

For more than two decades, the Family Center has worked with hundreds of East St. Louis families to make sure that their children receive quality education both inside and outside of the classroom.

Over the years, participants in our program have attended the following schools:

- Alta-Sita Elementary—East St. Louis, IL · Althoff High—Belleville, IL · Blessed Sacrament—Belleville, IL · Bishop DuBourg High—St. Louis, MO · Cahokia High—Cahokia, IL · Cardinal Ritter College Prep—St. Louis, MO · Christian Brothers College High—St. Louis, MO · Mason-Clarke Middle—East St. Louis, IL · Corpus Christi—Cahokia, IL · Dunbar Elementary—East St. Louis, IL · East St. Louis High—East St. Louis, IL · Gordon Busch Elementary—East St. Louis, IL · Hughes Quinn Junior High—East St. Louis, IL · Marian Middle—St. Louis, MO · Lansdowne Junior High—East St. Louis, IL · Lincoln Middle—East St. Louis, IL · Loyola Academy—St. Louis, MO · Miles Davis Elementary—East St. Louis, IL · Our Lady of Guadalupe—St. Louis, MO · Queen of Peace—Belleville, IL · Saint Louis University High—St. Louis, MO · Southwestern Illinois College—Belleville, IL · St. Augustine of Canterbury—Belleville, IL · Sr. Thea Bowman—East St. Louis, IL ·



"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

About Us

The mission of East Side Heart & Home Family Center is: Creating connections and offering opportunities to effect change in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Since our founding in the fall of 1993, East Side Heart & Home Family Center has remained actively engaged with, and committed to, the city and people of East St. Louis, Illinois. Once a booming industrial city, East St. Louis has experienced unparalleled deterioration since the mid-twentieth century due to racism, corrupted politics, deindustrialization, and extreme population decline. Our two programs—the Family Program and the Housing Program—seek to alleviate poverty and create social change by stressing togetherness and cooperation between people of all backgrounds. Staff members and volunteers work alongside East St. Louis residents to create and sustain a healthy neighborhood community and to cultivate positive changes for themselves, for their families, and for the city of East St. Louis.

At the Family Center, the focus has always been, and continues to be, on *people*, not numbers. We believe that each and every person has gifts to contribute and we hope to foster an environment where people can come together and use their individual gifts for the betterment of our city and our world. It is our hope that each of us can be empowered to become agents of social change in our lives and in our communities.

Like most 501(c)(3) non-profits, East Side Heart & Home Family Center is supported by many wonderful and dedicated donors and volunteers. People from both sides of the Mississippi River and across the United States generously give of their time, talent, and money. Please consider sharing your many gifts with our East St. Louis community by partnering with us today!



East Side Heart & Home Family Center's
2017 Spring Fundraiser:

*Changing the
World Through
Education*

East Side Heart & Home Family Center

705 Summit Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62201

Contact us at
618-875-7295

or online at www.familycenterestl.org



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela



A Letter from Sr. Carol...

The Family Center doorbell rings...

"Hi Sr. Carol! Want to see my report card?!"

It's Gabby, bubbling over with excitement. She tells me that she has run over from her Grandmother's apartment a couple blocks away in the Samuel Gompers Housing Project to show me the "A" that she earned in her science class this quarter. Gabby's family has been connected to the Family Center since she was in 1st grade; She's now in 5th grade. We celebrated her wonderful achievement with a snack and a McDonald's gift card. (Some might accuse me of bribery, to which I plead guilty!)

During my almost 25 years at

the Family Center, I have witnessed the transformative power of "quality education" for many of our families. I have watched them grow in confidence, self-worth, and hopefulness; many moving from places of dependency to self-sufficiency. It truly has been such an incredible sight to see!

Often times, a quality education is defined by formal schooling at a "good" school; And indeed, we believe that is an important part of it. However, our thinking here at the Family Center is that quality education must extend beyond the 8am-5pm, 5 days a week schedule.

We believe that, in addition to school curriculums, true quality education includes: formulating a positive value system, offering activities to develop skills and talents, hosting events where people from varied backgrounds and cultures get to work together, teaching coping skills to handle disappointment and failure, etc. Our dedicated staff and volunteers work extremely hard to achieve these goals.

Each year, the Family Center sponsors a spring fundraiser to help us cover the expenses of our programs. In the past, we have organized trivia nights, dinner theaters, and silent auctions. These are

wonderful occasions for us to spend some time with you "catching up." Because we are already planning a BIG celebration event next year for our 25th Anniversary, this year, we are simply inviting you to continue reading this pamphlet and to consider supporting our Educational Fund.

In closing, I thank you, for your time and for your belief in our work and in our wonderful families.

Sister Carol Lehmküh

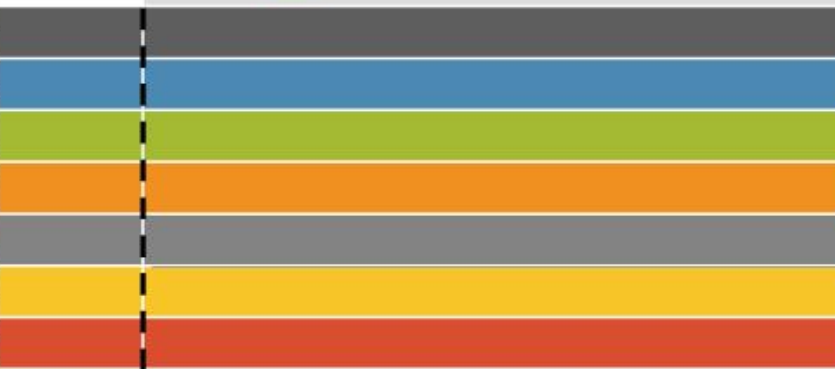
P.S. Gabby sends her love and says to tell you that next quarter, she will also get an "A" in reading!



Help us reach our goal of creating a \$40,000 Educational Fund for our families! Fill out this page, cut along the dotted line to the left, and send it back to us with your check using the envelope provided! Using your own stamp saves us money!

The Rising Costs of Education

- Cost of High School Tuition for 1 month \$1,000
- Cost of Grade School Tuition for 1 month \$500
- Cost of School Uniforms \$250
- Cost of School Supplies for District 189 \$150
- Cost of High School Textbooks for 1 year \$100
- Cost of Summer Camp \$75
- Cost of After-School Activity \$50
- Cost of School Field Trips \$25
- Other Amount \$ _____



"Without the help of the Family Center, my daughter would not have the opportunity to continue her education at a private school. Having a strong foundation in education, coupled with faith teachings, produces well equipped human beings. Education is empowerment and we have to help our children by giving them the tools that they need to make it in this world."
-Kim, mother

"A good education is a key to my success in life. It will help me get into a good college, as well as a paying job of my choice."
-Anbra, 8th Grade at Queen of Peace

"I am very fortunate. A lot of children do not get the opportunity to attend a good school, and I do not take it for granted. I believe that everyone should have the chance to attend school, no matter what financial situation they are in."
-Harrison, 8th Grade at Blessed Sacrament

"With the help of the Family Center, my daughter continues to excel because of the education she is receiving in a small atmosphere where she is not seen as a number, but her needs are individually met on a daily basis. I love that she is receiving education in an environment that promotes the same values instilled in her at home."
-Keywana, mother

Your Information >>>

Name: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive quarterly e-newsletters from the Family Center