

April 2008 Newsletter

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Recent Events

Calling all Alumni! Reunion Dates Set!

If you, someone in your family or someone you know has any connection to St. Joseph's Villa, put June 27 and 28 on your calendar! St. Joseph's Villa is having a reunion of people (and their family members) who lived, worked or received services from St. Joseph's Villa, either while it was an orphanage or in the years since the Daughters of Charity withdrew in 1977.

We are trying to get as many people as possible to attend the reunion and help us in our preparing a book to celebrate the Villa's 175th Anniversary in 2009. Videographers will be on hand to record "oral histories" of Villa events, and we will have several computers and scanners on hand to capture images alumni (and friends) bring to the reunion.

Please encourage all of "Villa family" to contact Brenda Savage at (804) 200-1616 or bsavage@sjmail.net to get more information about this fun (and important!) event.

Read about St. Joseph's Villa at <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/search.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-03-06-0160.html> and watch a video about the Villa's history at www.NeverStopBelieving.org

"Oh, the things you can find if you don't stay behind." Dr. Seuss, *On Beyond Zebra*

The Lewis Children's Center joined the nation in a Seussian Celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 3, 2008. Volunteers from the May L. Keller Alumni Club of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority brought new books for each of the preschoolers and hosted circles throughout the center.

Villa staff also joined in on the celebration by reading to additional preschool and after school classrooms



These Dooley Students Really Have Talent



Students from the music classes at Dooley School and Dooley School at Cherokee Road entertained each other, their families, and the St. Joseph's Villa staff at a talent show on March 19. Students performed various singing, dancing, and instrumental selections.

At left, a student from Dooley School at Cherokee Road follows the instruction of music teacher Kim Gilbert.

Brook Road Academy Senior Makes it to the “Sweet 16” in Statewide Poetry Competition



Brook Road Academy senior Marshall Gibson made it to the final 16 contestants in the Virginia Poetry Out Loud competition at the Library of Virginia. Congratulations, Marshall!!!

Pictured: Marshall (right) with Brook Road Academy English teacher Ben Walters.

LCC Easter Egg Hunt a Big Success



Children from Lewis Children’s Center participate in a HUGE Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 21. Everyone ended up with a bag brimming with plastic eggs and treats!



Villa Welcomes (Back) Linda O’Day



St. Joseph’s Villa is glad to welcome back Linda O’Day as the new Head of Academy at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. From 2000 to 2004, she was a special educator at the Dooley School, Lakeside Academy and Parham Road Academy working with students with a variety of special needs. From 2004 to 2008, Linda served as the Autism Consultant for Henrico County Public Schools

Linda holds a B.S. Ed from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and has been an educator for 12 years. Linda also has completed graduate coursework in special education and applied behavior analysis at VCU and University of North Texas.

Welcome back, Linda!

Stretch and Grow Program Benefits Janet’s Place



Thanks to a generous grant from the Department of Social Services, children at Janet’s Place, the Villa’s after-school program for children up to age 12, have been able to participate in “Stretch and Grow,” a program to provide increased physical activity into our students’ lives. Each class meets several times a week, and children love it!



“Off the Chain,” Continued



Students at Dooley Center for Alternative Education are continuing their exploration of the relationships between poverty, drug abuse, crime and incarceration. As a graphic reminder of the relationships, students created a mural in the Dooley School and attached the societal problems the chain caused. It is a moving display that quickly shows the thought our students have given to the issues. If you get a chance to see it, please do.

Villa Invaded by Easter Baskets!

More than 100 Easter Baskets invaded St. Joseph’s Villa just before Easter, thanks to our many friends from the community. The baskets were delivered to children in the Flagler Family & Community Services program and children at the Villa’s Emergency Shelter. At right: Kay Miles, the Villa’s Campus Resource Coordinator (on the left), with Thelma Jackson from CCO Mortgage.



Other supporters include: Wachovia Bank, Loveland Distributing, St. Peter Baptist Church, ACCA Temple, Knights of Columbus, and Effective Ministries (a Division of Equity Concepts). Thank you!

Villa Employee Recognized by American Red Cross



Charletta Williams was honored by the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross at its March recognition ceremony. Charletta was recognized for having saved the life of a woman who had lost consciousness in a swimming pool.

Pictured, left to right: Percy Wootton (Red Cross Board Chair), Reggie Gordon (Red Cross CEO) and Charletta Williams.

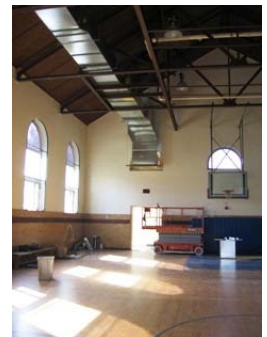
Congratulations, Charletta!

Renovation Update



Work is nearly complete on the Villa’s Administration Building. A new conference room has been created in the former reception area, and the Board Room (at left) has been given a makeover with new paint, carpet and window treatments. The only things left are to get the furniture in place.

Meanwhile, work is just beginning on the installation of air conditioning in the Villa gymnasium (at right). Crews have installed the trunk line across the ceiling of the gymnasium, and feeder lines will be installed soon. Work should be completed in the next couple of months – just in time for summer!



Bistro is Back!

One of the side effects of the work going on in the Administration Building is that Villa employees have had to forego Bistro, an informal lunch each Wednesday that allows Villa employees and guests to get together over lunch.

Now that work is almost complete, Bistro is back! At right, employees came together to celebrate St. Joseph's Day on March 19. (Don't be confused by the green balloons; green and white are the Villa's colors!).



Harmony Milestone Reached

In 2001, St. Joseph's Villa embarked on a program to provide an integrated information system to facilitate services working together and faster billing. As of mid-March, the campus-wide Harmony information system has been installed throughout the entire Villa campus. Congratulations!

Brook Road Academy College Acceptances Rolling In

As of the end of March, Brook Road Academy seniors had been offered admission to the following schools: University of Alabama, Ferrum College, James Madison University, University of Mississippi, Old Dominion University, Radford College, University of South Carolina, and Virginia Tech. Congratulations, Seniors!

Golden Gift Points Wanted!

Looking for an easy way to support St. Joseph's Villa? How about donating your Ukrop's Golden Gift points? If you're a Ukrop's Valued Customer, your purchases during February and March earned Golden Gift points. In late April, Ukrop's will mail you a certificate showing the points you earned. You can send your certificate to Brenda Savage at St. Joseph's Villa (8000 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227), and she will redeem them on the Villa's behalf. Each year, Ukrop's gives away \$400,000 to area nonprofit organizations through its Golden Gift program (thank you), and St. Joseph's Villa certainly appreciates the support it receives from Ukrop's customers!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 12 (9:30 – 1:30) – Connections 2008, a free resource fair for parents, family members, caregivers, and any member of the community interested in making a difference in the lives of children and youth with special needs. At the Children's Museum of Richmond, 2626 West Broad Street. For more information, please contact Central Virginia Care Connection for Children at (804) 827-1795 or toll-free (866) 737-5965. Information can also be found online at www.careconnections.vcu.edu.

Tuesday, April 15 (4:30) – Board Recognition Reception – St. Joseph’s Villa gathers to recognize its Board members who have served the Villa for several years.

Saturday, April 19 (7 pm) – “Glam It Up” Fashion Show to benefit Brook Road Academy. Featuring fashions from Pink, Jet Set and Eurotrash, with styling by Austin’s Hair Salon. \$10 suggested donation. Sponsored in part by Party Plus. Call (804) 553-3315 for more information.

Friday, May 9 (7:00 pm) – Fourteenth Annual Hoedown. Join the Villa’s friends and family for bluegrass music, barbecue and fun! Benefits Flagler Home. Contact Katie Chandler at (804) 200-1617 or kchandler@sjvmail.net for more information. Sponsored by SunTrust Bank.

Monday, May 12 (9 am) – Genworth Foundation Golf Tournament. Join PGA Tour professional John Rollins and other PGA Tour pros for a full day of golf and good times. The tournament is almost sold out, so if you would like to participate, please contact Katie Chandler at (804) 200-1617 or kchandler@sjvmail.net for more information. Sponsored by Genworth Foundation.

Saturday, May 24 (8 am) – 6th Annual 5k Run/Walk for Autism to benefit the Autism Society of America Central Virginia Chapter. For information, call (804) 257-0192 or visit www.asacv.org/5krun2008.

Tuesday, June 3 (6 pm) – Flagler Home Graduation

Friday, June 6 (7 pm) – Lewis Children’s Center Graduation

Friday, June 13 (10 am) – Dooley School Graduation

Saturday, June 14 (10 am) - Brook Road Academy Graduation

Friday-Saturday, June 27-28 – Villa Alumni Reunion. Contact Brenda Savage at (804)200-1616 or bsavage@sjvmail.net for more information

Thursday, August 21 (Time TDB) – Day Support “Villa Idol” Talent Show

HELP NEEDED!

St. Joseph’s Villa is seeking volunteers to help with the following activities:

- Assisting with clerical needs in several offices across the campus
- Working in the Villa’s Donation Center
- Conducting healthy cooking, building projects, poetry writing and reading circles with preschool children at the Lewis Children’s Center
- Gardening/planting/hands on experience with Lewis Children’s Center children

If you, your friends, your company or your community organization would like to help out, please contact **Catherine Stanley** at (804) 521-5577 or cstanley@sjvmail.net. Thank you!