

# CTK Staff Highlights

## Sandra Gill

Sandra is the Development Coordinator. She has been with the Center for 6 1/2 years.



What I find unique about the Center is that it is located in the middle of the city—29 acres with trees, prayer gardens, open space, wildlife, and more. It is an oasis away from the hustle and bustle for those who find their way here.

I enjoy welcoming and talking with our guests particularly those joining us on retreat. It is a joy to see their excitement about being here and looking forward to their long awaited get-a-way.

The Center is an important place because it provides a place to step away from the day-to-day life to rest, reflect, **reconnect** and be in the presence of God, whether visiting the grounds for a walk or attending a weekend retreat. I know for myself, I am grateful to be able to step away from my desk when I need a break to go for a walk and take in the beauty and tranquility of the grounds...or to be able to just step into the Chapel and take in the quiet and be with the presence of God.

## Natalie Svistoonoff, MPH

Natalie serves as the Executive Director. She has been with the center for 3 years.



There are many things which make CTK unique. When I first arrived, I knew the Retreat Center and grounds were extremely special. As many are aware, we have the vast amount of land, trees, and wildlife. Including the turkeys...lots of turkeys!

What I didn't expect was how the staff would touch my heart. Early on, I realized our team isn't just doing a job, but rather we're all doing a ministry, whether it's hospitality/kitchen, housekeeping, grounds, maintenance, preaching and administration. Here, at the Center it's not the position we carry, but the desire to want to share God's love by being present with our visitors, retreatants and donors.

When I am at the Retreat Center, some of the greatest joys are my connections with the guests, staff, and Passionist family. I especially enjoy the times when we have the opportunity to host high school students. During these moments, the Retreat Center comes alive. Additionally, I enjoy seeing our first time retreatants be in awe of the grounds, just as much as our long time retreatants sharing about the memories of years past.

Lastly, my personal favorite is the quiet prayer I say in the chapel. There's nothing that beats the serenity, peace and comfort that I experience in the chapel.

The importance of the Retreat Center is very apparent, it serves as a landmark where all can experience the presence of God and His abundant blessings.