

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



August and September were filled with so many meaningful moments, and I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who came out and made these events special.

On August 31st, while the St. Joe's staff gathered in Port Matilda to honor International Overdose Awareness Day, our New York alumni came together at Tonawanda Park for our Alumni Picnic. It was a rainy day, but that did not stop everyone from showing up! We enjoyed good food, lots of laughter, great conversations and, most importantly, time together.

One of the most meaningful parts of the day was our candlelight vigil for Overdose Awareness Day. It was a beautiful and touching way to honor the lives we have lost and remind ourselves why the recovery community is so important.

A few weeks later, on September 12th, we joined hundreds of people in Downtown Pittsburgh for the annual Pittsburgh Recovery Walk. The energy throughout the day was incredible. It was inspiring to see so many people come together to celebrate recovery and support one another. We were especially proud to see so many St. Joseph Institute alumni there, proudly representing SJI, sharing their stories and showing what is possible in recovery.

We also had a wonderful turnout for our Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium event on September 19th. It was such a great day to spend time together, catch up with familiar faces and enjoy some fun outside. And, of course, getting to see the zoo's new baby lion was a bonus!

Looking back at these past couple of months, what stands out most to me is the people. The stories, the laughter, the hugs, the conversations, and the way our alumni continue to show up for one another are what make this community so special. Every event is a reminder that recovery creates connections that can last a lifetime.

Now we are looking ahead to our next big gathering, the Alumni Reunion on October 31st in Port Matilda! I am really looking forward to bringing everyone together for a day of fellowship, memories, encouragement, and celebration.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us. We would love to see you there! There is something incredibly special about having our alumni community together in one place, and I cannot wait to celebrate all of you and the journeys you continue to take in recovery.

International Overdose Awareness Day at St. Joseph Institute

August 31, 2026 was a beautiful, powerful, and deeply sentimental day at St. Joseph Institute as we came together to honor International Overdose Awareness Day.

Our campus was filled with purple, the color representing overdose awareness, remembrance, hope, and the commitment to ending the stigma surrounding addiction and overdose.

Throughout the day, we were incredibly honored to hear from guest speakers who shared their stories, their strength, and their experiences. Members of our own staff courageously opened their hearts and shared their personal testimonies of struggling with addiction and overdose — stories that once carried so much pain, but today represent survival, recovery, resilience, and hope.

We were also honored to hear from two mothers who shared heartbreaking stories of losing their children to overdose. Their willingness to speak about their grief, their loss, and the unimaginable pain they carry was incredibly moving. Even more inspiring is the way they have transformed their grief into purpose by creating beautiful organizations dedicated to helping others and preventing other families from experiencing the same devastating loss.

The day reminded us that behind every statistic is a person — someone's child, parent, sibling, friend, or loved one. Every life lost matters. Every person in recovery matters. And every story of hope matters.

At St. Joseph Institute, we believe recovery is possible, and we are privileged every day to witness people who once felt hopeless begin to rebuild their lives.



We ended the meaningful day with a candlelight vigil, coming together in remembrance of those we have lost to overdose and in solidarity with the families, loved ones, and communities forever impacted by this disease. As we held our candles and reflected on the lives behind the statistics, we were reminded of why we continue to carry this message of awareness, compassion, and hope. 🕯️💜



We remember those we have lost. We stand with those who grieve. We celebrate those in recovery. And we continue to fight for those who are still struggling.



New York Alumni Picnic



A heartfelt thank you to every one of our alumni who braved the rain and joined us for our Second Annual NY Alumni Picnic in Tonawanda! The weather may not have been perfect, but the day reminded us that recovery, connection, and fellowship are about showing up for one another no matter what. We shared an incredible speaker meeting, enjoyed tasty food, meaningful conversations, plenty of laughs, and came together for a candlelight vigil in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day to remember those we have lost and honor those who continue to fight.



Seeing so many familiar faces together again and watching everyone reconnect is what makes days like this so special. We are incredibly grateful for this alumni community and for every person who continues to be a part of it. Thank you for making the trip, standing in the rain, sharing your stories, and making this weekend one we will remember.



Here is to another year of recovery, friendship, and showing up for each other. We cannot wait to do it all again next year! 💙



Pittsburgh Recovery Walk

On September 12th, Downtown Pittsburgh came alive with hope and celebration at the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk, a day filled with inspiration, connection, and joy. Surrounded by people in recovery and those dedicated to supporting recovery services, the event was a powerful reminder of the strength and unity within our community.

The speakers were uplifting, the food was fantastic and the company was even better as thousands of people came together to celebrate recovery. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all our St. Joseph Institute alumni who showed up to represent, share their stories, and shine as living proof of the many paths to recovery.

We are so proud of everyone who came out and helped make the day so meaningful!

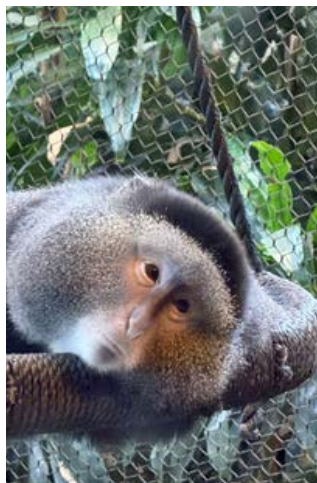




Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium!

What an amazing day at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium! A huge thank you to all our alumni who showed up and made the trip to spend the day with us. We had such a wonderful time, and we could not have asked for better weather! The animals were all active, and with the beautiful weather, you could really feel that fall is right around the corner. It was especially wonderful seeing so many familiar faces, catching up, and reconnecting with people we have not seen in a while. These opportunities to come together, share some laughs, and stay connected are what make our alumni community so special. Thank you to everyone who made the day such a memorable one!





Save The Date!

Alumni Reunion – October 31, 2026

We are excited to invite you to the St. Joseph Institute Alumni Reunion on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 1:00pm to 10:00pm on the SJI campus. This special event is a chance to reconnect, celebrate recovery, and enjoy fellowship with fellow alumni. Each alumnus is welcome to bring one adult guest (please note: no children under 18 and only registered service dogs permitted). To attend, please RSVP by **October 25, 2026 to melissa.pasquantonio@stjosephinstitute.com**. We look forward to welcoming you.



Alumni Reunion

When: October 31, 2026

Where: SJI Campus

Time: 1:00pm-10:00pm

Guests: Alumni + One Adult

(no children under 18)

RSVP: melissa.pasquantonio@stjosephinstitute.com
by October 25, 2026



Friends of Joe Alumni Meeting



Every Thursday at 7:00 PM, St. Joseph Institute hosts the “Friends of Joe” Alumni Aftercare Meeting — a supportive, topic-based gathering open to all alumni. The meeting link is posted on the Alumni App each Thursday morning, along with guided questions to help spark meaningful conversation.

Whether you’re sharing an update or just listening in, it’s a great way to stay connected and end your Thursday with community and purpose. We’d love to see you there!

St. Joseph Institute Intensive Outpatient Program

Recovery is a journey, and no one has to do it alone. Our Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) provides structured support, expert care, and evidence-based therapies to help individuals heal while balancing daily life.

📞 Call 888-727-4465 or visit <https://stjosephinstitute.com/iop-in-wexford/> to learn more!



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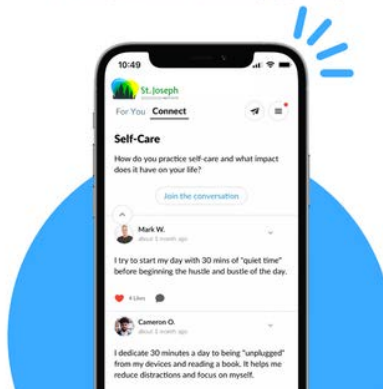

The St. Joseph Alumni App

Ready to get started? Scan here >



**We're all in this
together**

Join fellow alumni & staff on the
St. Joseph Alumni Community app today!



The **St. Joseph Alumni App** is your go-to space for staying connected, supported, and engaged in recovery.

If you're not currently on the app, please don't hesitate to reach out — we'd love to help you get back on! It's a safe and welcoming space where you can **share your experience, strength, and hope** with fellow alumni, stay in touch with staff, and access updates on **events, meetings, and resources** designed just for you. Don't miss out on this powerful tool for connection and support!