



St. Michael's Woodshop

"Building from the Inside Out"

Fall 2020



Woodshop graduate Sara on the job at a construction site in Rochester.

Summer Work at Essential Jobs; "Life Skills" & Financial Literacy via Zoom

"They are like my own kids—they look at me that way," says St. Michael's Woodshop Director James Smith, speaking of both current and graduated Woodshop students. That's why, when they see him out and about in Rochester, they come running up to him and say, "Thank you! Look what I'm doing now!"

"They are working, they are happy, they have a plan. They have a positive outlook," Smith says. (Our "Mission": accomplished!) "Ninety percent of my job is being a father to them. Even after they graduate."

He figures that he must have run across about 30 Woodshop kids over the past summer. "They were all working essential jobs during COVID," Smith said. "Asa works at Stanley Steamer, Jonathan's at Walmart, Khalid is in construction, Nani's at Walmart, Brian's at Cost-

co, Monai and Nu Nu are at Wegmans. Dayjah and DeAndrey are in college. ... And Sara has become a member of the carpenter's union! She's working in construction."

Because of COVID, we've been Zooming with students, five days a week since September. "It's very important to stay connected," Smith says. "Sometimes I read to them from *The Motley Fool's Investment Guide for Teens*, and *The Better Man Project*, and we also watch YouTube videos about good financial habits. Add to that character, mindset, Woodshop 'Life Skills' principles—we're keeping busy and the students are learning a lot."

When Savannah moved to Webster for her junior year, she signed up for a "career starters" shop class at her new high school, because she loved what she had been learning at

the Woodshop. "I was a foreman in the program, just like I was at the Woodshop," she said. "We made a shed together." Savannah was able to study masonry, framing, drywall, plumbing and electricity, and she even built a stand-alone sink unit.

She says the most important things she learned at the Woodshop were leadership skills, how to make healthy decisions, and time management. After working full-time in retail over the summer, now she only works weekends because, "School is my main priority."

Savannah is just one example of how the mindset students absorb at the Woodshop stays with them.

Volunteers have resumed working at the shop. Safely, of course! Mentor Terry Lund helped diagnose and repair our CNC router, so that it can be used to make new products for our holiday sale (see page 2).

Lund is excited about the recent donation from Oneida Air Systems in Syracuse of four "Dust Deputy Deluxe Kits" to improve dust collection on our Shop Vacs. He plans to install the kits soon.



Mentors Doug Crockett & Terry Lund



Woodshop video

St. Michael's Woodshop
Fall 2020

Holiday Sale: December 5, 2020

As our students continue to meet via Zoom for Life Skills and Financial Literacy instruction, we are getting ready for our holiday sale. This year you'll have several options for obtaining hand-made Woodshop products.

Study our product catalog at the QR code below, or on our website: <https://www.stmichaelswoodshop.org>. You may fill out and send in the order form here (or in our catalog), or attend our in-person sale right in the Woodshop on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Sending in your check with the



Product Catalog

Thank you! We Made Our Matching Goal!

Last time we told you that we were very close to reaching the matching goal (from an anonymous donor) that we needed to raise an additional \$25,000 for our program. Thanks to your support we made the goal and received the funding this summer. We are so grateful to everyone who helped us reach our goal!

order form will reserve your selection(s). For credit card orders, call us. All products will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. You have three options for delivery:

- Pick products up at the sale!
- Our "Santa's Helpers" (adult Mentors) can deliver your items locally (contactless delivery), right to your doorstep, for no charge.
- Or, we'll mail reasonably-sized items. Check the order form.

This sale is important because product sales are a key aspect of our program. Applying for grants while students are remote is at best problematic. We hope to resume in-person instruction soon.

In the meantime, please know that we appreciate all you have done for our program. If you have no computer access and would like us to mail you a hard copy of our product catalog, please call or email us (see below), or put a note to that effect in the return envelope. Be assured that safe COVID practices will be followed during our on-site sale. Hope to see you there!

Woodshop Holiday Sale

Saturday, December 5, 2020

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

691 St. Paul Street, Rochester

Our Mission Statement:

St. Michael's Woodshop is a ministry that offers life skills to urban youth through the art of woodworking. Tutors and Mentors are committed to accompanying young men and women as they learn a trade, enhance their sense of self-worth, master a good work ethic, and demonstrate mutual care for one another.

Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number: _____

Item Description: _____

Price each: \$ _____

Quantity: _____

Shipping: \$ _____

Total enclosed (check): \$ _____

- Delivery: I'll attend the sale.
 Via Santa's Helpers.
 Please ship.

Shipping details: Each of our items is unique. For an accurate shipping quote, please call 585-317-5134. We'll use USPS flat-rate mailers. We encourage you to attend the sale. Come in and browse or call us and we'll bring your order out to you.

See product catalog for a more complete order form.

O God, grant us peace in our hearts and love for each other. Teach us your ways and keep us close to You.

Questions? Email us at stmichaelswood@live.com or call our Fulfillment Coordinator at 585-317-5134.