

# **Recover** • **Rebuild** • **Reconnect**



#### From our Board Chair and Executive Director

**The past year** has been, in many ways, very gratifying. As the Neighborhood Network continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic, a spirit of determination has grown among us:

A determination to build on the programs offered to our clients in a way that will add to our efforts to rebuild our neighborhoods;

A determination to examine what new programs we can offer to better serve the community;

A determination to explore working with other agencies to broaden the goals we have set and better achieve them;

A determination to assist those who come to us with little, to build a life about which they have only been able to dream.

This effort to recover has permitted us to reconnect with our many volunteers with whom we work, the volunteers who give so freely of their precious time and talents to aid the people we serve.

This, in turn, enabled us to reconnect with our clients in ways that were prohibited during the pandemic. Our mission is not one that can prosper and grow remotely. It requires and demands a personal touch that circumstances would not allow.

We have used this time to examine what we have done, what we can do and how we can be better. That is the road which we now travel as we grow, improve and become more proficient in service to our community.

"Don't hesitate. Don't wait. Don't aspire. Achieve." - Amanda Gorman, Poet

Phil Temple, Board Chair

As we began the last fiscal year in July, 2022, we were hopeful for 'recovery,' already in the midst of 'rebuilding,' and desperate to 'reconnect.' As a global community we may still be measuring distances and risk factors for years to come. But for a neighborhood group who measures outcomes in terms of bringing 'neighbor to neighbor,' coming together once again in shared work and purpose has rekindled this mission.

As you review the following pages, please pay special attention to the photographs full of smiling faces (many unmasked!) - and the many names of all whose support has been crucial to our work.

Along with the remarkable and dedicated SSJNN staff, I am excited to share the following stories with you—our strength and our supporters, through whose generosity and shared faith these stories are made possible.

With your help the SSJNN staff are making a difference and we look forward to tackling the deep needs that remain.

Heather May Caspan

Heather Caspar, Executive Director

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### **Basic Needs and Assistance**

As our neighbors continue to rebuild



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#### **Activities for Youth**

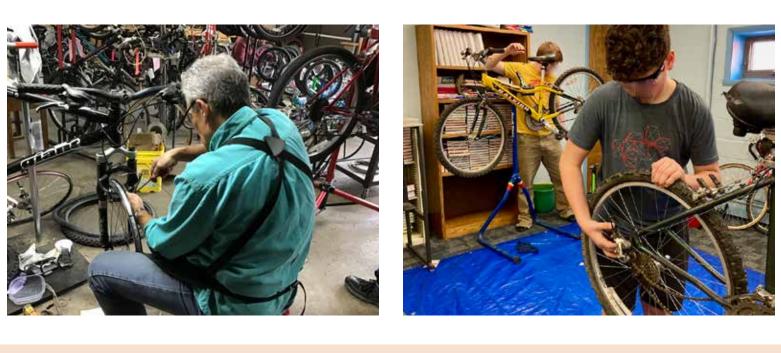
**Youth participated** in programming in unique ways, completing activities remotely with the help of tablets and art package home deliveries. Outdoor activities such as art in the park and a movie night provided children with COVIDsafe activities to socialize and express themselves. Our young artists displayed their work at the Episcopal Cathedral of Saint Paul for a Youth Art Salon with various partner agencies.



### **Bike Programs**

**We distributed a tremendous total** of 226 bikes this year! We typically average

around 80 bikes per year, but our faithful staff and bike volunteers met the needs of our community on a new level. These bikes serve as a lifeline for our neighbors, many of whom are New Americans and without transportation. Each donated bikes requires around 8-12 hours to be sufficiently repaired, taking our total bike volunteer hours to 1,205!



Luzik, MacDonald, Illig, Jones & Britton LLP, John Maleno, Maleno Homes, Patricia Mancuso, Kathleen Mannino, Emily Mansfield, Jacqueline Masek, Emily May, Sue & Geoffrey McCreary, Gerard McEnery, Catheryn McGinnis, John McGrath, Ann McKean, M Eileen McLaughlin, Patricia McMahon, Catherine R McMillin, Medtronic, Betty J. Meeder, Ann Miller, Tom Miller, Sister Veronica Mital, Jennifer Monocello, Morrocco Realty, LLC, Mueller Locksmith, LLC, Emily Louise Muntean, Pat Murphy, National Fuel Gas, Tonia Nesheiwat, Network for Good, Crystal Norkeveck, Northwest Savings Bank, Louann Oatman, Cindi Olesky, Patricia Oscar, Our Lady of Peace School, Sister Colette Palmer, David Panetta, Geraldine & John Pendill, Richard & Kaye Perrotta, Daniel Petro, Arlene & Robert Petruso, PHB, David & Tina Piotrowicz, PNC Bank, Amy Pound, Preservation Erie, Pro Waste Services, Inc, Carla Rauch, Jennifer Rautine, Reddog Industries, Patrick & Ellen Richards, Martha & Samuel Ruggiero, Deborah Phillips & Jack Russell, Marie & Gregory Rys, Sacred Heart Church, Sacred Heart Church Staff, Elena Salvia, Wanda & Anthony Salvia, Delores Pasiecznik & Anthony Saucedo, Joseph & Rhonda Schember, SCI Albion, Rose & Bruce Scouten, Marleen Scully, Suzanne Selleny, Jay Shaffer, Margaret & Patrick Shaughnessy, Sherif's Imported Rugs & Bazaar, Sister Lucille DeStefano, SSJ, Sisters of St Joseph of NW Pennsylvania, Kent Sivillo, Social Impact Realty, LLC, Society of Holy Trinity, James Spiegel, St. Mary's



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#### **Community Engagement**

Have you seen our parklet yet? Our new mobile meeting place rolled into the neighborhood this year, creating endless opportunities for us to meet community members where they are – in front of businesses, at parks, and on the street. We reconnected using the parklet at events like National Night Out as well as held a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at our weekly farmers market.



### **Community Gardens**

Eight gardens were kept up by our neighbors, teens, and volunteers as places for produce, peace, people in the neighborhood, passersby, and more. The beautiful and bountiful spots include two orchards, one urban farm, and five dedicated for folks and families to grow their own fresh food. An amazing 60+ varieties of fruits and vegetables were grown in our community gardens this year.







Home of Erie, Alison Stinely, Standard Pattern Works, Inc., Kathleen Sullivan, Ruth E. Swaney, Sister Jude Marie Talerico, Philip & Mary Temple, Naomi Teperow, Sister Marie Timmons, Violet & Frank Tofani, Nancy & James Tometsko, Mike Trott, United Way of Southwestern PA, Kelly M. Urbanski, Anderson Vincent, Vorex, LLC, Whole Foods Co-op, Rena Wierbinski, Linda R. Williams, Julie & Philip Wilson, Jeffrey Wolfanger, Jane M. Zawacki, Leonard Zawistowski Jr., George Zehner, Mary & Ronald Zimmer • ERIE GIVES: Jordan T Abbott, Gina M. Adams, Sister Marjorie Adams, SSJ, Mary F. Adiutori, Mary Anne Albaugh & Dennis Borczon, Michael & Nancy Alberico, Carol Kurtis Alberstadt, Ruth & Jay Alberstadt, Elizabeth Ann Allen, Nancy A. Andersen, Pete & Amanda Austin, Jeannette Barczynski, Tim & Mary Barrett, Barb & Bill Barthelmes, Diane Baumgardner, Lisa Baumgardner, Heidi Beezub, Sister Claire Marie Beichner, SSJ, Virginia A. Bello, Phil & Maggie Benson, Daniel & Patricia Bensur, Sandra Berarducci, Mary Beveridge, Gerald Blaszczyk, Tom & Sue Blecki, Robert & Diane Bloom, Scott Bonnell, American Hollow Boring Co., Christine Bowen, John & Karen Bozza, Barbara Brairton, Irene & Ken Brasington, David & Linda Brennan, Deacon Richard & Victoria Brogdon, Cynthia Brown, Eric & Cheryl Brozell, Mary Ann Brugger, Bob & Kathy Bruno, Elizabeth Bucarelli, Joe Cappabianca, Mary & Willis Cardot, Jr., Frank & Joanne Cargioli, Jill A. Caspar, Jim & Heather May Caspar, Joseph & Nancy Chiappazzi, Cheryl

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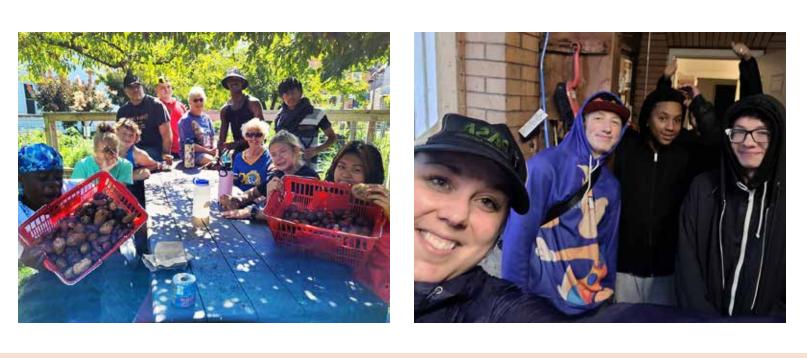
#### **Little Italy Farmers Market**

**Something magical** happens every Monday from June – September with our teens and many other local farms selling the most affordable and freshest produce in town! This year the market completed its 10th year, drew more than 4,000 shoppers, and graciously matched more than \$10,000 in senior produce vouchers and SNAP thanks to partners Highmark Health, Marquette Savings Bank, Erie Insurance, and Northwest Savings Bank.



### **Youth Work Experience**

Thirteen dedicated teens were part of the season, and more than half of them went on to secure other jobs upon program completion. With the mentorship of our seven wonderful volunteer garden coaches, each teen completed at minimum 100 hours of work - completing restaurant orders, maintenance, and more. This brought them immense growth in selfesteem and soft skills along with enriching field trips across the county.

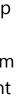




Piker, Frank & Jane Pregler, PRI Community, Lisa & Chuck Priestap, Jack & Ann Quinn, Michael & Anne Rahner, Raven Sound, M. Redenius, Kathy Reichert, Bob & Mary Rennie, Employees of Rick Weaver Buick GMC, Marilyn G. Rositer, Thomas A & Linda Rys, Ravi Sabherwal, Anthony & Wanda Salvia, Joseph Salvia, Lynda & Allen Sceiford, Joe & Rhonda Schember, Claudia Schneider, Carolyn N. & Robert R. Schenker, Mary Schmidt, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Scouten, Ronald & Loretta Seigley, Deb Seng, Charleen Sertz, Ron & Emily Sertz, Joy Sherred, Jay & Cass Shimek, Lauren & Brian Sivillo, Gretchen Smith, Social Impact Realty LLC, Society of Holy Trinity, Ruthie Stiles, Jim & Sharon Stoik, L. Strobel, Sister Marianne Stuckert, SSJ, Dr. Benjamin T. & Atty. Colleen R. Stumpf, Kathleen Sullivan, Ruth Swaney, Patrice Swick, Anne & Don Swift, Holly & Larry Sydow, Mariana Syrotiak, Andy & Pat Tellers, Gregory & Carmella Tellers, Dan & Mary Ann Tempestini, Mary & Philip Temple, Elizabeth Trocki, Adam J. Trott AIA, Jennifer Tucker, Pamela G. Verity, Michael Vincent, Mike & Pat Visnosky, Heidi Waldinger, Theresa A. Walkiewicz, Sister Mary Ann White, SSJ, Rena G. Wierbinski, Linda Williams, George & Cindy Willis, Julie Wilson, Suzanne Winterberger, Caryn Wolfe, Justin Wood, Jennifer & Rodney Woodard, John & Kathryn Yaggy, Mary Ann Zarnick, Donna M. Ziegler • GRANTS: Erie Arts & Culture, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), Erie County of Pennsylvania, Erie Insurance Giving Network, PNC Bank,









#### Housing and Home Ownership

Our staff, community partners, and **volunteers** completed the renovations on 5 affordable housing units and began work on an additional 3 units. We worked together with Erie DAWN to remodel a single-family home for their rapid rehousing program. Another key partnership with the Maleno Family-to-Family Fund helped a neighborhood family with essential home repairs. And best of all, one family from the Genesis program graduated and purchased their first home!



# **Neighborhood Revitalization**

We completed a total of 16 home and facade improvement projects with partners like Europa Delicatessen on Federal Hill and Odessa's Place in Little Italy. We reconnected with neighbors through 30 community painting sessions to complete the stunning new mural on Odessa's Place, led and designed by artist and educator Dr. Natalia Pilato. Also, we assisted 4 local businesses and non-profits in installing security camera systems and planted dozens of trees on Parade Street.







Rescare, Inc., Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, SSJ Mission & Ministries Foundation • PA DCED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTNERS: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Erie Insurance, Highmark, Marquette Bank, Northwest Savings Bank • GIFTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF OTHERS: In honor of Mary Alice Bongiorno by Kenneth Young • In honor of our Customers by Reddog Industries • In honor of Bob and Mary Alice Haibach by the Woll Family Fund at the Chicago Community Foundation • In honor of Bill Gocella and Delores Kase by Sister Barbara Gocella • In honor of Sister Phyllis Hilbert and Midge Klebes by Rebecca & William Hilbert, Jr. • In honor of her nephews and niece and their families by Midge Klebes • In honor of Sister Catherine Manning by Serra Club • In honor of Gary McEnery by Joe Zaczyk • In honor of Tim NeCastro by Erie Insurance • In honor of St. Joseph's Day and Sister Marianne Stuckert by Cathedral Prep on behalf of Villa Maria Academy • In honor of Phil Temple by an Anonymous Donor • In memory of Julio Achille by Rebecca & James Flynn • In memory of Frank Adiutori by Frank Adiutori, Jr., Deborah Bartone, Angela & Dennis Cologrande, Michael DeDad, Carla & Kim Flanigan, Susan & Peter Grippe, Jane & Edward Mascharka, Patricia & Leonard Popivich, Christine & David Sechrist, Margaret Tracy, Violet & Frank Tofani, Wendy & Charles Weber • In memory of Pamela Mozdy Allen from the Breakfast Group,

Connie, Donna & Norm, Kathy, Marti & Gordon, Pat & Mike, Mary Ellen Brice, Michael Grab, Marie Spaeder Haas, Colleen Hammon, Richard McCormick, Janet & Larry Morris, Frank Mozdy, Susan & Ronald Mozdy, Katherine & James Nuber, Deborah Pagliari, Denise & Robert Schoenfeldt, Patricia Sterner, Mary Ellen & Richard Wygant • In memory of John and Marion Armstrong by the Armstrong Families, the Ferritto Families, the Lawrence Park Garden Club, the Red Hat Ladies, the Renshaw Families • In memory of Carolyn Brookhouser by Christine & Terry Scutella • In memory of Benny Dabrowski by Richard & Jean Bush, Deborah Dabrowski, Steven Hyzer, Karen & Dennis McGill, Debra & Richard Tarr • In memory of Barbara Fontecchio by Medtronic • In memory of Linda Gier by Carol & Tom Dickant, Chuck & Nancy Donnelly, Rachel & Eugene Fitch, Susan A. Fledderman, Duane J. Geitner, Patricia A. George, Patricia L. McAllister, Maxine & Joseph Piccirillo, Kathleen & Theodore Rodak Living Trust, SSJ Associates, Nancy & David Thompson, Ann & Dennis Weber, Jane M. Zawacki • In memory of Zach Hause by Gretchen G. Durney • In memory of Bill Hilbert by Mary Stephany Theiss Lyons • In memory of Judy Kubaney by Amy Beth Bednar, Annamarie & Gerard Cafardi, Susan & Gerald Dill, Lauren & G. B. Fillmore III, Linda & Richard Graziani, Pamela & Michael Hetrick, Martha Hilbert, Heidi & Raymond Huggins, Joseph M. Hilbert, Amy & Jeffrey Kehl, Angie Kontur, James & Shelley Kubaney,



#### Parks and Greenspace

This year of recovery brought us a special celebration honoring the three Sisters of St. Joseph without whom SSJNN as we know it would simply not exist. Bringing a bold presence to West 19th Street, Three Sisters Park was dedicated and opened for the community in the fall. Our additional parks and greenspaces were cleaned up, cut, emblazoned with art, events and more by countless service groups, our neighbors, volunteers, and youth workers!





Janice & Thomas Lane, Vivian & Steven Lane, Danielle & Richard Lang, Jr., Donna & James May, Karen & David Mead, Kathey & Francis Nemeth, The R. Pazder Family, Carol & Richard Pirrello, Audrey & Dennis Riazzi, Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, Lucy & John Slickanich, Bryan & Rosie Tuten, Michele & Stephen Ventrello • In memory of Chris Kaeberlein by Marilyn G Rositer • In memory of Carol Lucarotti by Anonymous Donor, Daniel J. Brabender, Jr., Linda & Gregory Cermak, Angela & Dennis Cologrande, Sean Dugan, Michelle & Louis Floros, Mary Beth & Mark Heyd, Janice L. Larrey, Denise M. Lopez, Mary Ann & William McCarthy, Kathleen Miller, Timothy & Lisa NeCastro, Mary Presogna, Rose Marie Radomski, Nicole Sambuchino, Linda J Sawdey, Terry & Bob Seth, Mary Ann Torok, Lorraine Wehrle, Linda J. Wilkinson • In memory of Louis Malinowski by Delores Pasiecznik & Anthony Saucedo • In memory of Richard Metler by Mary Ann Ashworth • In memory of Dick Squeglia & Willa Morton by Rebecca & James Flynn • In memory of Ed Olszewski by Karen & Dennis McGill • In memory of the Pedano, Bufalino and Romeo Families by Charles & Donna Roberts • In memory of Janet Plavcan by Mary Ann Ashworth, Jeannette & Robert Barczynski, Virginia Borkowski, Mary Ellen Brice, Paula Brocious, Jestin Carlson, MD, Susan Clement, Judith Coughlin, Ellen Deering, Steve & Sue Drabant, Margaret & Roger Dupre, German Cultural Society, Fred Havko, MD, Christopher Heile, Elaine M Hirsch, Wayne Jones,

## Thank You, Volunteers!

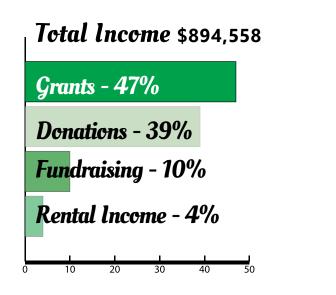
Without you, none of this would be possible! We are endlessly grateful for the commitment, generosity, and kindness our volunteers bring to SSJNN. Over 200 volunteers served a total of 5,606 hours this year! From our weekly volunteers to our one-off service groups, we applaud you for your service to our organization, our neighbors, and our city. Together, we recover, rebuild, and reconnect!

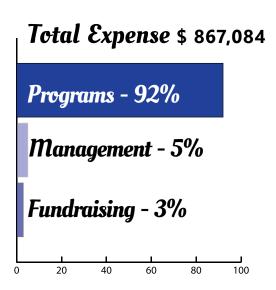


Janice & Jochen Kindling, Kathleen & Louis Kwiatkowski, D.S & B. J. McCall, Matthew McCarthy, Catherine & Gerard Miele, Eileen & Peter Nill, Katherine & James Nuber, Regina & James Nuber, Patricia & Roger S. Gunesch, Jon Plavcan, Rose & Richard Powierza, Presque Isle Region Antique Auto Club, Denise Robison Mullen, Loretta & Craig Schaal, Susann & William Schaefer, Bette Schultz Miller, Mary Kay Spencer, St. Vincent Emergency Department, Jean & Geoffrey Vickey, Barbara & Frederick Weber, Welcome Club of Erie Pennsylvania, Mary Ann White, Patricia & Gerald Wolf, Robert & Jane Zawadzki • In memory of Sister Mary Rose Romeo by an Annonymous Donor • In memory of Nancy Scheuerman by Lora Caldwell, Rick Caldwell, Maria & James Welter • In Memory of Richard Squeglia by Mary & Dominick Jordano • In memory of JoAnn Stager by Cindy Bojinski, Jill & Joseph Caspar, Jim & Heather Caspar, Carol Gresh, Doris Pick, Carrie & Kevin Stokes • In memory of Mary Ann Stokes by the Stokes Family • In memory of Jeanne Szymanowicz by Richard McCormick, M Eileen McLaughlin, Katherine & James Nuber, Casmir Szymanowicz, Daniel & Mary Ann Tempestini, Sue & Paul Zolnierek • In memory of Leslie Earl Brace, Ted Mailinowski and Leon Wasielewski by Delores Pasiecznik & Anthony Saucedo • In memory of Joan Welch by Mary Grace & Ken Fromknecht, Maxine Fromknecht, Mary Kathleen Kern, Margaret & David LeFaiver, Martha Reddinger, Mary Ellen Reddinger,



#### **Financial Review**





Grants, corporate contributions, private gifts from generous donors, in-kind donations, and 4,582 hours contributed by more than 200 volunteers helped us to rebuild and reconnect.



SCI Cambridge Springs • In memory of Bobbie Wood by Jeff & Judith Idzik • IN-KIND DONATIONS: AHN Saint Vincent Hospital, Ambridge Rose Spa & Salon, Mary Ann Ashworth, Tim Bailey, Mitzi Banister, Barber National Institute, Maggie Benson, Berry Global, Black Monk Brewery, Maureen Bradley, Brewerie at Union Station, Richard Caldwell, Lisa Carr, Jill Caspar, Arlene Chaney & Jean Ryan, Cherry Hill Ecological Farm, Marty Connelly, Michelle Cuzzola, Dahlkemper's Jewelry Connection, Ellen Deering, Judie DelFreo, Brenda Desser, Sister Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, Chuck & Nancy Donnelly, Debi Doust, Sue & Steve Drabant, Mike & Janice Durney, Erie Ale Works, Erie Art Museum, Erie DAWN, Inc., Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Erie Otters, Erie Playhouse, Dan Fiori, Marianne Fogleboch, Patty Fowler, Peggy Fuhrman, Marty Gaertz, Joseph & Gerri Gallagher, Mary Gallagher, General McLane High School, Maureen Griffin, Hagen History Center, Sister Mary Herrmann, Sister Susan Herzing, Lori Hetrick, Joe Hilbert, Martha Hilbert, Sister Phyllis Hilbert, Scott & Missy Hitz, Mary Ann Huster, Jim & Dolly Iannello, J. J. Wurst Landscaping, Lori Johnson, John Julliano, Karen Kaye, Pamela Kiehlmeier, Angie Kontur, Kraus Department Store, Debbie Lehotsky, Paul Letkiewicz, Kenneth & Maggie Link, Lucia T. Salvia CPA, Juliette Mannino, Jill Marks, Marquette Savings Bank, Mary Adiutori Enterprises, Bob Maughn, Karen McGill, Ann Marie McKean, Patty McMann, Mercyhurst Institute for Arts &

# Thank You to our Major Grant Partners

The 2021-2022 Fiscal Year brought a close to one, 6-year grant cycle with our largest funding partner, the **Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development**, through their Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits. Our local partners have kept their tax dollars close to home, working through SSJNN to improve our neighborhoods. Additionally, we couldn't accomplish the work we do without these other, local, power-houses in funding, who have each contributed between \$50,000 and \$150,000 in support of our mission. On behalf of SSJNN Board, Staff, and our Neighbors, Thank You!

**Highmark Health (NAP)** Marquette Savings Bank (NAP) **Northwest Bank (NAP)** 



Culture, Pat Murphy, Theresa Natale, Gerard NeCastro, Neighborhood Kinship Ministry, Fil Orr, Patty Oscar, Our Lady of Peace School, Delores Pasiecznik, PDQ Pest Control, Cindy Polesnak, Chuck Priestap, Rose Marie Radomski, Red Hat Ladies, Charles Roberts, Anita Roby-Lavery, April Roy, Ruiz Barbershop & Salon, Sacred Heart Parish/United Catholic Community, Saint Patrick's Haven, Joseph & Anita Salvia, Christopher Schmitt, Scouten's Antiques, Lawrence Scully, DMD, Jenny Serafini, Sherwin Williams, Catherine Shimek, Shops @19th & Chestnut, Melanie Shufram, John Sobotincic, Spartas Mini Spa, St George Welcome Community, St Joseph Church Bread of Life Community, Stempka Enterprises, LLC, Lucille Strobel, Sister Moira Sullivan, SSJ, Aaron Susmarski, Ron Susmarski, Tanglez Hair & Nail Studio, The Gap and Old Navy Employees, Anna Turco, Pamela Tylwalk, U Frame It & The Poster Annex, Richard Vendetti, Sister Ricarda Vincent, Jim & Maria Welter, West End Hardware, LLC, David & Barbara White, Susan Wilber, Betsy Williams, Nancy Wurst, Jane Zawacki, Jane Zawadzki, Maria Zonno •

#### **Erie Insurance (NAP) Erie Community Foundation Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**



#### All contributions were received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Please contact JoAnne Sprickman with any errors or corrections: 814-454-7814 or jsprickman@ssjnn.org. THANK YOU!

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#### **Our Mission**

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.



Save the date for the 16th Annual



Sponsored by: Sisters of St. Joseph of Morthwestern Pennsylvania

