

December 2007 Events

Governor Tim Kaine visited St. Joseph's Villa on Tuesday, December 5 to make donations to the Villa and two other social services agencies.

While he was at the Villa, Governor Kaine remarked that he had a long history at the Villa; he has played basketball several times in the Villa's gymnasium!

Right: Governor Kaine met Frances Kenyear, Head of the Dooley Center for Alternative Education and several students during his visit.

Below left: Governor Kaine looks through donated items, as Villa CEO Kathleen Barrett (left) and representatives from Home Partnership Inc. and Franklin Cooperative Ministry look on.

Below right: Governor Kaine and Secretary of Administration Viola Baskerville address Villa employees.



Residents in the **Flagler Home** hosted a **progressive dinner** for Villa staff and the Flagler Board on Wednesday, December 6.

Here, Kathleen Barrett and JoAnne Henry, Chairperson of the Villa's Board of Trustees, play around with some of the children in the Flagler Home.





The Villa's **Tree Lighting Ceremony** took place on Wednesday, December 6. Henrico County supervisor Frank Thornton and Jessica Lyons, daughter of Villa employee Suzy Kerr, threw the switch to illuminate the tree.

Afterwards, Santa Claus visited with children.



Members of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church held a **special Christmas dinner** for Flagler moms and their children on December 11.

Santa Claus was able to visit each of the children and hear about their Christmas wishes.



Santa also visited the Lewis Children's Center on December 15.

Here, Santa had a kind word or two for one of the LCC toddlers.

During the Fall semester, two students at Brook Road Academy built a **puppet theater for Dumbarton Elementary School**. On December 14, they stopped by the school to drop off their creation.

Pictured (l-r): Patricia Newton, Dumbarton Elementary School principal; Michael Panter, Brook Road instructor; Adam Sturtz, Brook Road student; Elisabeth Rigsby, Head of Brook Road Academy; Ben Sharp, Brook Road student; and Suzanna Simson, Dumbarton Elementary School librarian.



Students and faculty from Book Road Academy also put on a **holiday show at St. Edward-Epiphany School** on December 15. Individual students performed magic tricks, played a musical instrument (including violin, piano and guitar) and even offered advice on how to help pets cope with the holiday excitement.

Major work on the **functional rooms at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism** took place in December. The Center helps students acquire life skills which they will use throughout their adult lives.

Individual areas at the Sarah Dooley Center help students learn how to exercise, how to enjoy age-appropriate leisure skills and how to keep a bedroom neat and tidy.



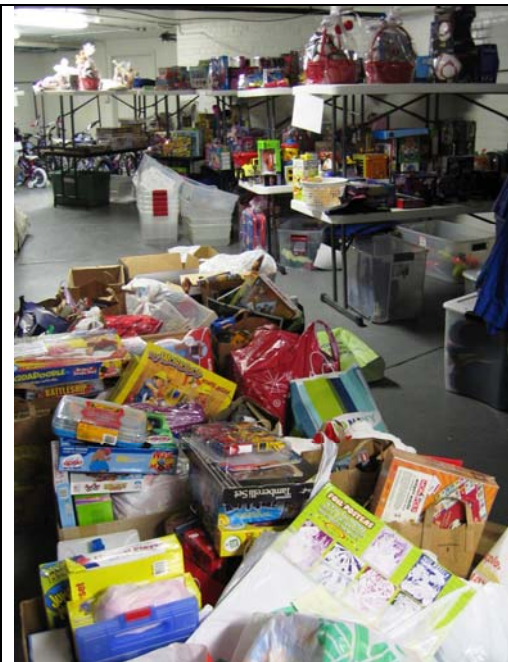
Students at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism and their families enjoyed an **end-of-semester holiday gathering** on December 19.

Pictured: Counselor Ashley Bouldin and Brett Fleming (foreground) laugh at a comment made by Brett's mother, Jill Hanson (in background).





Students from Lewis Children's Center got an unusual treat on December 20, as a group from Animals Unlimited brought a collection of **exotic animals** to the Villa. The children had a fantastic time getting "up close and personal" with snakes, lizards and other creatures.



One of the most amazing sights during December is the Donation Center, where, literally, **thousands of presents** are dropped off for the Villa's clients. This photograph, taken more than a week before Christmas, shows only one corner of the Donation Center.

St. Joseph's Villa could not provide the care that it does without strong community support. Individuals and organizations volunteer to provide gifts for our clients, and it makes a tremendous difference.

To those of you who provided a gift or two (or more!), thank you.

January 2007 Events

Thursday, January 11 – Support group meeting for families of children with Asperger's Syndrome. John Toscano, head of Commonwealth Autism Service, will discuss Transition issues. 4-5:30 at Brook Road Academy on the Villa campus. For more information, call Nancy Toscano at 553-3267.

Monday, January 15 – Schools closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Week of January 22 – National Book Week at Lewis Children's Center.

Wednesday, January 31 – Lewis Children's Center Parents' Council Meeting. 5:00 pm.