

## Making a Memory

Dear Friends:

The season is turning – do you feel it? The smells, the colors, the excitement... the memories. They pour down on you like a shower, when something in the Fall hits your personal trigger. Like the first time you wear a jacket with shorts – you know what is coming because you have lived these moments each year throughout your life. As we get older, they are more ingrained because we experience them with each seasonal change. But, the memories that are not reinforced every year are just as powerful. These are our great memories of the past, which we have not done in a long time. Yet they are so significant, we spend our adult lives trying to recreate the jubilation. For my siblings and I, it was running around after dark on October 31 with a pillowcase begging for candy – which was not only allowed, but encouraged! We saw that night as total freedom, when we could be whatever we wanted and we could run until we were exhausted. It was exhilarating, sometimes a little scary, fun trying to be more creative than our friends and let's face it – competitive as to who got the biggest haul. All these years later, I still relish those memories and the utter joy of them.

But sadly, safety, then bad weather for numerous years in a row, then COVID has knocked the fun out of the night. It's sad because we aren't able to give children new, wonderful memories of the joy of being someone else, getting a bunch of goodies or simply being allowed to be a kid for a night.

At the Center, we have always had a "Harvest Festival" for our children in the After-school program. But in learning more about our neighborhood and the children in the area, we realized that they have no concept as to what past generations experienced as kids. It simply isn't a possibility in their zip code, for a variety of reasons. We want to change that. We made a commitment to the community when we bought our building and that starts with us opening up our doors to the neighborhood. We want to welcome every child or everyone who is a child in their heart, to join us on October 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for the **SVSF Center Harvest Festival!**

Bring a child for some simple joy – to have fun, do some neat stuff, get some goodies, maybe dance around a bit and most importantly... be a kid. We want each child, each family, each parent, each neighbor to have a great day and to help each other build new memories that these children will carry with them. That they will look back on when they are older and try to recreate the magic for their children. It is our responsibility to teach children how to make memories that are a safe place for them to visit in their mind whenever they want.

So join us, just please be sure to RSVP (see the QR code on the back of this newsletter) or visit our website [www.svsfcenter.org](http://www.svsfcenter.org). We'll see you soon!

With warmest wishes,



Diane Renaud  
Executive Director/CEO



# 2023 GRADUATION

June was another first for SVSF! We held our first Adult Graduation in person, where families and friends could attend - it was a remarkable day! We are so proud of our graduates and delighted that we now have the space to let everyone celebrate together in person!



## Detroit Partnership Day

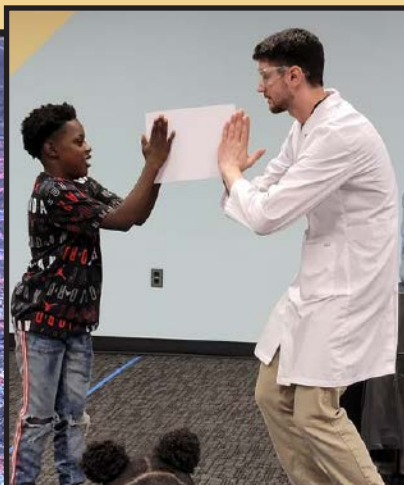
We welcomed back the amazing students from U of M's Detroit Partnership Day. They were incredibly hard workers and helped us with cleaning our entire building. It was a fun day and we are grateful for the ongoing support of DPD!



## 2023 Children's Summer Program

This was our first summer in our new home and we weren't sure what to expect. But what an amazing time we had with the kids! It was a summer of learning and fun that helped our kids to avoid the dreaded "summer slip", while actually increasing their reading and math skills.

Fun activities included tile making with our friends at **Pewabic Pottery**, courtesy of our sponsor, **Freudenberg**, field trips, science experiments, healthy cooking and drone classes, and many other fun learning experiences!



## Celebrate the Center

Thank You to our 2023 Lead Sponsors:

**Advanced Building Group | Easttown Distributors**  
**Kitch Attorneys and Counselors | Mr. David Kuziemko**

And a very special Thank You  
to our Presenting Sponsor:



We are grateful to all of the sponsors and the guests that  
attended for making the event a true celebration!



We are excited to announce that CTC  
will be moving to a new location in  
2024! Details will be provided in  
the Spring, 2024 Newsletter!

*Congratulations Christianne Sims,  
SVSF Center's 2023 Volunteer of the Year.*



## Urban Seniors Jobs Program



SVSF Center is very excited to work with the National Urban League and Urban League of Detroit and Southeastern Michigan on the Urban Seniors Jobs Program. A two year "re-training" program, it offers seniors an opportunity to earn, while they learn a new skill set, provide value to the community and expand their employment opportunities.

**Cheryl Conley** has joined the SVSF Center Team as our Urban League Intern and she has been a tremendous asset! She has been providing critical support in the Children's Program, as well as Development and Administration areas. We are grateful to the Urban League for providing such an exceptional intern and we are proud to be part of this program that gives seniors another career!

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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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## This Event is FREE – Registration is Requested

For more information or to register Visit: <https://SVSFHarvestFestival23.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Call 313-535-9200 • Contact [April.Patti@svsfcenter.org](mailto:April.Patti@svsfcenter.org) • Visit [www.svsfcenter.org](http://www.svsfcenter.org).



Trunk or  
Treat

**svsf** St. Vincent and  
Sarah Fisher Center

## You are Invited! Harvest Festival '23

Presented by: St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center  
In partnership with State Representative Kimberly Edwards

October 14, 2023  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

ST. VINCENT AND SARAH FISHER CENTER

14061 LAPPIN STREET

DETROIT, MI 48205

313-535-9200

[WWW.SVSFCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.SVSFCENTER.ORG)



Costume Contest  
w/Prizes



Food and Fun

  
SVSF Center  
Education  
Programs

