

What Defines a Community?

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are already deep into 2023. Here at **St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center**, things have absolutely not slowed down from our monumental 2022, with our move, expansion of programs and staff and new friends/partnerships. Our new location is giving us different and new opportunities and our team is happily working every lead that comes our way. We are embracing the new community in which we now live, as well as continuing to nurture our friends and supporters from our previous location.

Community. It seems like such a simple, straightforward word. But there are many definitions and layers to what a community really means. I have been thinking a lot about this recently, as sadly, I lost a beloved Aunt, who was a Servant of Mary nun. Some of our family went to the funeral at the Motherhouse in Nebraska, where we were not just welcomed by her "community" but enveloped by them. The Servite nuns honored our family like we were celebrities and demonstrated every minute that they were there to support and love us as much as they had our Aunt.

They presented effortlessly as one body, one mind, one collective to celebrate a member of their community and by extension, her biological family. These women have been devoted servants their entire lives, living together, working for the good of their neighborhoods and their mission. We've known several of them for years and they were the ones that cared for our aunt for more than 70 years and took care of her when her health was failing. They nurtured her, met her needs, prayed for her and were with her when she passed.

In our conversations with them over those few days, we had in-depth discussions about their community, including the fact that it is slowly diminishing, as less and less people are entering the religious life. The thing that struck me and has stayed with me is that they are at peace with their community slowly disappearing. We asked them why that was, how they could be okay with their way of life being phased out. The answer was a simple one. They have no regrets about how they spent their lives in religious service, but the world has evolved and they are pragmatic enough to see that other options that were not available to them are now prevalent. For example, there was no such thing as the Peace Corps when they entered a life of service. There are many avenues now to support others, to evangelize, to live God's word, that didn't exist when they made their choice. In other words, there are now many other "Communities" that people can join. They have played their role in history and in the lives of many generations, but it is time to come to terms that the world has changed.

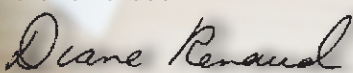
At first, this made me very sad. To know that future generations will not experience the tremendous unity and love of the community of which our Aunt was a part. But then I took hope in the fact that there is not one definition of community – that it comes in many forms. I realized our Center is one of those ways that people melded together and shared a vision. It made me happy to come back to the Center and appreciate what our family, our network, our "community" is for the neighborhood and the people that we support. That our staff and the many people that sustain our mission – our volunteers, donors and partners, make up our community.

How blessed we are to be unified in our individual needs to support others and just as importantly, to have found each other. To work together. To be a community.

We hope that you will join us to rejoice in our bond at our **Celebrate the Center** event on April 12! Until then, thank you for being part of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center community.

Warm regards,

Diane Renaud



Executive Director/CEO



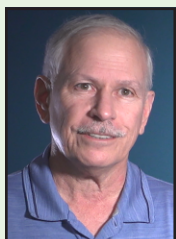
2023 Volunteer of the Year!



It gives us great pleasure to announce that our 2023 Volunteer of the Year is our beloved **Christianne Sims**. Chris is a member of the Board of Trustees, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer. She has been an extraordinary supporter of the Center for the past 13 years. Chris' enthusiasm and support for all of our students is an inspiration, as is her love for Detroit. We hope that you will join us at "**Celebrate the Center**" to help us honor this incredible woman!

Announcing New Award Categories at Celebrate the Center!

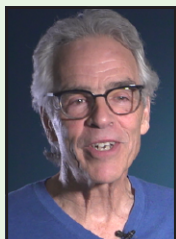
There are too many amazing people, doing too much great work at the Center to limit our awards to just one each year. So, this year, we have added two more categories.



Vince Licari

2023 Tutors of the Year

Recognizing the very special talent and dedication that it takes to be a tutor is important. But especially important this year is to recognize that for the past year, not one but two important volunteers were the first to come back from our COVID hiatus. Working with adults on a very important program with the City of Detroit – Skills for Life, **Vince Licari** and **John (Jack) Mills** epitomize what it means to be devoted. Their contributions have been enormous and we are thrilled that this amazing pair are the first to share in this new award category.



Jack Mills

2023 Alum of the Year

Likewise, it is inspiring to see one of our alums making the most of their opportunities, but also giving back to the Center. **Lorie Cox** is a graduate of our GED program and has been giving back to others, by volunteer tutoring students at two of the Center's satellite



Lorie Cox

locations for four years. It is with great joy that we are able to recognize her for her extraordinary heart in helping others!

These amazing people will be recognized for their selfless support in helping others to change their lives.

Vince, Jack and Lorie, we Celebrate you!

Welcome!

The Center continues to expand and welcomes three new members to the SVSF Family:

Maya Moses, Children's Extension Site Coordinator. Maya will be facilitating the Children's Program's first ever extension site at the **University of Detroit Jesuit Johnson Recreation Center & Joe Louis Park**.

Leonard Samborski, Adult Education Associate and **Sawsan Srour**, Adult Program Assistant have joined our Adult Education team to assist in the numerous contracts the Center has with the City of Detroit, including the very successful **Skills for Life** program.

We are delighted to have these wonderful additions to our family!



Maya Moses



Leonard Samborski



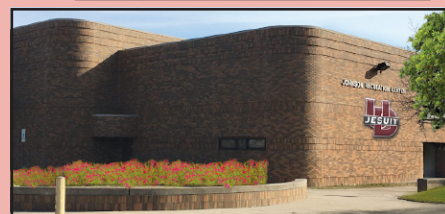
Sawsan Srour

Still Growing...

As the Center continues to evolve its community network, we are pleased to announce a new partnership!

SVSF Center is pleased to partner with **University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy**, to offer adult education classes and children's homework help at its **Johnson Recreation Center** in Detroit. U of D/Jesuit bought and renovated this historic community center from the City of Detroit. This site will be the first children's extension site for the Center and the adult program is up and running!

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT JESUIT
Joe Louis Park
& Johnson Recreation Center



Mark your Calendars!

2023 GRADUATION

We are excited to be hosting our first graduation ceremony in our new building on

Saturday, June 3

More details will be coming, including a link to live stream the event.



Adult Team Received National Recognition!



St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center *Advancing Workforce Development*

We are very pleased to share that our Adult Education Team has received a national award from COABE (Coalition on Adult Basic Education), for excellence in Advancing Workforce Development. The team earned this honor through their hard work and passion for our mission, helping adult students to obtain their GED or refreshing their educational skills, so that they are able to participate in trainings, that lead to self-sustaining jobs. The Team is being honored at the national conference in Atlanta and we couldn't be prouder!



Celebrate the Center SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

SVSF Center is thrilled to announce the return of our
Presenting Sponsor for our **April 12th** event:

Doetsch

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

We are grateful to Doetsch for the support of our educational and workforce development programs. Their commitment to their customers and the community is a testament to their integrity of their company! *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.

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 Patti** 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.**

svsf St. Vincent and
Sarah Fisher Center

Presented By

Doetsch
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Join
us!



CELEBRATE THE CENTER

APRIL 12, 2023

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

**DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB
241 MADISON STREET, DETROIT, MI 48226**

Get your tickets by visiting <https://www.svsfcenter.org/celebrate-the-center/>