

### Recent Events



Villa staff held a luncheon for longtime Chief Financial Officer **John Davis** (left photo) on January 24. John (also known as “Supermoneyman”) came to St. Joseph’s Villa “for a year or two” eleven years ago and will now be able to spend more time with his family.

Many services and offices (including the Finance Department, below) presented skits to wish John well.

Best of luck, John!



The Villa’s **Career Readiness program** is in full swing. Matt Kreydatus and his team are bringing in a variety of speakers to help plant the seeds that there are plenty of great jobs available to people who are willing to put in the effort to get ahead.

Several students have progressed to the point that they have earned the right to get a student internship on campus working for the services or offices. LaRice Bey (at right in photo, with Staff Development Training Coordinator Connie Borman) is one of those students. She has been helping several of us (including Villa CEO Kathleen Barrett) with administrative tasks. Her next stop? If she keeps up the good work, job placement after school with an employer willing to give a break to a great person. For more information about the program, please contact Matt Kreydatus at 553-3224.

Students from Brook Road Academy participated in this year's **Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest**, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Brook Road's winner, Marshall Gibson, will compete against other city winners in early March. Good luck, Marshall!



Speaking of Brook Road Academy, **college acceptances** are coming in. So far, students have received admission to the University of Alabama, Old Dominion University and the University of Mississippi. Of course, students have applied to many colleges, and this is just the first wave of acceptances. Congratulations, seniors!



Five exemplary students were inducted into the **Circle of Courage** in late January. These students, who personify the Circle's qualities of Mastery, Generosity, Independence and Belonging, will serve as ambassadors for the Circle in their individual schools.

The students are (seated, left to right): Tyrese Scott (Dooley School at Cherokee Road), Lante Lyle (Dooley School for Alternative Education), LeRice Bey (Dooley School for Alternative Education), Ayla Mayo (Brook Road Academy), Kiara Davis (Dooley School).

Congratulations!

The **Administration Building makeover** continues, with the introduction of exciting wall colors. The work should be completed some time in March. Please visit us and see the work in progress, though – it's wonderful!





Catherine Murphy (right) from **Capital One's Women's Human Resources Network** stopped by the Flagler Home in early January to drop off a check to support the Villa's transitional housing program for homeless women and their children. The funds will be used to provide incentives for women who reach milestones in their journeys toward self-sufficiency and to purchase computer-based curriculums to assist in job readiness training. Catherine is shown with Flagler Director Kimberly Tucker.



**Henrico County Supervisor Frank Thornton** (standing) met with the Villa Board of Trustees and received its thanks for his hard work to get funding for sidewalks in front of the Villa's campus. Villa staff have met with VDOT and Henrico County, and surveying is just about complete.

Many students at St. Joseph's Villa attended the **Richmond Symphony's Discovery Concerts** in late January. In preparation for the field trips, Kim Gilbert, the Villa's Music Teacher, arranged to have various staff members and friends meet with students and show them the various instruments a symphony orchestra uses. At right, Michael McDermott from Benedictine High School showed his trumpet to students at Dooley School at Cherokee Road. Thanks for the help, Michael!



## In Memoriam

Longtime Villa volunteer **Waldeen "Wally" Johnson** passed away on January 12.

**Ann Cecil**, wife of former Villa trustee Don Cecil, passed away on January 13.

**Richard "Dick" Pokorski**, husband of Susan Pokorski, head of Children's Educational Services, passed away on January 26.

The St. Joseph's Villa family mourns the passing of these wonderful people.

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, February 8** – Students from Dooley School at Cherokee Road will take a field trip to the local post office to mail Valentine's Day cards to family members.

**Friday, February 22** - Students from Dooley School at Cherokee Road will take a field trip to the Children's Museum of Richmond (grades 1 – 4) and the Science Museum of Virginia (grades 5 – 7).

**Friday, February 29** – “Celebrate Me” Food Festival at Lewis Children's Center.

**Saturday, April 12 (9:30 – 1:30) – Connections 2008**, a free resource fair for parents, family members, caregivers, and any member of the community interested in making a difference in the lives of children and youth with special needs. At the Children's Museum of Richmond, 2626 West Broad Street.

**Friday, May 9 (7:00 pm) – Fourteenth Annual Hoedown.** Join the Villa's friends and family for bluegrass music, barbecue and fun! Benefits Flagler Home. Contact Katie Chandler at (804) 200-1617 or [kchandler@sjvmail.net](mailto:kchandler@sjvmail.net) for more information. Sponsored by SunTrust Bank.

**Monday, May 12 (9 am) – Genworth Foundation Golf Tournament.** Join PGA Tour professional John Rollins and other PGA Tour pros for a full day of golf and good times. Contact Katie Chandler at (804) 200-1617 or [kchandler@sjvmail.net](mailto:kchandler@sjvmail.net) for more information. Sponsored by Genworth Foundation.

### HELP NEEDED!

The **Donation Center** at St. Joseph's Villa is in *critical* need of volunteers to assist with operating its center. The donation center collects new and gently used household items for the benefit of Villa clients. Volunteer responsibilities include greeting donors and accepting donations as well as sorting and displaying the donations throughout the center. Volunteers are needed in various shifts Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:00pm.

The **Lewis Children's Center** is currently seeking volunteers who are interested in assisting with the topics listed below. Volunteers are needed Monday- Friday between the hours of 9-11am or 3:30-5:30pm.

#### February:

- \* Exercise group with preschoolers (healthy heart activities), Twos, and Toddlers
- \* Healthy cooking with preschoolers and school ages K-4
- \* Cultural Diversity with preschoolers and school ages K-4

#### March:

- \* National Poison Prevention Week March 16-22 all ages
- \* Reading Dr. Seuss with Preschoolers
- \* Writing poetry with school ages K-4
- \* Building structures with school ages K-4
- \* Reading Big Bird with Toddlers and Twos
- \* Kite making with all ages
- \* Planting/Gardening with all ages

For more information please contact Catherine Stanley, Volunteer Manager at 521-5577 or [cstanley@sjvmail.net](mailto:cstanley@sjvmail.net).