

St. Vincent Early Learning Center



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Founded on the values of the Daughters of Charity, St. Vincent Early Learning Center is a nationally accredited early childhood education and care center that starts all children on a pathway to lifetime success and coordinates programs and services to help their families thrive.

A Note from our Executive Director

As I began my new role with SVELC as Executive Director in March 2022, I also established two very important goals: to ensure that our incredible organization remained secure and stable, as the pandemic of the previous two years settled - and to build upon 103 years of inspiration and legacy. I am very proud that our dedicated staff not only weathered uncertain and challenging times, but continually maintained high standards of excellence in early learning service. By continuing to create a safe, loving, environment where children are heard, valued, and celebrated for their individuality, SVELC is changing lives, empowering minds, and creating our community's future. With each interaction we encounter, with each relationship we build, we are shaping little minds and hearts. I look forward to helping lay the groundwork for the next 103 years, and am grateful that you have joined us on our journey!

Thank you for supporting our Mission!

Krista Wedding
President/Executive Director



Being on the Board of Trustees means SVELC trusts me to assist with a plan to ensure children, their families, and the dedicated staff are on a path to success.

~Anita Hagan

Many THANKS to our 2021-2022 Board of Trustees

Chair: Anita Hagan; Vice Chair: Terry Green; Treasurer/Secretary: Sister Theresa Peck;
DCM Liaison: Sister Salvatrice Murphy; Megan Bickett; Tad Dickel; Eric Fisher; Josh Hodge;
Jillian Kratochvil; Amanda Vote; Patti Wittgen

What We Learned

Trauma Informed Care

Thanks to a generous grant from the Welborn Baptist Foundation and in collaboration with Lampion Center, SVELC staff completed an intensive, multi-part training module on Brain Development and **Trauma Informed Care**. Using this series as a foundation, SVELC plans to expand upon the mental health supports we can directly offer our children in-house.

Special Thanks to Lynn Kyle and Welborn!

Classroom Management Strategies

Special guest presenters Brittany Streutker and Lee Garnett, from Brilliant Connections LLC worked in-depth with our teachers on classroom management and effective behavior strategies.

Health and Safety

SVELC Staff spent countless Professional Development hours learning about child care **health and safety** standards, ranging from First Aid, CPR, and healthy nutrition to putting out actual fires in our parking lot. We are proud to continually have this as one of our main focuses year-round!

Reggio: Image of the Child

Jared Totsch, SVELC's Director of Early Learning provided an Introductory session to Reggio, focusing on a critical principle - the **Image of the Child**. This concept challenges us to accept how we have typically viewed children, generally from our own perspectives as adults. Understanding Reggio means understanding that we must see children as they see themselves, to remove preconceptions and focus on their individual identities in the present moment, and to guide them in developing, recognizing, and shaping their own potential.

Team Building and Renewal

Throughout the year, SVELC built in time for self-care activities, but following a long attention-diverting pandemic, it became important to provide intentional focus on building our team's resilience. In February, we welcomed Erin Ramsey, author and national speaker to our **Renewal Day** at Ivy Tech Community College. Erin presented "Reset and Rejuvenation: Paving a Positive Path Forward", and we also listened to other local colleagues regarding topics such as techniques for meditation, finding creativity, and mental wellness. In addition, our Staff participated in some serious, but fun, team building exercises through group challenges with Breakout Evansville.

Program Highlights

Over the past year, our field has witnessed great strides within educational programs, despite the persistence of a global pandemic.

SVELC welcomed 10 new educators, whose formal education ranges from a Child Development Associates Credential to a Masters in Early Childhood Education. The wealth of knowledge these new teachers brought to our team has been invaluable. Joining the highly credentialed staff already in place, SVELC has a solid foundation of knowledge and expertise to grow our success even more.

Also over the last year, we finalized our plans to completely overhaul one of our toddler playgrounds into an Outdoor Classroom, with nature as its base for play and exploration. Additionally, we were pleased to welcome back interns and practicum students from the fields of Social Work and Early Childhood Education.



85%

enrolled children achieved new developmental milestones

900+

professional development/training hours

95%

teaching staff with formal ECE degrees/credentials

215

children educated

2623

educational hours provided

86100

nutritious meals served

The Collaboration between Saint Louise and Saint Vincent



M I S S I O N M O M E N T

The mission of SVELC has a storied history that spans more than 100 years here in Evansville, but the journey of this ministry reaches much farther back to 17th Century France. Our namesake, Saint Vincent de Paul, first responded to the call to serve others in 1617, but he was clever enough and humble enough to know that he could not do this work alone. He was quite proficient at collaborating with others to achieve his goals. One of the most important persons he engaged in this labor of love was a woman named Louise de Marillac. In 1625, Louise was a young widow with a troubled son and a deep desire to serve God. Vincent offered her a way to fulfill her personal mission by challenging her to apply her talents for the relief of those living in poverty. With the first Daughters of Charity, she began visiting sick people in their homes, providing safe places for lost and abandoned infants and children, coordinating thousands of meals for the hungry, and offering prayerful encouragement to people in distress. Louise was a well-educated woman who was masterful at dealing with complex situations. Vincent was a simple but clever peasant with lofty ideals; their extremely different personalities did not immediately "click" but they remained laser-focused upon the purpose of their work: to offer loving service in God's name, especially to those most in need. The rest of their remarkable story is that they spent 35 years working together and SVELC exists today because of their efforts and God's providential guidance.

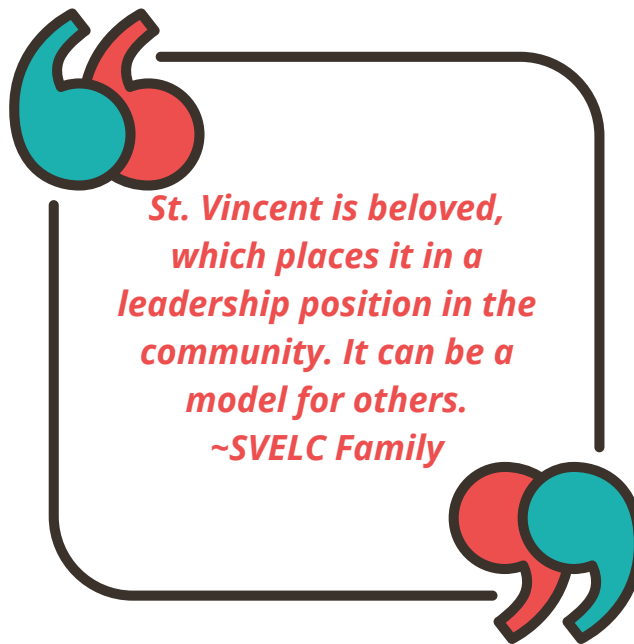
When Saint Louise de Marillac made her gifts and talents available for the needs of others at the invitation of Vincent de Paul, she found herself transformed into a passionate advocate for excellent service. Today, the staff and teachers at SVELC continue this heritage by contributing their own unique creativity to the incredible educational journey of our children.

**Sister Joanne Vasa, DC,
Director of Mission Integration**



Reggio Journey

Several years ago, SVELC made the decision to work toward becoming a Reggio Inspired School. Based out of Reggio Emilia, Italy, this beautiful and unique approach to education has been adopted worldwide since its creation in 1945. The foundational principles of Reggio are that children, even from infancy, have the capacity to drive their own growth and development, and that they have an endless number of ways to learn. SVELC is very excited to continue our journey into Reggio, as we take intentional deep dives into our curriculum, assessment, and structure of our programming. As we begin fiscal year 2022-2023, we have officially launched our intensive study of the Reggio Approach to education and what impact it can have on the children and families of SVELC, as well as the wider community.



Mental Health

For many years, the fields of psychology and of early childhood education have been somewhat disengaged. In training for early childhood education credentials, the focus on developmental psychology has been limited. Likewise, future social workers and psychologists have limited curriculum opportunities in the area of early brain development and best practice. Through a brand new focus, SVELC plans to bridge that gap and provide children in our community with robust, necessary mental health supports, provide family members with knowledge and skills to support their children outside of the educational setting, and to create a group of local professionals who understand the importance of a strong mental health foundation in the early years.

Thank You to Our Supporters

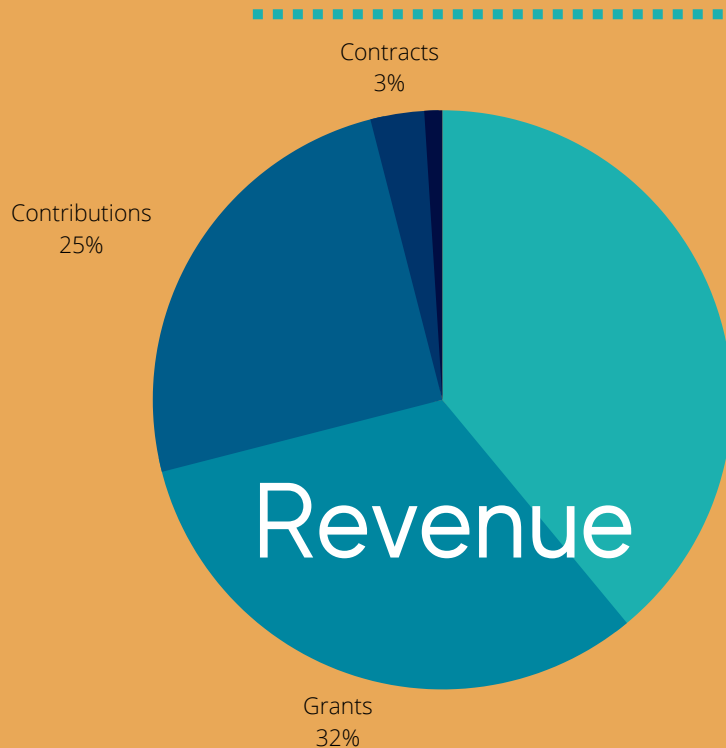
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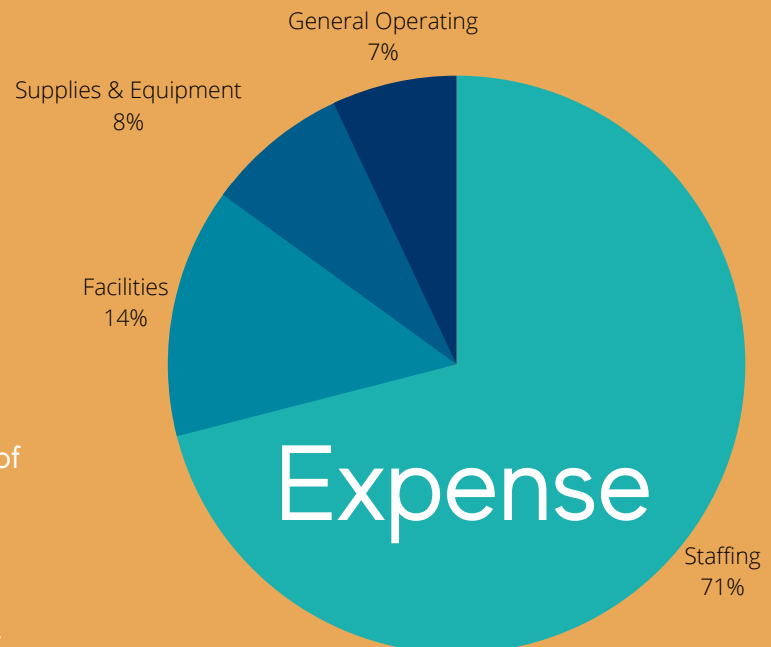
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Financials



SVELC's 2021-2022 Revenue was \$4,251,743.51, noting receipt of large multi-year grants from the Indiana Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning, meant to stabilize and secure our operations and prevent closure.

Total Expense was \$3,192,663.53.

This financial data is not yet audited by our external accounting firm.



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St. Vincent
Early Learning Center



Annual Report



"We want these kids to thrive, to be confident in themselves, and we strive to do the best we possibly can for each student."

~SVELC Teacher