

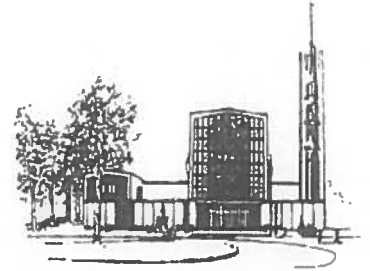


Diocese of Peoria

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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April 24, 2020

Dear St. Joseph Parishioner,

We both know the value of a St. Joseph School education, and I am writing to you to ask for your help in making this quality education possible for more students today. Under Illinois' *Invest in Kids Act* Tax Credit Scholarships, helping students whose educational options were once limited by household income is easier than ever.

The Tax Credit Scholarship program offers a **75 percent income tax credit** to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, private schools in Illinois, like St. Joseph School. *Individuals can designate their donation directly to St. Joseph School!*

Already for the 2020-2021 school year, **25 children** are waiting in line and hoping for a scholarship to St. Joseph School. Attending St. Joseph School means so much to these families. Here is one family's testimony:

Empower Illinois has been a blessing to our family. I am a single mom of four children, three are in high school and my youngest is in first grade. We love St Joseph School and couldn't imagine sending her to public school. Financially it is very tough and I was close to having to pull my daughter and send her to public school. In my opinion that would be a terrible decision. Our local public school has deteriorated staff wise and the focus is no longer in what everyone needs as a whole. We have nothing but good things to say about St Joseph and if I have to I will figure out how to work four jobs to keep my daughter here!! Thanks to the Empower Illinois Scholarship my daughter can attend the school we prefer and get a top notch education.

Supporters like you made this family's dream a reality, and **we are asking for your help** to ensure all 25 children and their families have the opportunity to attend St. Joseph School.

For more information or help with your donation, you can reach us at 309-347-6108 ext 240.

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael Andrejek

Donor

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the donation process work?

Before reserving their tax credit, donors must first establish an account via mytax.illinois.gov. This may take up to 10 days. After creating an account, individual and corporate donors will be able to reserve tax credits. When reserving their tax credit, donors should select Empower Illinois as the Scholarship Granting Organization. Donors will then have 60 days to donate the amount reserved to a scholarship granting organization (SGO) of their choice. After donating, they will receive a certificate of receipt from the SGO and the Department of Revenue will be notified that a donation was made.

If a donation is not made, or is less than the reserved tax credit with the Department of Revenue, NO tax credit will be awarded. All unused tax credits will be put back into the program until the cap is hit.

Can donations be directed to a certain school or individual?

Individuals may direct donations to a particular school or subset of schools, but NOT to an individual student or group of students. Corporate donors cannot restrict their donations. Individuals will direct their donations to the school or schools of their choice when they make a donation to the SGO after they have reserved their credit. However, when reserving a tax credit with the IL Department of Revenue, donors will need to select the region in which their designated school or schools are located in. *St. Joseph School is in Region 3.*

What is tax liability?

Tax liability is the total amount of taxes owed by an individual or corporation to the government. The Tax Credit Scholarship Program allows donors to reduce their State of Illinois income tax liability.

Who has tax liability?

Anyone who works in Illinois has state tax liability.

What is a tax credit versus a deduction?

A tax credit lowers your tax bill directly. A deduction lowers your adjusted gross income on your IRS Form 1040. For example, if you make a \$1,000 Tax Credit Scholarship donation you receive a \$750 tax credit, which lowers your tax owed to Illinois by \$750. If your tax bill was going to be \$2,000, you just reduced your tax bill to \$1,250.

**25% OUT OF
POCKET**

75% TAX CREDIT

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP GIFT



KIDS ONLY GET ONE CHANCE AT A QUALITY EDUCATION

Empower Illinois expands quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois by granting scholarships to students attending secular or non-secular private schools.

Empower Illinois is the state's largest and most comprehensive Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). You can make a charitable investment in kids through our powerful **tax credit scholarship program**.

How It Works



Who Your Donation Helps

- › Low-income and working-class kids across Illinois
- › Provide K-12 scholarships to quality, private schools
- › 5,459 students received a scholarship in 2018
- ★ 43,000+ kids still on the waitlist need your help

How To Donate

- › Donate through Empower Illinois, the state's leading SGO
- › By donating through an SGO, such as Empower Illinois, you earn a **75% TAX CREDIT**

Why Donate Through EI

- › You can direct your donation to the school of your choice
- › Empower Illinois has 600+ school partners
- › You can increase your impact with a larger donation as you receive a 75% state tax credit to offset your tax liability

What's Next

- › Contact an EI tax credit specialist at 312-392-0250
- › Visit the EI website: www.empowerillinois.org/donors





DONATE TO YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL INCREASE YOUR IMPACT

The OLD way to donate:

Alexa would donate \$250 every year to her local private school. She owed the state \$750 in tax liability. Her total spend for tax liability and the donation was \$1,000.

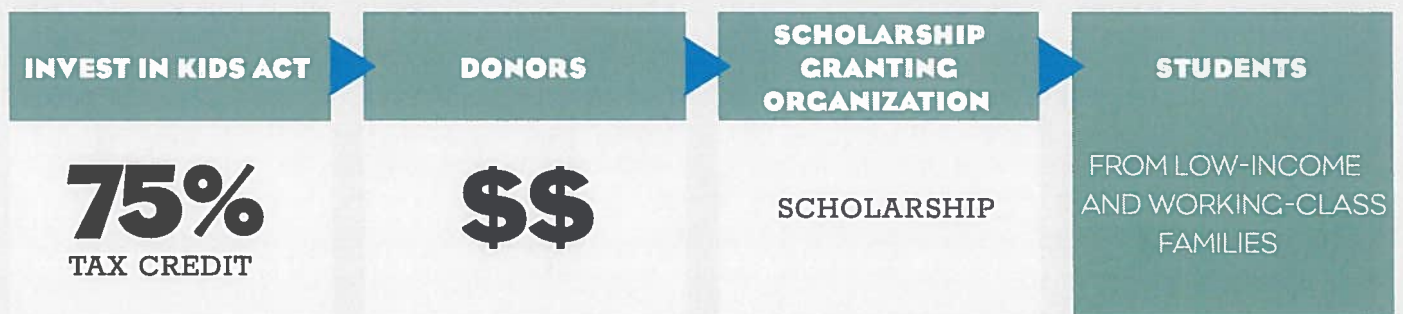


The NEW way to donate:

Alexa could increase her donation to her local private school to \$1,000 and decrease her tax liability to \$0. She **quadrupled** her impact for the school while paying the same out-of-pocket cost.



THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: HOW IT WORKS



The Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program offers a **75 percent** income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois.