

## SJS Welcomes A New Executive Director

Please join us in welcoming the new St. Joseph Services Executive Director, Guadalupe (Lupe) Preston.

Lupe is a tri-cultural visionary leader with over 18 years of progressive experience in leadership roles. She is a first generation American of Mexican and Polish descent born and raised in Chicago and is a passionate advocate for education and social justice. Lupe has managed and led workforce, out of school youth, and early childhood programs for Catholic Charities and has worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund in Chicago. She is the current president of the Board of Directors for the Chicago



Jobs Council and a gubernatorial appointee to the Illinois Hispanic Employment Advisory Council. Lupe strongly believes in the Vincentian ideals of service and community.

“My vision as Executive Director of St. Joseph Services will be excellence in service of our board, supporters, constituents, collaborators, and staff,” notes Lupe. “Our cause is crucial, and the challenge is great. I am thrilled about the opportunity to work with and serve you in the years to come.”

SJS is grateful to have someone so driven and passionate on our team. We look forward to working with Lupe as we continue our mission to serve those in need. *Welcome to the team Lupe!*

## SJS Staff Teaming Up for Service

During Staff Planning Week in August, the entire SJS staff teamed up to fulfill one of our most important CHEERS values, Service, by working together in support of a local nonprofit. After researching many meaningful options, Cradles to Crayons was selected as the charity we wanted to serve. Cradles to Crayons is a nonprofit organization that provides children in low-income homes and who are homeless with necessary items that they need to be successful in school, as well as personal hygiene, warmth, and fun!

SJS partnered with Cradles to Crayons to collect school supplies and “go shopping” for clothes, shoes, coats, books, games, toys, toiletries, and other essentials for youth at the Giving Factory, a warehouse owned by Cradles to Crayons that serves as its primary receiving and distribution facility in Chicago. While at the Giving Factory, SJS staff members spent an afternoon inspecting, sorting, and packaging donations to be distributed to Chicago area children in need. The SJS staff also donated over 20 backpacks full of important school supplies, including pencils, folders, notebooks, paper, rulers, Crayon markers, and so much more! The collection was a great success and we are proud to say we hit our goal for every item!

Thank you to Cradles to Crayons for a wonderful experience and for everything you do to make so many children’s lives in Chicago so much better!



### ST. JOSEPH SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Guadalupe Preston  
Executive Director

# Developing Youth

## Helping Hands Connecting Students in Austin



Middle school aged students in the After School Program in Austin now have the opportunity to help their younger peers through our new Helping Hands program. Helping Hands was created by Austin Social Justice Advocate Danya to provide older students with opportunities to work with pre-kindergarteners and spend time with them doing school worksheets, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, yoga, and other fun activities. Danya started the program as a way for older students to connect with younger children in their community and provide them with positive interactions and feedback. "The older students know what it's like to be new in school and the various stresses of that age," shared Danya. "Helping Hands enables them to share their own experiences with younger students and offer them support and encouragement throughout the school year."

Helping Hands is designed to teach older students leadership skills along with the value of helping others. They also gain an understanding of what teachers face when helping students learn new material. The goal is to aid in their development to become future community leaders. *SJS is very proud of Danya and our Helping Hands students!*

# Educating Adults

## Computer Classes Begin the Year with New Smart Board and Many More Students

SJS is very excited about our new upgrade to an already growing computer lab. SJS recently installed an interactive smart board in our computer lab in Humboldt Park. It was purchased through the generosity of an SJS donor and has already been a wonderful asset to SJS programming. This amazing tool allows instructors and students to display, write, edit, and share information directly on a large HD screen. SJS Computer Literacy Manager Alex has worked hard to implement the numerous tools this board offers into his lesson plans. "Students enjoy learning with the new board because the subject matter really comes alive and is easier to focus on," shared Alex. "It helps enhance the impact of our daily curricula of our Adult Computer Literacy classes."



Additional exciting news about our Adult Computer Literacy classes is enrollment has expanded once again! SJS is now serving 111 students. This is a 23% increase from last year and incredibly, is almost double the enrollment from just two years ago! Alex worked hard reorganizing the SJS computer lab to create room for more computer stations and also offered an extra class this semester to keep up with demand. *Thank you Alex for your help in making the SJS computer lab become such a great resource for our community!*

# Transforming Lives

## Former Participant Showing Great Leadership

The Community Mentoring Internship (CMI) Program wrapped up its first program session this summer. This component of the SJS PAID Program provides high school students from SJS community partner Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart with training to prepare them for employment in various sectors and teach life skills, leadership skills, and public speaking. One of our first graduates is Benedicta.

Benedicta is now a high school junior at Josephinum Academy. She was a great program participant and showed tremendous enthusiasm for and improvement in her leadership and speaking skills. Recently, SJS was thrilled to learn Benedicta put these important skills to good use. She was instrumental in creating a new club at Josephinum Academy called the African Student Association. This club has 16 members and meets weekly to discuss different African cultures. It has covered Ghana, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Togo, and Ethiopia so far this semester. Benedicta noted her vision for the African Student Association was to teach others about African heritage and help promote diversity through learning about various cultures. SJS is delighted to see Benedicta use her many talents to help start something so informational, enlightening, and fun! *Great job Benedicta!*



**JOSEPHINUM  
ACADEMY**  
OF THE SACRED HEART

[www.stjosephservices.org](http://www.stjosephservices.org)

# 15th Annual Fall Festival: Tailgate Style!



## Lots of CHEER in Support of SJS



St. Joseph Services added a new twist to this year's Fall Festival: *Tailgate Style!* It was a wonderful event filled with tailgate games, barbeque, and socializing. It was also a perfect opportunity to honor Tom Schufreider, a former SJS Board Member, with the Lee McDonnell Transform a Life Award. We are very grateful for the support of so many wonderful individuals who give their time and resources to allow the continuation of the important services provided by SJS.

**Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Joseph Services!**



Guests enjoyed playing tailgate games and delicious barbeque



Students from St. Angela School, our programming site in Austin, performed the half-time show



We were fortunate to have so many Daughters of Charity in attendance



Thank you, Tom, for everything you have done for SJS!



St. Joseph Services Staff in their team t-shirts



Thank you to our hosts, Marty and Katie Bredemann!



St. Joseph Services  
 1501 N Oakley Blvd  
 Chicago, IL 60622  
[www.stjosephservices.org](http://www.stjosephservices.org)

*The gift of education lasts a lifetime!  
 Participate in "Giving Tuesday"  
 December 3rd through December 31st  
 at [www.stjosephservices.org](http://www.stjosephservices.org).*

## Save the Date!

### Mardi Gras Party

at Paradise Park

1913 W North Ave, Chicago, IL 60622

Tuesday, February 25th, 2020

### Trivia Night

Join us for fun and trivia at  
 Josephinum Academy

1501 N Oakley Blvd, Chicago, IL 60622

Saturday, April 18th, 2020

### Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019

To make a donation, head to our giving  
 page linked on our website:

[www.stjosephservices.org](http://www.stjosephservices.org)

#GIVING  
 TUESDAY™

## 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 60651  
 (at Austin Community  
 Family Center)

**Humboldt Park**  
 1510 N Claremont Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60622  
 (773) 278-0485  
 (at St. Aloysius Parish  
 Monsignor Thiele  
 Center)

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

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

