

**Happy Halloween!**



Our students really loved dressing up and Trick or Treating at the Villa!  
We hope you had a good Halloween as well!

## Recent Events



Students at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism got into the Halloween spirit with a trip to the Pumpkin Patch on Friday, October 21.

One of the highlights each year is when the students take a hay ride out to the fields where the pumpkins grow.



Cinder, a therapy dog from Caring Canines, has been spending a lot of time recently at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. The students really love petting Cinder, and Cinder is always happy to see them, too! (At least, her tail wags a lot!!)

Thank you, Cinder and Caring Canines, for bringing a little more love to the Sarah Dooley Center!

At left, Jenelle (in gray shirt) and Destiny spend some quality time with Cinder.

Michael Herring, Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Richmond, spoke with students at the Dooley Center for Alternative Education on October 25, 2011. Mr. Herring's discussion was the first of the new "Pathways to Prosperity" series at the school. Mr. Herring is pictured to the right of Dana Hawes, Head of the Dooley Center for Alternative Education.



During the discussion, Mr. Herring recalled his upbringing in Richmond and his college and law school days at the University of Virginia. He stressed the importance of hard work in helping him achieve his goal of joining a top-tier law firm following graduation.

Perhaps the most lively part of Mr. Herring's visit was a discussion of an alternative process for handling crime by minors. Mr. Herring assigned various roles (prosecutor, defendant, judge, jury) to DCAE students and then had them imagine how they might resolve a dispute. Several students were quite engaged with the opportunity to look at a problem from a variety of perspectives.

The school has invited other speakers to appear as part of the series in the coming months.



St. Joseph's Villa hosted the Capital Region Youth Transition Forum on October 12, 2011. The meeting was a gathering of area professionals concerned with developing opportunities for students to gain skills to ease their transition to adulthood.

During the meeting, Villa personnel described the Villa's Career and Transition Services program and its array of services to help students make successful transitions. Attendees also heard from Dana Hawes, Head of the Dooley Center for Alternative Education, about the Villa's education offerings for students who have been suspended or expelled, and from Eric Townsend,

Director of the Villa's After-School and In-School Therapeutic Day Treatment programs. As an added bonus, the group also heard from students enrolled in the Villa's Career and Transition Services program. (Traquon is shown addressing the group, as Matt Kreydatus and LaSonia Lee look on.)

For more information about the Villa's CATS program, or to find out about future meetings of the Capital Region Youth Transition Forum, please contact Matt Kreydatus at (804) 553-3224 or via email, [mkreydatus@sjvmail.net](mailto:mkreydatus@sjvmail.net)

St. Joseph's Villa is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of **\$50,000 in support of the Career and Transition Services (CATS)** program from the Altria Companies Employee Community Fund. Funds will be used to provide training and experience in job skills, work habits, teamwork and leadership to students with emotional, behavioral, developmental or intellectual disabilities.

St. Joseph's Villa's CATS program prepares students for more productive adult lives. The program consists of a series of steps to prepare students for workplace employment: assessments, goal development, in-class training, on-campus internships and off-campus work. More than forty students took part in the program during the 2010-2011 school year, and more students are expected to take part in the program this year.

Students at St. Joseph's Villa are currently in internships in Culinary Services, Administrative Services, Materials Management, Recycling, Environmental Services, Information Technology, and Customer Service and Merchandising in the Villa's Donation Center.

For more information about Career and Transition Services at St. Joseph's Villa, please visit [www.NeverStopBelieving.org/cats](http://www.NeverStopBelieving.org/cats) or call Matthew Kreydatus at (804) 553-3224.

**Employers Wanted!** St. Joseph's Villa is looking for area employers who are willing to give an at-risk child a chance. The Villa's Career and Transition Services program trains students to get (and keep) a good job. The program assesses each child, gives him (or her) classroom instruction and then places the student in various work environments around the Villa's 82-acre campus.

Now we need the next step. Our students are willing and able to prove themselves in an actual work environment. We would love to meet with area employers to discuss how our students (and counselors) could help them reduce labor expenses while helping a student get real work experience. And, thanks to several grants, we are in the position to reimburse employers for wages paid to our students.

If you are an employer, or if you know someone who is, please consider how much you could do to help our students. They are great kids; they just need someone to give them a chance.

Please call Matt Kreydatus at (804) 553-3224 to discuss the program and to set up an appointment. Thank you!

Students at Dooley Elementary School got an eyeful when Henrico County firefighters visited in early October.

Students were able to see all of the many parts which are normally on a fire engine and learn how they are used in an emergency situation.

Thank you for helping us teach our students about fire safety!

At right, Nate learns how firefighters put on their oxygen masks properly.



Students and staff from Brook Road Academy represented the school and St. Joseph's Villa well at the 9th annual Maymont X-Country Festival on Friday, September 23, 2011.

Congratulations, team!

Left to right: Logan, Talbott, Ben Walters, Chase, Ben and Nathan Andes

Students at Brook Road Academy have yet another reason to get to school these days: yoga classes have been added to the program!

Each week, a trained instructor from Project Yoga Richmond works with students and teachers to help them learn how to stretch and relax. Fun!



St. Joseph's Villa launched its 2012 Employees Annual Fund drive with its "Kickin' It for Kids" kickball tournament on October 10, 2011.

More than fifty employees took part in the tournament, and to date, employees have contributed (or pledged) more than \$14,000 in support of the campaign. Wow!



On October 12, more than 25 vendors arrived at St. Joseph's Villa to inform Villa employees about various services in the community. Most of the vendors had information about health services, but several other companies provided information on financial services and community resources.

St. Joseph's Villa holds an Employee Health Fair each year to help employees learn ways to improve their lives. If you are interested in participating in next year's Health Fair, please contact Mike Leach, Head of Human Resources at [mleach@sjvmail.net](mailto:mleach@sjvmail.net)

Teams from Target Stores gathered on October 27 for a day of friendly competition and team building. The teams got to take part in fun activities such as a Cornhole Tournament, a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, a Mile Run, Volleyball, Frisbee Golf and a Puddin' Drop.

If your group is interested in having a team building day at the Villa, please contact Craig Hedley, Villa Director of Community Partnerships, at (804)553-3226 or via email at [chedley@sjvmail.net](mailto:chedley@sjvmail.net).



Villa employees gathered recently to thank (via telephone) Larry and Anne Page for their gift of \$150,000 in support of the *Believing is Seeing* campaign, bringing total commitments to \$8,957,129.

Vice President of Financial Development David Huffine (standing) led the chorus of "Thank you!" for the Pages.

Construction is moving rapidly to the Northern side of the Villa campus.

At right, the new Central Garden around the Dooley Monument has been constructed and below, the Pedestrian Mall has progressed from behind Dooley School to the rear of the Administration Building.



### More cute Halloween pictures!



## Upcoming Events at St. Joseph's Villa

Thursday, November 24 (Noon) – **Thanksgiving Dinner** hosted by St. Peter Baptist Church for Villa staff, clients and families. RSVP to Catherine Stanley (521-5577) by November 10.

## Volunteer News from St. Joseph's Villa

Due to construction, **The Donation Center is CLOSED until mid-January 2012.**

NEW Holiday gift donations and coats for children and adults will be accepted at a temporary space here on our campus by appointment only beginning Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>-Dec.21<sup>st</sup>. As our construction draws to an end updates will be posted announcing the grand re-opening of the St. Joseph's Villa Donation Center.



Volunteers from Capital One visited the Villa on October 12 to freshen up the Donation Center. Volunteers dropped off pantry supplies and hygiene items and also painted the floor in half of the Center.

Please remember that the Donation Center will be closed until mid-January 2012, due to construction. Until then, we will be able to accept donations **ONLY** for the Season of Hope holiday gift program.

Many thanks to the team members from Starbucks stores on Brook Road and in Ashland for donating their time and energy to help the Villa on HandsOn Day, October 29.

The team members finished painting the Villa's Donation Center and helped organize some of our smaller storage areas in advance of the Center's mid-January re-opening.

Thank you so much! The Donation Center looks great!

And if you helped during HandsOn Day, thank you for making the Richmond community a better place to live, work and play!





A group of alumni from Virginia State University took on a wonderful project for the fall: collecting coats for the mothers and children in the Villa's Flagler Family Services programs.

If your group is looking for worthwhile nonprofit to support, please consider St. Joseph's Villa. Catherine Stanley, the Villa's Manager of Volunteer and Community Resources, would be happy to speak with you and tell you about the wonderful programs at the Villa which might appeal to your group. You can reach Catherine by calling (804) 521-5577 or by sending an email to [cstanley@sjvmail.net](mailto:cstanley@sjvmail.net). Thank you!



## St. Joseph's Villa 2011 Season of Hope Program

Holiday traditions new and old are formed right here among our families and the staff with the hope that this special time of year will bring peace and joy to their lives. St. Joseph's Villa is proud to be able to provide special gifts with the help from our community for the children and families serve through our programs. Please join us in participating in the **2011 Season of Hope Program**. There are many opportunities to include our children and families in your holiday planning. Here's how you can help:

- You can sponsor a child or adult and fulfill their holiday wish list.
- You can volunteer your time to host a classroom party, organize gift donations and much more.
- You can make a financial contribution to support the Season of Hope Program, contributions should be made payable to St. Joseph's Villa, c/o Catherine Stanley, Season of Hope—noted in the memo.
- You can coordinate a collection drive for coats or non-perishable foods for our service pantries.

Contact Catherine Stanley, 521-5577 or [cstanley@sjvmail.net](mailto:cstanley@sjvmail.net) to confirm your holiday support.

### 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 [our website](#) Thank you!

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