

September 2011 Newsletter

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End of Summer Edition



Children attending the HEROES Training Camp at Lewis Children's Center spent the last days of summer continuing to explore the community. At left, children have a great time with the (stuffed) bear at Bass Pro Shops. Below, Linus colors a picture on his class trip to the horse farm.



A big "Thank you!" to our friends at Henrico County's Fire Station No. 11 for visiting the students at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. The students learned a great deal about fire safety and enjoyed exploring the equipment.





One of each summer's highlights is "Villa Idol," the end-of-summer talent show. The show features individual performers, like Lauren at right, and then a giant dance number with all of the performers (above). The children had a great time, and we got to see (and hear!) some wonderful entertainment. Thank you!



The Villa's Career and Transition Services program is in full swing. Students are working at several jobs around campus including helping with the Villa's recycling program and helping out with office tasks. The program will REALLY take off once school starts in early September. For more information about the CATS program, please contact Matt Kreydatus at (804) 553-3224.



Summer programs at Dooley Elementary School and Dooley School concluded with a "Wacky Olympics" competition which featured an egg toss. The kids had a lot of fun!



The Villa's new Culinary Arts Center will open in early September, when school begins. The Center serves two important functions. First, its nine themed dining areas give students varied and fun places to develop social skills. (The faculty are shown at right in the Center's "Sports Lounge.") Second, the Center provides expanded opportunities for students in the Career and Transition Services program to acquire job skills. Janice Clifton and her staff have worked tirelessly during the past two months to make the Center a reality in time for the start of school. Great job, Janice!



Thanks to the (mostly) dry weather this summer, our construction crews have made remarkable progress on the project to redesign the Villa campus. Please note that the Main Gate has reopened and as a result, traffic patterns have changed somewhat. If you are visiting the Villa campus, please download our Visitor Parking instructions from our website; the address is http://neverstopbelieving.org/pdfs/visitor_parking_sept_2011.pdf



As wonderful as the weather has been, it all turned ugly on August 27, when Hurricane Irene struck the East Coast. Luckily, damage to the Villa was minimal: a few downed trees (including one that destroyed Brook Road Academy's outdoor classroom area) and damaged fences. Many employees were without power for several days, but by week's end, things were getting back to normal.



Thank you to our generous community for supporting the 2011 school supply drive for St. Joseph's Villa. Your donations helped to provide more than 300 filled backpacks for school-age children in Henrico, Richmond and several surrounding counties. This year's sponsors include:

First Capital Bank's 2011 "Stuff the Bus" campaign

Atlee High School, 2011 Girls Volleyball Team
Bank of America
Bank of America, US Trust Division
BB&T
CarMax
CREW, Commercial Real Estate Women
Dominion VA Power

H&A Architects and Engineers
Knights of Columbus 152525
Partners Financial Federal Credit Union
Richmond Chapter of the
JMU Alumni Association
Virginia Credit Union
West Broad Audi & Page Auto Group

Ms. Elizabeth Evans
Ms. Linda Jones

Delegate Jennifer McClellan
Ms. Shelly McLamb

Geoffrey is Shining at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism, A Shining Star Story By Geoff Tubbs, Education Specialist

Geoffrey T. has been a student at Sarah Dooley Center for Autism since July, 2006. He was first enrolled due to his serious behavioral challenges (including aggression and running away) and significant developmental deficits. These challenges made it extremely difficult for Geoffrey to participate in activities with his peers outside the school environment.

Since enrolling five years ago, Geoffrey has made significant improvements in areas related to communication, daily living skills, transition and academics that has allowed him to grow and participate more fully in activities he enjoys. Geoffrey has improved his communication with others by using a PECS book, which includes photographs of the things Geoffrey most often wants, including food, drink, and use of the bathroom. He also uses it to let staff know what he would like to do during his leisure time. Some of the things Geoffrey enjoys are spending time outside, playing on the swing, and listening to his favorite music group, the Black Eyed Peas.

Geoffrey has also improved his academic skills. He completes all of his work-related tasks independently and precisely, working up to 15 minutes at a time. He is also involved in the Career and Transition Program on campus and has been doing a wonderful job completing shredding, recycling, and environmental services tasks. Geoffrey has also been able to tolerate and complete tasks related to hygiene and daily living, such as fixing a meal or snack.

The final area in which Geoffrey has shown progress is community involvement. Geoffrey has made great progress by going regularly to the vending machine at the Administration Building. He has also gone to Three Lakes Park, Wal-mart and the movie theatre at Virginia Center Commons. These trips provide much-needed experience for Geoffrey in becoming fully integrated into his community. Geoffrey is a wonderful student and we are very lucky to have him at Sarah Dooley Center for Autism!

Impressive Results for St. Joseph's Villa at Highland Springs Elementary School!

During the last academic year, St. Joseph's Villa operated a Therapeutic Day Treatment program at Highland Springs Elementary School in Henrico County. From November 1, 2010 through June 7, 2011, 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.

Congratulations, Day Treatment team!









Staff Recognition Awards

On September 2, 2011, Villa staff gathered to recognize employees and volunteers for their years of service at St. Joseph's Villa and for their actions to improve the Villa community.

Years of Service

<p>Thirty Years Ola Mae Slaughter (not present)</p>	<p>Fifteen Years Patt Epps John Cannington Fred Dunevant (not present)</p> 
<p>Twenty-Five Years Carolyn Seay</p> 	<p>Ten Years Donna Farmer Nancy Roper Gracie Stout Teresa Major (not present)</p> 
<p>Twenty Years Linda Saltonstall</p> 	<p>Five Years (Volunteers) Lula Fleming (not present) Fara Caldwell (not present) Charitable Souls Foundation (not present)</p>
<p>Five Years (Staff) Kelly Green-Bloomfield Folashade Ajayi Porsha Kelly Nathan Andes Elisabeth Rigsby Nashea Swinson</p>	
<p>Five Years (Staff) Charletta Williams Adebo Adetona Kimberly Stroud Bruce Cauthen (not pictured)</p>	

Special Awards

	Gold Award	Silver Award
<p>Integrity - The Villa's Integrity Award is given to the employee who consistently demonstrates honesty and truthfulness in his or her dealings with employees and other members of the Villa family.</p>	 <p>Arlene Susling</p>	 <p>Andriea Ukrop</p>
<p>Innovation - The Villa's Innovation Award is presented to the employee who takes a creative approach to problem-solving and develops solutions that address problems facing the Villa.</p>	 <p>Matt Kreydatus and Lasonia Lee</p>	 <p>Bruce Cauthen, Janice Clifton, Andriea Ukrop Craig Hedley</p>
<p>Leadership - The Villa's Leadership Award is presented to the employee who, through his or her vision and example, inspires and motivates others to invest their time and energy in ways that further the Villa's mission.</p>	 <p>Kim Adams</p>	 <p>Catherine Stanley, Penny McFarline, Bruce Cauthen and (not present) Jenny Friar and Anna Tilts</p>
<p>Positive Attitude - The Villa's Positive Attitude Award is given to the employee who consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, regardless of external pressure.</p>	 <p>Fran Gilday</p>	 <p>Lisa Williams, Pat Epps, Penny McFarline, Brenda Savage</p>
<p>Clinical Excellence - The Villa's Clinical Excellence Award is given to the employee who is dedicated to quality client service and inspires and collaborates in the implementation of "best clinical practice" for the children and families of St. Joseph's Villa.</p>	<p>Teresa Major (not present)</p>	<p>Sheri Phuong (not present)</p>

<p>Dedication to Mission - The Dedication to Mission Award is presented to the employee whose actions reflect his or her commitment to the organization's ideals. Their vision and example inspires others to invest their time and energy in ways that further the Villa's mission.</p>	 <p>Carolyn Seay</p>	 <p>Catherine Stanley, Suzette Kerr and (not present) Debbie Hicks and Chip Phillips</p>
<p>Educator of the Year - The Educator of the Year Award is given to the employee who demonstrates dedication to quality educational services, and inspires and collaborates in the implementation of "best practice" for the children and families of St. Joseph's Villa.</p>	 <p>Elisabeth Rigsby</p>	 <p>Wayne Hall, Christopher Williams, Mark Howard</p>
<p>Counselor of the Year - The Counselor of the Year Award is given to the employee who consistently demonstrates the Villa's belief in the worth of each child or adult client, and who best demonstrates the Villa's values of compassion, generosity and guidance.</p>	 <p>Nashea Swinson</p>	 <p>Kim Adams and (not present) Jamal Harper</p>
<p>Part-Time Employee – The Villa's Part Time Employee of the Year Award is given to persons employed on a part time basis who demonstrate in overwhelming fashion their personal commitment to the Villa's mission of serving children and their families.</p>	 <p>Katherine Peiper</p>	 <p>Becky Blake, Kathryn Williams</p>
<p>Intern of the Year - The Intern of the Year Award is presented to the student who has joined the Villa community on a temporary basis with the goal of learning best practices and has made significant contributions to Villa life through his or her energy, enthusiasm and perspective.</p>	<p>Anna Hardin (not present)</p>	
<p>The Villa would also like to award an Honorable Mention to the Docent Auxiliary for their commitment to providing a welcoming and informed presence for callers to the Villa, whether they arrive in person or by telephone.</p>		

The Project Team Awards are given to the group of employees whose work together on a short term basis achieved a specific task which fulfilled a Villa business objective.

iCIMS Applicant Management Systems Implementation Team (Silver Award) – Janine Clifford, Mike Leach, Paul Baker



Medicaid Audit Team (Silver Award) - Janine Clifford, Eric Townsend, Linda Saltonstall, Penny McFarline, Fran Gilday, Kim Adams and Kristy Corbin and (not present) Bridget Baldwin, Steve Beasley, Debbie Hicks, Sheri Phuong, Cherie Rochelle , Camille Rudney, Claude White, Pamela Willard

Culinary Services Culinary Arts Center Launch (Silver Award) - Kathryn Williams, Vernard Hazzard, Janice Clifton, Katrina Moore, Camille Sullivan, Suzette Kerr and (not present) James Bernard, Jason Haynie



The Team Awards are given to a group of employees who work together on an on-going basis to achieve the Villa's business objectives. Teams winning this award have very significantly improved operations, increased profits, brought in new revenues and developed new services.



School-Based Day Treatment (Highland Springs) (Gold Award) – Kristy Corbin, Selisha Nelson, Kim Adams and (not present) Cristal Lake-Sanders, Sheri Phuong, Deandra Sharpe

Facilities Department (Silver Award) – John Dawson, John Rollins, Pat Epps, John Cannington, Gracie Stout, Vernard Hazzard and (not present) James Bennett, Chip Phillips, Mike Walsh



Upcoming Events at St. Joseph's Villa

October 8 (6:00 pm to ?) - Salsa4Children! On October 8th, Salsa in Richmond (And Sometimes Beyond) will hold an exciting dance event to benefit St. Joseph's Villa! The event will feature beginner and advanced workshops and a dance social with live music, performances, food, door prizes and much more. Visit [Salsa4Children - A Salsa Benefit Social](#) for more information and to purchase your tickets or visit us on [Facebook](#). Let's dance the night away for a great cause!

Volunteer and other needs at St. Joseph's Villa

Please note that the Donation Center will be open ONLY for Season of Hope holiday gift donations from November 1 through January 1. Please drop off all other donations before November 1. Thank you!

The Villa is in desperate need of clothing and supplies to help our clients prepare for winter. Specific items needed include:

- Winter coats for adults & children (all sizes)
- Blankets
- Sheet sets (Twin & Full size)
- Pots, Pan & Cooking Utensils
- New Pillows (standard size)

If you are a member of an organization which conducts drives for worthy causes, please contact Catherine Stanley, the Villa's Manager of Volunteer and Community Resources, at (804) 521-5577 or via email, cstanley@sjvmail.net Thank you!

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 [our website](#) Thank you!

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