



Media Contact: Sue Voyles, (734) 667-2005 / sue@logos-communications.com
Diane Renaud, (313) 535-9200 / Ext. 3116
diane.renaud@svsfcenter.org

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center offers remote education options during pandemic

DETROIT, April 13, 2020 – In the face of an early end to the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center](#) (SVSF) is offering open enrollment for remote versions of both its children and adult programs.

Both programs are accepting students on a first come, first-serve basis for the duration of the Stay-at-Home directives, until SVSF is able to open their in-person classes again. Each program offers online or remote offline tutoring, depending on the needs of the student, through its team and a corps of dedicated trained volunteers, many of them retired school teachers.

While the SVSF Center team has been staying in touch with the 250 students and families in both programs over the last few weeks, it became clear that there was a need to offer an opportunity to the newly unemployed or food assistance recipients to take advantage of the available time to continue their education, said Diane Renaud, Executive Director and CEO at SVSF.

The children’s program is a free, personalized, tutoring program focusing on math and reading for children in grades 1-5 as of April 2020.

The adult program is designed to assist adult students (age 18 or older) obtain their GED/High School Equivalency to provide the necessary foundational skills to help Detroit residents become more self-sufficient through education. The free program offers one-on-one tutoring sessions, personalized learning plans and provides for a social work component specifically designed to help students overcome the barriers to education.

For more information, SVSF is accepting calls from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Individuals interested in the children’s program should contact Melissa Gonzales at (313) 495-0473. Those interested in the adult’s program should contact Aubrey Williams at (313) 969-3870. Due to anticipated volume, please allow 2 business days for calls to be returned.

“When we emerge from the stay-at-home order, the school year will be over and the job market is going to be more competitive than ever. We want to make sure our students have the best opportunities possible, regardless of their internet access,” said Renaud.

About St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center began in 1844 as St. Vincent's Academy in Detroit, a kindergarten for orphaned children. Now with over 175 years of service, the organization has grown and evolved, which included a move to Farmington Hills before coming back to its roots in Detroit. Although it closed its residential doors in 2006, it still continues to fulfill its mission of serving at-risk families by providing free, personalized educational support for children and adults. These programs are designed to help build self-sufficiency skills for academic and employment success, personal achievement and dignity. Visit <http://www.svsfcenter.org/> to learn more.