

Business: Corazon a Corazon

Director: Sister Loretta Rosendale

Address: 8235 S. South Shore Drive, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60617

ESL Class House: Monday-Thursday 9am to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm

Phone: 773-221-0620

Website: www.corazon-chicago.org

Interested in learning English in a personalized setting? Want to feel more confident about your computer skills? Need an after-school program where your children can receive help with their homework? The friendly staff and volunteers at Corazon a Corazon are ready and eager to help! Corazon a Corazon is a non-profit organization sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Corazon provides members of the South Chicago community with one-on-one ESL tutoring, after-school and summer programs, and computer literacy classes. All services are volunteer based, and Corazon is always looking for new people to volunteer!

A valuable neighborhood resource, Corazon began as a way for the School Sisters of Notre Dame to continue their presence in South Chicago when the Academy of Our Lady High School, which was sponsored by the Sisters, closed in 1999 after providing education to young women for 124 years. Following a period of discernment, it was decided that Corazon a Corazon would be opened to provide one-on-one ESL and GED classes for the Latina women in the South Chicago community. In 2008, Corazon moved from its original location on Commercial Avenue to its current location on the second floor of the vacated St. Michael Parish convent at 8235 S. South Shore Drive.

Corazon's ESL program is specialized for adult learners, and students typically meet with tutors for two one hour sessions per week. Since sessions are one-on-one, students receive individualized attention, can learn at their own pace, and avoid the pressure of needing to speak in front of a large group. Students use the Rosetta Stone program to learn English.

In addition to holding ESL classes, which remain a core part of Corazon's mission, the organization responded to the community needs by adding after-school and summer programs when mother in the ESL program said their children needed help with schoolwork. The after-school program provides children with a healthy snack, time to relax after school, and small-group tutoring and homework assistance. In the future, Corazon hopes to enhance their after-school program using Montessori principles to further engage child-centered learning. In addition, Corazon's computer literacy classes now provide adult with a supportive environment in which to learn basic computer skills. Other than a minor book fee, Corazon's ESL classes are completely free of charge. Summer and after-school programs have a small fee, which is on a sliding scale based on financial need.

All of Corazon's staff and volunteers are passionate about strengthening the South Chicago community through the lived they impact in their programs. Corazon's current director is Sister Loretta Rosendale, SSND, who has held the position for three years. Corazon also has three part-time employees: an ESL coordinator, Antoine Lona, a volunteer coordinator, Katie Flores, and an after-school coordinator, Charles Kyle.

Volunteers are always needed for Corazon's English as a Second Language, after-school and summer programs. If you are interested in volunteering please let us know. If you or your child are interested in any of Corazon's programs, please contact Katie at kkaspar@corazon-chicago.org or call 773-221-0620.