

# *Sisters of Social Service*

*Rooted in the social teachings of the Church, we are sent to be pioneers*



**Celebrating 90 years** of working with and supporting people on the margins of our world through social services and advocacy

## **Regis House Community Center Today**

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Although more than 60 years has elapsed since **Sawtelle Center** began, kids still love cooking, families still need help navigating our complex world and **Regis House** is alive and well and filled with dozens of visitors each day. Now located in Historic Filipinotown after moving in 2007 to fill a pressing need, more than 300 families are served there monthly, with offerings for all ages.

Children and teens can participate in Summer Day Camps and afterschool programs, and special programs focus on the needs of middle school students and provide job training for older teens (14-25 years old). Along with activities for young people throughout the year, Regis House tailors classes, programs and other advocacy services to meet the needs of parents, seniors and other adults. Staff and volunteers are well-versed in local resources and referrals – whether the need is emergency aid or long-term support with education, employment or other public services.





A weekly food distribution pantry supplements families' resources, and there are nutrition and cooking classes for children and teens. Sisters and staff would like to offer adult literacy classes again, but they currently lack the funding to make that dream a reality. Parent trainings are also offered when partnering agencies can collaborate - an area that Regis House is hoping to expand with the help of new grants they are actively seeking. Regis House is also available to provide some emergency food and clothing on a very limited basis when individuals or families find themselves in a severe crisis. All families find compassion and strategic support within the walls of Regis House as they deal with the day-to-day challenges of living in poverty and work toward stronger futures for themselves and their children.

Although 98% of participants at Regis House live under the poverty level, most parents are working two or more jobs to help provide for their families. Their teens and younger children benefit from a safe, structured place to get homework help, play, take classes, and work on leadership and other skills that support their academic and social development. And the wrap-around programs that Regis House creates address not only the immediate needs, but also the long-term growth and potential these individuals and families clearly possess. Regis House is committed to its mission of promoting and encouraging social, emotional and physical activities for children, young adults and families in need.



From its roots in **Sawtelle Center** to present day **Regis House Community Center**, thousands of children, teens and families have participated in our programs and activities – and given their incredible gifts to our local and global communities through their lives and their work. We are blessed to have worked with and alongside so many courageous, diverse and incredible individuals – in hard times and good times – and look forward to many more years of people coming inside our doors to build community and connections that help them – **and all of us** - reach our full potential.





## Timeline of the Sawtelle Center and Regis House

Between 1948 when Sawtelle Center was founded and present day Regis House Community Center there have been a variety of changes and different locations over the years:

**1948**      **Sisters of Social Service started clubs and programs in St. Sebastian's Parish Hall with the Juniors of Social Service volunteering and helping support their needs.**

**1949**      **The Juniors of Social Service (Juniors) rented a facility on Sawtelle Boulevard,** allowing the program to serve more children and families than they could previously. This space was home to the program until 1956.

**1956**      **Regis House Community Center, as Sawtelle Center was now renamed, moved into a 2 bedroom house on Iowa Avenue** where it operated until 1969 when it moved into a brand new building. It was located on a large lot with avocado trees they were able to convert into a huge play yard. The Juniors financed the purchase of the house and had the property paid for in 5 years, as well as continuing their long history of active, hands-on volunteering with the children and families participating in programs.



**1969**      **With the Juniors of Social Service championing fundraising and other logistics, Regis House moved into the new buildings** that were constructed specifically for the needs of a full-service community center. Programs continued here until June 2007.



**1987**      **Regis House East was founded in MacArthur Park, a culturally diverse neighborhood needing social service programs.** This second Regis House served local residents until 1995 when it closed due to the financial strains of trying to keep two vital centers going at the same time.

**2007**      **The Sisters of Social Service bought a commercial warehouse in Historic Filipinotown and had it renovated to best serve the children and families in Regis House Community Center's new neighborhood.** Regis House currently offers programs and services here to hundreds of families each month.



Excerpt from our Sisters of Social Service E-news – January 2018

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