

PRESS RELEASE

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ALTRIA EMPLOYEES PROVIDE \$50,000 IN SUPPORT OF CAREER AND TRANSITION SERVICES

Grant will support training and experience for at-risk youth

Richmond, VA – St. Joseph's Villa is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of \$50,000 in support of its Career and Transition Services (CATS) program from the Altria Companies Employee Community Fund. Funds will be used to provide training and experience in job skills, work habits, teamwork and leadership to students with emotional, behavioral, developmental or intellectual disabilities.

St. Joseph's Villa's CATS program prepares students for more productive adult lives. The program consists of a series of steps to prepare students for workplace employment: assessments, goal development, in-class training, on-campus internships and off-campus work. More than forty students took part in the program during the 2010-2011 school year, and more students are expected to take part in the program this year.

"The support from Altria employees is fantastic," said Matthew Kreydatus, Director of Career and Transition Services. "Our program has been building for several years, and Altria's support will allow us to quickly expand the program to meet a growing community need."

Transition services help students prepare for their adult lives. Many at-risk youth, especially students with disabilities and behavioral disorders, require specialized training to prepare them for employment and/or meaningful work following graduation. Students at St. Joseph's Villa receive training as well as several on-campus internship opportunities that give students "real world" experience in a controlled setting. Students at St. Joseph's Villa are currently in internships in Culinary Services, Administrative Services, Materials Management, Recycling, Environmental Services, Information Technology, and Retail Services in the Villa's Donation Center.

For more information about Career and Transition Services at St. Joseph's Villa, please visit www.NeverStopBelieving.org/CATS or call Matthew Kreydatus at (804) 553-3224.

St. Joseph's Villa

Established in Richmond in 1834, St. Joseph's Villa is metro-Richmond, Virginia's oldest and largest continuously-operating children's nonprofit organization. The Villa is located on a spacious 82-acre campus in Richmond/Henrico County and builds stronger children, families and communities. The Villa serves more than 500 children and families daily, through the delivery of day, after-school and residential programs that include: special and nontraditional education programs for at-risk youth; education and housing services for homeless children and their families; education and respite, summer and

after-school care for children with autism and developmental disabilities; behavioral treatment programs for children and families; housing for adults with disabilities; and a child development center. The Villa is accredited by the national Council on Accreditation and is an approved Medicaid provider for many of its services.

St. Joseph's Villa admits clients of any race, color, gender, age, religion, disability or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accepted or made available to clients at St. Joseph's Villa. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, St. Joseph's Villa is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and retaliation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other agency-administered programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S.D.A. related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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