



## HOUSING CHANGES EVERYTHING

**Clarence, homeless for 8 years, rebuilds his life under his own roof**

*Housing Stabilization Case Manager Andrea Alston and Clarence in Flagler's new Richmond office.*

**W**hen Clarence lost his home, he lost his self-esteem with it. He felt so ashamed of having nowhere to stay that he cut ties with his family for eight years.

"I didn't want my children to know I was homeless all that time," said Clarence. "I didn't want them to see me the way I was. When you get to be my age, you don't like asking people for things."

Alone at 67 years old with only the clothes on his back, Clarence found himself living in the rain, under bridges, behind buildings and on concrete floors,

constantly battling illness. He was at the point of giving up, until he was referred to Flagler Housing & Homeless Services at St. Joseph's Villa. Housing Stabilization Case Manager Andrea Alston began working with him right away.

**"My life began when I found Flagler," said Clarence. "I'd probably be in jail or dead today if it wasn't for them."**

Andrea helped Clarence apply for jobs as the Flagler team searched for an apartment. Clarence didn't have a

formal education, but overcame that barrier with Andrea's support. He gained employment in jail and prison ministry, which he sees as a way to pay it forward. Now he has a comfortable home, a job he loves, and hope for his future.

Today, at 75, Clarence has reconnected with his children and invited them to his new home. In a place he can call his own, he will meet his grandson for the first time.

"I have so much joy. I know love now, and I'm going to share it."

*Continued on next page.*

## Housing changes everything (con't)

Flagler has found safe, stable housing for more than **3,000 youth, adults and seniors** like Clarence through rapid re-housing. Rapid re-housing has a high success rate because it addresses people's most basic and urgent need of housing first. Additional services including short-term financial assistance, case management, employment training, and budgeting assistance are available to help individuals and families remain housed and live healthy, independent lives.

### We've moved!

Flagler's Richmond services are now based on the GRTC Pulse line in Willow Lawn to better serve our community. During a recent open house, our partners met Flagler staff and heard Clarence share his inspirational journey.



## Joining our partners in advocacy

Villa program staff advocated for budget priorities in support of the children and families we serve during the 2019 Virginia General Assembly. We joined hundreds of service providers, parents, and nonprofit leaders from across the Commonwealth at Mental Health Advocacy Day and State Housing Day. Many thanks to our legislators who took the time to engage with us!



*Credit: Voices for Virginia's Children*

## Villa launches Mobile Crisis Stabilization

Under our umbrella of community-based services, Mobile Crisis Stabilization (MCS) is a new program providing short-term mental health care for both children and adults at risk for hospitalization. We also mobilize community resources, family members, and other supports for ongoing rehabilitation and recovery.



More than 215,000 Virginians experienced a mental health issue in 2017. **Virginia currently ranks 49th in the nation for number of psychiatric beds per capita.** MCS helps fill the gap by bringing counselors and clinicians to people's homes.

Strength-based and person-centered, MCS highlights clients' resilience, capacity to problem-solve, and ability to engage in post-traumatic growth.

MCS opened its first case in February 2019, and was able to successfully prevent a 12-year-old from psychiatric hospitalization through two weeks of intensive treatment. Diagnosed with Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder, the child was at risk of being removed from his current home and school placements due to escalating aggressive behaviors and complaints of auditory hallucinations.

The MCS treatment team provided individual counseling aimed at building adaptive skill sets, and engaged in care coordination with the child's psychiatrist to stabilize life at home. His mother expressed that MCS had provided "great relief and support" during their time of crisis.

MCS operates in addition to the Villa's Crisis Stabilization Unit, an eight-bed, on-campus facility for youth experiencing mental health crisis and in need of temporary out-of-home placement. Learn more about our mental health services at **[www.NeverStopBelieving.org](http://www.NeverStopBelieving.org)**.

# NBC12 awards teacher Michelle Hughey for Excellence in Education

Teacher Michelle Hughey has changed hundreds of lives at our Sarah Dooley Center for Autism over the past 13 years. For her unrelenting dedication and compassion, NBC12 surprised her with their Excellence in Education Award.

Michelle gives her all to every student and makes the most of every teachable moment. She works with some of our largest, most severely impacted students. Last year, one of her non-verbal students was unable to walk into a room with people. At his graduation ceremony, he walked through the Villa chapel filled with people and applause—with Michelle at his side. His parents described this as the happiest day of their lives, noting they didn't invite anyone else because they never expected their son to make an appearance.

"Michelle has a calmness about her, almost like a peacefulness that is contagious," said Adam Dreyfus, senior director of the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism. "These kids are sensitive

to anxiety and people getting upset, and she just keeps an ocean of calm around her that is infectious."

The award was presented by NBC12's Anthony Antoine and representatives from Henrico Federal Credit Union.



*Michelle helps students build skills so they can live with as much independence as possible after graduation.*



## Vision To Learn brings brighter futures into focus at the Villa

Did you know more than 2 million children in the U.S. don't have the glasses they need to see the board, read a book, or participate in class?

Vision To Learn changes that. In partnership with schools and nonprofits like St. Joseph's Villa, they make sure students in low-income communities can reach their full potential by having access to proper eye care.

The Villa was visited by Vision To Learn's mobile clinic for three days, where licensed optometrists provided free eye exams and glasses to Villa students in need.

**58% of Villa students screened received glasses.**

It takes a community to change lives. Our students are able to overcome their individual challenges with support from places like Vision To Learn.

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Newspaper clipping of Major Dooley's transformative bequest

## How planned giving prepares the Villa for a future of service

The Villa's capacity for service through 20 different programs today stems from planned gifts early in our history. Civil War Doctor Daniel Hopkins Gregg and Richmond philanthropist Major Dooley left bequests that supported the establishment of our therapeutic campus in the 1930s—then the first Villa-style orphanage on the east coast. While our services have evolved over the last century, the lasting impact of planned giving will be felt by our children and families for generations to come.

Every success of the Villa today is the product of generous individual philanthropy past and present. The community's investment in the Villa's Endowment allows us to continually expand the reach our programs and anticipate emerging needs.

We are grateful to share a recent **\$1,000,000** planned gift from an anonymous supporter and a **\$400,000** planned gift from Mary Temple Murrill will provide stability to the Villa and the lives of the people we serve far into the future.

“Large planned gifts make the headlines, but that can give the wrong idea,” said Villa VP for Advancement David Huffine. “Year after year, charitable bequests in the U.S. average in the \$25,000-\$30,000 range, something much more attainable to most people.” Huffine is available to assist Villa supporters considering planned giving.

Planned giving is as valuable in our work today as current giving, and much more valuable in the long-term. Not only do bequests provide stability to the Villa and the people we serve, they also offer a way for our donors' values to live on forever.



When most people think of planned giving, they think about bequests. But an insurance policy or retirement account beneficiary designation—or contingent beneficiary designation—can be just as effective, and sometimes an easier way to make sure one's philanthropic values live on.

By making a gift in your estate plan for 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 easy it is to give a gift and make an impact that can last forever.

Contact us to learn about establishing your legacy at St. Joseph's Villa:  
[www.NeverStopBelieving.org/Foundation](http://www.NeverStopBelieving.org/Foundation) • 804-553-3220

# New campus resources open to meet critical student needs



**FEED  
MORE**

Our Career and Transition Services (CATS) team works with students from every Villa school to help them build skills for college and the workforce. CATS students also benefit from the generosity of more than 40 community partners that provide real-world work, training, education and networking opportunities. But even with these supports, it's an immense challenge for students to look toward their futures when immediate needs like food and clothing aren't being met at home. The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation and FeedMore have partnered with the Villa to eliminate these barriers to success.

## The Villa Grocery

The Villa's culinary services provide 115,000 meals to students every year. Many kids rely on the Villa for food, and don't know where or when their next meal will come when school is out. In partnership with FeedMore, CATS opened the Villa Grocery, a client-choice food pantry, to make sure no student or family goes hungry.

"Everyone has emergencies and goes through difficult times," said CATS director Matthew Kreydatus. "We want to end the stigma about needing food."

In its first month, the Villa Grocery distributed 1,500 pounds of healthy produce and non-perishable food to more than 70 students. FBI Richmond, Godwin High School, and Villa staff have kept the shelves full by donating a combined 1,250 pounds.

Along with meeting student needs, the Villa Grocery and Loads of Love laundry facilities will serve as job training sites. CATS students will have the opportunity to learn about inventory management, budgeting, shopping, and customer service—all while helping their peers. What better way to grow?

## Loads of Love

The Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation selected the Villa as a grant recipient of its Loads of Love program. The program installs laundry facilities in schools and nonprofit organizations so children experiencing homelessness or unstable living situations can access clean clothes at no cost to their families.

The Villa created three on-campus facilities with funding from Loads of Love, outfitted with new washers and dryers, folding stations, supplies and washable laundry bags that students can take to and from school.

By making sure every student has clean clothes, Loads of Love increases students' confidence and self-esteem while improving school attendance and participation.

*Above: CATS student Ashley stocks Villa Grocery shelves with items from FeedMore.*

*Below: Dooley Center for Alternative Education and CATS teams celebrate the opening of new laundry facilities in Cottage 2.*



## Gaby hits her stride at the Villa's Center for Autism

Heather used to be called multiple times a week to pick up her daughter Gaby from school. She rarely finished a school day as behaviors continued to escalate year after year. In search of a place that

would meet Gaby's unique academic and social needs, Heather determined the Villa's Sarah Dooley Center for Autism as the best fit. Gaby has been thriving here and in the community ever since.

"The whole support system is amazing," said Heather. "They get Gaby out into the community, she works at the Villa Donation Center, and once a week they

go on an outing to a restaurant."

Gaby has a dual diagnosis of down syndrome and autism. School used to be a place of isolation for her. Now, it's a place where she is building relationships with teachers and classmates, learning to communicate, and experiencing more of the world around her.

**Last year Gaby passed all five of her SOL (Standards Of Learning) tests, receiving advanced scores on three of them.**

"I was looking for an environment that would accept her for who she was, no matter what, whether the good, the bad, or the ugly. Now she's happy, she's learning, and her goals are higher."

Every day, Villa students like Gaby receive community-based instruction so they can successfully integrate with society after graduation. Off-campus therapeutic and educational opportunities enable them to develop long-term life skills, and for Gaby, the change is clear today.



*Gaby (right) enjoys a walk through the Villa campus with counselor Kirsten Ellis.*



## Villa transitions to Trauma Informed Organization

Trauma comes in many forms. As researchers have learned how trauma affects the developing brain and manifests in harmful behaviors, Trauma Informed Care (TIC) has emerged as a set of principles that promotes a culture of safety, sensitivity, and healing. In practice, TIC helps service providers build stronger connections with clients while supporting growth and learning.

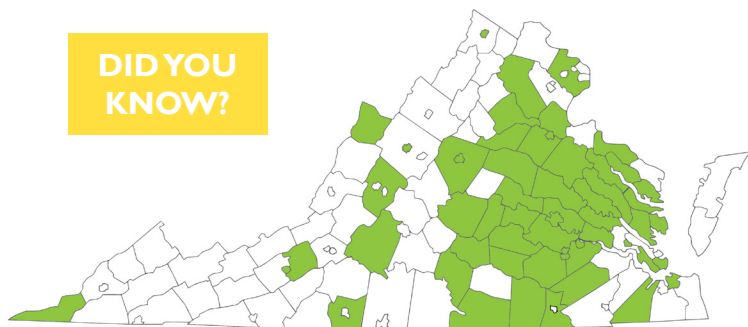
With funding from the Jenkins Foundation, the Villa is collaborating with Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) to integrate TIC at all levels of

our organization. SCAN leads agencies across the region through the process of implementing Trauma Informed practices, and is conducting a Villa-wide assessment of our organizational strengths and areas for potential change.

Childhood trauma can have a devastating impact on physical and mental health across a lifetime—but recovery is possible. We know that there are qualities and skills that allow people to overcome trauma, and not just survive, but find new purpose and meaning in their lives. By continuing to adapt our clinical strategies, environment, and procedures, we can give every child and family we serve a sense of comfort, and hope.

TIC@SJV

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# 59 localities

throughout Virginia.

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## Partner Spotlight

# Virginia Public Schools

We are proud to partner with Central Virginia's public school systems. 100% of our Dooley School and Sarah Dooley Center for Autism students are placed with us by public schools. Together, we address individual behavioral challenges and specialized education needs that are

unable to be met with existing public school resources.

Our goal is to give our students the skills they need to successfully transition back to their zoned public schools, where they can be in their community with neighbors and siblings. Last year, a total of 16 Villa students returned to public school.

All of our teachers are licensed by the Virginia Department of Education. In recent years, we have begun training local public school teachers and graduate students on best-practice approaches to working with students with autism. The ripple effect of these trainings has the potential to touch thousands of students' lives. We plan to grow our training programs in the future, and look forward to our continued partnership with public schools to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

*Pictured: Director of Community Partnerships Craig Hedley tours Henrico County leadership: Supervisor Frank Thornton, Superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools Dr. Amy Cashwell, Superintendent for Finance and Administration Chris Sorensen, and School Equity and Diversity Director Monica Manns.*

## Inside:

### HOUSING CHANGES EVERYTHING

**Clarence turns his life around  
after 8 years on the street**

### MOBILE CRISIS STABILIZATION

**Villa launches community-based  
program for children and adults**

### NEW CAMPUS RESOURCES

**Introducing the Villa Grocery and  
Loads of Love laundry facilities**

We never stop believing in children and their families.

## St. Joseph's Villa Board of Trustees

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## Adult Day Support delivers Meals on Wheels

Education doesn't stop after high school at the Villa. Every Monday, nearly two dozen participants in our Adult Day Support program make a difference in their community and gain life skills by volunteering with Meals On Wheels. While delivering meals to local neighbors in need, they are learning customer service, interacting with people, and building relationships.

"Meals on Wheels is such a valuable partnership for our clients," said A'Isha Talib, Day Support program manager. "The program enables us to get out into the community and provide people a valuable service. It's rewarding all around."



In addition to off-campus training and volunteer opportunities like Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Support clients have access to the Villa's work training centers that include our Culinary Arts Center, Learning & Therapy Garden, and recycling program.