

VILLA VIEWS

The Newsletter
of St. Joseph's Villa



TRAINING GROUNDS

Students build career skills in the new Villa Coffee Shop

A student barista greets another happy customer in our latest work training center.

Something special started brewing at the Villa this summer! What began as an idea to teach job skills quickly turned into a campus favorite when our Transition and Wellness team launched the Villa Coffee Shop as the newest work training site on campus. Now, every Thursday, students are serving over 100 cups of coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to excited crowds of staff and their peers, all while learning the ropes of running a business.

More than just a place to grab a drink, the Villa Coffee Shop provides

students hands-on experiences to practice essential job skills in a realistic work setting. Participants in our Career and Transition Services program have the opportunity to engage in customer service, track inventory, and manage a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy.

“It brings the Villa community together,” said Matthew Kreydatus, Senior Director of Transition and Wellness Services. **“The students are not only learning practical skills, they’re also helping to create a gathering space that supports connection.”**

The Coffee Shop evolved from a previous initiative where staff and students traveled around campus with a mobile coffee cart. Seeing the need for a more immersive training environment, the team established a permanent location in Cottage 4. Since then, students in our Dooley School, Dooley Center for Alternative Education, and Sarah Dooley Center for Autism have actively participated in keeping the Coffee Shop running smoothly, from planning seasonal treats to shopping for allergy-friendly menu options.

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Training Grounds (con't)

Students are already laying the groundwork for bigger things at the Coffee Shop in the future. Plans are in motion to showcase student artwork in a rotating gallery, featuring a new “Artist of the Month.” Merchandise like tote bags and hats will also be available for purchase, giving students additional marketing and retail experience. Recently, a TV was installed and connected to Apple Music, which students can use to curate a soundtrack for a cozy coffee shop vibe.

“The increase in work ethic among students has been inspiring to see,” said Garland Guion II, Program Lead of Operations for Career and Transition Services. **“Many students want to stay past their shift because they’re enjoying the experience so much.”**

The Coffee Shop is housed within the Villa’s new Transition and Wellness Center, which also encompasses Culinary Services, the Villa Grocery food pantry, and more work training centers coming soon, including a pizza shop and a podcast studio. Each of these initiatives is designed to equip students with the skills and confidence they need to thrive beyond the classroom. Stay tuned for more exciting developments from the Villa Coffee Shop and other innovative programs coming from the Transition and Wellness Center!



Students prepare Coffee Shop treats in the Cottage 2 kitchen.



GRTC Bus Line Returns to Villa Campus

A GAME-CHANGER FOR CLIENTS, STAFF, AND THE COMMUNITY

For many of our clients, reliable transportation is a lifeline for accessing vital services like mental health counseling, housing assistance, and job training. Being able to reach the Villa campus without travel barriers significantly eases their journey to receive support. This summer, we partnered with the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) to celebrate an exciting expansion of bus service in Henrico County. The new Route 1, now extending north to Parham Road, includes two stops on the Villa campus by our Crisis Stabilization Unit and main entrance – making it easier than ever for individuals and families to get the help they need.

We kicked off the return of the bus line with a community block party on our campus alongside other local service providers. Henrico County Supervisor Roscoe Cooper and Senator Schuyler VanValkenburg joined us and shared their enthusiasm for how this development will benefit the larger Henrico and Richmond communities.

“Transportation connects people to opportunity,” said Senator VanValkenburg.

Previously, GRTC’s Route 1 ran from downtown Richmond up Chamberlayne Avenue to Azalea Avenue. This expansion is estimated to eventually add 20,000 riders on the route each month. GRTC plans to further extend Route 1 later this year, allowing riders to reach Virginia Center Commons and the new Henrico Sports and Events Center.

Our staff are also thrilled to have the bus route back on campus. Many Villa team members commute from different parts of the city and surrounding areas, and the bus line helps our employees save on transportation costs while reducing our collective carbon footprint. It also promotes greater community engagement by making it easier for volunteers and interns to get involved with our programs.

Public transportation goes beyond convenience – it’s a bridge to stability and independence. GRTC’s expanded Route 1 service is poised to make a major impact, not just for the individuals and families we serve at the Villa, but for the broader community. We look forward to seeing this initiative grow, and the positive ripple effects it will bring to our neighbors.



GRTC, Villa, and local officials commemorate the Route 1 expansion with a ribbon-cutting at the community block party.

Celebrating 40 Years of the Innsbrook Classic

A DAY OF GOLF AND GIVING

On May 6th, the 40th Annual Innsbrook Classic brought together 208 golfers at The Federal Club for a day of friendly competition and support for the Villa. With 52 teams, 43 sponsors, and 20+ volunteers and staff, the event raised an incredible **\$124,719** for our children and families.

The morning flight kicked off after a warm welcome from Jane duFrane, President of the Innsbrook Owners Association, followed by PGA Pro Scott Graber's introduction to the tournament rules. Players tackled a variety of challenge holes, including Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin, adding an extra layer of excitement to the competition. There was also a Hole-in-One contest featuring a shiny new Toyota Tacoma for the lucky golfer able to sink the shot.



Scottie Pearman
at the Hole-in-Two
Challenge



Making the day even more memorable was the special appearance by Professional Long Driver Scottie Pearman, ranked #7 in the World Long Drive (WLD) World Rankings and the 2024 WLD Most Improved Open Division Athlete of the Year. Pearman took part in a thrilling Hole-in-Two challenge for a dream trip to Pebble Beach.

Even though weather disrupted the afternoon flight, it did nothing dampen everyone's spirits. Golfers still had a chance to win an exciting array of raffle prizes, including a custom Scotty Cameron Newport 2 putter, a Burly Gather fire pit, and a TaylorMade Qi10 driver.

Thanks to the dedication of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants, the Innsbrook Classic has experienced remarkable growth, with fundraising increasing by 96% since 2021. A special thank you goes to the Innsbrook Owners Association, our Signature Sponsor Page Auto Group, Premier Sponsor Poole and Poole Architecture, the tournament committee, and The Federal Club for their efforts in making this event such a success.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back at the Federal Club for the 41st Annual Innsbrook Classic on **May 12, 2025!**



STAFF ACHIEVEMENT: QUADON MCCULLOUGH

Congratulations to Quadon McCullough on being selected for the **Leadership Metro Richmond** Class of 2025! Quadon began as a classroom counselor in our Sarah Dooley Center for Autism in 2012. She has embraced more leadership roles since then, transitioning to Operations Coordinator, Compliance Coordinator, Program Manager, and now Director of Program Operations. Quadon is an outstanding and invaluable member of our team!





STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CENTRALIZED ADMISSIONS

Matt Sheerin

Admissions and Community Relations Manager

Gaelyn Ames

Admissions Registrar

Matt Sheerin and Gaelyn Ames are often the first friendly faces people see when they arrive at the Villa. This dynamic duo behind the Centralized Admissions office has been working together for four years, making sure every individual and family feels welcomed and supported from the very start. From guiding referrals to managing campus tours, Matt and Gaelyn make each interaction personal and informative.

Each year, their efforts include:

- Responding to over 1,000 inquiries
- Facilitating over 300 formal referrals
- Leading over 130 service tours
- Managing partnerships with two dozen public school divisions

The Admissions team has been essential in maintaining service visibility and promoting the Villa's continued growth through challenging times. Their commitment not only strengthens the Villa's reputation for delivering quality care, but also embodies our motto: "We never stop believing in children and their families."

A New Foundation for Fitness

GYM FLOORS GET A FRESH UPGRADE AFTER 93 YEARS

When first opening its doors in 1931, the Villa gym was a lively venue for dance lessons, roller-skating parties, and thrilling basketball games, where the Villa girls clinched numerous state and local titles. Today, it remains a hub of campus activity, welcoming more than 250 students each week along with community partners who host after-school, evening, and weekend programs. After nearly a century of making memories and multiple resurfacings, the original hardwood floor finally needed replacement.

Thanks to generous support from our community, we were able to kick off the school year with a stunning new floor! Planned additions include folding bleachers, a volleyball net system, and the ability to convert the space into a pickleball court. Our students love the new look, and we look forward to many more years of using this campus treasure to boost children's health.

With gratitude to our donors who made it possible:

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Home Sweet Home

TAMARA AND HER DAUGHTERS CELEBRATE THEIR NEW START

Tamara* and her two daughters spent several months in a shelter to escape a domestic violence situation. Her search for an affordable two-bedroom apartment felt nearly impossible as each application was met with rejection. Hope finally arrived when she connected with our Flagler Housing & Homeless Services office in Richmond, where her Case Manager provided the support she needed to find a new home.

*Name changed for privacy

On lease signing day, Tamara's Case Manager and our Regional Housing Navigator met her at the apartment to assist with the paperwork and tour the newly built unit. With updated appliances, including a washer, dryer and dishwasher, the apartment was everything Tamara hoped for. Overjoyed to receive her keys, she and her daughters moved in that very day. Her excitement at securing safe, permanent housing for her family was truly contagious!



FLAGLER TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Kelly Green-Bloomfield, Director of Program Operations, completed VCU's Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute Program.

Adrian Turner, Program Manager, was accepted into the 2025 Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Program.

Katie Chlan, Senior Director, presented at the *Housing Virginia's Most Vulnerable Conference* on best-practice interventions and services for the most vulnerable homeless populations.

Outpatient Behavioral Therapy: Combining Clinic and Community-Based Care

At the Villa's Outpatient Behavioral Therapy (OBT) clinic, every session is an opportunity for growth – not just in the clinic, but out in the world. Our program uses Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to help children with autism and developmental disabilities improve their communication and daily living skills. Much of our therapy happens in group settings, both on campus and during community outings, with built-in opportunities for social skills development.

Many OBT participants attend our Sarah Dooley Center for Autism during the school day and continue with OBT in the afternoons. To accommodate increasing demand, we introduced a hybrid staffing model that strengthens coordination between both programs, and ensures each child receives consistent and comprehensive care.

In April 2024, we welcomed Katie Helenek, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, to our team. Katie brings a wealth of experience from her work with adults with disabilities in supportive living residences, community settings, and group homes. Since her arrival, we've expanded parent training, with many parents joining sessions alongside their children to provide feedback and learn new skills to apply at home.



Katie Helenek received the Rising Star Award at our 2024 Staff Awards; pictured with Jamie Knight, Director of Community-Based Services.

Although OBT officially stands for Outpatient Behavioral Therapy, our team likes to call it “Outside the Box” Therapy – reflecting our commitment to creative solutions that empower children and their families.

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Honoring Patsy McNamara

A LEGACY OF LOVE AND SUPPORT

Patsy and Peter McNamara understood the joys, challenges and sacrifices of caring for a child with special needs firsthand. From the early days of their son Mark Peter’s health struggles, Patsy and Peter leaned on St. Joseph’s Villa’s respite care program to provide much-needed relief and support for their family. Born out of necessity but embraced with gratitude, the Villa became more than just a service provider – it became a lifeline.

After Peter’s passing in 1982, Patsy was left to navigate the complexities of caregiving alone, reinforcing the importance of respite care in her family’s life. The Villa’s program offered not just physical assistance but also a safe haven where Mark Peter could thrive among peers facing similar challenges. It provided invaluable respite for Patsy, helping her recharge and continue her steadfast dedication to her family.

For Patsy, the decision to include St. Joseph’s Villa in her estate plans was deeply personal. It was a testament to the profound impact the organization had on her family’s life journey. By leaving a planned gift, she ensured that future generations of families facing similar struggles would have access to the same compassionate care and support that meant so much to her.

Beyond financial support, Patsy remained actively involved with the Villa, sharing her story and championing the cause of respite care. Her advocacy helped raise awareness and funds, ensuring that the program continued to expand its reach and serve more families in need.



Mark Peter and Patsy McNamara

Patsy’s legacy lives on at the Villa, where children of all abilities find not just care, but also joy, companionship, and a sense of belonging. Her generosity and foresight continue to make a difference, honoring the caregivers who made a difference in Mark Peter’s life and ensuring that families facing similar challenges can find solace and support.

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Unlock the future of your philanthropy.

Visit the new SJVarchwaysociety.org to explore estate planning resources and learn how to build your legacy at the Villa, or contact:

P.J. Shaver, CFRE
Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving
Email: pshaver@sjvmail.net
Tel: 804.553.3220



St. Joseph’s Villa, its employees, and representatives, do not offer legal or financial advice. Please consult with your attorney, financial advisor, estate planner, or accountant before making any arrangements.



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FOR FITNESS: GYM FLOOR
GETS AN UPGRADE**

**GRTC BUS LINE RETURNS
TO VILLA CAMPUS**

**COMBINING CLINIC
AND COMMUNITY-
BASED CARE**

We never stop believing in children and their families.

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Eco-Friendly Eats

**OUR CULINARY SERVICES
ARE GOING GREEN!**

Did you know our Culinary Services prepare over 700 meals every school day?

Committed to promoting sustainability across campus, our Transition and Wellness team has championed a switch to 100% compostable items, from eating utensils to take-away containers. We also introduced new water stations across campus as an alternative to distributing individual plastic bottles. Every student received a reusable water bottle at the beginning of the school year to cut down on waste and encourage a greener approach to hydration.

Another great benefit is the work-training opportunity it creates for students, who help manage the water deliveries. Students build communication skills by greeting staff, collecting signatures, and engaging in light conversation. It's a win-win for our students and the environment!

