

May 2011 Newsletter

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Recent Events

Thank you to the many, MANY groups and individuals who worked so hard to make sure that each and every child at the Villa received an Easter basket. As these pictures attest, our children had a lot of fun hunting for Easter eggs, too!



The Villa would like to thank the following donors for donating 425 Easter baskets for our children: An anonymous donor, Acision, Bank of America, Capital One, Principal Financial Group, CCS Mortgage, Girl Scout Troop 334, and The Laurels of Bon Air. In addition, Miss Chelsea Thomas and friends assembled 12 Easter baskets for Villa children in lieu of birthday gifts for herself.

Also, a big "Thank you!" to the following donors who collected and assembled over 1600 stuffed eggs for the Easter egg hunts on campus: Bank of America and VA Federal Credit Union.

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church also provided more than 100 pantry bags for families of St. Joseph's Villa for Easter. Thank you!



What a wonderful Spring Break our children at Day Support had! Each day, there were three (or four!) trips into the community to explore various recreation opportunities. We could not have done this without the generous support of sponsors who provided funds to cover the expense of these trips. We also could not have done so much without the positive attitude of the businesses which opened their arms to welcome us! Please stop by and say "Thanks!"

Glen Allen Golf (11000 Washington Highway * 550-2622)
Master Cho's Taekwondo & Martial Arts (9964 Brook Road * 262-0101)
The Inflatable Palace (9159 Atlee Road * 730-0063)
Mad Science of Central VA (5500 Cox Road * 359-1500)



Children at the Villa's Day Treatment program took a recent trip to Skateland, and they had a blast! For many of the children, it was their first trip to a skating rink, but that didn't seem to slow them down at all!



The Junior Kindergarten class from Lewis Children's Center attended a recent Safety Day at Children's Hospital, where they learned about fire safety, bike safety and other helpful information. In addition, the children enjoyed playing the many games on hand, and judging from the pictures, all of the children had a fantastic time. Thank you, Children's Hospital, for a wonderful event !!

Dan Hansen and his Applied Physics class at Brook Road Academy have finished up a new outdoor classroom for the school (and for other programs at St. Joseph's Villa). The space accommodates several desks and chairs and includes a whiteboard. The classroom was designed and constructed by the students as part of their learning how physics principles are applied in the "real" world. Thank You!



Students at Dooley Elementary School got an unexpected treat this month when one of their Teaching Assistants, Wayne Hall, brought his Xbox and the game DJ Hero to the students' music class. According to the teacher, "The kids were really good and they loved it!"

Several months ago, we reported that Governor McDonnell's office had funded the PeaceBuilders program at Dooley School. Since then, students have been working on exercises to break the cycle of violence in our communities. At right, students from Dooley Elementary School stand in front of a "house" made of "bricks," each representing one instance of exemplary behavior. Congratulations, class!



Students from Dooley Elementary School took a wonderful field trip this month to the United States Women's Army Museum at Fort Lee. The students were able to learn about the important roles women have played in serving our country through the armed forces. The students also had the opportunity to dress up in uniforms from different eras (from left to right, the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War II and the present day).



Students from Dooley Elementary School attended Education Day at the Diamond to watch the Richmond Flying Squirrels. Each student received a pamphlet that involved scoring and statistical related math skills. The educational experience for our class also helped our students work on their social skills and behavior in public. What a FUN way to learn!!!

More than 400 runners descended on St. Joseph's Villa for the CASA Superhero 5k race to benefit the Henrico and Chesterfield CASA programs. It was a cloudy and cool day, but the race attracted plenty of families, singles and, yes, even superheroes!

Photo courtesy of John Herzog



Richmond Special Olympics held its annual Greek Games at St. Joseph's Villa on Saturday, April 16. Hundreds of people from local "Greek" organizations (fraternities and sororities) paid \$100 each to participate in the games, raising funds for the upcoming Special Olympics. If your organization would like to discuss a partnership opportunity with St. Joseph's Villa, please contact Craig Hedley at (804) 553-3226.



Construction of the Villa's new Perimeter Road is moving along well. New sidewalks have been constructed at the South (Hollybrook) sides of the road, and gravel is quickly working its way around the roadway. The main parking lot next to the Villa gym has been removed and the surface is being graded for a new lot. Paving is scheduled for completion by early June, 2011. After that, on to the Pedestrian Mall!

Frankie Shines at Day Treatment – A Shining Star Story Written by Eric Townsend, Director of Day Treatment Day Services

Frankie entered the Day Treatment After-School Program in December 2009. His first few months were marred with non-compliance, profanity, verbal threats, and constant negative comments toward staff and peers. He had similar behaviors in the home, the community and at school. He received multiple suspensions and was very oppositional in the home. His mother said they were unable to do “family things” as a result of Frankie’s behavior. Frankie’s oppositional behaviors continued for the next three to four months.

Due to the consistency of his Behavior Specialist, Adebo Adetona, Frankie started to make progress towards the end of his fourth month in the program. Frankie started to exhibit positive behaviors and started to control his impulses. He went from earning approximately 50% of his daily and weekly objectives to earning close to 75%. It took Frankie four months to progress to the first level in the behavior management program, a task that can be accomplished in as little as 30 days. He still had the occasional bad day, but they had become less frequent.

Frankie continued to make slow progress and was able to continue to move up the behavior management program and to make it to level three of a four level system. The staff also noticed that each time Frankie reached a new level, his negative behaviors returned for a short period of time. The staff understood this and was able to help him through the transitions. He also transitioned to another school that was able to deal with his behaviors. Frankie continued to do well at the program, school and in the community. His mother said she noticed significant improvements in his behavior at home.

Frankie continued to make progress in the program and had not been suspended or received bad behavior reports from school in several months. Frankie was not perfect, but his behaviors had significantly improved. Prior to Frankie’s discharge in early March, Frankie’s mother had a conversation with his Treatment Specialist, Cherie Rochelle. Mrs. T. told Cherie they are able to do things together as a family again. She wanted to thank The Villa for “helping her get her family back.”

Congratulations, Frankie!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 7, 2011 (6-10 PM) - 17th Annual Hoedown benefiting the Villa's Flagler Home. On the Villa's grounds. For more information, please visit the Hoedown page of the Villa website (<http://bit.ly/guvlZg>) or contact Anne Murray at (804) 200-1617 or amurray@sjvmail.net



**2011
Innsbrook
Classic**

Monday, May 23 - 2011 Innsbrook Classic Golf Tournament benefiting St. Joseph's Villa. At The Dominion Club. For more information, please visit the golf page on the Villa's website <http://bit.ly/i4xJOi> or contact Anne Murray at (804) 200-1617 or amurray@sjvmail.net

Volunteer and other needs at St. Joseph's Villa

The Day Support program would like to give a special *shout out* to the employees of the Virginia Federal Credit Union for sprucing up the courtyard with colorful flowers and lawn decorations for the summer!

"Thanks!" also to the folks at Curtain Calls and Angie Furbee. The Villa was the beneficiary of the after sale items (curtains and household decorative items) which will be used at the Lewis Children's Center, Culinary Arts Center, Sara Dooley and the homes of several Villa clients.

Finally, thank you to members of the American Society for Quality for collecting and assembling Mother's Day Gift bags for the mothers in our Flagler Services program.

Current Volunteer Needs

St. Joseph's Villa celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Week from April 10-16th. Volunteers around the campus were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the children and families here at the Villa. Over 55 volunteers serve the campus each week and more than 750 volunteers provided more than 7, 300 hours of volunteer service to our campus during this past year. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our volunteer cadre, please call Catherine Stanley at (804) 521-5577.

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 beginning May 9th-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.

Volunteer your time, Donate goods, Share our mission!

The Villa is 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.



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 Thank you!

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http://twitter.com/sjv_richmond