



JUNE 6



CELEBRATING  
**50** YEARS

## 2026 GALA CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Fairmont Century Plaza, Century City

**Opening Doors  
Transforming Lives**





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**Friends,**

It is with great joy and anticipation that we invite you to join us for a truly historic celebration, **St. Joseph Center's Golden 50th Anniversary Gala** on **Saturday, June 6, 2026, at the Fairmont Century Plaza.**

**Our theme, Opening Doors & Transforming Lives, reflects five decades of compassion, innovation, and impact.** For 50 years, St. Joseph Center has stood as a beacon of hope, rooted in our mission to build a Beloved Community where every neighbor has the support to rise, rebuild, and thrive.

Each year, St. Joseph Center serves nearly **15,000 people** through our comprehensive programs in **Housing, Outreach, Mental Health, and Education & Workforce Development.** In addition, our food programs play a vital role in ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry. Each week, our **Food Pantry** supports more than **700 working families**, providing enough groceries for **164,000 meals** annually and welcoming over **21,000 visitors each year.** Meanwhile, our **Bread & Roses Café** proudly serves more than **46,000 nutritious meals** annually to individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

The evening's proceeds will directly support this life-changing work, enabling more families and individuals to find stability, opportunity, and renewed dignity.

Our **Golden Gala** promises to be an unforgettable night of inspiration, celebration, and purpose, complete with elegant dining, live entertainment, and heartfelt tributes to the extraordinary people and partners who make our mission possible. Together, we will honor our past while building a bold and compassionate future for Los Angeles.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate this milestone moment in St. Joseph Center's history and continue **Opening Doors and Transforming Lives** for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ryan J. Smith  
President and CEO

Patti Reiss  
2026 Gala Chair



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## Where we began



**For five decades, St. Joseph Center has offered hope through empowerment in Los Angeles, opening more doors with one mission in mind: to help people overcome homelessness by filling in the gaps in the system with formal assistance, functional resources, human kindness, and Beloved Community.**



We recognize the unique circumstances of each person we serve, focusing on who they are and not simply where they've ended up. We understand that homelessness is often a result of circumstances, systems and institutions bigger than an individual, not a reflection of character.

At St. Joseph Center we go above and beyond to ensure individuals and families can connect, stabilize and maintain a home, a life, a future. It all started with a field trip in 1976. Sister Marilyn Therese Rudy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet took her high school social

justice class to Venice. Moved by the people she met who were struggling to stay fed, clothed and housed, Sister Marilyn and Sister Louise Bernstein began offering food and clothing. They saw their task as renewing hope in all people and empowering them to take steps to heal their lives.

The Sisters began providing advocacy and referrals, and assisting families with basic needs such as food, clothing, and job readiness in a small storefront on Rose Avenue in Venice. They called it St. Joseph Center.

Rooted in the beliefs of the founding Sisters that we belong to one another and must uplift our dear neighbors, **St. Joseph Center now supports more than 15,000 low-income and housing-insecure people through multiple locations, dozens of programs, and hundreds of staff and countless volunteers.**





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### Annual Impact

2,441

unhoused individuals and family members placed in safe, permanent housing.

152

women and men graduated from our job training programs.

25,576

mental health services provided to women and men to improve stability, self-sufficiency, and quality of life.

46,755

hot, nutritious meals served to homeless men and women at our Bread & Roses Café.





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## Three Success Stories



**Cassie overcame homelessness on Skid Row.**

Despite a lifelong disability and painful daily challenges, she earned her Associate's Degree while navigating

housing instability and a complex justice system that temporarily separated her from her son. Her relentless self-advocacy led to interim housing at St. Joseph Center's La Ramona Interim Housing Community, where she rebuilt her life. "I didn't expect everything to be brand new. They put a welcome mat out," Cassie shared, highlighting gratitude for her case manager, Talisha. Now in a permanent home, Cassie is pursuing work and educational opportunities, determined to become a counselor and empower others. women and men graduated from our job training programs.



**Uri was caught in a cycle of addiction, crime, and incarceration that left him experiencing homelessness and disconnected from his children.**

He found his way to St. Joseph

Center's Bread & Roses Training Kitchen program, seeking a chance to change his life. The culinary training gave him structure and confidence, showing him the importance of professionalism, community, and responsibility.

Drawing on his training and life lessons, Chef Uri shares, "We all play a vital role—no matter how insignificant or how major. The same applies in the kitchen." This full-circle transformation turned Chef Uri into a full-time chef at Beit T'Shuvah in Culver City and a sober leader and, most importantly, the proud father who attended his daughter's graduation.

**Learn more about Uri and his journey [here](#).**



**From an early age, Ashanti faced immense challenges, including poverty, gang violence, and significant personal struggles.**

Despite experiencing

homelessness, becoming a mother ignited a fierce resolve to change her circumstances. At St. Joseph Center she discovered Codetalk, a program that equips low-income women with computer coding skills. Ashanti described Codetalk as life-changing, providing her with the platform and skills to pursue a meaningful career in the dynamic and growing tech industry. She landed a data science and analytics internship at Warner Bros.



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## Giving Levels

### Become a sponsor today!

Join us in celebrating  
**50 years** of St. Joseph  
Center's commitment  
to **Opening Doors and  
Transforming Lives**.

Become a sponsor for an  
unforgettable evening of  
entertainment, fine dining,  
and shared purpose. Your  
support will empower St.  
Joseph Center to continue  
providing vital resources—  
housing, food, mental health  
care, and job training—to  
thousands of men, women,  
youth and children in need.  
Your partnership makes  
it possible!

### **\$50,000** HOUSING WARRIORS

- **Exclusive Seating:** Premiere seating for 12 guests
- **Brand Visibility:** Featured logo placement on stage, step & repeat, digital program, social media, and website
- **Appreciation Gifts:** 12 exclusive gifts
- **Exclusive Experience:** Private, catered dinner for six with President and CEO, Dr. Ryan J. Smith, catered by Bread & Roses Café
- **Community Impact:** Recognition as the official sponsor for one month at Bread & Roses Food Pantry providing fresh produce and groceries to over 2800 individuals and families
- **Legacy Opportunity:** Permanent recognition on St. Joseph Center's 50th Anniversary Donor Wall at the **Gold Level** and an invitation to a private unveiling celebration
- **Acknowledgment:** Featured write-up and acknowledgment in our organization's newsletter and on social media
- **Employee Appreciation:** Sponsorship for two Housing Employees to attend the Gala, recognizing their commitment to St. Joseph Center

### **\$25,000** OUTREACH CHAMPIONS

- **Exclusive Seating:** Premium seating for 10 guests
- **Brand Visibility:** Featured logo placement on step & repeat, digital program, social media, and website
- **Appreciation Gifts:** 10 exclusive gifts
- **Community Impact:** Recognition as the official sponsor of all meals at Bread & Roses Café for one month—providing nearly 2,600 meals
- **Legacy Opportunity:** Permanent recognition on St. Joseph Center's 50th Anniversary Donor Wall at the **Silver Level** and an invitation to a donor dinner with Dr. Smith
- **Acknowledgment:** Featured write-up and acknowledgment in our organization's newsletter and on social media
- **Employee Appreciation:** Sponsorship for two Outreach Employees to attend the Gala, recognizing their commitment to St. Joseph Center Employee



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## Giving Levels

**“If we solve housing here, we can solve it anywhere. If we get it right here, we can solve this in our generation.”**

**DR. RYAN J. SMITH**  
PRESIDENT & CEO OF  
ST. JOSEPH CENTER



### **\$10,000** MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES

- **Exclusive Seating:** Preferred seating for 8 guests
- **Brand Visibility:** Logo featured in the digital program, social media, and website
- **Appreciation Gifts:** 8 exclusive gifts
- **Community Impact:** Supports the growth and development of over 50 clinical staff
- **Legacy Opportunity:** Permanent recognition on St. Joseph Center's 50th Anniversary Donor Wall at the **Bronze Level**
- **Acknowledgment:** Featured in our May newsletter (Mental Health Awareness Month) as a mental health advocate, highlighting your organization's partnership with St. Joseph Center
- **Employee Appreciation:** Sponsorship for two Mental Health Employees to attend the Gala, recognizing their commitment to St. Joseph Center

### **\$5,000** EDUCATION & WORKFORCE BUILDERS

- **Exclusive Seating:** Preferred seating for 6 guests
- **Brand Visibility:** Logo featured in the digital program, social media, and website
- **Appreciation Gifts:** 6 exclusive gifts
- **Community Impact:** Sponsorship provides 100 backpacks filled with essential school supplies and snacks for students in need
- **Legacy Opportunity:** Permanent recognition on St. Joseph Center's 50th Anniversary Donor Wall at the **Partner Level**
- **Acknowledgment:** Featured write-up in our Back-to-School newsletter, acknowledging your organization's contribution to our campaign
- **Employee Appreciation:** Sponsorship for two Education & Workforce Employees to attend the Gala, recognizing their commitment to St. Joseph Center



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## Payment Options

**“St. Joseph Center is 3-dimensional, even 4-, 5-, and 6-dimensional. From feeding people to housing people to training people for jobs.”**

**HON. KAREN A. GAUFF**  
CHAIR, ST. JOSEPH CENTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Your sponsorship fuels vital programs and transforms lives.**

### SPONSOR LEVELS

\$50,000 Housing Warriors  
\$25,000 Outreach Champions  
\$10,000 Mental Health Advocates  
\$5,000 Education & Workforce Builders

### TABLES & TICKETS

\$2,500 Patron Table (6 tickets)  
\$1,000 Tickets for Two  
\$500 Individual Ticket

*Estimated fair market value is  
\$200 per ticket*

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Shawn Hebbeler-Perez at  
[shebbeler@stjosephctr.org](mailto:shebbeler@stjosephctr.org)

### THREE WAYS TO PAY:

#### Pay Online

Tickets to go live on March 1, 2026

#### Pay by phone

Email your contact information to Shawn Hebbeler-Perez at [shebbeler@stjosephctr.org](mailto:shebbeler@stjosephctr.org) and we'll give you a call.

#### Pay by mail with check or with credit card

Simply print and complete the payment form on page 9.





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## Mail-in Donation Form

**“Bread & Roses was the first thing I could say I graduated from. And the confidence that comes with that is the key to everything that comes next.”**

**BRIAN BEASLEY**  
CULINARY GRADUATE,  
BREAD & ROSES TRAINING KITCHEN

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Individual or Organization

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Enclosed is a check payable to St. Joseph Center in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Visa   ☐ Mastercard   ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR LEVELS

#### Join us as a sponsor

- ☐ \$50,000 Housing Warriors
- ☐ \$25,000 Outreach Champions
- ☐ \$10,000 Mental Health Advocates
- ☐ \$5,000 Education & Workforce Builders

### TABLES & TICKETS

- ☐ \$2,000 Patron Table (6 tickets)
  - ☐ \$1,000 Tickets for Two
  - ☐ \$500 Individual Ticket
- Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend but I would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please mail your completed form and payment to:

St. Joseph Center  
Attn: Development Department  
204 Hampton Drive  
Venice, CA 90291



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## Leadership

### HONORARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY HOST COMMITTEE

Norma Apoian  
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Thomas Blumenthal  
Jocelyn Cortese  
Karen A. Gauff, Board Chair  
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Kevin McCardle  
Sister Judy Molosky, CSJ  
Sherie and Donald Morrison  
Dan Schwala  
Sister Kathy Stein, CSJ  
Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson

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#### **Arturo Nagar**

Partnership for  
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#### **Patti Reiss**

Reiss Company

#### **Sister Barbara**

#### **Anne Stowasser**

Sisters of St. Joseph  
of Carondelet

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Ashland Hill

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Southern California