



**MAJOR UPDATE!**

**We received a special exception at our zoning board hearing for the women's transitional home building project!**

The approval for a special exception allows us to acquire permits and begin renovations on the building in October. The total renovation timeline for the project is about 9-12 months. Prior to the zoning board hearing, we participated in a community meeting and received 36 votes of support out of 45. This outcome not only allowed us to proceed with the project, but it shows that we are partnering well with our neighbors and their needs- something we value greatly.

## STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO HOME UPDATES

Inspired by St. Thomas of Villanova who was known for his great charity to the poor and marginalized, Villanova University hosts a day of service each year. Over 5,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni and their families serve at various Philadelphia area agencies.

Our Men's Transitional Home received a group of 13 students/faculty from the engineering department and the women's club basketball team. Through their hard work, they helped us complete important maintenance tasks at the home!

- Prepped and painted two rooms on the first floor
- Deep cleaned the kitchen
- Removed unused furniture that went to our distribution center





## OPENING OUR DOORS

In September, we hosted two open houses, welcoming over 40 visitors to see the space that will soon become a transitional home for women and women with children. Supporters, parishioners, and community members came together to envision the impact this project will have. These events filled us with hope and excitement. We are grateful to everyone who joined us.

## CELEBRATING THE INNOVATIVE USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

The SSJ Newcomer Housing Alliance is humbled to receive the prestigious 2024 "To the Heights" award from the University of Notre Dame's Church Properties Initiative, along with a \$15,000 grant. This recognition highlights creative, mission-focused efforts in the reuse and repurposing of Catholic Church properties. In addition to accepting the award, Shayna Landis Bell travelled to Notre Dame to attend the Church Properties Initiative Conference, where 200 participants from various fields gathered to brainstorm ways to repurpose church property for the common good.



"I am grateful to the conference organizers and donors for making this opportunity possible" said Shayna. "It was encouraging to meet with other leaders who are repurposing Catholic properties. I was also grateful for the opportunity to share about the SSJ Newcomer Housing Alliance and talk to people about how they can house refugees and immigrants in their own parishes."

[Read Press Release](#)



## EXPANDING OUR TEAM



Join us in welcoming Aundrae Cassell as the new Resident Manager at our Men's Transitional Home! Aundrae started on September 30th and he will support the residents on their journey to independence, connecting them with essential resources and guidance.

With a strong background as a Complex Medical Case Manager for Bethany Christian Services's Refugee Resettlement Program, Aundrae brings a passion for helping newcomers and a strong alignment with our mission. His decades of experience living in Kenya enrich his perspective and dedication to empowering others.

We are excited to see the positive impact he will have on our residents and the ministry as a whole.

## Celebrations

1 resident from the Men's Transitional Home moved into his own apartment.

1 individual from Ukraine moved into the Men's Transitional Home

1 resident got his driver's license

The Haitian family welcomed a healthy baby girl.

5 residents started English classes with SSJ Welcome Center

2 residents started their first jobs in the U.S.

## WEBSITE REFRESH

Our brand-new website is now live. With a fresh design, our site makes it easier to connect with our ministry. Check it out!



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Newcomer Housing Alliance

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WE WALK ALONGSIDE REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS  
AS THEY SEEK SAFETY AND SHELTER IN A NEW  
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SSJ Newcomer Housing Alliance is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph