

“We commit to actions that deepen our relationships of communion, wherever we are... We co-create structures and practices that challenge, free, and unite us... We commit ourselves to further systemic change. We are educators in all that we are and do, exploring concrete avenues to eliminate root causes of injustice. We are present with people at the peripheries and collaborate to end all forms of discrimination, inequity, and violence.”

SSND, The Call of the 25th General Chapter December 2023

THANK YOU

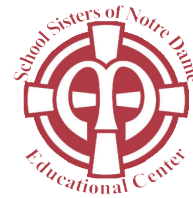
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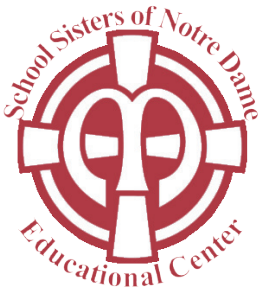


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EDUCATIONAL CENTER



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FALL 2024

Friends,

On behalf of SSND Educational Center Family, we would like to wish you hope, peace, joy and love for this holiday season. Autumn has been a time of renewal, reflection, and growth at our Center. As we enter our 21st year, we are reminded that so much of what our community of supporters has built over these decades and the many women and families we have empowered through education are thanks in large part to your generosity.

At our Harvest celebration recently, one of our GED students, Ling Liu, described the conservative village in China where she grew up. She explained that many women, even within her own family, are still denied access to higher education. Women in her village are expected to focus on household duties while their potential remains overlooked. *“This lack of opportunity traps us in traditional roles, limiting our ability to dream, grow, or achieve independence. But education is the most powerful tool we have to change this. It empowers women to change societal expectations, pursue our own careers, and take control of our futures. Educated women not only uplift ourselves, but we also inspire change in our families and communities. When women have access to knowledge, we have the ability to influence generations to improve entire societies.”* Last year, Ling attended our ESOL program, and this year she’s in the GED program. She and several other students are working to create systemic change within their families, within their own cultural communities, and within the wider communities in which they are living and working.

Please know that YOU—our sponsors, donors, community partners, and friends—inspire our staff, volunteers, and Board members—to be present every day for the 120 women we are empowering through our programs this year. You



Ling Liu, GED student, speaks about educational empowerment at our annual Harvest celebration.

share in very real ways with our commitment to co-create structures and practices that challenge, free, and unite us.

We invite you to become an official member of our **Circle of Friends** by committing to a monthly donation of at least \$10. Just join by marking the box on the enclosed envelope, visiting the donor page on our website, www.ssndecwomens.org, or by clicking on the QR code below. Please also consider including SSND Educational Center in your estate plans to ensure your values continue to have an impact for generations to come.

With gratitude and love,

Francine E. Poppo



*Join Our
Circle of Friends!*

HARVEST



Our fall gathering, *Harvest*, gave us a tremendous opportunity to pause, reflect, and enjoy our community of supporters during this beautiful season of renewal.

This year, we were so proud and honored to celebrate The Ladies of Charity of SJU and Neil Giannelli. For more than a decade, the Ladies of Charity have been honoring our students' efforts with thoughtful gifts, food, parties, and their own example of a commitment to the education of women. Neil began serving at our Center just a few years ago and is a pivotal member of our Development Committee. He is also extremely passionate about community outreach, especially as the Executive Director of W.O.R.K.S. Little League. Thank you to ALL our friends—both new and old—who helped us celebrate with wine, sandwiches, raffle baskets, and music.



CENTER HAPPENINGS

BOARD MEETING RETREAT



Members of the Board of Trustees and Staff gather for a full day work retreat.

FACULTY RETREAT



Members of the faculty enjoy a day of reflection and team building at the Quogue Home of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax

FOUNDATION DAY



2024 Alumna, Ngozi Okpako, stops by the Center with her GED certificate!



ESOL students Learn about and celebrate the Founder of the School Sisters of Notre Dame



Sister Eileen, our GED science teacher, focuses on visual learning!

DIGITAL LITERACY



Our brand new Digital Literacy class is under way, led by volunteer and engineer, Sean McHugh.



After completing our Citizenship Preparation course, student Amanda Lopez pauses for a photo in front of the courthouse with her Citizenship certificate



Our GED students approach history using a variety of texts with Maureen Blaine, our fabulous social studies teacher!