

PRESS RELEASE

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ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA RECEIVES \$50,000 FROM WALMART FOUNDATION

Funds will be used for workforce development initiatives

Richmond, VA – St. Joseph's Villa announced today that it had received notice of a \$50,000 grant from The Walmart Foundation in support of workforce development programs. This grant follows a similar grant awarded by The Walmart Foundation in late 2009.

Funds will be used to support "Stepping Up," the Villa's workforce development and transition planning initiative. The initiative continues to be based on assessment, planning, and training for Villa clients at Flagler Home, Dooley School and the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. Clients in the workforce development program complete a career assessment, develop a transition plan which incorporates interests and abilities, and develop a budget based on the lives they envision following graduation.

St. Joseph's Villa has operated its "Stepping Up" program at Flagler Home for the past ten years, and similar programs at Dooley School and Sarah Dooley Center for Autism have increased efforts to better prepare students for life after graduation. This year, the Villa intends to begin the CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation process, to develop a partnership with the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) to offer work adjustment services, and to create additional internship opportunities in support of its vocational and transition services.

"We are thrilled to have this support from the Walmart Foundation," said Cynthia Faison, Chief Operations Officer at St. Joseph's Villa. "Career and transition services are vitally important to the futures our clients are building for themselves and their families. The Walmart Foundation's support enables us to 'take it to the next level' and make many of our plans a reality."

The grant is a one-year grant.

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.

St. Joseph's Villa admits clients of any race, color, gender, age, religion, disability or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accepted or made available to clients at St. Joseph's Villa. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, St. Joseph's Villa is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and retaliation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other agency-administered programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S.D.A. related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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