

Executive Director Letter

Celebrating the Past and Present, Embracing the Future



Dear St. Joseph Services Family,

As everything begins to slowly return to normal, we are excited that SJS is taking tremendous steps to move forward. SJS has begun the process of relocating our Humboldt Park programming and administrative offices into a spacious and functional site that is more rooted in the communities we serve. This incredible step will cement our place and impact, for the present and future, as we enter a monumental year for our organization. June marked our 20th year of

providing programming and fulfilling our mission to serve those in need. We are so proud to continue the work the Daughters of Charity started over two decades ago when they launched St. Joseph Services. It is only fitting that this significant milestone would occur in the “Year of Saint Joseph,” as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

We especially welcome and appreciate this upcoming period of growth and celebration after the hardships faced by so many in the SJS community and all over the world these past 15 months. Our commitment to serve and make a difference is as strong as ever thanks to the efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. We are very grateful and eager to embrace the work ahead of us.

Thank you all for making this possible!

Fondly,
Guadalupe

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The Year of St. Joseph

St. Joseph Services received its name from the Daughters of Charity in part to carry on the namesake of St. Joseph Hospital. The Daughters opened the hospital in Chicago in 1869 and oversaw operations until 1995. Several years later, they created a sponsored work to serve families in Chicago and named it St. Joseph Services. St. Joseph is a large influence within SJS, which is why he’s displayed in the organizational logo. SJS was thrilled when the Year of St. Joseph was announced, especially since it coincides with our 20th Anniversary.

Pope Francis published a letter six months ago commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Catholic Church. To mark the occasion, a “Year of Saint Joseph” was proclaimed from December 2020 to December 2021. Pope Francis went on to describe Saint Joseph as a beloved, creatively courageous father. The letter was written against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, Pope Francis says, has helped us more clearly see the importance of “ordinary” people who exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph.

SJS shares the sentiment that ordinary people create hope and can make the world a better place. SJS proudly joins Pope Francis in celebrating the Year of St. Joseph!



Moving (Literally) Forward

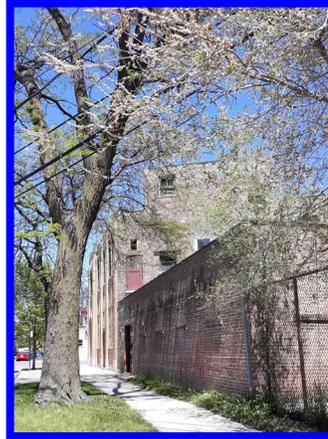


SJS is thrilled to share the news of our upcoming relocation of the present Humboldt Park programming site and administrative office space. After much research and hard work, SJS has decided to move into a standalone building that will house youth and adult programming in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood. This space will have a computer lab, multiple classrooms on the first floor, and office space on the second floor. It is located close to a large city park and several schools. Not only will this building be closer to the students we serve, but it will also expand the access of SJS programming to nearby residents. Doors are expected to open mid-September with programming

slated to start immediately once construction is completed.

This incredible move is the culmination of years of work looking into how SJS can best serve the Humboldt Park area. SJS is ecstatic that this move is coming to fruition and hopes that it will establish us as an important part of the community for many years to come.

Stay tuned for more updates and a ribbon-cutting announcement!



Making Waves for Change Makes Its Inaugural Splash



Making Waves for Change debuted in June and was an incredible success. This virtual event gathered friends and supporters of SJS to learn about programming, and provided the opportunity to view and bid on amazing artwork created by our own after school students. Videos highlighting the students and their artwork recorded during a field trip to the Chicago Yacht Club added to the fun and excitement.

SJS would like to thank everyone who participated. We're already excited to see what great artwork will be created next year!

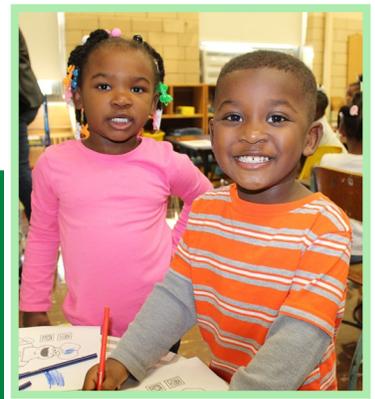
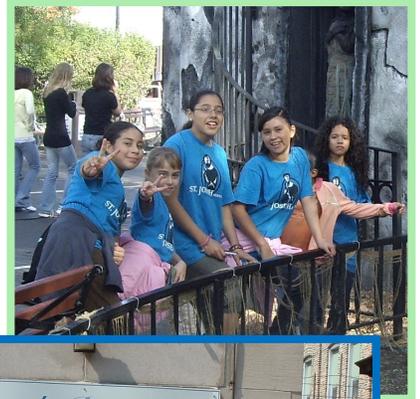


Thank you so much to everyone who made this first-ever Making Waves for Change event such a success! Our students were thrilled to be able to share their paintings with you!

20 Incredible Years of Service!

This summer marks the 20th Anniversary of St. Joseph Services. It is amazing to look back and reflect on this wonderful journey. In 2001, the Daughters of Charity founded St. Joseph Services as a new sponsored work to reach out and serve people through collaborations with parish ministries and community partners. Soon, SJS partnered with St. Mark's Catholic Church to transform its former convent into an outreach center to serve the Humboldt Park and West Town neighborhoods. That very same month, SJS began a partnership with the Lasallian Christian Brothers who were opening the San Miguel School-Gary Comer Campus, a school in the Austin community. These partnerships would launch 20 years of service to individuals and families throughout these communities. SJS would go from serving fewer than 40 to now serving over 1,000 people annually.

Thank you to everyone who has helped SJS on this incredible journey!



Developing Youth

SJS and Chicago Run Go the Distance

SJS teamed up with Chicago Runs to provide students in the After School Program in Austin with running and physical activity programming. Students in sixth through eighth grade had access to weekly curriculum that incorporated stretching, running, and exercise in preparation for a 5K run. Students met twice a week for ten weeks and worked on their flexibility and cardio training.

The 5K run was held on the track at St. Angela's School. It was truly inspirational to see each hardworking student complete the run! Jason, an eighth-grader, noted, "It felt great to have a chance to exercise regularly, especially after being quarantined from school so much this past year. It was awesome to have a goal and finish it with each other."

Great job everyone!



Educating Adults

ESL Volunteers Going Above and Beyond

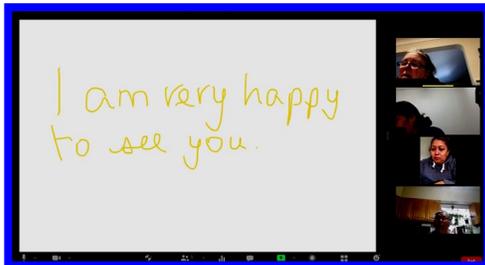
Volunteers working with SJS' Adult Education classes have continued to do an incredible job while adjusting to digital learning. The English as a Second Language (ESL) classes transitioned online last fall. This unfamiliar format raised some issues for students and volunteers, but it has been nothing short of amazing to see these challenges met and addressed head-on. Students log on to classes through computers, tablets, and phones,

sometimes while on break from their jobs. Our volunteers have been outstanding in coordinating class times to fit students' schedules. The volunteers have done a wonderful job adjusting curriculum to fit with available resources such as textbooks students have at home, websites with free downloadable lessons, and books that students all agree to acquire in order to read together.



SJS' Adult Education Program Coordinator, Harry, has seen firsthand how volunteers and students work together in making the digital programming succeed. Harry shared, "It has been remarkable to see how everyone has embraced the challenges and really come together to make the classes work. Our volunteers and students seemed to really appreciate the chance to have classes back and made it work."

SJS is so proud to have such dedicated volunteers and students!



Transforming Lives

SJS and CC's Wish List Team Up Again

SJS has been blessed to once again partner with CC's Wish List to help create a clothing drive-thru in Austin this summer. CC's Wish List, a program of the Lavin Family Foundation, provided SJS with over 80 boxes of youth and adult clothing and shoes. SJS staff members picked up the clothing, planned and organized the second "SJS Clothing Drive-Thru." With help from St. Angela, SJS was able to secure a location for the event and design an effective drive-thru route.

Over 50 cars and families took part in this event and allowed SJS to distribute every single item. Passing out the clothing and shoes, and seeing community families again made for an incredible day of fun for our staff. SJS would like to thank CC's Wish List, St. Angela School, and SJS staff for putting together this wonderful event!



Meet Three More Members of the SJS Board of Directors

An important part of SJS's ability to provide programming throughout the Chicagoland area is due to the behind-the-scenes efforts of our Board of Directors. These volunteers are a collection of local professionals, Daughters of Charity, and longtime donors that work together to ensure that 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 Dorothy Jiganti, Sister Helen Negri, D.C. and Demetrius Jordan, who share their reasons for serving on the SJS Board.



"I've been involved with Marillac St. Vincent Family Services for many years, so I knew of SJS's existence. Just as I was starting to consider adding something different to my volunteer activity, Sister Katie asked me to join the SJS Board. It was an easy answer, and I am very happy with my decision to join."
- Dorothy Jiganti



Sister Helen Negri, LCSW, BCCSW, graduated Saint Louis University with a background in Child Welfare Services. Sister Helen has spent the last 35 years as the CEO of a 24-7 mental health facility. Her hobbies include line dancing, bicycling, and fishing.
- Sister Helen Negri, D.C.
Daughters of Charity

"Service is love made visible. I feel we all have a responsibility to serve; that is why when the opportunity to serve on the St. Joseph's board presented itself, I said yes."
- Demetrius Jordan



Save the Date!

St. Joseph Services' 17th Annual Fall Festival: Tailgate Style Fall 2021

Join us at St. Joseph Services as we celebrate Tailgate Style once again. We are planning for an **in-person event** this year and we look forward to celebrating with you! Stay tuned for more details including the new date, features, and venue.



We are excited to see you there!!



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)

