

SPRING 2022 - VOL. 20 ISSUE 1

Executive Director Letter

A New Season Brings New Additions



Dear St. Joseph Services Family,

Spring is here!

As winter slowly comes to an end and spring begins, St. Joseph Services embraces the changes ahead as we work to advance our mission. We are excited to begin work with new community partners to expand programming to new students. SJS will also see changes to the Directors' team, as we bid farewell to a cherished member of the SJS family and welcome a new and wonderful colleague. Furthermore, SJS is gearing up for our first in-person event in over two years!

In this newsletter, there are great stories of how community partners, volunteers, and staff are all contributing to the service we provide to the SJS community. From expanding programming to utilizing the support of local college students wanting to tutor youth and adults in need, St. Joseph Services is addressing the needs of the neighborhoods we serve.

Fondly,
Guadalupe

ST. JOSEPH SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sister Helen Negri, D.C.
Chair

Richard Stefan
Vice Chair

Cesar Gonzalez
Treasurer

Dorothy Jiganti
Secretary

Michael Burgess

Gregoria Vega Byrnes

Stella Gaytan

Demetrius E. Jordan

Sister Carol Keehan, D.C.

Sister Kathy Overmann, D.C.

Mary Kay Paul

Christine Riley

John Scimone

Robert Stefan

Guadalupe Preston
Executive Director

SJS Bids Farewell to Long-Time Finance Director



It is with bittersweet emotions that SJS announces the retirement of Sandra Wisniewski as Director of Financial Services. Sandra joined SJS in 2010 and is the longest tenured staff member of the agency. Sandra truly embodied the mission of SJS, and was an integral part of our success and expansion over the past 12 years. Her hard work and contributions in preparing budgets, tracking expenses, and planning events was incredible, and always done with a smile and a kind word. Sandra is leaving SJS in wonderful financial order thanks to her organizational skills and expertise in financial software.

Above all else, Sandra will be missed for her tremendous kindness, positive attitude, and amazing baking skills. Her great work has succeeded in bringing SJS through the many challenges we've faced and our tremendous growth. Sandra is an inspiration and the entire SJS family wishes nothing but happiness in her future.

On behalf of the entire SJS community, thank you for everything Sandra! You will truly be missed!



Youth Instructor Making an Impact



SJS Youth Instructor Lauren has worked for three years in the After School Program at St. Angela School in Austin and has made a huge impact on her students. Lauren started out as a tutor before becoming the 4th and 5th grade Youth Instructor. She provides a happy and positive energy that students love to be around. This year her students, on their own, took the time to write her thank-you cards!

Lauren is an Austin native currently working on a graduate degree in Nursing. She does an amazing job juggling all her responsibilities, while always making students feel supported. Lauren shared, "While being at SJS, my inspiration and motivation for continuing my journey here has always been my students. The last three years I have witnessed people come and go, but I push myself to support and love on my students. I do not know what they experience at home, but it has always been in my heart to show them love and gratitude while I am in their presence."



Dominican University Volunteer Provides Help on Multiple Platforms

SJS has been fortunate to work with many volunteers that provide flexibility and encouragement to our students. This could not be truer for After School and English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteer, Esmeralda. Esmeralda joined the SJS team last year working with youth in Austin in addition to leading in-person ESL classes in Glenview. She is currently providing one-on-one digital ESL tutoring. Esmeralda's ability to work well in both in-person and digital classes has been a great asset to SJS. Even more valuable, Esmeralda works well with students of all ages and backgrounds!

Esmeralda connected with SJS through Dominican University's Ministry en lo Cotidiano, a leadership development and faith formation fellowship for undergraduate students interested in experiencing faith-based service in Latin communities in Chicago. Dominican University uses this fellowship to partner with parishes and community-based organizations on Chicago's Southwest side and the near-West suburbs to create dynamic, immersive experiences for students.



SJS Joins Forces with CPS and Alfred Nobel Elementary School

In the fall of 2019, SJS launched the Youth Mentoring Program for students at St. Angela School in Austin. Programming provides mentorship and skills development to build up students' academic and personal talents, as well as their self-esteem and community awareness. The program has been very successful thanks to student participation and the support of community partners.

SJS is pleased to announce expansion of the Youth Mentoring Program and the addition of a



two new community partners, Chicago Public Schools and Alfred Nobel Elementary School. Beginning this spring, SJS will now provide mentoring for students at Alfred Nobel Elementary School in West Humboldt Park. Programming is supported by CPS through an Out of School Time contract SJS was awarded earlier this year. SJS is so excited to see this wonderful program expand to serve youth in West Humboldt Park.



SJS Welcomes a New Team Member

SJS would like to welcome our new Director of Financial Services, Norman R. Levin. Norm comes to SJS with over 20 years of experience in financial services and great proficiency in accounting, payroll, reporting, and much more. He was born and raised in Chicago and is a proud graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Norm likes to travel, spend time with family, and cheer on the Cubs!

Norm has hit the ground running and is already a great fit with the SJS team. Norm enjoys working in the non-profit sector and is quickly embracing the service component of SJS. Norm shared, "It's great to work with a non-profit organization like St. Joseph Services. I appreciate being part of something that is helping others here in Chicago."

Welcome to the SJS family, Norm!



Staff Retreat Day Helping Build Comradery and Teamwork



SJS recently held a retreat for all staff members with the help of community partner, Dominican University. The day consisted of team building exercises, group sessions, lunch, and reflection time. University Ministers Akua and Amirah led this incredible retreat, offering staff useful tips about self-care and the gifts and talents we all possess to share with our community.

The retreat was held at St. Angela School in Austin and was the first in-person gathering of all SJS staff members in over two years! Everyone wore red in honor of St. Joseph's feast day and enjoyed this great occasion to celebrate our team together in one place.

Community Partner Lends Helping Hand

As SJS continue to make the transition to our new programming site in West Humboldt Park, community partner Marillac St. Vincent Family Services has helped us maintain an efficient and productive administrative office. Marillac St. Vincent Family Services has generously provided office space at their site in the St. Vincent de Paul Center in Chicago for our entire administrative team. This has ensured that business and programming continues as usual while the new SJS site is being completed.

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services is also a sponsored work of the Daughters of Charity, who provide vital programming in the areas of early childhood education, youth services, and community outreach. After operating independently for nearly 100 years, Marillac Social Center and St. Vincent de Paul Center joined together as one organization to help empower residents of Chicago to reach their greatest potential. The two centers began working together in 2002 to become Marillac St. Vincent Family Services, imitating the real-life partnership of St. Louise de Marillac and St. Vincent de Paul. SJS is very thankful for their support and assistance as we both work to fulfill the mission of the Daughters to serve those in need.



Thank you, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services!

Meet the SJS Board of Directors

An important part of SJS' ability to provide programming throughout the Chicagoland area is due to the great behind-the-scenes effort and planning done by our Board of Directors. These volunteers are a collection of local professionals, Daughters of Charity, and longtime donors who work together to ensure the progress of SJS continues well into the future.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we will continue to highlight three of our board members in each newsletter until we've introduced them all. This time, our three board members are Sister Kathy Overmann, D.C., Michael Burgess, and Gregoria Vega Byrnes, who share their reasons for serving on the SJS Board.

Sister Kathy Overmann, D.C.
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

I joined the board seven years ago and I believe in the mission.



Michael Burgess

iPromo

I was drawn to SJS because of the specific communities, families and people it serves. Having grown up as a youth and through high school in the Austin neighborhood and near the Humboldt Park area, I felt it important to get involved.



Gregoria Vega Byrnes

I am happy to serve on the Board of St. Joseph Services. I think of all the programs that my neighborhood had to help us. I want to give back as much as I can.



Making Waves for Change Returns in May

St. Joseph Services is very excited for the return of Making Waves for Change. What makes this year's event even more special is that this will be the first SJS in-person event in over two years!

Making Waves for Change will be held Friday, May 6, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Chicago Yacht Club. We'll have a children's art auction, student and parent presentations, a raffle for your favorite restaurants, and a paddle raise. Watch your mail and email for an invitation coming soon!

Making Waves for Change

Save the Date!!
Join us at the Chicago Yacht Club
Friday, May 6, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Children's Artwork Auction *
Raffle * Paddle Raise * Sponsorships

Program Locations

St. Joseph Services
Administrative Office
1501 N Oakley Blvd
Chicago, IL 60622
(773) 278-0484
(at Josephinum Academy)

Austin
1332 N Massasoit Ave
Chicago, IL 60651
(773) 796-5110
(at St. Angela School)

Austin
501 N Central Ave
Chicago, IL 60644
(at Austin Community Family Center)

Humboldt Park
New West Humboldt Park location coming soon!

Avondale
3043 N Francisco Ave
Chicago, IL 60618
(at Resurrection Parish)

Glenview
3535 Thornwood Ave
Glenview, IL 60026
(at St. Catherine Labouré Parish)

