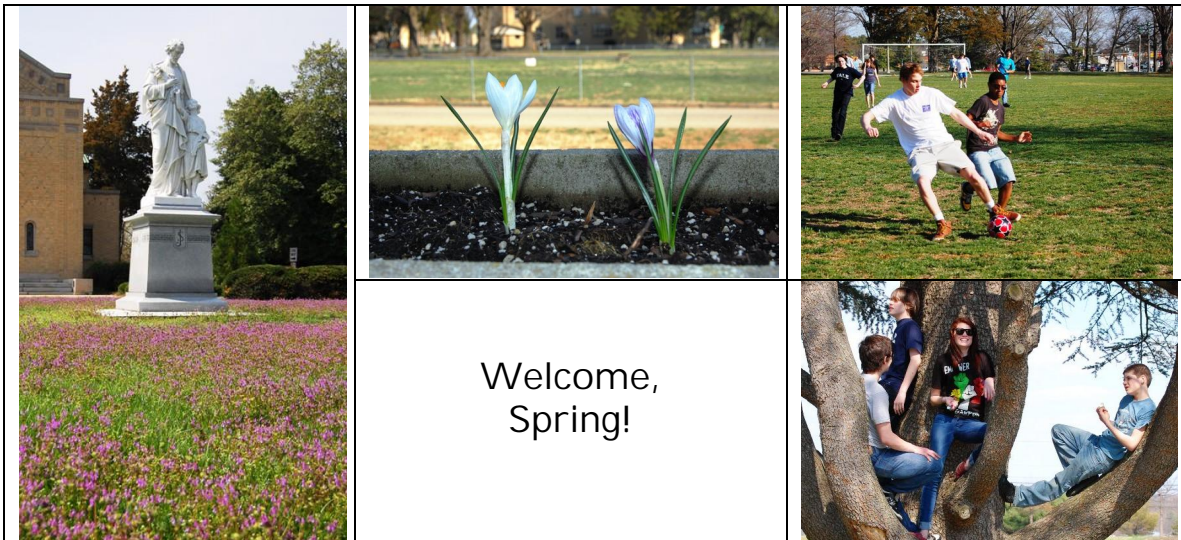


Recent Events



Welcome,  
Spring!

Signs of Spring are all around us! From the beautiful flowering wildflowers which graced our campus for a few weeks, to the sprouting crocuses at the Sarah Dooley Center to the activities of students at Brook Road Academy, the campus has come to life with the arrival of warmer temperatures. Thank goodness!



The arrival of Spring also means the start of the growing season at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. Jenelle Stahlke, Sarah Dooley's Speech Therapist, has been helping the children plant tomato plants and flowers in and around their cottage. (And because the program operates year-round, students will be able to see the "fruits" of their labor in a couple of months.)

At left, Jenelle and Ekanem finish planting an outdoor container for the students at Sarah Dooley.

Great news from Brook Road Academy! Students have been accepted into the following colleges for next year: Guilford, Lees-McRae, UNC-Asheville, Mary Washington - Honors College (two students), Christopher Newport University, James Madison University, Queens University of Charlotte, Appalachian State University, Randolph-Macon and Sewanee. In addition, one student is on the waiting list at the University of Virginia.

Elisabeth Rigsby, Head of Brook Road Academy, also received this wonderful message from one of BRA's 2007 graduates: "I just wanted to let you all know that I got into ODU's Master's program in Mental Health Counseling. I am so excited! Thank you all for being awesome high school teachers and mentors, and for helping me realize my full potential. On my way to making a little money and having a rewarding career!" Congratulations, Brook Road Academy!



Students from Dooley School finished the 2010-11 RASSL basketball season with an appearance in the RASSL championship semifinal game. That's the good news.

Unfortunately, their opponent was the undefeated team from Elk Hill – Goochland. Elk Hill prevailed, and the Panthers season came to a close.

It was a GREAT season, though! Good job, Dooley Panthers!

One of the many benefits children in our Day Support program get is the skill of our Recreation Therapist, Tye Williamson. Tye has been at the Villa for almost five years, and she works tirelessly to teach children with developmental disabilities how to have the fullest life possible through a variety of games and activities.

Each week, Tye and other Day Support staff take our children to the Villa gymnasium where they can play basketball, learn to play kickball and soccer and just run around. Tye's work makes sure that each child has as much fun as is possible. Thanks, Tye!



Felice McDermott, Head of Dooley Schools, keeps a guitar in her office so children can play it while they are visiting her. Here, Bryan shows his delight in being able to create his own music!





Students at Dooley Elementary School recently conducted some science experiments to better understand the effect exercise has on our heart rates. Each student measured his or her heart rate before and after a series of exercises and matched those readings to guesses they had made earlier about their rate. It was a lot of fun!

Shown: Deanna Griffin helps Nate measure Damien's heart rate.

Visitors to the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism will undoubtedly notice the many photographs of staff and students that line the stairwell.

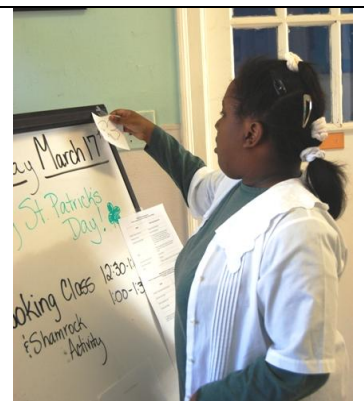
Each child at the Center is celebrated for being part of the Center's family.



Congratulations to Sarah Dooley Center staff member Sheneil Christian, who was selected to audition in New York City for this season's edition of America's Next Top Model. At the end of March, Sheneil went to New York and made it to the fourth round of the competition before being eliminated. Way to go, Sheneil!



As part of their St. Patrick's Day celebration, George and Tiffany participated in a scavenger hunt for shamrocks at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. They had to use their powers of observation to find and collect the shamrocks and then take them to collect their prizes.



And, speaking of St. Patrick's Day, the Villa's Culinary Services got into the spirit with its own contribution – Green Eggs!

The children also got a “green” snack – celery and cucumber with green salad dressing for dipping!

Shown: Camille Sullivan displays a tray of green eggs.



The Villa has a sporty new vehicle, thanks to the USDA. The Villa's Culinary Office has added a new cart to help with the speedy delivery of meals to cottages throughout the Villa campus. Half of the funding was provided through a grant from the USDA. (The Villa is seeking support to fund the other half.) Already, the cart has made a world of difference in delivering hot meals to our children!



April 1 marked the conclusion of the Villa's workforce development program for its first class of students from Deep Run High School. During the six week program, the students learned skills to improve their opportunity for future employment.

Specifically, students improved their merchandising and inventory management skills. In addition, students developed “softer” skills in the areas of customer service. Finally, students worked on developing more effective resumes which showcase their newly acquired skills.



Special thanks to Villa staff LaSonia Lee (shown with Nathan as he completes his resume) and Sarah Hawash (at left in the top photo) for all of their help leading our inaugural class!

Special thanks to all of our friends who supported St. Joseph's Villa through the Commonwealth of Virginia (CVC) Campaign. State employees have donated or pledged \$4,680.00 in support of the Villa's mission.  
Thank you!



The Villa's Finance Office recently baked and decorated cupcakes for each of the Villa's services and offices to thank them for the hard work they had put in to manage this year's (tight) budgets and to develop next year's budget.

At Right, Kristen Caufield, Fran Gilday and Michelle Catania prepare some of the goodies!



Work is progressing on the new Perimeter Road. A new drainage system has been installed leading to a retention pond near Hollybrook Apartments (left), a new entrance from Parham Road is in the works (bottom left), and part of the old bridge over the ravine behind the Villa has been removed (below) to make room for the new roadway. These improvements are made possible by donors to the *Believing Is Seeing* Campaign, which has passed \$8.5 million on the way to its \$10 million goal. Stay tuned for more improvements!



Are you following St. Joseph's Villa?

The Villa is now providing daily updates on Twitter ([http://twitter.com/sjv\\_richmond](http://twitter.com/sjv_richmond)) and weekly news through its Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/St.Josephs.Villa>) Join us!

Lisa Williams, Director of the Lewis Children's Center, recently returned from a mission trip to Kenya. The trip was sponsored by Lisa's church and provided Lisa with an opportunity to work with teachers in Kenyan villages and to reflect on her life back in Richmond. "What really amazed me was the peace that everyone had. Even though they had very little, they were happy with what they had and with each other. It was peaceful just being around them." Lisa also was able to pass on some school supplies she had brought over from St. Joseph's Villa, and the children were happy with those too!



### Denise Rises Above Her Past to Shine at St. Joseph's Villa - A Shining Star Story by Kimberly Stroud, Case Manager at Dooley Elementary School

Denise has been a student at Dooley Elementary since June 2008. When Denise first arrived, she struggled with respecting herself and others. She would arrive to school and refuse to enter the classroom. She would spend the majority of her days in the Case Manager's office hitting, kicking, biting, and scratching staff.

Her teachers soon discovered that something major was happening at home with Denise. Her whole world had been turned upside down and she did not ask for any of it to happen.

She needed to learn how to interact appropriately and how to care for herself. Denise would come to school dressed provocatively and her hygiene was an issue. Teachers, as we say, met Denise where she was and started from the ground up. Female staff met with her individually and slowly taught Denise the appropriate way to dress for her age and how she should interact with males. They also needed to teach Denise to advocate for herself when she felt uncomfortable with any situation.

It took determination from our teachers to finally break through. It took Denise about one and a half years before she accepted the way we wanted her to dress and now she will come to ask any teacher if she feels her shirt may be a little inappropriate (it never is!).

Denise has grown into a beautiful young woman who cares about herself and those around her. She has gone from fighting peers at summer camp to being the leader in Leadership group for Peacebuilders. Denise has used her newly acquired coping skills when she has been frustrated with peers and when she has been frustrated with work. She has been able to ignore negative behaviors and has let negative comments towards her roll off her back. Denise shows others that with the right kind of attitude, perseverance, and willingness to listen and learn, you can achieve anything.

Denise recently helped make a video about Dooley Elementary. During her interview she talked about the way things used to be and how far she had come. She gave credit to her Dooley staff and she talked about how much she had learned about controlling her anger and how she knew she could go to any teacher if she was upset about something. We are so proud of Denise and all the progress she has made. We look forward to transitioning Denise back to public schools in the fall. She is the reason we do what we do every day!!

Still working on your income taxes? If you have them done by Jackson-Hewitt, you will receive a \$25 discount on tax preparation and \$25 will be donated to St. Joseph's Villa. Here is a link to download the coupon: <http://bit.ly/fRhDDV>

Thank you to the Phi Beta Phi sorority "Cat in the Hat" ladies for helping the Lewis Children's Center celebrate Doctor Seuss' birthday on March 1<sup>st</sup> and for donating new Doctor Seuss books for the children to enjoy throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events

Visit J. McLaughlin at the shops at Libbie and Grove for a special day of shopping in support of St. Joseph's Villa's Flagler Home. On Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am-5pm, J. McLaughlin will donate 15% of your purchases back to St. Joseph's Villa's Flagler Home. There will also be raffle drawings to win a \$150 gift card to J. McLaughlin and two tickets to the Villa's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoedown on May 7<sup>th</sup>! Tickets to the Hoedown will be sold at a discount price of 10% during the event as well. So join us for two days of great shopping for a great cause! Call Anne Murray at 200-1617 for more information.



Saturday, April 9 (Kids Race at 8:30, 5k at 9:00) – Superhero Race benefiting Henrico and Chesterfield CASA on the St. Joseph's Villa campus. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.henricocasa.org/SuperheroRun/tabid/92/Default.aspx>

Saturday, May 7, 2011 (6-10 PM) - 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoedown benefiting the Villa's Flagler Home. On the Villa's grounds. For more information, please visit the Hoedown page of the Villa website (<http://bit.ly/guvlZg>) or contact Anne Murray at (804) 200-1617 or [amurray@sjvmail.net](mailto:amurray@sjvmail.net)



**2011**  
**Innsbr**○○**ok**  
**Classic**

Monday, May 23 - 2011 Innsbrook Classic Golf Tournament benefiting St. Joseph's Villa. At The Dominion Club. For more information, please visit the golf page on the Villa's website <http://bit.ly/i4xJOi> or contact Anne Murray at (804) 200-1617 or [amurray@sjvmail.net](mailto:amurray@sjvmail.net)

## Volunteer and other needs at St. Joseph's Villa



National Volunteer Week is a time to thank one of America's and the Villa's most valuable assets—*volunteers*—and call the public's attention to all that they do to improve the lives of our children and families in our communities. We are honored to celebrate National Volunteer Week from April 10-16.

The staff and children of St. Joseph's Villa would like to express their sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who serve through our boards, committees, classrooms, donation center and offices. Your tireless support and generosity is transforming the lives our children and families everyday! *Thank you!!*

### Current Volunteer Needs

Docent positions are available in central administration building on campus for individuals who enjoy working with the public. Docents are responsible for answering the telephone, greeting guests and answering general questions about St. Joseph's Villa. Docents will be provided training and access to the internet during their volunteer shifts. Each shift is 4 hours and volunteers are asked to commit to one shift per week beginning May 9th. Candidates with strong oral and communication skills are preferred. All candidates must complete a volunteer application to include a recent tuberculosis screening and criminal history background screen. \*\* Candidates between the ages of 16 & 17 may be considered for this position provided that they meet the stated requirements and provide parental consent in writing.

Administrative Assistant positions are available in several offices on campus for individuals who are interested in volunteering their time in an office setting. Volunteers will help perform various tasks such as maintaining client files, copying, scanning, answering the telephone and preparing information and or admission packets. Each of these positions offers flexible scheduling and the opportunity to work with a dynamic group of professionals. All candidates are required to complete the volunteer application and meet the required background and health screenings.

Camp Classroom Assistant positions are available for the summer beginning June 20. Volunteers who have a strong desire to work in a fast paced, high energy environment with children are needed to assist with planning and facilitating classroom activities, chaperon field trips, and help campers develop positive relationships and foster healthy classroom environments. This summer opportunity is open to volunteers who are able to make a weekly commitment of no less than 12 hours a week. All candidates are required to complete the volunteer application and meet the required background and health screenings.

\*\*Candidates between the ages of 16 & 17 may be considered for this position provided that they meet the stated requirements and provide parental consent in writing.

### Volunteer your time, Donate goods, Share our mission!

The Villa is in need of the following items:

- Diapers—sizes 1-5
- Softball equipment (bats and gloves)
- Summer clothing for women & children—all sizes
- Swim suits for children—sizes toddler to young adult
- Office furniture
- Dining room tables and chairs—able to seat 6-8
- Conference table and chairs—able to seat 8-10
- Window treatments—valances and drapery styles
- Twin bed frames
- Electric stove w/oven

- Bulletin boards
- Dish sets and eating utensils for 10-12
- Large serving bowls, platters and serving utensils
- Floral arrangements
- Framed art work

Our Donation Center is open Monday-Wednesday 11am-4pm to accept your items.



## ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA FOR CHILDREN

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 serves more than 800 children and families each year, through the delivery of programs for children with autism and other developmental disabilities, at-risk youth and homeless children and their families, among others. The Villa is accredited by the national Council on Accreditation and is an approved Medicaid provider for many of its services.

### Join Us in Helping!

The work of St. Joseph's Villa cannot take place without the support of individuals and organizations in the communities we serve. If you would like to contribute to the Villa's success, please visit [http://neverstopbelieving.org/help\\_finance.html](http://neverstopbelieving.org/help_finance.html) Thank you!

### Follow St. Joseph's Villa on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/St.Josephs.Villa>

### And also on Twitter!

[http://twitter.com/sjv\\_richmond](http://twitter.com/sjv_richmond)