The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) annually recognizes proven programs and significant achievements in ending child and family homelessness. This year, NAEH presented the Villa’s Flagler Housing & Homeless Services with the national Champion of Change Award at the Newseum in Washington, DC. Flagler was the only nonprofit honoree in the nation.

Flagler completed its transition from an on-campus shelter to the community-based model of rapid re-housing in 2013, and was one of the nation’s first rapid re-housing service providers to be certified by NAEH. Today through rapid re-housing, Flagler serves triple the number of households at a third of the cost, and with higher success rates. More than 600 households—about 1,500 individuals—throughout Central Virginia have been rapidly re-housed by Flagler.

“Rapid re-housing is successful because it fills people’s most urgent need of housing stability first. It preserves the dignity of individuals and families who have fallen on hard times, and gives them motivation to regain self-sustainability,” said Kathleen Burke Barrett, CEO of St. Joseph’s Villa.

In addition to NAEH, partners that supported Flagler’s transition include Homeward, the Department of Housing and Community Development, HUD, United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg, The Community Foundation, The Cameron Foundation, Wells Fargo, John Randolph Foundation, City of Richmond Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and the Virginia Nonprofit Housing Coalition.

On any given night there are nearly 128,000 children in the United States who are homeless, according to NAEH. NAEH’s Annual Awards Ceremony is aimed to heighten the national conversation on the importance of ending homelessness for children and their families. It is a national event attended by representatives of Congress and the Administration, corporate executives, and other committed stakeholders.
Family reaches turning point with Villa Crisis Stabilization Unit

Maria is a 9-year-old who was admitted to the Villa’s Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) after four hospitalizations in the span of two months due to suicide attempts and self-harming behavior. Her suicide attempts were impulsive and extreme in nature. She reported that every time she had a suicidal thought, she had attempted it. There was a suspected history of sexual abuse, but it was unknown by whom.

CSU staff worked with Maria and her mother to identify the contributing factors to her unsafe thoughts, process past experiences of grief and trauma, and identify new coping skills. During family therapy sessions, Maria and her mother improved their understanding of one another by realizing their stressors, verbalizing their frustrations, and developing supportive responses.

Being assertive is difficult for most people, and takes a lot of courage for a 9-year-old child. Due to the trust that Maria developed with her mother and CSU staff, she disclosed two significant traumatic incidents of sexual abuse. Maria had never told anyone about these incidents prior to coming to the CSU, and was relieved to talk about them in a safe environment. Her clinician reported the incidents to CPS and supported the family with processing them.

Maria’s family was linked to wraparound services in the community, including case management, intensive in-home services, and school support plans. Maria left the CSU with a positive sense of self and hope for her future. Maria’s mother wrote, “You [CSU] always gave me a comfort level. You all have done more for her in 15 days than her one year with in-home treatment has done. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Crisis Stabilization Unit expands and relocates

Mental health services are one of the Villa’s fastest growing areas. In order to increase service capacity and meet the community need, our Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) has relocated to the south end of the Villa campus at 7700 Brook Road.

Last year the CSU served 139 children ages 5 to 17 in mental health crisis needing temporary out-of-home placement. Of these children, 91% were diverted from unnecessary hospitalization.

The CSU’s new location allows for the increase from six beds to eight. It also houses a kitchen, dining area, and two recreation rooms. A recent $30,000 grant from the Jenkins Foundation helped make this expansion possible.

Maria’s family was linked to wraparound services in the community, including case management, intensive in-home services, and school support plans. Maria left the CSU with a positive sense of self and hope for her future. Maria’s mother wrote, “You [CSU] always gave me a comfort level. You all have done more for her in 15 days than her one year with in-home treatment has done. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

*Name changed to protect privacy
Teresa didn’t realize how much she could enjoy school before coming to Brook Road Academy at St. Joseph’s Villa. “It’s so calming here. I’m not stressed like I was at other schools,” she said. Along with her classmates and teachers, she loves the Villa’s Career and Transition Services (CATS) program. Through CATS, Teresa is pursuing her dream of becoming a professional cake decorator. She works on decorating techniques three days a week in the Villa’s Culinary Arts Center. CATS has made it possible for her to apply those skills through hands-on learning experiences at local bakeries.

Since arriving at Brook Road Academy this year, Teresa has worked at Edible Arrangements, Panera Bread, Sub Rosa Bakery and Zosaro’s Cakes & Pastries. “I really like working with chocolate,” she said. Her inspiration comes from watching baking shows on TV. One day she hopes to open her own business called “TT’s Cupcakes” (or T’s Cupcakes—she hasn’t decided). She’s even drawn up a logo for it!

From cake design to modeling fondant, Teresa will continue building her culinary prowess through graduation. For her senior project, she will create the cake for her class’s graduation banquet. CATS is also helping her work toward her ServSafe certification for safe food preparation. Teresa has set her sights high for life after school, and we can’t wait to see where she goes from here.

“By providing both training and on-site work experience, CATS has given Teresa, as well as many other students from Brook Road Academy, numerous opportunities to showcase their talents as well as gain experience no matter what their career aspirations may be.”

—Jeff Carretto, Head of Academy
Villa receives its largest-ever challenge grant from the Cabell Foundation

We are excited and deeply grateful to announce the award of a $750,000 challenge grant from the Cabell Foundation, the largest challenge grant in the Villa’s history! This grant will support capital priorities and renovations to our historic campus and will be awarded once we raise the matching funds, with a deadline of December 31, 2017.

Campus upgrades to be supported by the grant include roof repairs, energy efficient windows, waterproofing, and new sustainable air conditioning systems. It will also support the redevelopment our historic Dooley School building into a state-of-the-art Center for Autism.

“These restorations will ensure that our buildings continue to provide a high quality environment where children and families can learn, heal and grow,” said Villa CEO Kathleen Burke Barrett.

This new award offers more than just a financial boost. It is an opportunity for the Villa to raise awareness, attract new supporters, and launch a period of concentrated activity as we strive to meet and exceed our goal.

Students create Learning & Therapy Garden sculpture with ART180

Students are constructing a tree sculpture from metal cast over clay. Every aspect down to the individual leaves was designed entirely by Villa youth. They chose a tree to symbolize how they have come into bloom during their time at the Villa.

Support from ART180 enables our students to show their creativity while building self-confidence and real life skills. The sculpture will be installed before the end of the school year, and will remain for others to enjoy in years to come.
**Adult Day Support launches at the Villa**

St. Joseph's Villa now offers a Day Support Program that provides weekday care and pre-vocational training to individuals 18 and older who have a diagnosed intellectual disability. The program focuses on helping participants develop social, communication, and living skills so they can integrate with their communities and live as independently as possible. Participants have access to campus work centers that provide hands-on job experience, including a culinary training kitchen, recycling program, and Donation Center that simulates a department store, among others. Day Support also partners with local nonprofits and businesses that offer training and volunteer opportunities. With a low staff-to-client ratio, Day Support services are structured to meet each individual's physical and emotional needs.

**VCU mentors introduce Villa students to film production**

It's often taken for granted that people have the ability to capture and share videos right at their fingertips. For our students who don't have access to a cell phone or home computer, gaining multimedia skills can be a major challenge. Freshmen in VCU’s Service Learning Class in the Department of Focused Inquiry have set out to bridge that gap. Volunteer “near-peer” mentors from VCU are teaching Villa youth how to use different devices to take and edit videos for creative expression as well as formal presentations.

For the past three years, VCU has partnered with our Career and Transition Services to provide experiences that will ignite our students’ passions and prepare them for college or a career path. During the school year, VCU and Villa students worked together in small groups. Each group produced two movies that were later presented at fall and spring film festivals held in VCU’s Academic Learning Commons. Throughout the process, Villa students experienced first-hand the resources that universities like VCU can offer to help them pursue their goals.

In a presentation to the Villa Board of Trustees in March, VCU students expressed that their mentorship with the Villa has been mutually beneficial. “You form such great relationships,” said Taylor Georgalas, a VCU mentor who one day hopes to start a business helping individuals with disabilities find employment.

VCU mentors have collectively volunteered more than 2,400 hours with Villa students this school year. In 2016, VCU recognized the collaboration with the Currents of Chance Award for Exemplary Partnership in Teaching.
Villa participates in Summer Food Service Program to aid with food insecurity

Proper nutrition is critical to health, positive behavior and learning, which is why St. Joseph’s Villa takes great care to provide children with healthy and balanced meals. Many Villa kids face food insecurity when school is not in session. With support from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), we will continue to ensure they get the nourishment they need year-round. SFSP provides federal funding to programs feeding children, and nationally serves two million children a day.

The Villa provides 70,000 meals each year at no cost to families. Our Culinary Center also provides emergency food supplies to households in crisis, averaging about 100 meals a year.

Capital One employees donated 100 stockings, 115 Welcome Home kits for formerly homeless families, and $3,000 in grocery and department store gift cards.

Dorothy Hill, manager of commercial strategy and delivery for Capital One, has volunteered with the Villa for more than 15 years. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to give back and to actually see the benefit of what St. Joseph’s is doing. It’s a win-win,” she said in Boomer Magazine’s March/April Giving Back article, written by Lisa Schaffner.

Capital One’s head of client solutions, Karl Werwath, serves as chair of the Villa Board of Trustees.

In just the last six months, Capital One has gotten involved in new ways that harness the expertise of their staff, including consulting on A/V upgrades to optimize Villa conference room space, and joining a steering committee to hire and retain Qualified Mental Health Professionals. We are grateful for the many ways Capital One supports our families and strengthens our community.

The Villa’s partnership with Capital One extends back many years. Capital One generously contributes time and resources throughout the year for the benefit of our children and families—especially during our Season of Hope.

This past holiday season, Capital One volunteers gave 1,115 hours between organizing donations and throwing fun-filled holiday parties for Villa kids. In addition to sponsoring 113 children and teenagers with gifts and necessities, Capital One teams delivered and organized truckloads of holiday gifts and necessities for Villa families in need.

Partner Spotlight:

Capital One®

Capital One teams delivered and organized truckloads of holiday gifts and necessities for Villa families in need.
It’s easier than you think.

Since 1834, St. Joseph’s Villa has helped children overcome seemingly impossible challenges and grow into healthy, productive adults. Each year more than 3,000 children and families benefit from your generosity, but what about countless others who will rely on Villa programs in years to come?

By making a gift in your will to St. Joseph’s Villa today, you are ensuring that children and families of future generations will have access to groundbreaking services that help them reach their full potential. All it takes to get started is a conversation. You may be surprised at how the impact of your gift can last forever.

Contact us to learn more about establishing your legacy at St. Joseph’s Villa:
www.NeverStopBelieving.org/Foundation | 804-553-3220
Under Construction:
Shade Pavilion for Villa youth

St. Joseph’s Villa and Henrico CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) work in partnership to serve the community’s most vulnerable children. The Villa campus has hosted CASA’s Superhero Run for the past seven years, and now, thanks to CASA, our campus will soon have a new resource to enhance the physical and mental health of Villa children and families. CASA is donating a shaded pavilion that will provide a comfortable space for outdoor exercise, including gymnastics and therapeutic yoga. The pavilion will be a key feature of a planned physical fitness playground for older youth.

We’re so excited about all the ways this gift from CASA will benefit those we serve. We also thank Glave & Holmes Architecture, Davis & Green Electrical, and Mark Franko Custom Building for donating construction services.

The pavilion is being built within a playground area on the north end of the Villa campus.