

Recent Events



Students from Dooley School and Dooley Center for Alternative Education have been working on a number of projects to celebrate diversity.

At left, Mike and Antonio begin work on a jigsaw puzzle layout. As part of their project, they created the puzzle's design, drew it on the plywood backing and then cut out the puzzle pieces.

Volunteers from Bank of America made more than 60 cards for our Hollybrook residents in honor of Valentine's Day. Here, the volunteer group from Bank of America's Risk Management Services unit poses with their cards.



In connection with the Maymont Flower and Garden Show and the MAC Events Home Show, our friends at Leonard Builders donated a "Dr. Seuss House" to Lewis Children's Center. At right, John Cannington, Mike Walsh, Steve (from Leonard) and LCC Director Lisa Williams show off the new play house.

Last month, we reported that students from the Dooley Center for Alternative Education and volunteer Cindy Smith had purchased items to create “goody bags” for people being served in clinics and shelters. This month, the group distributed their bags to people at the CrossOver Ministries Clinic off Parham Road. At right, Tierra distributes some coloring books to a young patient at the clinic.



Students at Dooley Elementary School recently completed a Circle of Courage mural on a wall in their school. The badge will serve for years to come to remind students (and staff) that to become an adult, one has to develop skills which foster Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity.

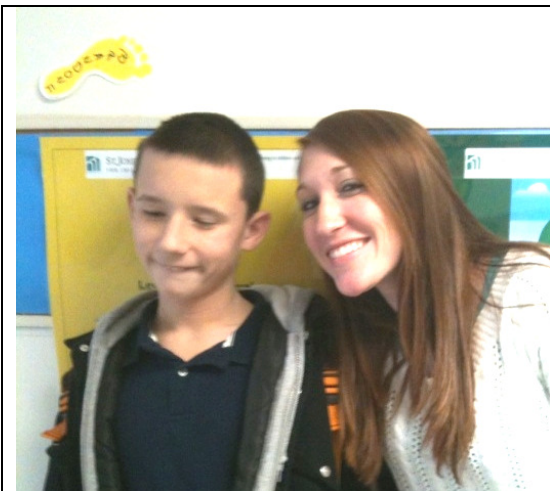
All of the Villa students enjoyed seeing the snow in early February. Dontaie and Damian, two students from Dooley Elementary School, even went as far as building a snowman outside the school. It’s not often that we Richmonders get THAT much snow!



Follow us on Facebook! Become a fan of “St. Joseph’s Villa (Richmond VA)” and learn about our history, our activities and our exciting future!

Jasmine, one of the students at Dooley Elementary School, has made a lot of progress during the past year. As an acknowledgment of her progress, her teachers gave Jasmine a “Just Because” lunch! Jasmine was given the opportunity to choose a way to celebrate her successes, and she chose to do so by sharing a pizza party with her entire school!

Congratulations, Jasmine!



Congratulations also to Brandon (shown with Case Manager Kimberly Stroud), the first student at Dooley Elementary School to complete his Level 2 requirements and become a Level 3 student. As a result of his hard work, Brandon will be transitioning back to his local public school next year.

The footprint over Brandon’s head shows that he is “making footprints” toward his next level. Congratulations, Brandon!

Dooley Center for Alternative Education recently held its award ceremony for the grading period that ended in February. Students received awards for Scholar Roll, Honor Roll and Attendance. At right, Traquan receives his award from Ron Hansboro, Head of the school.



Please note the new hours for the Donation Center:

11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Wednesday



Congratulations to all of the students who recently performed in the Dooley Talent Show. It was a fantastic event! Special thanks to Kim Gilbert (above left), the Villa's Music Therapist, who helped students from the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism (above), Dooley School (right and below) and Dooley Elementary School (below right) prepare. What fun!



Students at Dooley School have begun a book club to explore contemporary literature. The club met recently to discuss the novel *Bang!*, which depicts one boy's struggle to rise above his surroundings and create a new life for himself. At right, Treatment Specialist Bertie Strickler listens as a student makes a point.



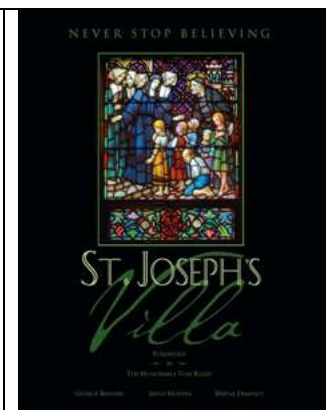
St. Joseph's Villa introduced two new services in February to address emerging community needs. The Villa's **Mental Health Support Service** provides life skills education and support to children and adults who are managing their mental health issues but need some extra guidance on managing daily tasks.

Project Turnaround is a new Villa service which provides a combination of Therapeutic Day Treatment services and academic education to youth who have been expelled from public schools.

Both services are up and running. If you would like information about either service, please contact Craig Hedley at (804) 553-3226.

Now available! St. Joseph's Villa, a lavish 128-page, full color hardbound book which presents the full 175-year history of Central Virginia's largest continuously operating children's charity.

The book is full of photos, stories and memories that describe the Villa's rich history. The book is available for \$30 (less than \$0.18 per year!). Please call (804)200-1616 for more information and to order your own copy!



Put on your hard hats! At its February meeting, the Villa's Board of Trustees approved a project to replace the Villa's steam heating system. Construction will begin in late March or early April and should finish by early Fall. The steam project is the first step of a major development of the campus grounds and infrastructure. Other features to look for in the next year include a new perimeter road with an additional entrance on Parham Road, establishment of a vehicle-free pedestrian mall linking all services, fully accessible sidewalks, increased outdoor lighting, refurbishment of our central gardens and other landscaping. This work will transform the Villa campus for greater safety, accessibility and efficiency for the children and families we serve and the wider community. Much of the work will be funded by the Villa's ongoing *Believing Is Seeing* Campaign. Stay tuned!

Community Events

The Autism Society, Central VA will sponsor the following meetings in March. All meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Meetings take place at River Road United Methodist Church, 8800 River Road unless otherwise noted. For information: 257-0192 or asacv@aol.com

March 1 (7:00 p.m.) – Interest Group for Parents of Children (Preschool/School Age) with Asperger's/High Functioning Autism

March 3 (10:00 a.m.) – Interest Group for Parents of Children (Preschool/School Age) with Asperger's/High Functioning Autism

March 12 (7:00 p.m.) - Chapter Meeting: Recreation Resource Fair

March 25 (10:00 a.m.) - Biomedical Interest Group

March 29 (7:00 p.m.) – Interest Group for Adults w/ Asperger's/High Functioning Autism
(open only to adults w/ AS/HFA)

March 29 (7:00 p.m.) – Interest Group for Family Members of Adults with Asperger Syndrome/HFA

March 10 and 11 – Commonwealth Autism Service 9th Annual Conference “Autism in Virginia – It’s a New Day!” with guest speaker Brenda Smith-Myles at Crowne Plaza Richmond West. For more information, please visit www.AutismVA.org

March 19-21 – Fabulous Finds consignment event at Richmond International raceway to benefit St. Joseph’s Villa. Portions of entry fees and consignment sales will support Villa programs, so please shop early and shop often! For more information, please visit www.FabFindsVA.com

April 10 (9:00 a.m.) – Superhero 5k Race, 1 Mile Kids’ Run and Family Fun Event at St. Joseph’s Villa. To benefit Henrico and Chesterfield CASA. For more information and to register, please visit www.HenricoCASA.org

April 24 (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) – Connections 2010 Resource Fair at the Children’s Museum (2626 W. Broad Street) for parents of children and youth with special needs. Free. For more information, please visit www.careconnections.vcu.edu

April 24 (Noon to 4:00 p.m.) – Special Olympics Greek Games to be held at St. Joseph’s Villa. For more information, please email Floyd Miller at fmiller@specialolympicsva.org.

May 8 (6:00 pm) – 16th Annual Hoedown at St. Joseph’s Villa, benefiting Flagler Home. For more information, please contact Brenda Savage at (804)200-1616.

May 24 (12:00 noon) - 26th Annual Golf Tournament benefiting the Villa’s Day Support and Weekend Respite programs. This year the tournament will be held at the Dominion Club in partnership with the 2010 Innsbrook Classic. Interested players may contact Brenda Savage at (804)200-1616.

May 29 (8:00 am) – 5k Walk/Run for Autism, sponsored by the Autism Society of America Central Virginia chapter. Call 257-0192 or visit www.ascv5k.com

Volunteer needs at St. Joseph's Villa

The Villa's Donation Center is currently seeking volunteers on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays** from 11:00am-4:00 pm. Responsibilities include receiving, sorting and displaying donations in the St. Joseph's Villa Donation Center where the center accepts New and "Like New" donations of household items, clothing, school supplies and furniture for the benefit of St. Joseph's Villa clients. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week and must be at least 18 years old to participate. Group volunteers are welcome!!

The **Villa Pals Program** is looking for a few good mentors!! If you enjoy working with elementary age children and have the ability to commit to volunteering with a student on a weekly basis we need YOU! The mission of the Villa Pals Program is to match elementary students with caring individuals who will cultivate supportive relationships that positively contribute to the student's academic achievement and personal growth. For information on how you can participate in this new program please contact **Catherine Stanley at 521-5577 or cstanley@sjvmail.net**

Multiple volunteers are needed to **assist in several administrative offices** such as: Finance, Human Resources, Volunteer Services, Facilities Management and others. Responsibilities vary based on the position. Each position is flexible and available Monday-Friday during our business hours of 8:30am-4:30pm. Each position requires a volunteer commitment of a minimum of 4 hours a week. For more information please contact **Catherine Stanley at 521-5577 or cstanley@sjvmail.net**

Reading Rockets are still needed! The Reading Rocket program is a literacy learning program designed to engage children in enjoyable experiences with literature. Volunteers are needed to facilitate reading activities for school age children in grades K-4 each week. Volunteers may bring their own materials or use the classroom resources. Volunteers may also add creative elements to the activities by incorporating craft projects, dance, singing and other enriching activities. This program occurs Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-10:00am at the Dooley Elementary School. Volunteers must be able to commit to one reading session a week until the end of the 2010 school year. For more information please contact **Catherine Stanley at 521-5577 or cstanley@sjvmail.net**

Please be sure to check our website, www.NeverStopBelieving.org/help_donate.html for other volunteer opportunities. Thank you!