



LIVING  
OUR  
**mission**

HONORING OUR  
**legacy**  
BUILDING OUR  
**future**



**Saint Thomas Early Childhood Center Fall 2025**

Dear Friends,

We are Saint Thomas strong. For close to 100 years, we have partnered with our parents in the education of their children. We are an inclusive community, which makes our educational experience distinct.

Community defines who we are: a community of Catholic faith, a community of servant leaders, a community committed to innovative education. Our community shows value and respect towards all and rejoices in the gifts of others.



Over the last few years, we have heard from our parishioners, current, and prospective school families of a growing need for a **full-day preschool option**. Between 5 - 7 prospective families per year are unable to join us because of the absence of this full-day experience for their 3's, 4's or young 5's. Currently we have one preschool classroom and this year we are temporarily using the Ministry Center Community Room three mornings a week for our 3's preschool program.

To meet these increasing needs, space is required to begin offering **full-day programming**. God has blessed us with the building that will support our school families and our growing community with their child care needs.

Our Early Childhood program is licensed by the state of Michigan, ensuring a quality education in a healthy and safe environment for our littlest learners. Due to this licensing, we need three **larger classrooms** with enough square footage to accommodate **classes of 18 students each**. This will not only boost our enrollment, but also provide parents with a faith-based education right from the very start of their child's educational journey. This is a **true investment in their future and ours**. We invite you to join us in this opportunity.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ryan Corcoran".

Ryan Corcoran, Principal



**DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST**



# FULFILLING THE PROMISE



1981

Parishioners approach Father Cusack with thoughts of building a Respite Center to support the care of their adult children with disabilities.

1984

Father Cusack and the Parish donate the land located at 1530 E. Fulton to Mercy Respite Care Corporation. Donations are solicited and the Respite Center is built.

1989

The Center proves necessary and successful. The Parish donates 60 additional feet of land to expand the size of the building. Generous donors provide the funding.

2005



Government funding for respite services is discontinued. The property is leased to Hope Network with restrictions that the building must be used for its original purpose of serving adults with disabilities.

2014



The building and surrounding land are repurchased by Saint Thomas.

2014



The Parish leases the building to Amanda (Winn) Barbour, who proposes her vision of what is now the Children's Healing Center, a safe play space for children with immunodeficient risks.

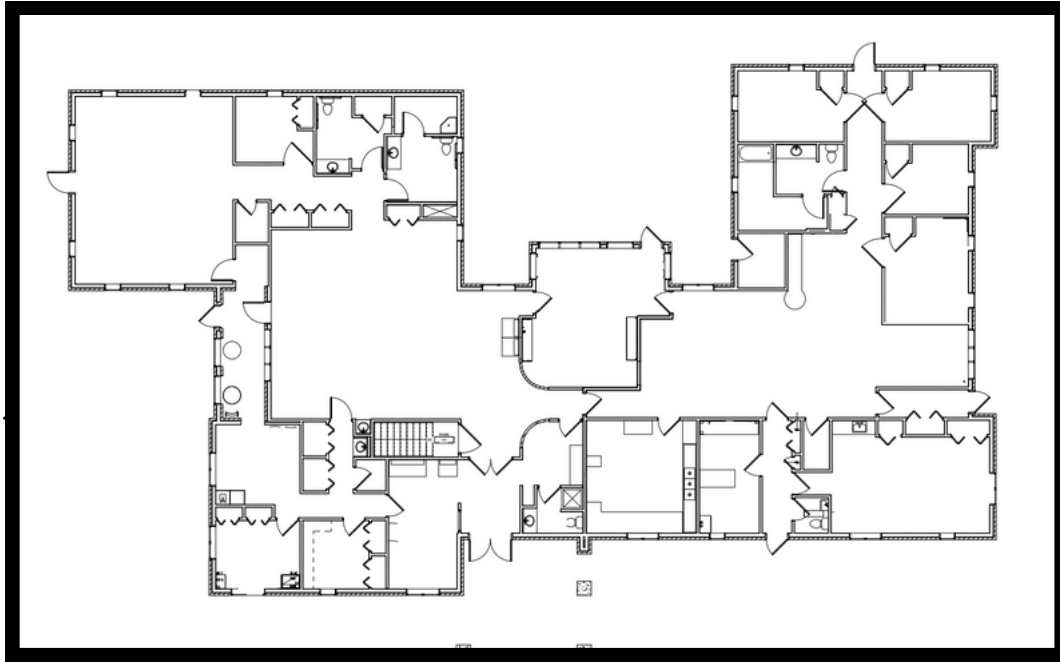
## Today 2024

Having outgrown their space, Amanda informs Father Jim of her plans to move Children's Healing Center to a new facility. Now, based on current needs and strategic long-term planning, the Parish/School are ready to make use of this building. To do so will require a fundraising initiative for the renovation and creation of our Early Childhood Center.



# ACHIEVING THE DREAM

## Current Children's Healing Center



## Planned Early Childhood Center

Preschool 4's Classroom



Hornets' Nest Aftercare



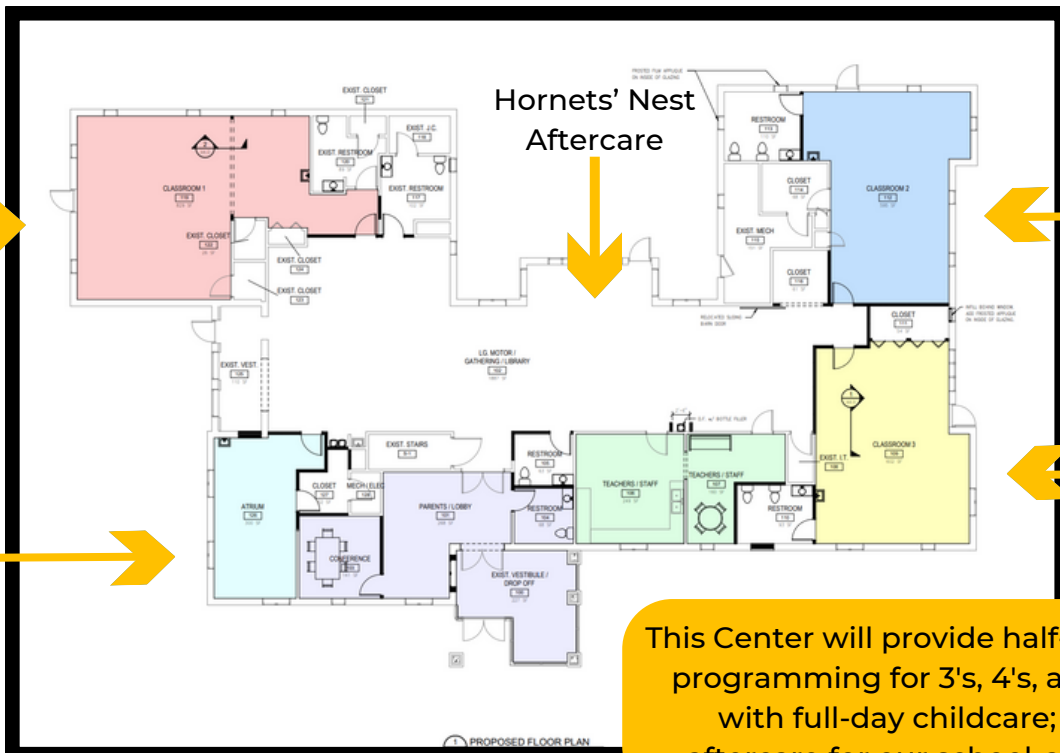
Preschool 3's Classroom



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium



Young 5's Classroom



This Center will provide half-day preschool programming for 3's, 4's, and young 5's with full-day childcare; as well as aftercare for our school-age children.

# CAMPAIGN BUDGET



Construction management, design,  
build, and architectural services \$170,000

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Construction, including contingency \$1,030,000

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Furniture \$80,000

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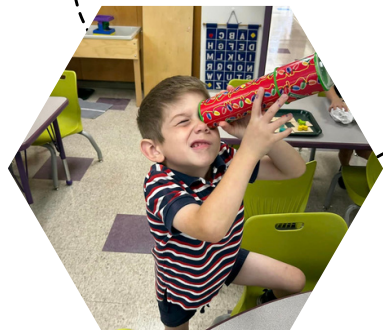
Playground \$80,000

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Technology \$40,000

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Total \$1,400,000



## **The Good News...**

The Parish has been carefully planning for this moment, when the time would be right to renovate Children's Healing Center for a much needed school expansion. We are pleased to announce - **the time is right!**

Saint Thomas Parish has \$600,000 set aside for this project -  
we're almost half way to our GOAL!

# OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE

A Saint Thomas education is a 100-year tradition of excellence in faith formation and rigorous academics, producing students who excel in high school and beyond. Christ-centered education is our “soul” purpose. The investment into this Early Childhood Center will create a lifetime impact on current and future families as well as our School and Parish.

Over the upcoming months, a group of dedicated community members will work to raise \$800,000 in charitable gifts. Our plans include renovating the Children’s Healing Center starting in January 2025 and beginning classes and childcare in August 2025. To do this, we will need the goodwill of many. Please join us in making a difference in the lives of our Saint Thomas Parish and School families.

A donation to the Saint Thomas Early Childhood Center is more than classrooms and supplies. Your contribution will help build our community as we move into the next generation of a Dynamic Education Centered in Christ.



## There are many ways to give:

- A one-time cash/check/credit card gift  
(See address and QR Code below)
- A multiple-year pledge which may be paid over a three-year period
- A gift of appreciated stock
- Questions?! Contact Carla Grant at [carlagrant@stthomasgr.org](mailto:carlagrant@stthomasgr.org)  
or 616-459-4662 ext. 1210

Your charitable gift is tax deductible to the full extent of state and federal law. Please check with your tax advisor to determine how your gift may affect your personal tax situation.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish  
Attn: Carla Grant  
1449 Wilcox Dr. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506







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