

Home Sweet Home

Dear Friends,

Well... we did it! St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher is officially in our new home! Please make note of our new address: **14061 Lappin, Detroit, MI 48205-2374.**

We are enormously grateful to our team of vendors that have made this possible:

- Advanced Building Group, our construction Team
- Farbman, our Property Management Team
- Fishbeck Associates, our Architect
- Granite Networks, for providing all of our technology hook-ups
- Prudential Alarms, who provided all of our security systems



A special thanks goes also to our beloved John Wingert! **Mr. John** and his crew, including our former long-time employee **Rick Cochrane**, worked feverishly to move everything from our former location, put together furniture, hang things, make minor repairs and handle every detail that comes along with a major facility move. Mr. John's constantly positive attitude and unwavering support was a critical aspect of the long and tiring process. We are so grateful for everything that he, his wife **Ms. Vickie** and his team did for us!

And finally, a special acknowledgement to two of our team members that went far beyond the call of duty. First, our Operations Manager **Ann DeMara**, whose tireless efforts and tenacity made this move happen. And **Karen Gordon**, our CFO, whose background in facility management proved to be essential. These two combined were a formidable powerhouse that made our transition so much easier!

Now that we are installed in our new home, we have begun the important part of our transition – reaching out to our new neighbors. Canvassing the neighborhood, contacting businesses, churches, libraries, and civic leaders to let them know about the services that we provide. We have received a very warm reception from those that we have contacted thus far and we are confident that we will be making a true impact quickly in our new community. But again, we are not neglecting our existing students, as we continue to work to reopen our many extension sites and build new relationships throughout the City and surrounding areas.

Finally, we are enormously happy to announce that we will be having our **Grand Opening Event on Saturday, October 15, 2022** at our new building! (See back of this newsletter for details.) You will have the opportunity to tour our new facility, speak with our team and help us celebrate this exciting point in the Center's history! We hope that you will join us and see what your support has helped to build for the community!

Warmest wishes,

Executive Director/CEO

What 2021 Graduates Are Up To:

As part of our program, we stay in touch with our adult GED graduates, to make sure that they have the tools they need to keep moving towards their goals. It's important for us to learn how their lives have changed after graduation, in order to truly understand the impact of our programs.

We are happy to report what our 2021 graduates have been up to:

50% are gainfully employed or in job training programs. Areas of interest that these employed graduates are also pursuing via college programs include nursing, surgical technical, ministry and carpentry.

We couldn't be prouder of our graduates! The fact that once they pass the GED hurdle, our alumni are continuing their education and working towards changing not only their life, but that of their families is truly inspirational.

Well done Graduates!



2022 Children's Summer Program

Due to the Center's relocation over the Summer, our traditional Summer Children's Program was modified in several ways, but it was still an exciting Summer!

First, we were invited to provide STEM educational modules at the Durfee Innovative Society's Summer Camp, over a two month period. Our team was the sole educational provider to these children, who came for recreational purposes. The kids were all enthusiastically receptive to the program and our science projects.

Second, our traditional educational Summer boot camps were reduced to only one session and enrollment was capped. This smaller number of students was our first "in-person" test of our COVID protocols and we were very happy that they were effective, in that there were not any reported cases from the program.

Also, in addition to the educational instruction, we were delighted to be able to bring back **Blessed Birthdays** to honor kids having their special days. Thanks to **Anika Jane and Jessica Beamer** for the wonderful celebration including treats, gifts and games! It was so good to have them back and to be able give joy to kids that don't always have the opportunity for birthday parties at home.

We also brought back some wonderful partners for the kids' activities, including **Class Act Detroit, Arts and Scraps and Leslie Nature Center**, who introduced the children to snakes!



Finally, special thanks to **Michael Muzzin** for teaching our first Children's Drone Class. Mr. Michael was also responsible for donating all of the drone and Steadicam footage for our new building videos. If you haven't seen them, please visit our website (svsfcenter.org) or our Youtube channel!



It was a busy Summer and now we are excited to start the Fall in our new home! Our traditional Children's After-School program will start in January, but we will be offering Children's Homework Help in our new location, starting in November. Volunteers are needed! Again, you can help make a difference by calling Dierdre Hope at (313) 535-9200 x400.

Welcome!

The Center is delighted to welcome several new additions to our family!

💰 **April Ellison** is our new Director of Development and Marketing, who will be leading the charge in raising funds for Phase II of our new home.

♥ **Deirdre Hope** joins us the new Director of Volunteer/ Intern Services. She will be working to expand our network, with our new location.

🕒 **Prentis Parker**, is our new friendly face in the lobby, as the new Receptionist.

📎 **Lydia Stallard** is a welcome addition, as our new Accountant, bringing us to the next level in our financial capabilities and planning.

These accomplished women are all enthusiastic about joining the Center at such a pivotal time in our history. We are honored that they have joined us are excited about what each of them are contributing!



Saying Goodbye...

We have always thought of SVSF Center as a family. And sometimes in a family, members decide that it is time for them to grow and move on to other things. Sadly for us, one of our family has decided to spread her wings and go to a vocation for which she studied and trained. Our beloved **Beth Kraft**, Director of Volunteer/Intern Services, has left our family nest, in order pursue her lifelong passion as an art teacher in the Clintondale School District.

After 15 years of her loyal and dedicated service to the Center, Beth is going to be teaching young people a new way to look at and embrace the beauty of life. We are incredibly sorry to see her go, but we are grateful for all that she has given to us and joyful for her that she is fulfilling her destiny.



Starting as an intern, Beth originally worked in the Children's Program, helping to shape the program to what it is today and impacting the lives of countless children. She worked her way up through the Center, gracing us with her kindness, devotion, and ever-present smile. She makes everyone feel valued and at ease, ensuring that every person she meets understands that they are special. We couldn't be happier for her and the lucky families that she will be serving in her new role – our community will be richer for her contributions.

She will always be part of the Center and will be returning as a volunteer. We wish her all the best and want to say

*Thank you Beth,
for the memories,
for your hard work,
humor and your love.*



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 April Ellison at (313) 535-9200, extension 300.

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.**

GRAND OPENING OPEN HOUSE!

All are Welcome to Visit our New Home!

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Tours of the Center's New Home
- Children's Activities
- Children's Backpack Giveaway, Courtesy of Dte Energy
- Free Refreshments
- Learn About New Volunteer Opportunities
- Opportunity for the Community to Enroll in our Services
- Meet the New Staff

**We hope that you will
join us!**

svsf St. Vincent and
Sarah Fisher Center

14061 Lappin Detroit, MI 48205

**RSVP by October 8 at
svsfcentergo.eventbrite.com**