

PRESS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES NAMES ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA AS A VENDOR FOR TRANSITION SERVICES

Villa to provide services to help
children with special needs develop job skills

Richmond, VA – St. Joseph's Villa today announced that it has been named by Virginia's Department of Rehabilitative Services as a vendor of services to help children with special needs acquire critical job skills. It is expected that the first students will begin programs at St. Joseph's Villa in late January, 2011, at the beginning of the second semester.

As a vendor of transition services, St. Joseph's Villa will work with local students with special needs, including students with autism, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and learning disabilities. The Villa's program will help students learn skills which make them more employable after graduation.

St. Joseph's Villa will work with students from a number of localities in the Central Virginia region. It is expected that the Villa will serve students from the City of Richmond, as well as students from Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Hanover County, Goochland County and Powhatan County, among others.

All training work will take place on the Villa's 82-acre campus at the corner of Brook and Parham Roads in Henrico County. The Villa operates several support services on its campus (including a Donation Center and a Culinary department serving more than 700 meals a day) which will provide valuable on-the-job training opportunities.

As part of its agreement with the DRS, St. Joseph's Villa will pursue accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF). That process is expected to take approximately one year.

"We are thrilled with this step," said Cynthia Faison, Chief Operations Officer at St. Joseph's Villa. "Several Villa programs have the objective of helping students prepare for transition to the community. DRS's naming us as a vendor opens up many new doors to helping children with special needs make an even more successful transition."

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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