

NEWS FROM THE EAGLE'S NEST

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 26



FESTA ITALIANA!

YOU ARE INVITED:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH

RIDGEMOOR COUNTRY CLUB

6601 W. GUNNISON CHICAGO, IL

COCKTAILS 6 PM

CASH BAR

BUFFET DINNER 7 PM

\$50 PER PERSON

DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE

RSVP BY MARCH 11TH



© Joey Spavento

ITALIAN
CHEF

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER OF 2009 AND OUR FIRST ANNUAL ITALIAN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU! FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT, PLEASE REFER TO THE ENVELOPE ON THE INSIDE OF THIS NEWSLETTER OR CONTACT OUR FOUNDATION OFFICE AT: (847)803-1930 x225.



**"YOUR PROBLEMS
 CAN BE LIFE
 LESSONS. JOSEPH
 ACADEMY HELPED
 ME REALIZE THAT IT
 IS HOW YOU
 CORRECT YOUR
 PROBLEMS THAT
 MAKES THE
 DIFFERENCE. WHAT
 YOU THOUGHT WAS
 YOUR BIGGEST
 STRUGGLE MAY END
 UP BEING ONE OF
 YOUR STRONGEST
 SKILLS."**

**JOHN HICKMAN,
 J.A. ALUMNI**

Without YOU, This Wouldn't be Possible!



THE CAREER EDUCATION CENTER

Thanks to the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, our Des Plaines campus was fortunate enough to develop a new, state-of-the art Career Education Center (C.E.C.). Students close to graduation have the opportunity to work on college applications while students of any age can get advice on applying for a part-time job. This room consists of several new computers, "Cable in the Classroom", and a

projector that enables teachers to lead the entire class through applications, websites and presentations.

Erin Whalen, the Senior teacher at the Des Plaines campus says, "It [the C. E. C.] has helped the students feel more prepared for post-graduation experiences." She goes on to explain how the C.E.C. is beginning to shape the students' futures. "The students are now able to see a correlation between the classes they take in school and how they can relate to a possible vocation."

Career Development Month

February is Career Development Month in Illinois. The goal is to promote career awareness and preparedness for all grade levels. One class that focuses on this topic is called "Career Exploration". During this time, students have the opportunity to investigate occupations and post-secondary education options.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all your generous donations over the past 26 years! We want to especially thank the following for their contributions over the last year:

- *The Helen Brach Foundation*
- *The Todd Eckert Foundation*
- *The George P. Kendall, Jr. and Mary Ann Kendall Charitable Foundation, Ltd.*
- *The George R. Kendall Foundation*
- *William G. McGowan Charitable Fund*



STUDENTS WORKING IN THE NEW COMPUTER LAB AT OUR DES PLAINES CAMPUS

JOSEPH ACADEMY TIME LINE



Joseph Academy Foundation

The Joseph Academy Foundation was established to raise funds to provide financial support to our schools for scholarships, training and building improvements.

Many of our students choose to attend a two or four year college after graduating from our program. We are happy to offer tuition assistance to these students who follow our application process.

The Foundation also provides assistance to Joseph Academy families

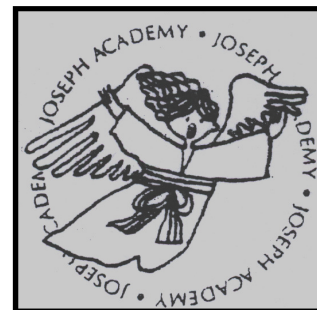
who are in need. Groceries, transportation and clothing are just a few of the ways in which these families need support.

Many of the opportunities and privileges our students earn though the Joseph Academy program are paid for by the Foundation. Girls' Club, Student Council, field trips and our sports league are all supported by those who donate to our school.

Our dedicated staff often seek out a higher education while working with our

students. We are happy to offer them tuition assistance and guidance on pursuing their educational goals.

Without donations to our Foundation, our students and staff would not have many of the amenities available that make our program so successful. The Foundation has a direct impact on helping our students become responsible adults.



"THEY [JOSEPH ACADEMY] HAVE A VERY SPECIAL AND UNIQUE MISSION..."

**ILLINOIS SENATOR
DAN CRONIN**

Letter from the Executive Director

Joseph Academy opened in 1983 with just three students and now continues to educate and care for children age 5 through 21 with severe behavioral and emotional disabilities. Currently we are serving almost 180 students across three campuses.

It is important to realize that even with this wonderful growth, Joseph Academy must still rely upon Illinois State

funding which is based on data from audits that are two years old. Much work is needed to update the Illinois regulations so that Joseph Academy and other such schools receive revenues that can more closely match their costs.

For now, we are asking for your continued support. The Joseph Academy Foundation was established to help meet capital expenses which were not

addressed in the State tuition funding. This year the Foundation is looking to raise \$150,000 and we need your help to reach that goal. Your assistance is necessary to continue to provide the essentials to these kids who call Joseph Academy their "home".

Please attend our March 18th *Festa Italiana* evening at Ridgemoor Country Club. You will enjoy prizes, music, great food and connect with

other Joseph Academy Foundation supporters. This is just what we all need considering the cold weather and gray days. If you can not be there, please consider sending in a donation to the tax-exempt Joseph Academy Foundation a 501(c)3 registered organization.

Sincerely,
Mike Schack

1999

IL Sen. Dan Cronin helped J.A. attain an *Illinois First* grant and develop a new building on Natchez Avenue in Niles.

2000

Joseph Academy received the Jefferson Award from NBC 5 for Outstanding Public Service

2005

A second and third location in Melrose Park and the Scott Nolan Center opened in the fall

2006

J.A. moved from Niles to the Nipper School building in Des Plaines

2008

The school celebrated its 25th year.

2009

180 students are enrolled in all J.A. campuses with 80 employees



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Des Plaines, IL 60016
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Fax: 847-803-8669

Joseph Academy at Melrose Park
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Melrose Park, IL 60160
Phone: 708-345-4500
Fax: 708-345-4516

Joseph Academy at Scott Nolan
555 Wilson Lane
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-768-5785
Fax: 847-768-5938

Visit us on the Web at:
www.josephacademy.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 14* *Joseph Academy's 26th Anniversary*
- March 18* *Festa Italiana! Dinner at Ridgemoor Country Club*
- April 10-19* *Spring Break*
- June 18* *Graduation Ceremony at White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant*
- June 20-July 7* *Summer Break*
- August 3* *Joseph Academy Golf Outing at Ridgemoor Country Club*
- August 19-31* *Summer Break*

JOSEPH ACADEMY FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS: TOM RATCHFORD—PRESIDENT, TOM MONTICELLO—TREASURER, KATHLEEN BROWN, KEN COZZI, KELLY DOWD, JIM DURKIN, DENNIS HEBSON, TERRY MARINO, MIKE MCCRARY, TOM MCQUILLAN, MICK O'ROURKE, CATHY SCHACK, DAVE SHIELDS

Serving youth since 1983

JOSEPH ACADEMY FOUNDATION
1101 GREGORY STREET
DES PLAINES, IL 60016