subject. When you hated the teacher, you hated the subject. When you have a good relationship with your teacher, tutor, mentor, you create for yourself the possibility of exceptional and accelerated learning.

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center’s educational model for both adults and children is one-on-one tutoring. We understand that learning is not just intellectual, but emotional. With a connection between student and tutor, barriers from past failures and lack of confidence are overcome. Someone, a person, lifts us up from our inward view and other’s view of ourselves and what we can accomplish. What we cannot see for ourselves, someone we believe in raises our belief in ourselves. And once we believe it, we can “go for it.”

We don’t provide just education, not just content. We provide support. We provide a new way for students to see themselves. Perhaps in a way that they never thought possible. Can’t get that from an online course!

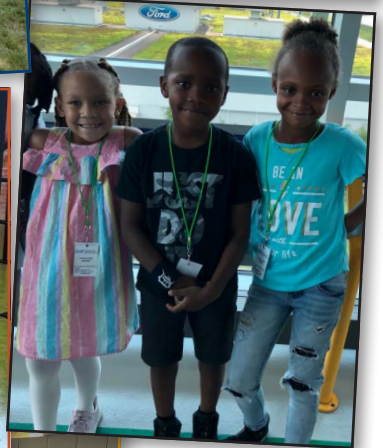
Valuable Volunteers!

East Campus Volunteer Sukhi Ajimal

I know when I first started volunteering, I was quite naive with my approach. I came in with the expectation that the students seeking help just needed the right resources and a teacher to simply teach (because that’s what I’ve been accustomed to my entire life). I remember enthusiastically demonstrating solutions on my iPad regarding the math problems they were struggling with, giving them notes to take home and reference, and providing them with resources like Khan Academy. And though that did make the classroom time more productive, within a few weeks I began to realize that they still had the same questions, forgot previously learned material, and were not ultimately progressing as efficiently as they wished. Here is where I began to realize that these students were not simply students. These individuals are full time parents, caregivers, and workers. Speaking to each of these individuals has been an eye opening experience. One of the ladies works two jobs 5-6 days out of the week, while caring for her sister who just had surgery. Another has two children and also works a full time job; she wakes up at 4am to get her kids ready for school, then goes to work and comes back in the evening to take care of her kids. Finally, yet another also has two kids, works full time, and takes care of a sick family member.

They do all of this while deciding to go back to take their GED/HI-SET courses to change the lives of their families and their children for the better. I feel that the most important thing I can do for them, in addition to teaching, is to help them build diligent study habits. Seeing how they are able to take time out of their day to come and learn in order to better their lives, I must put in an equal amount of effort to help them achieve exactly that. This is more than just a volunteer position to me, this is my opportunity to make a difference in the lives of each of these individuals.

SUMMER EDUCATIONAL



FUN

175th Anniversary

It's coming! 175 years in the making! Who knew that when the Daughters of Charity opened St. Vincent's Academy in Downtown Detroit with a mere \$8.50, that it would lead into an indelible legacy! The evolution of the Center from its humble origins is a long one that continues to this day.

This ministry of service has not only impacted countless children, adults and families, but also is a reflection of the fabric of Metro Detroit.

In preparation for our year-long celebration of this extraordinary organization, we want to hear **Your Story!** Were you a resident, a volunteer, a donor, a staff member? Do you have a particular story to tell? Was there a special person at the Center who touched your life? Or did you make an impact upon someone?

As part of our 175th Anniversary, we will be featuring memories of our past on Facebook, called "Throwback Thursdays". If you want to submit a picture and/or memory to be a part of this living history, we want to know about it!

Starting November 15, you can visit our website at www.svsfcenter.org and submit your experience. We can't promise that all submissions will make it to the site, but we will do our best!

Help us celebrate a remarkable achievement that people like you have helped bring to life!



NEW PARTNERSHIP

Brilliant Detroit
creating kid success neighborhoods

SVSF Center is delighted to announce a new partnership with Brilliant Detroit, an innovative and dynamic program that literally bring services to neighborhoods, eliminating the transportation barrier that so many families face. Cindy Eggleton, Co-Founder and CEO stated, "The idea was to create a unique delivery model in our approach to early childhood development by using underutilized housing stock to create early child and family centers in neighborhoods. Input was gathered and a model that is designed with, for, and by neighbors was built."

The Center was very pleased to launch a partnership with this visionary group and has started an Adult Education Program at the Osborn Location of Brilliant Detroit. We are blessed to have found such a wonderful partner that will help us to bring our services directly to the neighborhoods that need it most!

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 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 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.

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 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.

Quicken Loans®

In the Community –

An enormous THANK YOU to our friends at **Quicken Loan** and **Ben Moore** from their Tech Team, who have donated gently used lap tops as graduation presents for our Adult Learners, when they obtain their High School Equivalency!

2018 Graduate
Laututarlee Lee-Young

