

PRESS RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA TO PROVIDE BETTER EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES STRUGGLING WITH HOMELESSNESS

Five additional scholarships and services to benefit
Flagler Family and Community Services program

Richmond, VA – St. Joseph's Villa and University of Phoenix announced five participants in the Villa's Flagler Family and Community Services programs will receive full-tuition scholarships from University of Phoenix. The scholarships will allow five Villa clients to complete an undergraduate or master's degree from the University. This award is a continuation of a scholarship program, which began last year for five other Flagler participants.

The scholarships will be awarded through University of Phoenix's First Chance® Scholarship program. Established in 2006, the First Chance® Scholarship program was founded by University of Phoenix. The program is intended to promote the life-changing benefits of education, and honor individuals who have shown desire to improve their lives and the lives of those around them through education.

"We are thrilled to receive a second round of scholarships from University of Phoenix," said Kimberly Tucker, Senior Director of St. Joseph's Villa's Flagler Family and Community Services. "The women who received the scholarships last year have all responded to the challenge and have really applied themselves. All of us are encouraged by their progress and delighted that an additional five women can participate in this life-changing award."

"We're thrilled to reach individuals who are looking to improve their lives, but do not have the financial means or do not know the educational options available to them," said Gregg Crowe, campus director, University of Phoenix – Richmond. "The First Chance scholarship program was established to help people improve their lives through education. The Flagler programs at St. Joseph's Villa are perfect partners for this program – they believe in the life-changing power of education and are equally committed to providing opportunities to improve the lives of families in this country."

The Flagler Family and Community Services programs at St. Joseph's Villa provide transitional housing services to homeless children and their mothers who live in the Flagler Home on the St. Joseph's Villa campus. During their time in the Flagler Home, women receive counseling and training to become better parents and to become productive members of the workforce. A companion service, Flagler Community Services, works with families living off-campus. The programs have graduated more than 600 women and families since Flagler Home began in 1989.

In addition to the scholarships, University of Phoenix will provide workshops, tutoring, and mentoring services to all participants in the Flagler Family and Community Services programs. University of Phoenix has also donated several computers to help all of the Flagler families in their educations.

Scholarship applications are being accepted now from current participants in the Flagler programs. A scholarship awards committee will meet in the near future to evaluate the applications and to select the five scholarship recipients. It is anticipated that the five recipients will be announced soon thereafter.

About 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.

About University of Phoenix

University of Phoenix is constantly innovating to help students balance education and life in a rapidly changing world. Through flexible schedules, challenging courses and interactive learning, students achieve personal and career aspirations without putting their lives on hold. As of February 28, 2010, 458,600 students were enrolled at University of Phoenix, the largest private university in North America. University of Phoenix serves a diverse student population, offering associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs from campuses and learning centers across the U.S. as well as online throughout the world.

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