

## June 2011 Newsletter

### Recent Events

Congratulations to Villa CEO Kathleen Burke Barrett, who received the YWCA's 2011 Outstanding Woman Award for Nonprofit Leadership at an awards luncheon on May 6.

The YWCA's Outstanding Women Awards are among the most prestigious in the community, and we certainly applaud the Y's decision!

Shortly after the awards ceremony, the Villa found out that Kathleen has been named to the Board of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Her term will begin on July 1.

Congratulations, Kathleen !!!!!



St. Joseph's Villa is proud to announce that Dr. Ken Macurik has been named as the Villa's new Director of Developmental Disabilities Services. Dr. Macurik (shown here with Linda Saltonstall, the Villa's Director of Clinical Services) has more than 30 years' experience and will oversee the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism, Day Support Services and In-Home Behavioral Treatment programs. Welcome!

Congratulations to Meghan, one of our students at Dooley School, who recently completed Positive Vibe Café's training program. Meghan has worked for two years in the Villa's Culinary Services and was a real star at Positive Vibe! At right, Meghan celebrates with her teacher, Melissa Lehmann (at left), and Felice McDermott, Head of Dooley School.





Deanna Griffin's class at Dooley Elementary School was moved by the devastation in Japan caused by the earthquake and tsunami. In response, the class put together a project to raise funds to help those in need.

The class conducted a fund drive to gather loose change from Villa employees and students. As of the end of May, the class had raised more than \$200. The students used their math skills to count the money and to roll it up for their donation.

James, one of the students at Dooley Elementary, is shown at left in front of a note that reads, in part, "Dear Villa, Thank you for helping our class. Your money will help Japan. Yours truly, James, age 6, Kindergarten."

Thank YOU, James!



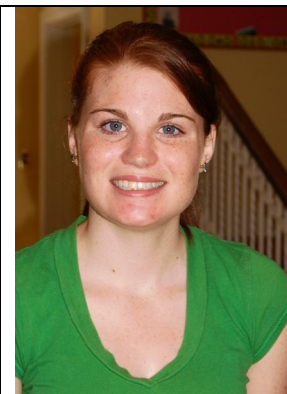
As the end of school approaches, the smell of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs is beginning to fill the air. At right, Ekanem helps Geoff Tubbs, Education Coordinator at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism, with a cookout for their school.



Students at the Villa's Day Support after-school program have been receiving music lessons from Joan Kleinmann, a local music therapist. During the class, the children work on "basic skills" including rhythm, melody and tempo and sing songs along with Joan. It's a lot of fun!



The Villa's May 23<sup>rd</sup> Innsbrook Classic was a LOT of fun (as the Flying Squirrels obstacle above shows)! Other attractions during the golf were Richmond Raiders quarterback Bryan Randall, Richmond Raiders Cheerleaders and ESPN 950's "Big Al" Coleman. The event raised thousands of dollars to benefit the Villa's Day Support program. Above, John Gentry, Chair of the Villa Board of Trustees and head of the Golf Committee, with longtime Villa supporter Charlie Morrison, who has volunteered at each of the Villa's 27 golf tournaments (!).



Congratulations to Brook Road Academy junior, Jenny McD, on her acceptance to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Leaders in Training Program, a competitive year-long after-school leadership and community service program.

Students are accepted to this program based upon writing abilities, artistic merit, and superior teacher recommendations. Jenny's medium of choice is ceramics, and we wish her well with the program.

Way to go, Jenny!

Students and faculty at Brook Road Academy recently posed for their end of year school picture. Brook Road Academy has more than 30 students currently enrolled and next year will expand to include sixth grade students.

If you (or someone you know) would like a tour of the school, please contact Craig Hedley at 553-3226 or [chedley@sjvmail.net](mailto:chedley@sjvmail.net). It's worth checking out!



But don't just take our word for it. Here's what the mother of a Brook Road Academy senior had to say about her daughter's experience:

"My daughter Morgan has attended Brook Road Academy for three years and will graduate next week. I wanted you to know how pleased we are with the school and her experience there. Morgan was accepted at several colleges, including James Madison, Mary Washington (Honors program) and Sewanee, and is currently on the wait list at the University of Virginia. She is currently planning to attend VCU's School of Business next year.

Her academic success is due to her scholastic efforts and the "above and beyond" efforts of the BRA staff. I honestly believe her education at BRA was of a higher caliber than what she would have received at Freeman, where she attended for part of 9th grade. It says something about her advisor, Mark Howard, that Morgan wanted to audit his calculus class this year simply because of his teaching (!).

Additionally, Elisabeth Rigsby worked many weekends on Morgan's behalf to help prepare her college materials. All of her teachers were exceptionally motivated and thoughtful, as well. I think Morgan was lucky to know them and I feel the same for our family. Thank you for allowing me to share this feedback. Very sincerely, Tracy Tierney"

Please be sure to check out Brook Road Academy! 553-3226 or [chedley@sjvmail.net](mailto:chedley@sjvmail.net)

Children at Lewis Children's Center have been having a wonderful time with the great weather. I just happened to stumble on this group of three- and four-year olds as they were getting ready to go to the playground. They were happy to be outside!



LCC's after-school kids have just as much fun, and nothing brings out the silliness like a camera! Here are a few of our finest having fun in front of the camera!

More than 20 children come to LCC each day after school, and we work hard to help them transition from school to home. The classes have a variety of academic and recreational activities each day. And with an 82-acre campus, we've got plenty of room for them to play!



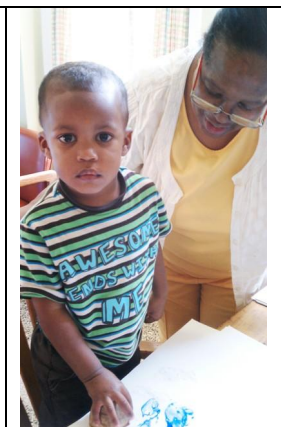
Volunteers from St. Bridget's School visited Lewis Children's Center in late May and spent some time with our children. They had a great time playing with the parachute!



May began with the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoedown on May 7, which raised more than \$39,000 in support of Flagler Home. The evening was a huge success! Above right, Kathy Duke, Villa trustee and head of the Flagler Home Board, socializes with Flagler Board member Jeffrie Hedrick and his wife Sherri and Villa trustee David Lydiard. At left, Flagler Home resident Temerra (left) visits with Flagler Program Manager Katina Williams.

Volunteers from Altrusa recently brought a pizza dinner to the moms and children living at Flagler Home. The group then provided activities such as reading, puzzles, painting with water colors and a dental care lesson. They also donated an abundance of books and puzzles to the transitional housing program. Thank you for your time and your help!

If your group would like to help out at the Villa, please contact Catherine Stanley, the Villa's Manager of Volunteer and Community Resources. Catherine's telephone number is 521-5577, and her email address is [cstanley@sjvmail.net](mailto:cstanley@sjvmail.net)





All of the Villa's volunteers are special, but those who serve as mentors for our children are perhaps the most special. Ann Frost is one such person. Ann comes to Flagler Home each week and spends time with Jada. When I went to visit them, I was lucky enough to be present when Jada rode a bicycle for the first time. It didn't happen right away; in fact, it took a while. But Ann and Jada stuck with it, and soon enough, Jada was riding her bike on her own. It was tremendously special for each one of them. Congratulations, Jada! (And thank you, Ann!)



Volunteers from Capital One recently visited the Villa's Hollybrook Apartments to help the residents there. The team brought enough toiletries (soap, shampoo, dog treats, flashlights, toilet paper, toothbrushes, etc.) to fill two tables. They did a beautiful job painting all of the overhangs in both apartment complexes (which houses 60 adults with disabilities), they donated a fire extinguisher to each apartment, AND they also distributed all of the items to our residents! The tenants were thrilled.

The lead volunteer, Courtney ended the day hugging Terri Iguina, our apartment manager, and telling her that the experience was "magical." What a great volunteer project – EVERYONE WINS!

Work on the Perimeter Road surrounding the Villa's original buildings is just about complete. Please stay tuned for more news about the construction project.



## Congratulations, Kris! - A Shining Star Story

By Claudia Perez

Ms. Kris H. came to Flagler in October of 2009. Already behind her were six long years of trying to attend college, three months in a homeless shelter, a long effort to help her sister through a life crisis, and all the while taking care of her daughter. Six years earlier she was a twenty-three year old single mother who left Ohio for Virginia, determined to change her life.

Her life had not been easy in Ohio. Kris was the youngest of ten children. Her grandmother, who had raised Kris' siblings, could not care for another child, and Kris was given to an elderly relative to raise. This elderly relative died when Kris was only seven, and Kris was adopted by a foster family. Her foster mother died when Kris was eighteen. At eighteen, Kris found herself on her own, and raising her five year old child alone.

She moved to Virginia in 2003. She enrolled in Virginia State University, becoming the first in her family to attend college. She quit because the large classes and huge campus overwhelmed her, but she did not give up.

By the time Kris found Flagler, she had gathered her courage yet another time. She enrolled at J. Sergeant Reynolds. Kris got into public housing. Flagler staff helped her with almost everything, since she had come to Virginia with only a few bags of clothing. Flagler staff helped her with beds, after-school enrollment, household items of all types, furniture, bus tickets, and the thousand issues a young mother faces when setting up her independence for the first time in a public housing apartment. Flagler supported her through basic budgeting, cutting expenses, simple and inexpensive ways to cook and pack lunches, and everything that comes in the daily life of a single parent.

Kris took it all in, eventually, though not without pushing back at Flagler staff when she did not like what she heard. Kris was Kris, after all: determined, persistent, strong-minded, and with the courage to manage seemingly impossible circumstances. Flagler staff worked with her with as much persistence and determination as she needed. They helped her change ideas and habits that stood in the way of success. Flagler saw her strengths and helped Kris in a way that turned her strengths to her benefit.

This year, Kris will graduate with her Associate's degree. Her words tell us how far she has come:

...When I got back on track and left the negativity in my past, I was no longer its victim. I was now the captain of my ship. I moved to Richmond [from another part of Virginia] and ended up in J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College where I was determined to finish my degree, even if it took me 10 years. I am proud to say that the day has finally come, and I am eager to challenge myself at Virginia Commonwealth University.

I wasn't into going to a University before, but now, since I've done my first years at a community college, I am ready for the different atmosphere of people. I just love the excitement that a University gives off, the fact that it is so diversified makes me just want to shout, "I love it!" There is nothing more than a mixture of people going for the same thing in life - freedom of the mind - because education allows you to become free in the mind.

I am not just looking for a well-paying job or a degree. I'm looking for the finish line that says, "Well done. Dedication 101 is complete." I actually finished something that I was determined to do, and that is the best feeling in the world besides someone loving you. My life story is ever changing....."

Congratulations, Kris! We're all so proud of you!

## Volunteer and other needs at St. Joseph's Villa

The Villa is currently in need of the following items:

- Diapers—sizes 1-5
- Softball equipment (bats and gloves)
- Summer clothing for women & children—all sizes
- Swim suits for children—sizes toddler to young adult
- Office furniture
- Dining room tables and chairs—able to seat 6-8
- Conference table and chairs—able to seat 8-10
- Twin bed frames
- Electric stove w/oven
- Bulletin boards
- Dish sets
- Eating utensils
- Large serving bowls, platters and serving utensils
- Floral arrangements
- Framed art work

Our Donation Center is open Monday-Wednesday 11am-4pm to accept your items. Thank you!

### Current Volunteer Needs

Docent positions are available in central administration building on campus for individuals who enjoy working with the public. Docents are responsible for answering the telephone, greeting guests and answering general questions about St. Joseph's Villa. Docents are provided training and access to the Internet during their volunteer shifts. Each shift is 4 hours and volunteers are asked to commit to one shift per week between now and September 2nd. Candidates with strong oral and communication skills are preferred. All candidates must complete a volunteer application to include a recent tuberculosis screening, criminal history and a background screen. \*\* Candidates between the ages of 16 & 17 may be considered for this position provided that they meet the stated requirements and provide parental consent in writing.

Administrative Assistant positions are available in several offices on campus for individuals who are interested in volunteering their time in an office setting. Volunteers will help perform various tasks such as maintaining client files, copying, scanning, answering the telephone and preparing information and/or admission packets. Each of these positions offers flexible scheduling and the opportunity to work with a dynamic group of professionals. All candidates

are required to complete the volunteer application and meet the required background and health screenings.

### Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Camp Classroom Assistant positions are available for the summer beginning June 20-September 1, 2011. Volunteers who have a strong desire to work in a fast paced, high energy environment with children are needed to assist with planning and facilitating classroom activities, chaperon field trips, and help campers develop positive relationships and foster healthy classroom environments. This summer opportunity is open to volunteers who are able to make a weekly commitment of no less than 12 hours a week. All candidates are required to complete the volunteer application and meet the required background and health screenings.

\*\*Candidates between the ages of 16 & 17 may be considered for this position provided that they meet the stated requirements and provide parental consent in writing.



## ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA FOR CHILDREN

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 serves more than 800 children and families each year, through the delivery of programs for children with autism and other developmental disabilities, at-risk youth and homeless children and their families, among others. The Villa is accredited by the national Council on Accreditation and is an approved Medicaid provider for many of its services.

### Join Us in Helping!

The work of St. Joseph's Villa cannot take place without the support of individuals and organizations in the communities we serve. If you would like to contribute to the Villa's success, please visit [http://neverstopbelieving.org/help\\_finance.html](http://neverstopbelieving.org/help_finance.html) Thank you!

### Follow St. Joseph's Villa on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/St.Josephs.Villa>

### And also on Twitter!

[http://twitter.com/sjv\\_richmond](http://twitter.com/sjv_richmond)