

St. Joseph's School for the Blind

15<sup>th</sup>

Annual

Walk-a-Thon



WALK-N-ROLL  
For Independence

We are very grateful to work with the  
students and staff of  
St. Joseph's School for the Blind

**Together we can make impossible dreams  
become a reality.**



**Kiddie Corner Daycare Center  
&  
Kiddie Corner Daycare II**



### PROGRAMS

**INFANT PROGRAM 6 WEEKS – 18 MONTHS**

**TODDLER PROGRAM 18 MONTHS – 30 MONTHS**

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAM @Kiddie Corner II 3 years -5 years.**

The educational programs at Kiddie Corner Daycare Center I & II were created with our children's needs in mind to mature and develop in a safe yet stimulating environment.

For more information:

[kiddiecornerdaycarecenter@gmail.com](mailto:kiddiecornerdaycarecenter@gmail.com)

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**Mr. Donald Pauselius**  
Master of Ceremony

**David Cunha**  
Pledge of Allegiance

**Sincere Askew**  
Stars Spangled Banner

**Daniella Duarte**  
Ribbon Cutting

# *St. Joseph's School for the Blind*

**Executive Director**

David Feinhals

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Today marks the 15th Anniversary of our annual Walk-A-Thon! I would like to personally thank and congratulate everyone who has contributed each year to making this happen. For those who may not know, St. Joseph's Walk-A-Thon was initiated and spearheaded throughout these years by our own Technology Coordinator, Nidia Cartagena. Special thanks to Nidia for overseeing this event which symbolizes the strength of our students and their determination to attain independence.

We are proud to dedicate this year's event to longtime employee, Esther Suarez, who retired after 42 years of exemplary service to our school. Throughout her career at St. Joseph's, Esther touched the lives of our students and staff alike. Her professionalism was surpassed only by her dedication and commitment to our students' welfare. We wish her many happy years of retirement and thank her for her extraordinary service to our mission.

Over the course of our history, we have been graced with many employees who made St. Joseph's their lifelong career. Our staff is at the core of our success and the reason we continue today after more than a century of service. Each member of our staff is committed to the greater development of those we serve, from Early Intervention infants to our students and adults. In the past year, we have welcomed new staff members including Principal Katie Hardgrove, M. Ed., whose qualifications, passion and expertise will lead our students, our staff and our mission into the future.

This past year has also been one of renewal. Our Early Intervention, on-campus Enrichment Program safely re-opened to welcome infants, toddlers and their families once again. Held in our Multi-Sensory Environment (MSE), the free program provides art, music, aqua therapy and sensory integration.

With COVID-19 behind us, students under the guidance of Transition Coordinator, Diana Lao-Momon have resumed community volunteer work. Most recently, they participated in a pilot program to adapt and create a new section at the Jersey City Five Corners Library branch for unique learners. The program also provided the students with the opportunity to demonstrate their assistive technology skills at a public demonstration.

Clients in our Adult Services program are also engaging in outside community events. The program was recently awarded a grant from the Hudson County Office of Inclusion & Accessibility which has provided enhanced opportunities for additional activities.

As we walk today, we are thankful for our staff, both past and present, and our friends and donors who have given generously to today's event. We give special thanks to Mayor Fulop and the City of Jersey City who continue to support this event and make this day possible. Most importantly, we are thankful for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, our founders and leaders of our mission who have guided us to be all that we can be!

Sincerely,  
David Feinhals  
Executive Director

# 15TH ANNUAL WALK-A-THON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## CO- Chairpersons

Nidia Cartagena

Laura Ianuzzi

## Director of Community and Donor Relations

Migdalia Viole

## Members

Diana Lao Momon

Yarinais Quiles

Vince Romano

Ellen Felicetta

Lauren Marron

## Student Members

Ana Centeno

Kezia Collins

Daniella Duarte

Joshua Rodriguez

# 15th Annual Walk-A- Thon Honors Esther Suarez



After 42 years at St. Joseph's School for the Blind, Assistant Teacher Esther Suarez retired. As easy as it may sound, the decision to retire was difficult for Esther. "It was a beautiful journey working here. It was in my heart," she said.

Esther began her lifelong career, caring for children, when she was 8 years old in her native Puerto Rico. "I babysat for several children; one had special needs." Before coming to the United States with her family, Esther stayed in Puerto Rico for two more years to care for her grandmother. "I was very attached to her. I'm thankful I had that time with her."

Once married and living in Jersey City, Esther had several jobs but it was a cousin who referred her to St. Joseph's. After interviewing with Sister Harriet and touring the school. Esther knew "...it was the job for me. It was waiting for me!"

Throughout her career at St. Joseph's, Esther reached many milestones in her life. She and her husband Angel have been married 53 years. Together they raised 5 children and now enjoy 11 grandchildren! "I'm enjoying retirement but I miss the school. I miss the students and the staff. I have seen many students come, grow, and graduate over the years. There are some that I will always remember," she said. Esther recalls two young boys who were non-verbal. "I would love to talk to them. Over time, they started to call my name. Even though it wasn't my full name, I was so happy just to hear them try to speak. Working at St. Joseph's has always been about the students. It's the reason we're there. To give them a better life."

It is with great pride and affection that we honor Esther for her many years of service to St. Joseph's. Most importantly, we thank her for the care, joy and life lessons she gave to our students and staff. It has been a privilege for all of us to have been a part of her life.

*"It was in my heart,"*



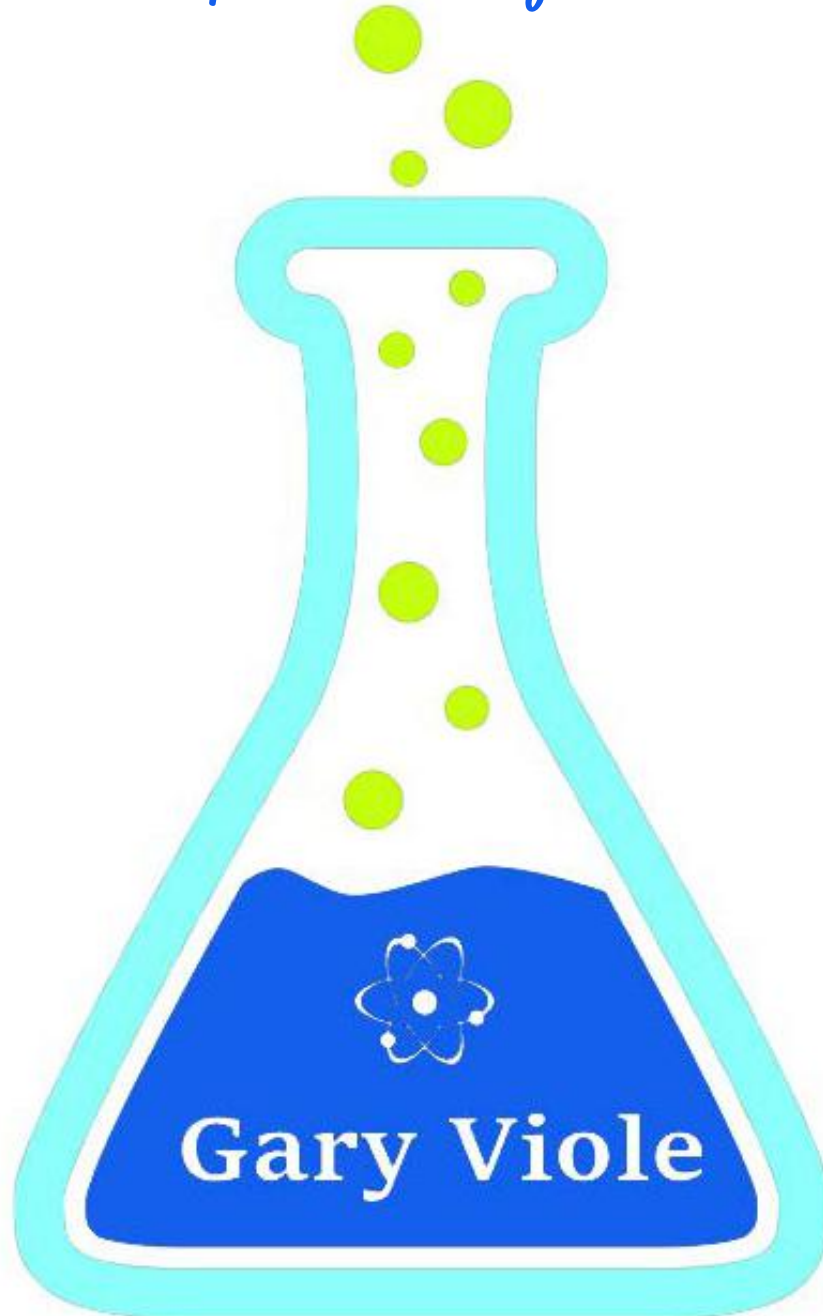


# Ponce Bank

Proud supporter of  
St. Joseph's School for the Blind.



*The Puzo-Viole family congratulates the  
staff and students of  
St. Joseph's School for the Blind*



*In loving memory of an extraordinary father.  
♥ Your daughters and grandchildren. ♥*



*I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to everyone who supported our Nicole. She is exceptional in every way and has made us all very proud. She has overcome every challenge that came her way and continues to smile from ear to ear. Thank you to all the staff through the years she has accomplished so much!*

*Arias Family*

**Thank you to the  
Staff and student volunteers of  
Dickinson High School  
2 Palisade Ave, Jersey City, NJ 07306**



# Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center



Thanks to the Cooperman Barnabas Health  
Hospitalist Medicine Group and  
2 West Oncology  
we love and appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Sincere

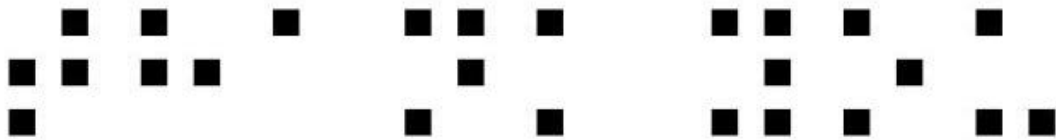


# Congratulations



**We wish you all the Best**

**The 2023 Walk-A-Thon Committee**



*Thank you*

We are happy to be part of St. Joseph's School's continued commitment and devoted service to help individuals with visual impairments.



Coldwell Banker Liberty provides exceptional service, expert guidance, and innovative solutions that help our clients achieve their financial goals and build thriving neighborhoods. We strive to create a brighter future for everyone we work with."



*Thank you to Krispy Kreme of  
Jersey City, NJ*

*Esther,*

*Wish you*

*all the best.*

*God bless you.*

*Elizabeth Rivera*





**Eric , Your smile gets us every time.**

**Sid, We're so proud of all of your hard work striving for your independence**



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*Thank You*

---



*for always being there for us*

*A Message from the  
Principal, Katie Hardgrove  
and Education Supervisor,  
Barbara Porter-Reid...*

*It is hard to believe that the 2022-2023 school year is already coming to a close! We are thrilled to be celebrating this annual event with our students, staff, families, and community members today.*

*We extend our gratitude to all who made today's event possible as well as a special acknowledgement to all our staff who work tirelessly to ensure our students are successful.*

*To all our Teacher Assistants, Teachers, Specialists, Therapists, Administrative Assistants, Nurses, and Social Worker- we appreciate you!!*



# CLASS 1



# Class 2





# CLASS 3





# CLASS 6





# CLASS 8



# CLASS 9







# CLASS 10



CELLS 12



*Class 13*

# Class 15



# CLASS 17



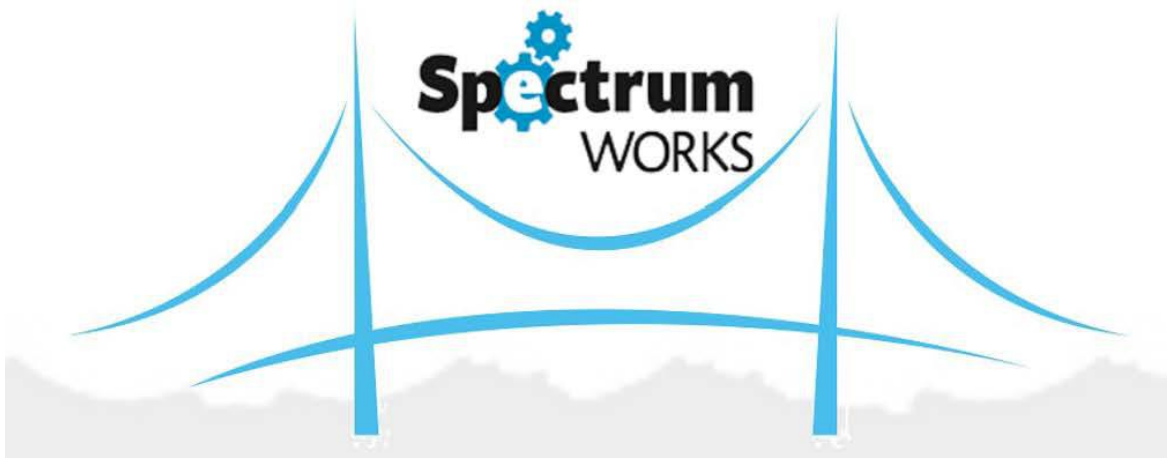


Sincere ,

You make us proud every day continue to be great with hard work and dedication you will go far!!

Love,  
Mama & Family

**Our shirts are amazing again!**



**565 Windsor Dr, Secaucus, NJ 07094  
(201) 552-2055**



Our t-shirt designer Joshua D.

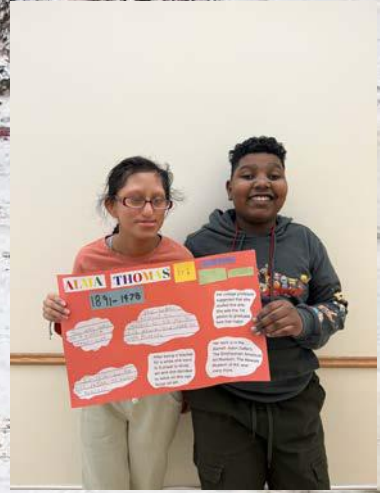


**Awesome teachers are hard to find**

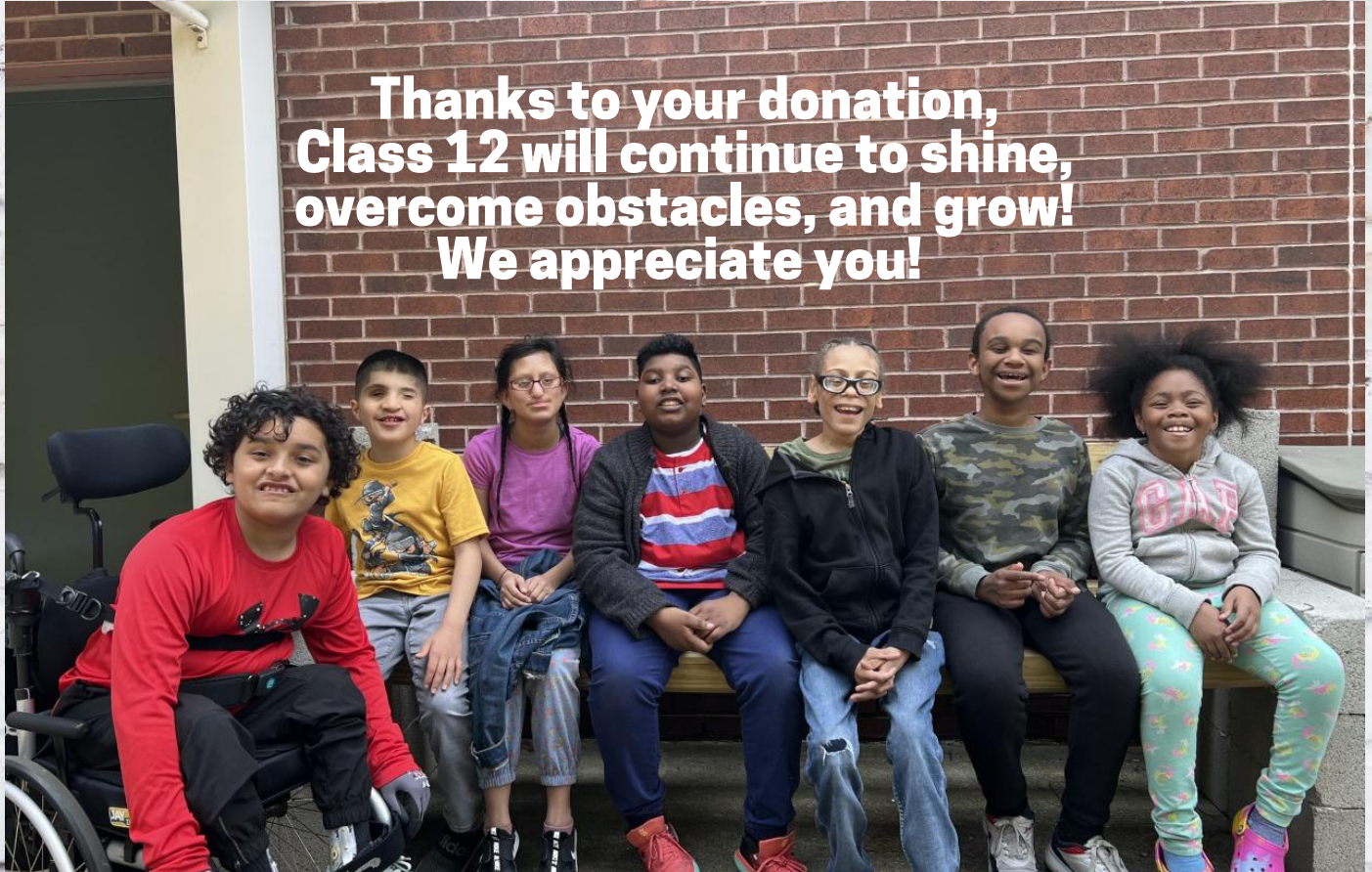
**Thank you for helping me grow.**

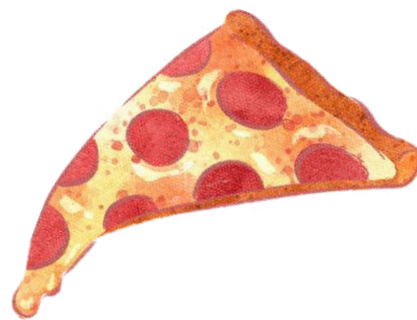
**Andy**





**Thanks to your donation,  
Class 12 will continue to shine,  
overcome obstacles, and grow!  
We appreciate you!**





Lucky to have passionate supporters like

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St. Joseph's School for the Blind**



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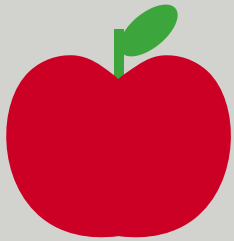
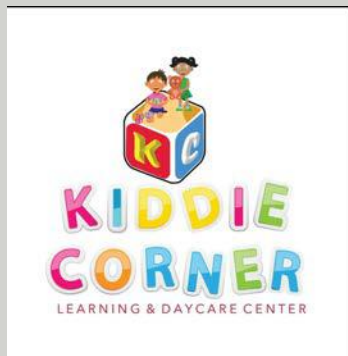
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**Joshua**



**Wish you all the best!**

**Janine**



**Carter,  
You bring so much joy and happiness  
to so many people.  
You hold a special place in many of  
our hearts, continue to be great.  
We Love You**



Dear Mr. Vince,  
I'm really going to miss you  
when you retire. I hope you'll  
come back for a visit. Thanks  
for coming, See you soon

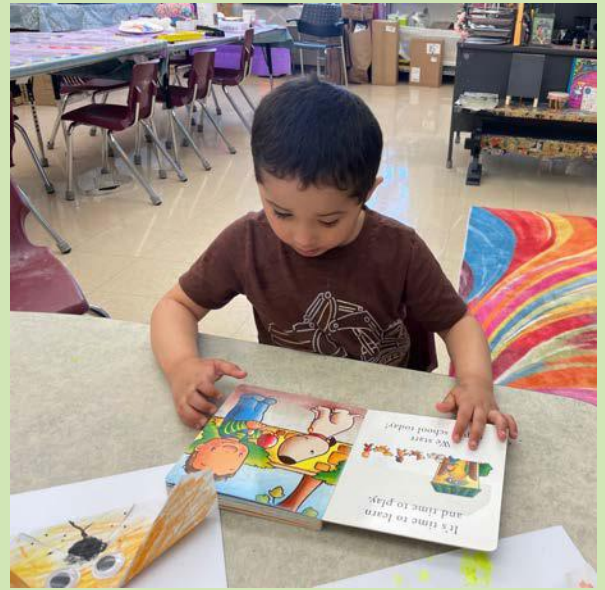


DEAR MR. VINCE  
I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK  
ON YOUR RETIREMENT.  
I WILL MISS THE GOOD  
TIMES WE HAD  
TOGETHER.



“  
mr. vince  
what you eat for  
dinner  
last night?  
i will miss you





Dear Friends and family  
we just want to say thanks!  
Class 10



# Thank you for your generous donation



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**BEST WISHES TO THE STUDENTS  
AND STAFF OF  
ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND  
YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.**

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Thank you Anna for bringing so much joy to Class 1. You make our classroom a brighter place.



We support Riya and all of Class 2 on their hard work to reach their potential!





Nofer, your positive attitude is an inspiration to us all every day!



Daniella, we are so proud of all of your hard work and accomplishments. Keep up the good work!



**Thank you for the sweetest donation!  
It kept us going all day while we  
"walked and rolled" to our  
independence**



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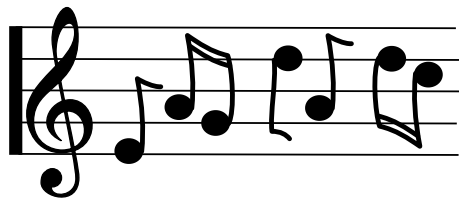
**The Sweetest Life**

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**Thank you for your  
donation**

Hi! I'm Cameron , this is my first year attending St. Josephs School for the Blind. The staff and teachers here are Awesome. We do a lot of fun activities throughout the day, Jr. Band, Art, and Recess. I even get to take my art home to my mom, it puts a smile on her face every time. I'm excited about our Annual Walk this year since this is my first one!



Benjamin,

Stay fearless!

We will always be there  
to support you.

Family Rios-Pereda



Blue Rain



*Thank you for your support*



[www.bluerainicecream.com](http://www.bluerainicecream.com)



Denny, your contagious smile brings so much joy and sunshine to Class 1!



Keep shining bright Star!



Robyn, we are so proud of all of your accomplishments this year!





**Thank you, Mayor Fulop and the city of Jersey City for believing in us and supporting us to continue doing what we do.**



A CAUSE  
THAT WE'RE  
HONORED TO  
STAND BEHIND.



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