

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WALMART FOUNDATION AWARDS \$50,000 GRANT TO ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA**

#### **Funds will be used to support Career and Transition Services**

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**Richmond, VA** – St. Joseph's Villa is pleased to announce that it has received a \$50,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation in support of its Career and Transition Services (CATS) program. The CATS program provides services to help individuals develop skills to help them get better jobs in the community.

The CATS program helps students develop skills necessary for them to succeed in the workplace. The program uses a sequence of services to assess student aptitudes and interests and to develop a plan for success. After classroom instruction, students take part in on-campus internships and, eventually, off-site internships. More than 140 students took part in the program during the past year.

"We are thrilled that the Walmart Foundation has continued its commitment to this program," said Matt Kreydatus, Director of the CATS program. "Our students are making wonderful progress, and that would not have been possible without support from the Walmart Foundation and other community partners."

Career and Transition Services are offered to students at Dooley School, the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism and Flagler Home, the Villa's transitional housing program for homeless children and their families. During the past year,

- 100% completed a transition plan that reflects interests and educational needs,
- 94% increased their workforce marketability by participating in an internship, iLife Certification process, or the Career Choices curriculum during the school year, and
- 91% of students completed a career assessment.

For more information about the Villa's Career and Transition Services program, please contact Matt Kreydatus at (804) 553-3224 or via email, [mkreydatus@sjvmail.net](mailto:mkreydatus@sjvmail.net).

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#### **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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