



Saint Joseph Parenting Center

Educate the Parent. Protect the Child.

2024 END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER



Strengthening families through
parenting education
& resource support in Stamford,
Danbury & Bridgeport

Equipping families since 2009



sjpcenter.org
(203) 588-1934

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FROM THE DESK OF Rian Drenzek

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | SAINT JOSEPH PARENTING CENTER

As the year comes to a close and the holiday season is upon us, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. This time of year reminds us of the power of community, generosity, and the shared hope for a brighter future.

This August, I had the privilege of joining Saint Joseph Parenting Center as Executive Director. It has been an incredible honor to lead this organization and witness firsthand the impact of our programs in strengthening families and empowering parents.

2024 has been a year of growth, resilience, and impact. Despite construction delays, we are thrilled that our footprint is expanding, and we will open our Bridgeport location in the new year! This marks a significant milestone for SJPC, as we will now be able to provide services to families in the greater Stamford, Danbury, and Bridgeport communities.

Your belief in our mission has made all the difference, and I am deeply grateful for your partnership. Together, we've supported our communities most vulnerable families, expanded our programs, and laid the foundation for future success.

As we look ahead to 2025, we see even greater opportunities to serve, grow, and transform lives. With your continued support, we will reach more families, deepen our programs, and work tirelessly to create a stronger, safer community for all.

From all of us at SJPC, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year. Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we can make 2025 a year of hope, growth, and lasting change.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Rian Drenzek



Your Generosity, Their Transformation

Grace's Story: Building a Path to Stability

Grace, a single mother, faced the challenges of financial instability and parenting alone. Through SJPC's classes, she mastered positive discipline and effective communication. With newfound confidence and support, Grace is building a loving, structured home and pursuing stable employment. "SJPC gave me the tools to be the mom I want to be and the hope that things can get better," she says.



Carlos's Journey: Breaking the Cycle

Carlos, determined to break the cycle of his own difficult childhood, sought guidance from SJPC. Through group classes, he learned healthy communication, child development, and trust-building skills. Now, he leads with patience and compassion, creating a nurturing environment for his children. "I want my kids to know they're loved and supported—SJPC made that possible."

Sara's Transformation: From Isolation to Community

Overwhelmed and isolated, Sara found hope at SJPC. Through community support and practical guidance, she built resilience, developed self-care habits, and strengthened her family. "I didn't feel alone anymore," she shares. "SJPC connected me with people who care and helped me lay a strong foundation for my kids."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR HUBS

Stamford Center



As we close out 2024, we're proud of the progress made at our Stamford location. Thanks to your support, we've strengthened families, deepened community ties, and expanded our impact.

Here are this year's highlights:

Building Stronger Partnerships

- **P2P Collaboration:** Launched in August, tabling with the Foodmobile to extend outreach.
- **Stamford Public Schools:** Increased referrals for new arrival parents after a visit from the Office of Family and Community Engagement team.
- **Jewish Family Services:** Partnering to offer parenting classes in 2025.
- **DFC Referrals:** Strengthened connections, resulting in more families served.

Expanding Community Engagement

- **Latinx Outreach:** Our new Spanish-speaking Case Worker used her community connections to help us serve more Latinx families.
- **Case Manager Outreach:** Engaged schools, churches, barbershops, and nonprofits, increasing visibility and connections.

Empowering Families Through Programs

- **Parenting Sessions:**
 - a. 12 dads graduated Y4C3 in October.
 - b. Y5C1 launched with 29 dads (19 Spanish-speaking).
- **IPV Sessions & Training:** 8-week staff training completed, focusing on trauma-informed care and IPV impacts.
- **Parenting in America:** Curriculum is forthcoming in English and Spanish.



Celebrations and Community Events

- **Thanksgiving:** Over 60 clients celebrated with food donated by board members and Bridgewater.
- **Women's Circle:** 13 moms graduated in December.
- **Holiday Cheer:** Over 100 families joined us for food, crafts, and gifts, featuring Santa and the Grinch!

We're excited to expand our programs and partnerships in 2025, continuing to serve Stamford families with care and dedication.

Thank you for being part of our journey! ❤️



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR HUBS

Danbury Center

We are thrilled to celebrate the progress and impact made at our Danbury location. Here are some of this year's key achievements:

Program Successes:

- **TWC Graduation:** Celebrated 19 mothers completing the program, a testament to their dedication and growth.
- **Partners Workshop:** Launched on November 14, focusing on skill-building and knowledge-sharing for our volunteer facilitators.

Program Successes: By the Numbers

- **Danbury Intakes:** 101% of the target achieved, with 101 intakes completed.
- **Parents Supported (Case Management & Classes):** Exceeded the target by 16%, serving 145 parents.
- **Parents Served Through Case Management:** Achieved 106% of the target, supporting 133 parents.
- **Parents Participating in Classes:** Surpassed the target by 15%, with 127 parents attending classes.

Community Celebrations:

- **Thanksgiving Joy:** Hosted a catered Thanksgiving meal for clients, supported by 86 donated pies from generous groups and donors.
- **Family Raffle:** National Charity League donated six gift certificates, raffled to help foster family togetherness.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey—your support makes it all possible. ❤️

Here's to an even brighter future for Danbury in 2025!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR HUBS

Bridgeport Center

The Countdown Is On: SJPC's Bridgeport Center Opens January 2025!

We're excited to announce that our Bridgeport Center will officially open its doors on January 6, 2025, as we prepare to support families of Kolbe Cathedral Preparatory School and the Catholic Academies of Bridgeport (CAB), as well as the broader Bridgeport community.

This collaboration, made possible by the Louis V. Gerstner III Center for Students and Families, will bring transformative parenting education and targeted support to families. Rooted in SJPC's mission to empower parents and protect children, we are committed to helping families build skills, foster healing, and create thriving households.

Our Vision for Impact

Through this partnership, SJPC will:

- **Tailor Support:** Conduct needs assessments to understand and address the unique challenges Kolbe and CAB families face.
- **Provide a Safe Space:** Offer opportunities for reflection, healing, and skill-building within a supportive community.
- **Expand Resources:** Collaborate with Catholic Charities to connect families to additional services for their well-being.

Milestones Achieved

- **Leadership Collaboration:** Kolbe and CAB principals embraced SJPC's programs during leadership discussions this summer.
- **Secured Space:** Our office in the beautifully renovated Louis V. Gerstner III Center for Students and Families ensures accessibility for all.



This partnership marks a powerful step forward in breaking cycles of neglect and building brighter futures. Together with Kolbe Cathedral, CAB, and the generosity of our supporters, we are creating a lasting impact for families in need.

Together, we're building brighter futures. ❤️

SUMMER & FALL EVENTS

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



We are so grateful to everyone who participated in our Golfing on the Green event on July 29th. Your enthusiasm and support made it an unforgettable day!

Event Highlights

- Delicious food and drinks, all while raising vital funds for SJPC's mission.
- A huge congratulations to Mike Benedetto for his amazing sweep at the event—well done, Mike!
- Special thanks to the Rather Family, our generous dinner sponsor, for making the evening extra special.



15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



Our 15th Anniversary Gala was an unforgettable evening of reflection, celebration, and community. With over 300 participants, including attendees, donors, volunteers, and in-kind contributors, we came together to surpass our goals and reaffirm our commitment to empowering families.



15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



The evening featured an emotional and heartfelt speech by our new Executive Director, Rian Drenzek, who shared her personal story of childhood neglect and how it inspired her to lead SJPC's mission with passion and purpose.

We were also honored by the founder of SJPC, Measi O'Rourke, who delivered a moving address celebrating our achievements over the past 15 years and the incredible milestones we've reached together.



15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



A highlight of the night was honoring Jamie O'Rourke with the Imagine Award for his outstanding contributions and dedication to our mission.

Thank you to everyone who made this milestone event such a success. Together, we're building brighter futures and stronger families!



Building Brighter Futures, Thanks to You!

We are incredibly blessed and grateful to our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and Board of Directors—you are the heart of SJPC's success. Your generosity and dedication have made a lasting impact on the families we serve.

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We couldn't do it without you! 

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We couldn't do it without you! 

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We couldn't do it without you! 

Up To \$1,999

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Join Our Mission: Save the Date and Make a Difference in 2025

Join us in 2025 as we come together through impactful events to support families and communities in need. Your participation, sponsorship, and support help us extend our reach, strengthen families, and create brighter futures. Mark your calendars for these can't-miss opportunities to make a difference!

3 on 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

March 15, 2025

St. Luke's School, New Canaan

ANNUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST

Wednesday 7:30 am - 9:30 am

April 2, 2025

Italian Center, Stamford

LADIES LUNCHEON

Thursday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

May 15, 2025

Silver Spring Country Club

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday 11:30 am - 7:00 pm

June 30, 2025

"The Griff", Greenwich

ANNUAL GALA

Friday 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

October 17, 2025

TBD



Exciting News!
The Stamford Center will be moving to a new location this year! Stay tuned for more details coming soon. 🚚 ✨

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