

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: November 3, 2011
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ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA OPENS FLAGLER HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER IN PETERSBURG

New center will provide prevention and rapid re-housing services

Richmond, VA – St. Joseph's Villa is pleased to announce the opening of the Flagler Housing Resource Center (HRC) in Petersburg. This service will be a first point of contact for anyone experiencing a housing related crisis in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Colonial Heights. The HRC is an outgrowth of Flagler Home and Flagler Community, two programs through which St. Joseph's Villa has served homeless families in the Richmond area for more than 20 years. The new center will provide services to both individuals and families.

The Flagler HRC will assess potential clients to clarify their housing needs and understand the individual or family's barriers to housing (such as limited income or past rental debt). Following assessment, staff will make a determination of eligibility for HRC financial assistance and/or refer people to other agencies. Eligible applicants can receive assistance to help prevent homelessness. Eligible homeless families (only) can receive assistance to help them quickly secure and maintain housing. Prevention and Rapid re-housing assistance is restricted (by funding guidelines) to individuals and families who can sustain their housing after receiving assistance.

“We are so glad to be able to provide both of these much needed services – prevention and rapid re-housing – in the Tri Cities area,” said Kimberly Tucker, Director of Family & Community Services for St. Joseph's Villa. “We are looking forward to working closely with other service organizations so that residents of this community will be able to access all of the support they need to overcome homelessness.”

The Flagler Housing Resource Center is newly located in the Hope Center at 827 Commerce Street in Petersburg. Potential clients must call first (no walk-ins) to determine eligibility for HRC services. If eligible, then an appointment will be scheduled. The phone number, **804-722-1181**, for the HRC will be operational by November 7, 2011.

Claudia Perez will serve as the Coordinator for the Flagler Housing Resource Center. Claudia has worked for St. Joseph's Villa for six years serving families in the Flagler Community and Rapid Re-housing program.

For further information about this program, please call Katina Williams, Program Manager for Flagler Services at 874-6084 or Kimberly Tucker, Director of Family & Community Services at 553-3210.

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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