

Executive Director Letter

Excitement For What Lies Ahead



Dear St. Joseph Services Family,

Happy Fall!!

SJS continues to transform lives as we kick off another year of programming. There is so much to look forward to as we move into a new phase of SJS. We are all excited as we approach the opening of our new building in West Humboldt Park in early 2023. This building will house programming and administrative office space. This wonderful facility **will enable St. Joseph Services to continue to transform lives** through education and mentoring services while we hold true to our Vincentian values and develop new collaborations to better serve the Humboldt Park community.

The excitement has been growing as we were finally able to hold our first in-person Fall Festival in over three years! This incredible gathering of friends and supporters made for an amazing night of music, food and everyone enjoying themselves as we raised money for programming. We look forward to hosting more in-person events and having the opportunity to see everyone again.

We are blessed as we start a new year of programming with so much promise and growth ahead! The success of SJS is due to the tremendous efforts of so many people including our front-line staff and all the great work done by our invaluable volunteers and supporters.

SJS is incredibly grateful to you and everyone who makes our growth and progress possible. Thank you all for everything you do for SJS!

Warmly,
Guadalupe

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West Humboldt Park Building Opening Soon



SJS is getting ready to open our new building in West Humboldt Park in early 2023. This great location will house youth and adult programming in addition to office space for administrative and program staff. Youth programming will include after school, mentoring, and seasonal camps for local students. Classes for adults will provide English as a Second Language, Citizenship, and Computer Literacy instruction.

SJS is thrilled as years of planning as to how SJS can best serve the Humboldt Park area and hard work has made this possible.

SJS is confident the new site 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 coming soon!



SJS Welcomes New St. Angela Principal and Executive Director



Brian Lacey

SJS and the After School Program welcome new Principal, Brian Lacey, and new Executive Director, Tim Gallo, at St. Angela School. Brian has worked with students for over 20 years as a teacher, counselor, and assistant principal prior to coming to St. Angela. He has an excellent background in creating math and science curricula. SJS is excited to work with Principal Lacey and for the future of the SJS After School Program, which provides homework assistance and enrichment activities to Austin students.

Tim has over 10 years of experience working with Catholic schools as a teacher, principal, and executive director. He is highly skilled in elementary education and curriculum design.

Welcome Brian and Tim!



Tim Gallo

Longtime ESL Volunteer Bids Farewell



SJS Adult Program volunteer, Barbara, wrapped up her eighth and final year of service this month. Barbara taught both advanced and intermediate English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for students in Glenview, IL. She became a volunteer after learning about the ESL classes provided by SJS at her local parish, St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church.

Barbara recently shared, "I've had a wonderful time working and getting to know my students over the years. I am so proud of their growth and will miss our time together."

Barbara has been an incredible asset for SJS these past eight years and was always appreciated and treasured by both SJS staff and students alike. She has helped numerous students improve their English skills. Barbara's kind and positive outlook will truly be missed.

On behalf of the entire SJS family, we thank you, Barbara, for everything you have done for our community!

Mentoring Students Create T-Shirts

Students from the SJS Youth Mentoring Program worked with a local clothing line owner to design their own program t-shirts. Vontae Johnson, owner and founder of Worship, originally met our students as a motivational guest speaker last fall. Vontae talked about growing up in the Austin neighborhood and how his passion for clothing led him on a journey to launching his own fashion brand. His story made a great impact on the students, and soon they wanted to make their own t-shirts.

Several designs were created by the students and sent to Vontae for review. He picked out the final design and graciously offered to help create the t-shirts. The students were delighted by the final product which was dropped off by Vontae himself.

"This entire experience has been great and motivating for our students," noted SJS Mentoring, Advancement & Community Outreach Manager Sotero. "They are so proud they got to work with Vontae and design something really special."

Great job everyone!



Fall Festival Provides Wonderful Gathering in Celebration of SJS Staff and Students

The 18th annual Fall Festival was an extraordinary event held in-person for the first time in three years! It was an amazing night filled with great music, food, and socializing while raising money for SJS programming. It was also a perfect opportunity to honor SJS staff members for serving our students during these unprecedented times and how their resolve “kept the doors open.” SJS is thankful for our staff and Board members for making this event possible.

We are very fortunate for the support of so many generous individuals who provide time and resources to ensure the SJS mission continues to be carried out for those in need. Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Joseph Services!



Former SJS Board members Tom (far left) and Meg (far right) mingling with SJS supporters and friends



Excited raffle winners showing off their prizes



Joe and Steve manning the bar for guests with smiles and corny jokes aplenty



Jimmy Sullivan and Jimmy Moore in between sets of performing their great Irish Folk music



Former SJS Executive Director Lisa (far left) sharing a smile with her son Will (middle) and friend James (right)



SJS supporters from Sauganash, Edgebrook, and Forest Glen neighborhoods enjoying the festivities

A special thank you to Katie Bredemann for taking all of these wonderful pictures

Sr. Carol Honored for Her Work and Advocacy



Last year, SJS welcomed Sister Carol Keehan, D.C. as our new Daughter of Charity Provincial Sponsored Works Council liaison. SJS is extremely proud to work with such an accomplished and prominent figure in U.S. health care and advocate for the poor. The past few months for Sr. Carol have shown just how important her impact is across the country, and SJS would like to share our gratitude and admiration for these recent accolades.

This past April, Sr. Carol was invited to the White House to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the passing of the Affordable Care Act. During her time as president of the Catholic Health Association, Sr. Carol was instrumental in the passage of the Affordable Care Act, which has given nearly 20 million Americans access to health insurance. During the White House visit, Sr. Carol was personally greeted by President Joe Biden.

Just one month later, Sr. Carol was awarded the first-ever Catholic Extension Spirit of Francis Award in recognition of her significant impact on the mission of the Catholic Church in America. Sr. Carol received the award at a May dinner at the United States Library of Congress. Sr. Carol was congratulated by Pope Francis in a message shared by Archbishop Christophe Pierre!

Congratulations Sr. Carol!

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 that work together to ensure the progress of SJS continues well into the future.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have been highlighting members of our board and with this issue we will have introduced them all. Here we conclude with Robert Stefan, the newest SJS Board member, who shares his reasons for serving on the SJS Board.

SJS is also excited to announce changes in the leadership positions for our Board of Directors:

Richard Stefan is now the Board Chair. Richard has served on the Board for nine years and was previously Vice Chair.

Cesar Gonzalez is the new Vice Board Chair. Cesar has served on the Board for three years and previously served as the Treasurer.

Robert Stefan is the Board Treasurer. Robert joined the Board last year and was formerly a member of the Associate Board.

Dorothy Jiganti continues as the Board Secretary.

Robert Stefan

BMO Harris Bank N.A.

I was first introduced to SJS in 2016 via SJS's Annual Fall Festival. I was truly inspired by the testimonials shared at the event. I joined the Associate Board and have remained committed to helping SJS achieve its mission ever since. I was honored to join the Board when asked.



Congratulations and thank you to all of our Board members for your service to SJS!

Giving Tuesday

St. Joseph Services is grateful for the amazing support you continue to provide us. As the holiday season approaches, we are preparing for Giving Tuesday on November 29, **and inviting others to celebrate by donating to help create positive change.** Giving Tuesday was created to unite everyone in a day of generosity, to make a difference in the world any at the start of the holiday season. It is a day that invites individuals to do good, such as showing up and speaking out for an issue or a cause they care about.

This year SJS is fulfilling years of planning and hard work by making the incredible step of relocating our West Humboldt Park programming and administrative offices to help cement our place and impact in the community for the present and future. Your support is a key component to the success of our growth and to our mission in providing services to communities in need. Together we can continue to strive towards our goal of transforming lives to transform communities.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



Happy Thanksgiving

SJS is extremely thankful for the generosity of our donors, volunteers, partners, and staff! Thanks to you, we are able to develop values and talents through collaborations to strengthen communities!



Program Locations

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

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
Coming soon!

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

