

# Imagine

A world free of child abuse and neglect



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2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

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[sjpcenter.org](http://sjpcenter.org)

Yerwood Center, 90 Fairfield Avenue • Stamford, CT 06902 • 203-588-1934

## Vision and Mission

Saint Joseph Parenting Center's vision is that all children live in a world free of abuse and neglect.

With that vision in mind, our mission is to strengthen families that are at risk of child abuse and neglect, by providing parenting education and support.

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## Our Values

We **LOVE** people first. All individuals deserve **RESPECT**.  
Our **COMMITMENT** to our mission is focused on the child.  
**EMPOWERMENT** is the key to our parents success.  
Everyone needs a **FAMILY**. We **LISTEN & RESPOND**.  
We strive for **EXCELLENCE**.

Our vision has compelled Saint Joseph Parenting Center (SJPC) for the last 10 years. We believe in the importance of educating and supporting parents in an effort to protect their children's well being. The support of many private donors, Connecticut Department of Children & Families, numerous corporations, foundations, and community partners have been essential. Working together has been our success.

I remember when my oldest child went off to college and the feelings of "letting go." I worried how my son would navigate the ups and downs of life. As parents we do our best to prepare our children and pray that the foundation we lay will be impactful.

Recently, I made a decision to step down as the Executive Director of Saint Joseph Parenting Center in order to advance the mission with new ideas that will enable the center to expand and grow beyond Stamford. The decision was arduous and in some ways, reminiscent of my oldest child going off to college. Through my transition process, I have learned that "letting go" is an invitation to turn over something that you love to someone who shares the same passion, sense of urgency, and capacity, in order to bring about a greater impact.

In the last 10 years, SJPC has grown from a start up non profit with \$50,000 of seed money to a well governed, \$1MM organization. We have grown to serve close to 300 parents annually. In total we have worked with over 1,300 parents. Most importantly, we have become known in our community to be a safe and welcoming center for so many parents to seek refuge and advice.

I have no doubt that parents in other cities and towns could benefit from our services. I look forward to working with SJPC's new Executive Director, Rhonda Neal, to explore these needs and with your continued support, not just **Imagine** but create a safe and healthy world for our children.

With a grateful heart,



Measi O'Rourke  
SJPC Founder



Being an active, present, loving, parent is very rewarding, yet truth be told, is also somewhat challenging. Because I understand this first hand, I am overjoyed and honored to serve as the next Executive Director of Saint Joseph Parenting Center.

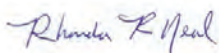
When pregnant with my daughter I read a variety of parenting books. None of these books prepared me for a colicky child; having great parents and a strong support system did. Their impact in my life helped me understand the value of parenting and involvement in her life. This past May, I welled up with gratitude and joy, as I watched her walk across the stage at her college graduation with honors.

When I was invited by Measi O'Rourke to lead Saint Joseph Parenting Center, I immediately felt at home. Measi is a compassionate, forward-thinker, whose passion is to protect children by supporting their parents.

Like her, I want to encourage parents who need support. I believe all children are destined to be great, and as parents, we have an obligation to exemplify and model behaviors that lead to a healthy adulthood.

Can I count on you to help us inspire and educate parents throughout Stamford and neighboring cities to better care for our greatest gift—children?

Thank you for your support.

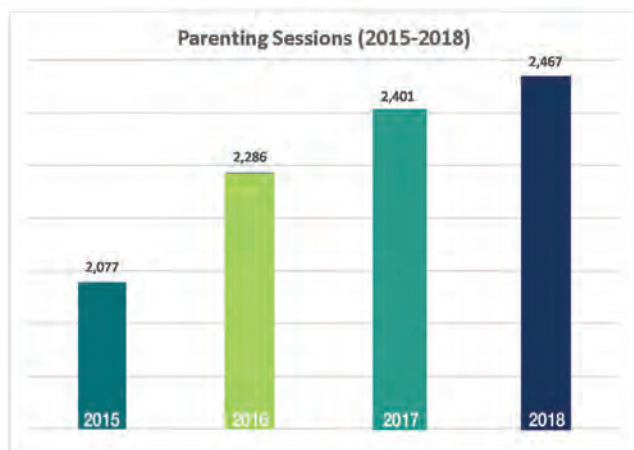


**Rhonda Neal**  
**Executive Director**





**In 2018, 583 children benefited from their parent's participation in SJPC programming.**



*A parenting session = one parent attending one class*

# OUR PROGRAMS

*"I learned to be more calm and approachable. I do not yell at my kids anymore and we all sit down as a family and eat together, read and pray. We never did that before I attended the class."*

**SJPC Client**

**Our General Parenting Program** is the foundation of SJPC. With open enrollment and a 28 class curriculum, offered in English and Spanish, this program is often the first encounter that a parent has with the SJPC model.

**Research shows that when Protective Factors\* are present and robust in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. Our programming helps to build these Protective Factors.**

*\*Center for the Study of Social Policy—Washington DC*



The purpose of our **24/7 Dad®** program is to increase positive involvement and interaction between fathers and their children.

*“I learned that I have self-worth and matter. I didn’t really have much of it when I first started the program.”*

**SJPC 24/7 Dad® Graduate**

**Since 2013 over 225 dads have participated.  
The 24/7 Dad® program was developed by  
the National Fatherhood Initiative.**





# OUR PROGRAMS

Our **Women's Circle** is a mother's support group that began in 2018 with a \$25,000 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation. In partnership with the Rowan Center, we now offer this group in both English and Spanish.

*"I appreciate the staff, they made me feel welcomed. Their way of teaching has helped me be positive."*

*SJPC Client*

**26 women participated in our first year.**





Partnering with The Boys and Girls Club of Stamford, **SJPC Cares** enables parents to access free childcare services while attending class. Childcare helps to increase parent participation in classes and increases the efficacy of our programs.

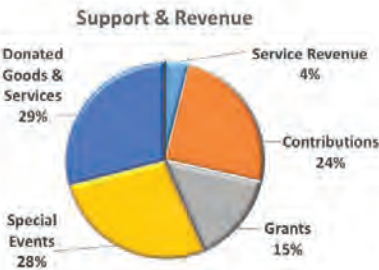
**Over 65 children joined us in 2018.**



# FINANCIALS

## Support & Revenue

Service Revenue	\$ 39,982
Contributions	245,925
Grants	149,138
Special Events	276,808
Donated Goods & Services	290,931
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,002,784</u></b>



## Expenses

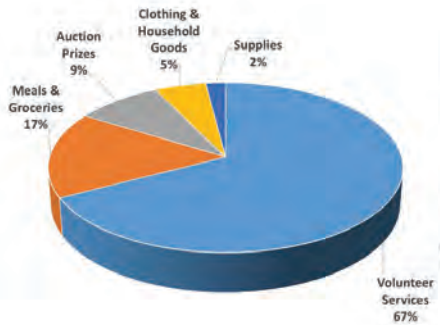
Programs	\$ 712,659
Management & General	65,724
Fundraising	116,903
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 895,287</u></b>



# VOLUNTEERS

## Donated Goods & Services

Volunteer Services	\$ 195,975
Meals & Groceries	47,765
Auction Prizes	25,850
Clothing & Household Goods	15,409
Supplies	5,932
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 290,930</b>



**Volunteers are at the core of SJPC.  
Over 2,467 hot meals were served in 2018.**



# IN GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

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THANK YOU to all our in-kind donors for supporting SJPC with breakfasts and dinners for our parents, holiday gifts for our families, incentive gifts for the children, items for our auction and so much more. To volunteer contact Luis Hernandez at [lhernandez@sjpccenter.org](mailto:lhernandez@sjpccenter.org)

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*"As a volunteer for the past 10 years, I have watched SJPC grow from a staff of three to a fully staffed parenting center. To see this organization teach so many parents, from all walks of life, the tools needed for better parenting, has been so rewarding. Interfacing with clients who are enthusiastic and eager to learn how to improve the path of their children makes it such a special experience."*

BJ Gedney (SJPC Volunteer)

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"Helping parents develop good parenting skills in group settings enables both the safety of the children and the confidence of the parents. This helps develop safe and healthy homes. To those of you who have supported us from the beginning and to those of you who have found us more recently, we owe our success to your support. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank you for making our agency one of a kind in strengthening families all over Fairfield County."

*Barbara Reilly*  
*SJPC Chair*



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