

Executive Director Letter

*"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written."
— Melody Beattie*



Dear St. Joseph Services Family,

Happy Holiday Season!!!

It's been a great year as we've seen the fruits of our labor impact the St. Joseph Services' community! We've had a chance to reflect on the past 12 months, which have seen the opening of our new building in West Humboldt Park. This great achievement allows us to utilize new classrooms and a computer lab to help continue our mission of transforming lives. I can't help but think ahead to our goals for the next year and celebrate the progress we have all made together.

In this newsletter, we share inspiring stories about the accomplishments of our students and how community partners and supporters contribute to the transformation we create together in the SJS community. From providing new experiences to utilizing the resources of our partners, St. Joseph Services is continuing to serve those in need.

We are excited for the opportunities ahead as we transform lives in the SJS community!

Warmly,
Lupe

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Executive Director

SJS Welcomes New Team Members

SJS would like to welcome our new additions to the Director's team, Director of Advancement, Elena Pitt, and Director of Programs, Edgardo "Eddie" Perez.



Elena has over twenty years of experience in marketing and new business development with not-for-profit and Fortune 500 companies. Elena enjoys cooking and sharing meals with family and friends, going out to art exhibitions, and walking through downtown Chicago.

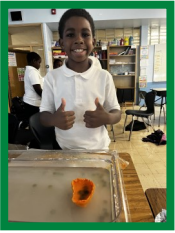
Eddie comes to SJS with over 18 years of experience in mentoring and workforce development. He was born in Puerto Rico and grew up here in Chicago. Eddie runs a local baseball league, enjoys sports, and cheers on the Cubs!

Elena and Eddie have hit the ground running and are already a great fit with the SJS team.

Welcome to the SJS family, Elena and Eddie!



Youth Students Learning STEAM with the Chicago Yacht Club



This year, SJS and the Chicago Yacht Club are teaming up to provide After School Program students in Austin with hands-on STEAM learning. Starting in September, over 30 students in grades second through eight joined the Chicago Yacht Club STEAM Club for lessons held at the downtown harbor. These monthly sessions teach students about the different types of boats, the equipment used on boats, and the technology used to guide the boats.

SJS Youth Program Assistant Arnestina noted, "The club has been an amazing experience for the students. Many of them have never even been on a boat before, and now they are learning about sailing and the science behind how the boats work. It's been incredible to see their excitement."



Adult Programming Students Celebrated with Sen. Aquino In Attendance



SJS held a recognition ceremony for our English as a Second Language (ESL), Computer Literacy, and Citizenship students celebrating their amazing achievements. Illinois State Senator Omar Aquino was the keynote speaker and praised the students for their hard work and determination. Over 50 students gathered with friends, family, and SJS Board members for this wonderful celebration.

Students received a certificate honoring their achievements and progress. Festivities concluded with cake, refreshments, and mingling among the proud students and attendees.



Congratulations everyone!



Current Student Shares Her Amazing Achievements at Fall Festival

Guests at this year's Fall Festival were treated to a remarkable and moving story about triumph and determination by one of our own Adult Programming students. Patrice, an English as a Second Language and Computer Literacy student at St. Joseph Services, spoke about her incredible journey and perseverance in this country.

Patrice came to Chicago from South America over 15 years ago with two young daughters. She began the classes three years ago and has been one of our star students ever since. Patrice is now fluent in English and has mastered numerous computer skills.

The speech was one of the first times Patrice had spoken in public, and her English was impeccable. It was an incredible moment and a testament to how much Patrice has accomplished.

Great job, Patrice, we are so proud!



Fall Festival Provides Wonderful Gathering in Celebration of Staff and Students

The 19th annual Fall Festival was an extraordinary event held in-person again for the second year in a row! It was an amazing night filled with great music, food, and socializing while raising money for SJS programming. SJS is thankful for our staff and Board members for making this event possible.

This year's event also acknowledged the service done by the Outgoing Director of Advancement, Vicki McMannon, who recently retired. Vicki was with SJS for seven years and spearheaded the Advancement efforts. We wish Vicki well in her new path ahead.

We are very fortunate for the support of so many invaluable individuals who provide time and resources to ensure the SJS mission continues to be carried out for those in need.

Thank you to everyone who donated and joined us for this great celebration! We are incredibly thankful and blessed for your continued support of our mission to serve those in need and transform lives to transform communities!



Fall Festival entrance Welcome and Sponsor Posters



Executive Director, Guadalupe Preston, presenting Outgoing Director of Advancement, Vicki McMannon, with an award for her services



Guests watching Fall Festival speakers



Patrice, an English as a Second Language and Computer Literacy student at St. Joseph Services, speaking at Fall Festival

Clothing Drives Help SJS Provide Warmth for WHP Community

St. Joseph Services continues to be blessed by the support of CC's Wish List, a program of the Lavin Family Foundation, which provided us with pallets of boxes filled with youth and adult winter clothing and shoes.

Our staff members were thrilled to pick up two recent donations, which both filled up our entire bus! This incredible gift enabled us to organize two clothing drives in West Humboldt Park and distribute warm jackets, clothing, shoes, and boots to those in need.

SJS would like to thank CC's Wish List and SJS staff for putting these two wonderful events together!



St. Joseph Services and CC's Wishlist Clothing Drive Events held at SJS Administration Office in West Humboldt Park

Save the Date for New and Returning Events!

St. Joseph Services is very excited about two upcoming events in early 2024. This February, SJS will debut a brand-new experience in the confines of Willis Tower in downtown Chicago. Cocktails for a Cause will be held on February 1st at the Metropolitan Club located on the 67th floor of this historic building. This new event allows guests to enjoy refreshments and snacks in a luxurious setting while raising money for SJS programming.

In February, SJS will also host the return of our annual Mardi Gras Party! Join us on the 13th at Paradise Park at 1913 W. North Ave. for a night of friends, pizza, and fun. Proceeds from the evening will support SJS youth programming, including academic, mentoring, and employment training for youth in need.

Can't wait for you to join us!

Program Locations

**St. Joseph Services
Administrative Office**
4123 W Grand Ave
Chicago, IL 60651
(773) 278-0485

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
4123 W Grand Ave
Chicago, IL 60651
(773) 278-0485

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

