

NEWSLETTER

We can't do it without you!

When Saint Joseph Parenting Center (SJPC) isn't working with parents to improve the lives of families, its employees and supporters are thinking of new ways to reach more communities.

WHAT'S NEW AT SJPC:

- Mother's Day & Father's Day Events
- Introducing the new SJPC Stamford Center Director
- Danbury Spring Luncheon
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Basketball Fundraiser Tournament



Portia Howard, SJPC Stamford Center Director.

HOORAY FOR MOMS AND DADS!

We often only see parents when they need help, but SJPC also invites moms and dads to visit and honor parenthood — and themselves! We hosted a Mother's Day event for parents before class on May 9 with a special meal and a small gift. Two moms also won a professional photo shoot as a raffle prize. SJPC honored dads for Father's Day with a special meal and gift. Hooray for all parents!



Happy Father's Day for Dads.



Happy Mother's Day for Moms (May 9).

WELCOMING CHANGE

We welcome our new Stamford Center Director, Portia Howard, who recently joined our leadership team! Portia was born and raised in Stamford, has a master's degree in public administration, and brings two decades of valuable experience working with nonprofits in our local communities. Also, SJPC Danbury introduced childcare during parenting education classes to make it easier for parents to participate. Danbury served more than 100 parents before this addition, so we expect even larger numbers with childcare in place.

A FIRST FOR DANBURY



Danbury Luncheon keynote speaker Megan Searfoss speaks about fortitude and the benefit of taking chances.

SJPC held a fundraising luncheon for the first time to support Danbury, where we opened our second office last year. It was a sold-out event at Café on the Green - Richter Park, Danbury. A special thanks to our keynote speaker, Megan Searfoss, the founder of the Ridgefield Running Company (a sponsor), and Bella P., who graciously told her story about how SPJC helped her deal with post-partum depression. Additional sponsors were Don Sturges, Ridgefield Running Company, Rodier Flowers, and William Pitt – Sotheby's.

To all who attended our luncheon: Building a world where all children live free of abuse and neglect cannot be done alone. It is only possible with support from people like you. Thank you for supporting our vision!

APRIL: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons and SJPC Executive Director Rhonda Neal.

Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons recognized SJPC and Help for Kids for our work to prevent child abuse and neglect. The mayor and 199 others, including Connecticut State Representatives Patricia Billie Miller and Tom O'Dea, also attended the SJPC Annual Benefit Breakfast at Seraphina at the Italian Center. Our Annual Benefit Breakfast is held in April to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month and highlight the importance of SJPC's work to educate parents and protect children.

BASKETBALL, A FUN WAY TO FUNDRAISE

SJPC sponsored the annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Stamford and expanded to Danbury this year. Across both venues, we had 14 teams playing Stamford and 14 in Danbury. We send a special thanks to the Stamford Police Department, which fielded two teams (one was tournament runner-up), and the Stamford Boys & Girls Club, which also sent two teams.

The young women at Sacred Heart Kappa Delta sorority helped run the tournaments as volunteers. We welcomed US Representative Rachel Khanna, who joined us in Stamford, and Connecticut State Senator Julie Kushner, who joined us in Danbury.

Our event sponsors included: Sperry Rail, Odyssey Re, RD Scinto, PKF O'Connor Davies, Reposition Inc, George Comfort & Sons, Towne Parlor Pizza & Pints, Westchester Modular Homes, Bedford Hall Craft Kitchen & Bar, Integrated Lifestyle.



Save the Date!

Save November 2, 2023 for the Annual SJPC Benefit Dinner, Serafina at the Italian Club.

To support SJPC, please donate [here](#). For more information, please contact Linda McLaughlin at lmclaughlin@sjpcenter.org.