

### Recent Events

The month got off to a great start, with the Lewis Children's Center holding its annual **Trike-a-Thon** in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year's Trike-a-Thon raised \$1,263.75 to support research at the hospital.

Way to go (and go and go)!

Below: Chief Operations Officer Cindy Faison lends a helping hand.



Above: There WAS a slight bottleneck at turn three!



**Chef Pete from Performance Food Group** spent a week working with us in early May. Why does that rate a mention in the Villa newsletter? Because he gave up one week of his vacation time to come help us out!

St. Joseph's Villa works with many other organizations to make Richmond a better community, and we all try to share resources as much as possible. Please feel free to contact Craig Hedley, Director of Community Partnerships, at 553-3226 to discuss how your organization can work with the Villa.

Ann Buhl and Vanessa Hoang (owner of Fabulous Vanessa's on Springfield Road) visited the Flagler Home on May 11 for a **makeover project** to help the mothers learn more about applying makeup. Several moms (and a few children!) took part in the event.

The mothers who take part in our Flagler program really appreciate events like this that help teach them practical living skills. If you or your organization would like to help the women in the Flagler transitional housing program, please contact Tiffany Royall, Volunteer Resources Manager, at 521-5577. Thank you!



Above: Vanessa helps Tiarra apply fingernail polish.



Left: Terri displays the finished product!

More than 400 people attended the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoedown** on Friday, May 11. The event is a fundraiser for the Flagler Home, and it featured bluegrass greats, the Lonesome River Band.

As good as the food and music was, it couldn't hold a candle to Brenda (right), who spoke about her experiences at Flagler Home and how much she has changed as a result of what she learned in the program. Brenda graduated from the program and now has a good job and a new home in the Short Pump area.

Thanks to Brenda, the Lonesome River Band and event sponsor SunTrust for making this Hoedown the best ever!



The **Genworth Foundation Golf Tournament** took place on May 14. More than 180 golfers came out to see PGA Tour professional John Rollins, LPGA Hall of Fame member Juli Inkster and seven other PGA Tour professionals.

The event raised more than \$70,000 to support the Villa and its programs. Thanks to Genworth Foundation for sponsoring the event, and to everyone for making the event so successful!



Above: John Rollins offers some advice during the pros' demonstration.



Left: PGA Tour professionals answer questions during the Breakfast Q&A session. From left to right, Robert Gamez, Tom Pernice Jr., Daniel Chopra, Rich Beem, John Rollins, Aaron Baddeley, and Lucas Glover. Not pictured: Eric Axley.

More than 40 volunteers from two AARP chapters celebrated their **2007 Day of Service** at St. Joseph's Villa on May 14. More than a dozen volunteers helped sort goods in the Donation Center and purge old files in the Villa archives. Thank you!

If your group is looking for a project, please contact Tiffany Royall at 521-5577 to find out all the many ways you can help.



Tamika, one of the mothers in our Flagler Home, held a **Bake Sale** at the Villa on May 14. As part of the Flagler Home program, each mother must carry out a project to help our community. Tamika's project is to beautify the area behind her cottage. Funds from the Bake Sale will be used to purchase the supplies she needs to complete her project. Thank you, Tamika, and good luck with your project!



St. Joseph's Villa began offering **Therapeutic Day Treatment** services at Dooley School at Cherokee Road in late May. Dooley School at Cherokee Road delivers elementary education for higher functioning students with autism, emotional disorders, learning disabilities and other disabilities. The Day Treatment service will complement the program by helping children who also suffer from emotional disturbances.



Residents at **Hollybrook Apartments** held a **cookout** to thank the Henrico County Fire Department for all of its continuing support for the Villa. Residents met with Fire Department officers who provided some great ideas to help residents in the event of a fire.

Two semester-long **projects by VCU students** were completed in May.

Tracey Budden, a graduate student in VCU's Adcenter, completed marketing plans for the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism and Brook Road Academy and presented her findings to Villa staff. Many of her suggestions will be incorporated into the Villa's marketing programs. Special thanks to Villa Trustee Kelly O'Keefe and Adcenter professor Don Just for making Tracey's project so successful!

A team from VCU Health System also worked on a marketing plan for the Villa's Day Support and Respite service. The plan was very thorough, no small feat considering the complex challenges these clients face and the complicated funding process. Special thanks to Roger Neathawk, the team's professor, for bringing the group to us!



Students at the **Sarah Dooley Center for Autism** began working in the Villa's Donation Center in May. In addition to academic instruction, the Sarah Dooley Center teaches students important life and vocational skills, and working in the Donation Center is an important milestone in their education.

Left: Carlye Artis (left) and Shermika arrange clothes for display.

Sandy Shield from Odell Associates presented the Villa's **Master Plan** to the Villa's Board of Trustees and representatives from the Villa Corporation and Villa Foundation Boards at the Trustees' May meeting.



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, June 14 - Asperger's Syndrome support group** will meet from 4-5:30 at Brook Road Academy on the Villa campus. For more information, please contact Amanda Bulbrook at 521-5573.

**Monday, June 18 - Summer camp starts at Lewis Children's Center.** With weekly themes and enjoyable activities, these weekly camp sessions could be just what you and your child are looking for. Contact Carolyn Seay at 553-3244 for more information.

**Monday, June 25 - Summer camp starts at Day Support Center.** Fun, all-day camp experiences for children challenged by learning and developmental disabilities. Call Conchetta Yonaitis at 553-3285 for more information.

**Graduation Ceremonies** will take place in June for many Villa programs. Dates on the calendar include:

- June 5 (6:00 pm) – Flagler Family and Community Services
- June 8 (6:30 pm) – Lewis Children's Center
- June 15 (10:00 am) – Children's Educational Services
- June 16 (10:00 am) – Brook Road Academy

## A Graduation Story

St. Joseph's Villa will hold several commencements during the month of June. None will be more special for us than Sam's\*.

Sam came to the Villa in early 2006. He had fought with teachers and administrators at his local school until, finally, they placed him in the Dooley School at St. Joseph's Villa, a special education program that provides individualized academic and behavioral support so that the student can return to their local public school.

In January, Sam made the transition back to his local school. Just before he left the Villa, Sam told Susan Pokorski, our Supervisor of Academic Instruction, that his teacher made the difference for him.

She's not in it for the money. She is in it to give kids support and to watch them graduate. She has had us working since the second day of school. It's been work, teaching, learning. She has a way of keeping order in the classroom. She has a great mind. And she may look little, but she's one tough cookie.

When Sam returned to his local school, he continued working with Matt Kreydatus and Gene Lee, a vocational specialist and treatment counselor in the Dooley School. They worked with Sam as part of his transitional plan and helped him to control the urges that had gotten him into trouble.

And this month, Sam will graduate from his local high school.

Congratulations, Sam!