



Students wielded shovels alongside Villa leadership to celebrate the Center's groundbreaking on June 5, 2019.

St. Joseph's Villa has been at the forefront of autism education for 40 years. In that time, there has been a sharp, nationwide increase in the number of students diagnosed with autism. Locally, the Virginia Department of Education reports an increase of about 12% each year over the last decade. With a deepening need for data-driven education, therapy and research, the Villa is transforming its 24,000 sq. ft. school building into the new Sarah Dooley Center for Autism (SDCA).

Redeveloping SDCA builds on the Villa's partnership with public schools and

commitment to helping students with autism successfully integrate with their communities. The new facility is designed to serve as a model for autism-specific classrooms that can be replicated in public school systems with existing resources.

A new Campus Center housed within SDCA will provide a flexible space to host trainings for public school teachers, parents, pediatricians, and other professionals who work with children with autism. While SDCA will serve up to 96 students at a time, these trainings have the potential to impact thousands of lives throughout Virginia.

"The Sarah Dooley Center for Autism will be a state-of-the-art venue for attracting new community partners and experts in autism to the region," said Kathleen Burke Barrett, CEO of St. Joseph's Villa.

The new SDCA will open during the 2020-2021 school year.

A \$9 million project, SDCA's renovation is part of the Villa's \$25 million **RiseUP Campaign** for programmatic support, campus-wide upgrades, and endowment provisions that will raise our future of service to new heights.

More on SDCA and RiseUP on the next page.

RISEUP

THE VILLA'S CAMPAIGN FOR NEW HORIZONS



The Villa campus opened in 1931 and remains one of our most powerful tools in helping vulnerable children learn, grow, and heal.

Our **\$25 million RiseUP Campaign** will preserve and improve our campus so that it continues evolving as a therapeutic resource. Upgrades to our campus will allow us to increase our service capacity and launch innovative new programs to meet the future needs of our community.

Friends like you make it possible for children and families to reach new horizons every day at St. Joseph's Villa. Rise up with us at www.SJVRiseUP.org.

Autism Center

The number of students appearing on the autism spectrum is growing rapidly. Our new Sarah Dooley Center for Autism will serve as a training hub for teachers and professionals, and as a replicable model for public schools with their existing resources and infrastructure. Over time, the ripple effect of teacher trainings will touch tens of thousands of lives.

Capital Upgrades

Villa-wide capital improvements will bring a higher level of accessibility, customer service, and comfort for all children and families as we continue to grow our programs. Planned upgrades include a therapeutic Youth Fitness Park, critical repairs to our historic buildings, advanced operations technology, and efficient heating and cooling.

Current Funds

Everyone can succeed with the right tools and support. With 19 integrated programs, we are uniquely positioned to take a collaborative approach to serving the whole child and their family. Gifts to our New Day Fund make an immediate difference to individuals in every Villa program as they explore and realize their full potential.

Endowment

Increasing our Endowment will enable us to meet the rising demands for health and human services, and look beyond the immediate costs of programs to anticipate the needs of the future. The Endowment provides for the long-term financial stability of the Villa, especially in difficult economic times when those we serve need us most.

The Future Sarah Dooley Center for Autism



Lobby



Campus Center



Classroom



The new Autism Center exterior features an accessible entrance.

Joey expanded his horizons at the Villa

Every school day used to be the same for Joey. He would come to school with a very fixed set of interests, and when those were taken away, he would respond with severe, aggressive behaviors. Trusting relationships weren't part of his experience. Then Joey began at the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa.

With the encouragement of his teacher, John Bellows, Joey soon realized that school could be a safe, fun place. John met Joey's behaviors head-on, challenging him to reach his full potential.

"We wanted Joey to feel respected, and understand that we care about him," said John.

Building communication skills and trust with SDCA staff gave Joey the courage to branch out and discover new interests through Community Based Instruction. On any given week, you'll find him working diligently in the Community Kitchen Garden at Lewis Ginter, trying new foods at restaurants with his friends, and shopping independently for classroom supplies. Now school for Joey means engaging in new experiences and gaining skills that he can apply at home with his family. Later this year, Joey will return to his neighborhood school prepared to reach new horizons.

Joey celebrated another new beginning this past June as he, along with other Villa students, wielded a shovel and broke ground on the Villa's new Center for Autism. It was a powerful moment for John.

"I could see that he felt independent. He knew he was doing it himself. That's why we're here. He's a fantastic young man, and I'm proud of him."



John (left) and Joey (right)

Career and Transition Services boost aspiring entrepreneurs

Sam Brook Road Academy

Sam, a senior at the Villa's Brook Road Academy, dreams of opening his own graphic or fashion design business. With help from our Career and Transition Services (CATS), he has fine-tuned his goals and worked toward them in our newest job training center, the Villa Shoppe. His contributions there have allowed his creativity to shine, while making a difference to other students.

Formerly known as the Donation Center, the Villa Shoppe is a place where clients in need can pick out clothes and housewares at no cost to them. Sam has

played a pivotal role in making it welcoming and accessible to everyone. He has come up with new ways to model clothes, and even uses his sewing skills to "upcycle" donated items. Sam also plans to enhance his graphic design portfolio by painting a mural inside the Villa Shoppe entrance.

Sam believes the personalized learning environment of Brook Road Academy, combined with support from CATS staff, has prepared him for the bright future he envisions for himself.

The teachers are very helpful and understanding," said Sam. "They're with you every step of the way."



Mysonne (left) learns about entrepreneurship from mentor Jason Jackson (right).

Mysonne Dooley Center for Alternative Education

With a love for building and math, Mysonne is laying the groundwork for a career in architecture. When CATS staff discovered his plans to start his own company, they connected him with Jason Jackson, owner of Plant Baz vegan burrito bar in downtown Richmond. Jason has served as Mysonne's mentor ever since. While sharing lessons learned as an entrepreneur, Jason also hired Mysonne to gain hands-on experience in the restaurant.

Mysonne says CATS has helped him gain better communication skills, learn to be

more comfortable in his surroundings, and stay on track to meet his goals after graduation.

Until then, Mysonne is continuing to follow his other passion: giving back to his community.

Mysonne serves as a Positive Peer at Dooley School, where he comes up with games to teach younger students life skills like patience and sportsmanship. Outside of school, he volunteers at the Powhatan Community Center.

"I see how people at the Villa like giving back. It makes me want to do the same thing," said Mysonne.

I'm never down when I'm at the Villa. The teachers gave me a better opportunity than what I had before. I'm glad I came here.

- Mysonne

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DID YOU KNOW?

100%



of Day Support youth and adults participated in community outings last year and gave more than **300 hours** of community service.

Capital One donates 5,000 lbs of food to the Villa Grocery



Capital One generously contributes time and resources throughout the year to help our children and families succeed. To make sure no student is held back by hunger, Capital One's Internal Audit Department donated 5,000 lbs of food to the Villa Grocery - that's 5 truck loads, and more than 3,600 cans!

In collaboration with FeedMore and partners like Capital One, the Villa Grocery serves as a client-choice pantry that provides take-home food to families in need. Thank you, Capital One!

How can you help?

Your donation of non-perishable foods helps ensure no Villa child or family goes hungry. Our most needed items include:

- Pop-top canned meals and lean protein
- Pop-top canned fruit and vegetables
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Healthy snacks
- Cereal

For more information, please contact Matthew Kreydatus, Director of Career and Transition Services, at 804-553-3224.

The Villa welcomes...



JAFAR BARAKA

Principal of Dooley School

Jafar began his career as a special education teacher at St. Joseph's Villa in 1999. Since then he has served as teacher, administrator, and principal in Henrico, Chesterfield, Richmond, and Petersburg Public Schools. Jafar attended George Washington University, where he earned a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.



ELIF KALEMDAROGLU

Head of Brook Road Academy

Elif comes to us with 18 years of experience in public education. She previously served as Behavior Intervention Coordinator, Athletic Director, Instructional Coach and Dean of Students for VCU. Elif holds a Master's degree in Leadership in Education, and a Post-Master's certification in K-12 Administration and Supervision from George Washington University.



WILLIAM MCDOWALL

Director of Facilities Management

From Prince George, Virginia and with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from VCU, William has over 10 years of experience managing industrial construction and maintenance projects. Prior to joining the Villa, he developed and executed capital projects for WestRock, and managed construction and maintenance projects for Chicago Bridge & Iron Company.

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Partner Spotlight

Apple
Short Pump
Town Center



The Villa's partnership with Apple extends back nearly ten years, when representatives from the Apple Store in Short Pump Town Center provided IT consulting to enhance educational resources in Villa classrooms, and assisted with implementation.

Over the last decade, their partnership has gone far beyond technology.

The Apple team returns to the Villa campus each year and rolls up their sleeves to volunteer in our Learning & Therapy Garden. They help keep the garden a thriving and dynamic space where students can build vocational skills and learn about their environment. Apple has also taken on new projects like building shelves to organize donated goods in the Villa Shoppe, and assembling book bags for Villa students in need as they embark on a new school year.

"Apple is more than just a tech store. Apple is its people, and welcomes all walks of life. Our community is what makes us a place to learn, and to learn about those who come in," said Tischara Brown, Apple Store Specialist. "St. Joseph's Villa has been an amazing partner, and we enjoy collaborating with them."

To find out how you or your organization can get involved at the Villa, go to www.NeverStopBelieving.org.

Pictured: The Apple Store team volunteers with Career and Transition Services in the Villa's Learning & Therapy Garden

Telepsychiatrist Dr. Ashika Kapoor fills gaps in youth mental health care

For children experiencing trauma or mental health issues, just one more problem can tip the scales and lead to a crisis cycle that puts them at risk for being removed from their home. The Villa's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) engages youth and families in crisis 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Dr. Ashika Kapoor, based in Marlton, New Jersey, is an integral part of the CSU team.

About 300,000 Virginians experience serious mental illness,* but the demand for services far exceeds the number of providers. At the CSU, all youth have daily access to Dr. Kapoor, a licensed child and adolescent psychiatry specialist. Dr. Kapoor has served the CSU for nearly five years through telepsychiatry, and is deeply invested in the program.

**Source: National Alliance on Mental Illness*



Dr. Ashika Kapoor, MD

"The CSU is a great way for some clients to transition from hospital to home," said Kapoor. "They may have had acute mental health issues, then go straight home after discharge. Family stressors can cause crises to reoccur, so allowing families to come in for more treatment makes a big difference for stabilization."

Dr. Kapoor participates in all CSU intakes, learning each parent's concerns and goals for their child. Parents are

welcome to sit in on evaluations, or call with follow-up questions. She believes telepsychiatry provides a meaningful, potentially life-saving service to families, while maintaining a personal touch.

"There are times when kids won't tell you a lot, because they don't know you. With telepsychiatry, having the screen as a barrier can make them comfortable sharing more than they normally may in person," said Kapoor.

The CSU has served more than 1,100 youth and their families since opening in partnership with Richmond Behavioral Health Authority Region IV in 2012. 94% have been diverted from hospitalization or detention.

Dr. Kapoor works with youth on getting to the root of their crisis and developing effective coping skills. To parents with a child experiencing mental health issues, she says don't wait to ask for help.

"Get treatment as early as you can. Parents aren't always aware of what's available. There are a lot of gaps, but a lot of services out there. I'm happy we have the CSU."



Villa joins pilot to reduce youth homelessness in Petersburg

The Villa's Flagler Housing & Homeless Services is partnering with Communities in Schools (CIS) to help students experiencing homelessness stay focused on their education. The School Initiative Pilot Project, launched at Petersburg High School, provides any student without a permanent nighttime residence access to Flagler's rapid re-housing services with a referral from faculty.

"The pilot was created to ensure housing instability would never be an impediment

to school attendance and stable graduation rates," said John Van Zandt, Flagler's Director of Program Operations.

Rapid re-housing helps homeless households obtain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible, and provides supportive services to promote stability, including personal case management, resource referral, landlord mediation, and short-term rental and utility assistance.

The School Initiative Pilot Project is part of the Petersburg City and Schools Partnership, a collaboration between Petersburg City Public Schools, City of Petersburg, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, and service providers like Flagler, to help Petersburg youth prepare for life after school.



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Inside:

RISE UP WITH THE VILLA

**How our campaign will raise the
Villa's future of service to new heights**

FORGING PATHWAYS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

**Career and Transition Services
connect students with unique
opportunities to reach career goals**

TELEPSYCHIATRY AIDS FAMILIES IN CRISIS

**Dr. Ashika Kapoor brings virtual mental
health care to Crisis Stabilization Unit**

We never stop believing in children and their families.

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Youth Fitness Park Expansion Opens

Villa students have a new outlet for exploration and exercise in our expanded Youth Fitness Park, located at the north end of campus. Following the installation of a shaded activity pavilion and modern playground equipment, Phase 2 additions include an outdoor basketball court, accessible exercise equipment, benches, and tree-lined fencing.

Outdoor education and play are critical to children's development and well-being. A healthy release of energy can also reduce the incidence of harmful or disruptive behaviors. The Youth Fitness Park is the Villa's latest therapeutic resource where students can be active and socialize with their peers.

RISE UP

THE VILLA'S CAMPAIGN FOR NEW HORIZONS



Construction was made possible by generous support from Henrico CASA, Henrico County, Altria, Glave & Holmes Architecture, Davis & Green Electrical, and Mark Franko Custom Building. The Youth Fitness Park is part of the Villa's \$25 million RiseUP Campaign. Find out more inside or visit www.SJVRiseUP.org.

