

# 2022- 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

From Crisis to  
Connection:  
Empowering  
Families and  
Shaping Futures



**QUINN CENTER  
OF SAINT EULALIA**





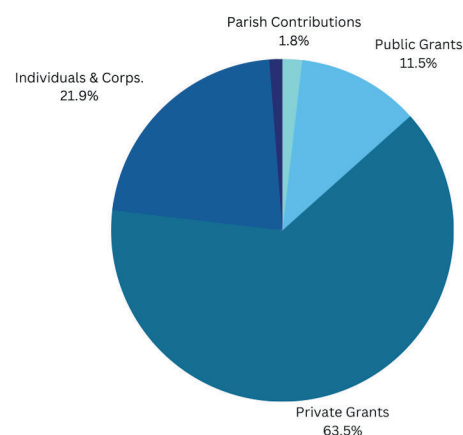
## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amidst the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. The Quinn Center has remained resilient, thanks to the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, and individuals like you. Together, we've found innovative ways to promote health, education, and human connection. Throughout this journey, we've witnessed neighbors extending helping hands, volunteers dedicating their time and talents, and donors investing in the Quinn Center's future. We resumed in-person after school programming that strengthened families, expanded offerings for our older adults to foster in-person connections, and adjusted our hunger ministries to cater to different community needs.

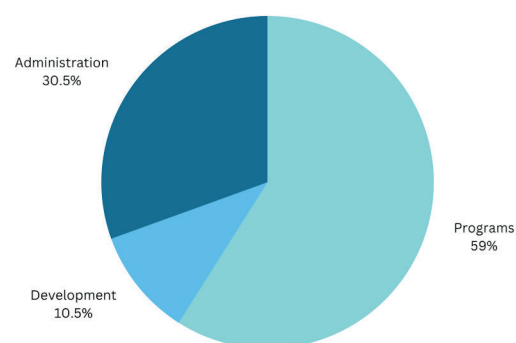
Our vision shines brightly: to create a future where every individual feels supported, connected, and empowered to lead a healthy and fulfilling life within a thriving community they help to create. Together, we are taking inspiring steps toward turning this vision into a reality.

**KRISTEN MIGHTY PHD, MPH**

### INCOME



### EXPENSES





## ABOUT THE QUINN CENTER

Founded in 2010, the Quinn Center emerged from the strengths, hopes, and aspirations of the parishioners of St. Eulalia Catholic Church to meet various challenges stemming from a lack of resources in the surrounding community. Named after Monsignor William Quinn, a former pastor deeply committed to reading and responding to the signs of the times, the Quinn Center continues his legacy of collaboration, integrity, courage and peace-making. It operates out of the old St. Eulalia Catholic School building, which closed over twenty years ago and was repurposed as a cornerstone for promoting social cohesion, advancing health equity, empowering resident-led well-being efforts, and stabilizing and improving quality of life for all Maywood residents.

Since 2019, the Quinn Center has served as the social outreach arm of the newly unified Sacred Heart and St. Eulalia Parish. It is governed by a separate Board of Directors, which includes the pastor, a deacon, parishioners from both worship sites, and community members. The Quinn Center also utilizes a separate Employer Identification Number (EIN) for tax purposes, and raises the majority of its own operating funds, while sharing stewardship responsibilities for the building with the parish.

## RENEWED MISSION & VISION

**Our mission is to strengthen a diverse Proviso Township community through collaborative initiatives that promote health, resilience, education, and human connection for all generations. We envision a future where every individual feels supported, connected, and empowered to lead a healthy and fulfilling life in a thriving community they helped to create.**

# HUNGER MINISTRY

The Quinn Center has been operating an outdoor, drive-thru food distribution program since the first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020. In November 2022, more than two years later, we were FINALLY able to welcome people back inside for a community soup kitchen meal. We believe that this format is a more accurate embodiment reflection of mutual relationship, which is at the heart of our mission. Thanks to the generosity of partner parishes and other meal sponsors, we continued to alternate weekly between outdoor distribution and indoor meal for the remainder of the fiscal year, ensuring that we could reach and accommodate community members wherever they were.

## IN THE END, PEOPLE WERE FED. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

For many years, Divine Savior in Norridge (now Queen of Peace) was St. Eulalia's Sharing Parish. In addition to regular financial support, parishioners supported the hunger ministry program with grocery donations. When COVID-19 hit in 2020, a group of volunteers became concerned that Church closures would reduce the quantity of groceries donated to the Quinn Center, right when they were most needed. In late Spring and Summer 2020, food "caravans" from Divine Savior brought weekly supplies to the Center for socially distant drop off. Eventually, the effort evolved into a well-organized shopping and packing operation funded by donations from Divine Savior parishioners, which continues to this day.



Reflection from a Queen of Peace volunteer, shared in the Church bulletin:

"On Tuesday, June 13, leftover sandwiches from Fr. Yanos's 40th anniversary celebration were part of what went into the bagged suppers prepared for those coming to the grocery distribution. A total of 108 families (over 475 people) were fed that evening at the drive through.

If you recall, the weather that evening was not nice – chilly and rainy the whole time. Not only did people (and volunteers) turn out for the grocery distribution, people came for the vaccination clinic. Some of those people were Venezuelan refugees who walked to St. Eulalia from their temporary housing. They were early, cold, wet, and hungry. But God did provide. A small café called Meal of the Day Cafe in Maywood had donated some extra catered food to the Quinn Center that afternoon. Even though it wasn't planned, the volunteer team used those contributions to pull together hot meals for this group of refugees. As you can imagine, they were most grateful."



**20,014 meals served**

to individuals from over 4600  
households in FY23

# YOUTH ENRICHMENT

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## NEIGHBORS BECOMING FAMILY

This year we introduced a new initiative focused on family engagement and connection as part of our youth enrichment portfolio. Our primary goal was to create a positive impact for entire families, not just the children enrolled in the after school program. We hosted movie nights in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. We also invited families to come together, share conversations, laugh, and briefly escape the outside world over dinner. During these gatherings, we provided a warm, home-cooked meal and created a relaxed atmosphere where parents could freely engage with their children without distractions or worries. We hosted these dinners three times throughout the year and the participation grew each time. As one mom expressed, "I'm so glad I decided to attend, even though I was hesitant at first. If I hadn't come, I would have missed out on meeting the parents of other families, learning about their lives, and discovering that we live so close to each other." Through these gatherings, we observed an increase in parent-to-parent interactions, a growing sense of trust among parents, and a willingness to allow their children to commute to and from after school activities together.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS



TUTORING



FAMILY DINNER



MUSIC CLASS

## 2022 DRIVE TO SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP

The “Drive to Succeed” Scholarship, established by a generous donor in 2021, is an annual award that supports individuals looking to improve their lives and future prospects through education. Through a written application and in-person interview, recipients have demonstrated a connection to the Quinn Center and a commitment to our core values of justice, health, and peace. This year's scholarship recipients were:

- **Desiree:** tuition support for associates degree at Triton College
- **Jada:** tuition support for freshman year at Northern Illinois University
- **Leslie:** tuition support for junior year at Trinity High School
- **Sade:** tuition support for sophomore year at Walther Christian Academy
- **Eleanor:** tuition support for freshman year at Trinity High School



“  
You often hear that high school is where you find yourself. It was definitely a turning point in my life. All the trauma that I've gone through has helped me become the person I am today and figure out what path I want to take. I've learned from my trauma that everyone makes mistakes, it's okay to want to fit in, and family is important. I will be attending Northern Illinois University majoring in Human Services and my minor will be Psychology. I want to help kids that have gone through similar things as I did, no one deserves to feel alone or feel as if they aren't important.

– Jada

## 2022 SUMMER PROGRAM

By the numbers



**120 youth enrolled**  
grades 1-8



**32 teens hired**

They worked a cumulative total of 581 days as camp counselors and earned a collective \$17,210.53





# SENIOR PROGRAMS

The senior chapter of Delta Sigma Theta organized a Spring Tea Party for our seniors, which surprised every woman in attendance. They thought it was just a raffle for purse giveaways; in reality over 25 women received purses generously stuffed with soap, socks, toothpaste, perfumed lotions, lip balms, body butters, and other goodies. They also left extra bags for registered ladies who couldn't attend, so five others were able to select a bag later. It was a truly heartwarming experience and the seniors' favorite activity of the year!

Monthly art therapy classes continued and "lunch and learns" created space for conversations around legacy planning, Medicare rights, and retiring fearlessly.

Program Director LaToya reflected on the growth of senior programming during her first year on staff:

*"I've developed a deep appreciation for the community by sitting with them, listening to their stories, and absorbing their wisdom. The laughter and joy, especially during bingo sessions where they know more than 50 ways to play (who knew?!), are truly priceless. I am immensely proud to work at Quinn and to serve such an exceptional group of seniors."*



“  
Since losing my son and being home by myself, it feels good to get out of the house and come to a place where I feel welcomed.



“  
I always used to say there was nothing to do for seniors, without realizing that so much was happening right in my own neighborhood. I'm glad to be a part of the programming here at Quinn.



# ACCOMPANIMENT

## A SYMPHONY OF CARE, A BEACON OF COMFORT



I had the pleasure of working with a client named Joseph, who is blind and has various health problems. His adult daughter Liza was shouldering the burden of a demanding job that kept her from being by her father's side during his medical journey. We organized ourselves to ensure that Joseph didn't miss any appointments or go to a single one alone. For three months, three times a week, we orchestrated a symphony of care.

Each time, I met Joseph at his doorstep and guided him through the maze of corridors at Rush Hospital in Oak Park. Joseph had gotten lost on a previous occasion and nobody was able to locate him. He couldn't identify or recognize his surroundings and this was a great source of anxiety for him. Our connection wasn't just logistical; it was a beacon of comfort for the whole family. Amid the sterile walls and bustling hallways, we shared stories of weekends and dreams, exchanging words that resonated with motivation and positivity.

Once all appointments were completed, the true impact of our journey was revealed. Liza noticed a significant transformation in her father that was both profound and touching. Joseph now radiated a newfound zest for life. Conversations that had once been laced with uncertainty were now filled with ease. He had found solace in the presence of a guiding friend, and his daughter had witnessed the remarkable metamorphosis.

At Taller De Jose, our canvas is painted with stories like Joseph's – narratives of connection, resilience, and the impact of human companionship. We are not just a service provider; we are a bridge to brighter tomorrows.

- Client story by Stephanie Barrera,  
Quinn Center Compañera



## Taller de José

Taller de Jose is a community resource center in the Little Village neighborhood that connects people with much needed social services-- accompanying them physically, emotionally, and spiritually every step of the way. The Quinn Center partnership is the first attempt at replicating this model to serve another area of Chicagoland. A Compañero/a, or case worker, is now available to assist Proviso Township residents in locating, navigating, and accessing social services and resources.



# HOLIDAY EVENTS

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## FALL FEST

Our annual Fall Fest gathered over 100 people in the Quinn Center gym for games, snacks, community resources, and arts and crafts. Kids in costume decorated their own candy bags and visited festive classrooms throughout the building to "Pick-a-Treat." Each family went home with a seasonal photo, a pumpkin, and a bag of fresh produce from Real Foods Collective. No tricks here—just plenty of sweet memories!



## THANKSGIVING

We collected over 20,000 pounds of food donations from community partners and packed over 900 boxes of holiday meal items, fresh produce, and additional pantry staples. We distributed boxes to 751 households from 73 different zip codes, feeding an estimated 2728 people for Thanksgiving. We also hosted our first in-person community dinner since the pandemic—a hot Turkey meal compliments of St. Elizabeth Seton in Naperville.



## CHRISTMAS

Our signature "Quinn-ter Wonderland" event moved back indoors this year! 182 children and their families joined us to celebrate the holidays. After a festive pancake brunch and music and dance performance by our youth, we moved to the gym for arts and crafts, cookie decorating, photos with Santa and the Grinch, face painting, community resources, and gifts galore. The children picked out their own toys from Santa's Workshop while parents stocked up on non-perishable food items and toiletries for the family.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

When we resumed indoor community soup kitchen meals midway through the year, we expanded our Community Conversation series to address topics of common concern. Community members were invited to stay after dinner for a presentation and conversation about practices or resources that could help improve their health and well-being and that of their families. Topics and partners included:


- Childhood Obesity (Loyola Community and Family Nursing)
- DASH Diet for high blood pressure (Loyola Stritch School of Medicine students)
- Understanding Language: Intergenerational Communication (Nehemiah Community Project)
- Setting Healthy Boundaries (Nehemiah Community Project)
- Importance of Blood Pressure for Heart, Brain, and Kidney Health (Dr. Amy Blair of Loyola Medicine)
- Stress-free Cooking (Real Foods Collective and Loyola Dietetics Interns)
- Finding Peace When Restless (Dr. Kimberly Thomas of Healthy Soul Talk)
- Healthy Relationships for Kids & Teens (Sarah's Inn)




## DOMINICAN STUDENT FELLOWS

Dominican University in River Forest has been an incredible friend and partner to the Quinn Center for nearly a decade. Through University Ministry's "Come to the Table" program, Dominican students visit monthly to pack and serve tamale dinners during outdoor food distribution. This year we hosted more student interns than ever: 4 through Ministry en lo Cotidiano (MLC) and 1 through Beloved Community. These Fellowship programs place Latinx and Black-identifying students, respectively, at congregations and faith-based nonprofits within those communities to serve for 9 hours each week. One of our MLC interns (Isa, at left) accepted a paid summer role made possible by the Congregation of St. Joseph's Young Adult Internship in Leadership through Ministry.

## COVID-19 VACCINES

 Between June 2021 and June 2023, the Quinn Center co-hosted 123 clinics

 Total of 356 clinic hours

 A total of 2,025 doses were delivered. Approximately 27% of the doses were first doses and the remaining were boosters.



## HEALTH FAIR

Under the leadership of Loyola's CERCL Community Engagement Fellows and Quinn Center interns, our annual Spring Health Fair reached over 50 people with 40+ resource tables, 12 health and self-care-related workshops in both English and Spanish, screenings for common health issues such as blood sugar and blood pressure, and a children's activity room. 81% of participants said they were confident in making changes to their lifestyle based on the information they received at the health fair.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

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## 2023 ACCOMPANIMENT AWARD

In April, the Quinn Center was honored with Taller de Jose's annual Accompaniment Award in recognition of our dedication to bridging the gaps between resources, people, and opportunities — and in appreciation of our caring commitment to the success of our shared outreach program.

From TDJ's Executive Director, Anna Mayer Diaz: "We bring partners in to help meet the needs and fill gaps for our community members; to inspire them, empower them, and help make their next steps happen in the best possible way."



## NCL ARTICLE

The Quinn Center was featured in the INITIATIVES newsletter of the National Center for the Laity (NCL), a nonprofit that shares news and resources about the vocation of Christian laity in and to the world and workplace. Thank you to parishioner Stan Kedzior for making the connection and helping to write the article!

”

The Quinn Center is distinct from the two worship sites yet complementary to them. Parishioners support the Center financially and with volunteers in excess of original expectations. The Quinn Center in turn spreads the good news about Sacred Heart and St. Eulalia across a larger area. The Center's diverse and holistic services allow parishioners to know each other better and to extend parish contacts into other congregations and around the township. The collaboration between St. Eulalia, Sacred Heart, and the Quinn Center is but one model of turning our church toward the world.

## CULTIVATE QUINN

It has become our tradition to honor dearly departed friends of the Quinn Center at our annual Cultivate Quinn event each spring. As our community gathers to "plant seeds that one day will grow," we remember the blood, sweat, and tears of those individuals who helped to nurture the Quinn Center in their own special ways. In 2023, we commemorated the contributions of:

- Veronica McQueeney (grandmother of Board Member Emily (Obringer) Keller)
- Albert Corrado (father of Cheryl Smits)
- Gregg Smits (husband of Cheryl Smits)





## 2022-2023 AMATE HOUSE FELLOW: MEGAN HAWLEY

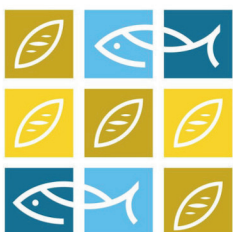
We are immensely grateful to Megan for adding immeasurable capacity to our small but mighty team. Megan's tireless work ethic, premium organizational skills, and incredible flexibility allowed the Quinn Center to continue expanding our programming while recovering from the chaos of the pandemic and reimagining our mission for the "new normal." Megan was the glue that held our team together, making sure each voicemail was returned, each volunteer was welcomed, and each meal was prepared, packed, or served with care. We wish her the best of luck as she pursues a Masters of Public Health in Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of North Carolina.

*Amate House, affiliated with the Archdiocese of Chicago, is a post-graduate year of service program that develops young adult leaders into life-long social justice advocates who serve their communities while deepening their faith.*

# THANK YOU

Christ the King Jesuit College Prep  
Compass Pro Bono  
Congregation of St. Joseph & Nazareth Academy  
Dominican University Ministry  
Elmwood Park High School Transition Program  
The Frances Xavier Warde School  
Loyola Medicine (Hospital & University System)  
Mary, Mother of Divine Grace (formerly Divine Providence)  
Queen of Peace Parish (formerly Divine Savior)  
Real Foods Collective  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish  
St. Paul VI Parish (formerly Mater Christi)  
Village of Maywood  
Visitation Parish

...AND ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER GROUPS,  
THANKSGIVING CONTRIBUTORS, CORPORATE  
SPONSORS, AND IN-KIND DONORS!



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