

About Us

In 1968, Monsignor Vincent Enright began a social service program to be directed by Sister Benita Repasky, SSJ. This became St. Martin Center; named after St. Martin de Porres, patron saint of social justice and the sick and poor.



St. Martin de Porres

In 1998, we added housing and financial education services. In 2018, we merged the housing and social service departments to form the Self-Sufficiency Department. This model more fully serves families.

In 2016, our Early Learning Center expanded to 18th and State, the site of a former bank, and added three classrooms, a multipurpose room, a staff training room, a parent conference room, and more.

While programming has changed over the years, our purpose remains the same.

Our Vision

All people have access to the resources they need to reach their goals.

Our Mission

Strengthening lives and supporting our community by providing immediate assistance, education and long-term services, consistent with our Catholic values.

St. Martin Center, Inc. is an affiliate agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc.

*"With this [help] I'm able to move from the shelter to a new home. Thank you for this blessing."
- Catherine*

*"I will be able to live without worry."
- Walter*

Contact Us



Administrative Offices Self-Sufficiency Department

1701 Parade Street
Erie PA 16503
814-452-6113

Early Learning Center

1727 State Street
Erie, PA 16501
814-454-1675



smcerie.org



@StMartinCenter

St. Martin Center, Inc.



People helping people.



"I appreciate St. Martin Center because without this program, my family would not be able to come out of poverty as growing up my mother didn't know important things to thrive but now I can have info to be successful." - S

Services



Food Pantry

- One of the area's largest, and serves all of Erie County
- Fresh, canned, and frozen foods
- Items from [local restaurants](#)
- Specialized boxes for senior citizens



Pantry staples; preparing holiday meal bags; fresh produce



Self-Sufficiency

- Financial assistance for [mortgage](#), [rent](#), and [security deposit](#)
- [PA WORKWEAR Program](#)
- Individual [case management](#)
- [Referrals](#) to other agencies/programs
- In-person and virtual appointments



Financial counseling class; holiday basket registration; Shining Stars Christmas gift pickup



Early Learning Center

- Quality education for children [ages 6 weeks through 13 years](#)
- Kindergarten-readiness and other supportive services
- [Keystone STARS 4-rated center](#) (STARS is a state-wide program that rates centers on quality, curriculum, and more. STAR 4 is the highest rating and must be maintained yearly)
- [Continuity of Care](#) model:
 - Child stays with a teacher until Pre-School age
 - The child moves to a new class at a time that mimics the transition to school
 - Teacher and family build a bond that allows for [better child development](#) and [family care](#)
- [Free pre-kindergarten](#) program through [Pre-K Counts](#)



Ali paints a picture; students get to know local police through a partnership with the Erie Police Department's PAL program; and John and Joss work on a puzzle.

Additional details about these or other programs can be found on our website:

smcerie.org.

How to Help

Donate at smcerie.org, call us, mail or drop off a donation, or scan the code:



You can also enroll in [easy, automatic giving](#) online or by phone. You choose the amount and frequency.

Stock? IRA? Tax Credits? Endowment? See our site or call to discuss.



[Volunteer!](#) Check out our website and social media, give us a call, or scan the QR code to fill out our volunteer form.



[Erie's Best Coffee](#) is our signature fundraiser held in [February](#). Sample coffee from area shops and vote on your favorite. Event info is on our site and social media.