

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: August 4, 2011
Contact: Bruce Cauthen, Vice President of Public Relations
804 553-3318 **office** bcauthen@sjvmail.net **email**
804 426-7030 **mobile** NeverStopBelieving.org **website**

VILLA PROGRAM ACHIEVES STRONG RESULTS

Day Treatment program at Highland Springs Elementary School receives high grades from parents, teachers and students

Richmond, VA – St. Joseph's Villa today announced the results of surveys designed to assess the effects of a Day Treatment program undertaken during the past year at Highland Springs Elementary School in eastern Henrico County, Virginia.

St. Joseph's Villa operated a Therapeutic Day Treatment program at Highland Springs Elementary School from November 1, 2010 through June 7, 2011. During this period, counselors from St. Joseph's Villa provided support services at the school to help students who were exhibiting problem behaviors and were at risk of being removed from school. Each day, counselors provided group and individual therapy sessions to equip students with skills to help them focus on academic achievement and refrain from problem behaviors. Fourteen students received services.

At the conclusion of the academic year, St. Joseph's Villa surveyed parents, school staff (including staff from the Henrico County Public School system and Communities in Schools, an independent company under contract to Henrico County) and students. This research found:

- **94% of school personnel (HCPS and CIS) agree that students' grades and behavior improved during the program**, with the majority (56%) strongly agreeing with that assessment. Almost all school personnel (88%) agree or strongly agree that the program staff are collaborative, proactive, competent, professional and open to feedback.
- Nine of the eleven parents who had a child in the program said that their child's behavior had improved during the program, and six of the eleven parents said that their child's grades had improved. 55% of parents said their child now likes school more and 64% believe their child gets along better with others. Three quarters of the parent group said they would recommend the Day Treatment program to others.
- Eight of the 13 students in the program (62%) strongly agree with the statement that their grades and behaviors improved as a result of the Day Treatment program. 92% of students participating in the program said that they felt better about themselves, and the most students say that others like them more.

For more information about the St. Joseph's Villa Day Treatment programs, please contact Craig Hedley at (804)553-3226.

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.

CONTACT: Bruce Cauthen; 804 553-3318 (office); 804 426-7030 (mobile); bcauthen@sjvmail.net (email)

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8000 Brook Road Richmond, Virginia 23227 804 553 3200 tel NeverStopBelieving.org