

the GUARDIAN

summer 2009

// DRESS UP AND DANCE *4th annual prom is something special for residents to remember*



Donning fancy dresses or tuxedos. Dancing to recent hits and retro tunes like "YMCA." Voting for king and queen.

Twenty-one of St. Mary's older residents took part in these rituals of prom on May 17. Norfolk Academy students were their dates, helping them move about in their wheelchairs as a DJ played dance music. The students also decorated the Atrium in an Asian-influenced style.

"Every opportunity they have to interact with their peers who are not disabled is wonderful," said Marie Armstrong, whose niece, Vickie, was all smiles during the dance. Vickie speaks just a few words and used a new one that day: "prom."

The dance is something special for the residents to remember, said Nicole Hoskins Jones, director of recreational therapy services, who coordinates prom. "All the girls are really excited, just like any girl in high school. When we bring in the tuxedos, the boys get excited, too, because they know it's time for prom."

This was St. Mary's fourth prom, and the second in collaboration with Norfolk Academy. "We enjoy giving the residents fun things to do," said Brittany Harwell, president of the school's St. Mary's Club. Two Norfolk Academy graduates came back to help with this year's dance, including Adam Rose, who is working in St. Mary's recreational therapy department this summer.

Special thanks go to St. Mary's Auxiliary Board for paying for tuxedo rentals, the DJ and elegant corsages and boutonnieres provided by Virginia Beach florist Wayne Jones.

// LEADING THE WAY



FROM OUR CEO *As you read through this issue, I hope you are struck, as I was, by the excellent diverse and meaningful activities offered to the children we are privileged to serve. While the clinical care needs of the children are "Job One" and we take a great deal of pride in the academic achievements of the children, we also realize that recreation and activities and fun need to be a daily part of their lives. // Achieving the appropriate blend of clinical care, education and recreation is a difficult, but necessary, balancing act. Thankfully, all the folks who work here are focused every day on the mission of St. Mary's: to provide quality, specialized care within a homelike environment for special children so each child can achieve his or her full potential.*

// Thank you for all you do to help St. Mary's achieve this mission, thereby enriching the lives of the children for whom we care each day. We also encourage you to look through our 2007-2008 Biennial Report. The accomplishments you will read about could not have occurred without your support. We also thank our corporate sponsors for the report, Colonna's Shipyard, Inc. and AMERIGROUP Foundation. // William C. Giermak

[above left] *Wayne holds his date's hand during St. Mary's prom.*

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// A HAPPY, YET SAD DAY AT ST. MARY'S HOME

12 Residents Make Up Largest Graduating Class



Robin Geluso, a St. Mary's child advocate, helps Vickie depart St. Mary's Atrium at the close of graduation. Quoting an expression typically attributed to Dr. Seuss, Geluso told Vickie and the other graduates: "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

Smiling and wearing blue caps and gowns, 12 residents filed into St. Mary's Atrium on May 8 to the familiar strains of "Pomp and Circumstance." One soon-to-be-graduate, Mikey, pumped his fist.

Graduation Day is a happy rite of passage signaling the end of the graduates' formal education. Yet it's also sad because the graduates are 21, the age they leave the Home, or will turn 21 in the next year. Anthony, Crystle, Devon, Ericka, Jamie, Jo Jo, Michelle, Mikey, Patrick, Renee, Vickie and Wayne — the largest graduating class in recent memory — will be missed as they move on to other places, such as adult intermediate care facilities or group homes.

The caregivers and teachers who knew the graduates the best shared a bit about them during the ceremony — their infectious laughs, million-dollar smiles, playfulness, determination and independent spirits.

"The people here are so caring and so loving," Devon's mother, Tia, said as she delivered the parent tribute. "I thank you. I really wish he could stay, but I know he has to move on to make room for the next special child."

preview | 5K FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD OCTOBER 3



Dan Edwards of the Tidewater Striders prepares children to burst into action during the One-Mile Fun Run following last year's 5K.

The children of St. Mary's Home need you to help them reach the finish line. Our 21st Annual 5K Run and Walk fundraiser will take place Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9 a.m. on scenic Fort Story in Virginia Beach. Last year's race brought in more than \$16,000 for the programs and services of St. Mary's Home.

Race winners receive special prizes: artwork created by St. Mary's residents. A One-Mile Fun Run will follow the 5K, with all finishers receiving medals. New this year: the 5K has been selected for the Tidewater Striders 2009 Walking Grand Prix series of races that count

toward awards from the club.

Once again, members of Team Hoyt VB, a local offshoot of the national Team Hoyt, plan to push some St. Mary's residents in jogger strollers, plus children and adults with disabilities from the community. "What a great race and morning in Fort Story," Bobby Woodard, a member of Team Hoyt VB, wrote after last year's 5K. "The kids seemed to love it, especially the loud clapping at the finish line."

Come out to Fort Story on Oct. 3 and enjoy music, food and prize giveaways while you support the special children of St. Mary's Home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SONJA BARISIC, 757.622.2208 EXT.331, OR SBARISIC@SMHDC.ORG. REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SAINTMARYSHOME.ORG



HOW TO DONATE To make a gift to St. Mary's children, please use the reply envelope, fill out the secure form on www.saintmaryshome.org or call 757.622.2208 or 800.237.6555. To create a lasting memory by having a paver engraved with a loved one's name, a sentiment or an expression of gratitude, contact Martha Price Stewart at 757.446.6797 or 800.237.6555 or mstewart@smhdc.org. Thank you.



CHECK OUT OUR BLOG
So much is happening around here that we can't fit it all into our newsletter. For up-to-the-minute news and photos from St. Mary's Home, head to www.saintmaryshome.blogspot.com.

onBOARD

messages from St. Mary's Home

// DONORS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

a message from the board of trustees



I am pleased to begin my first message to you as president of the Board of Trustees with good news. Our spring appeal was matched for the

first time this year, and donors and friends responded enthusiastically. John DeVan, president of PACE Collaborative, PC, generously agreed to have his company match gifts made by Memorial Day, up to a total of \$5,000. We exceeded the challenge before the deadline, thanks to supporters like you. To date, contributions to the appeal have **nearly doubled** over last year's results.

We also just learned that United Way gifts to the Home are up 31 percent compared to last year's campaign. With this great support, the Home can move forward with important programs and activities that add to the children's health and well-being.

I was especially struck by two recent milestones in the residents' lives and the care that has enabled them to reach these goals: prom and graduation. As the children joined their peers in these two events that represent their entrance into adulthood, I felt extremely proud to be a part of the St. Mary's organization. Aeran and Paul Kim, the parents of recent graduate Michelle, had this to say about the care their daughter has received for close to 10 years: "Your unselfish efforts and personal sacrifice have helped make our daughter become a beautiful young lady who is able to move on to the next chapter of her life as an adult."

// *Richard N. Knapp, president*

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS *Stay in the loop. To receive updates from St. Mary's Home via email, sign up at our website, www.saintmaryshome.org.*



ANNUAL MEETING: *The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, senator from Virginia's 6th District, (above left, sharing a laugh with Director of Compliance Ann Sparkman) spoke at the Board of Trustees' Annual Meeting on March 26. Director of Staff Development Susan Kok presented Sister Mary June Morin (above right, in red) with a certificate noting a paver will be placed at St. Mary's Home in honor of her 50 years of service. Richard N. Knapp, chief operating officer of Virginia International Terminals, was appointed Board president. The Board appointed Vincent A. Napolitano, president of Napolitano Homes, as vice president, and Thomas W. Godfrey Jr., president and CEO of Colonna's Shipyard, as secretary; George L. Consolvo of the Kaufman & Canoles law firm will continue as treasurer. Paul Finch & Associates, P.C. and S.B. Ballard Construction Company sponsored this event.*



// ST. MARY'S CHILDREN NEED YOU

a message from the auxiliary board



The Auxiliary Board is looking for individuals to join us in making a difference in the lives of the children of St. Mary's Home. Formed in 1950, the

Board now has 25 directors and dozens of volunteers who strive to fill needs the Home otherwise could not meet. Recent projects include providing graduation caps and gowns, specialized tricycles for physical therapy, DVD/VCR players for the children's bedrooms and a laptop for

recreational therapy. If you are seeking a rewarding way to become involved with these amazing children, please contact the Auxiliary Board at 757.622.2208 ext. 381 for more information.

This summer, look for our newest fundraiser: an exciting raffle with incredible prizes. Visit www.saintmaryshome.org for details. And on Aug. 21, we will hold our 2nd Annual Summer Luau, especially for the enjoyment of the children.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 5th Annual Auction and Gala will be Saturday, February 20, 2010, at the Westin Town Center in Virginia Beach.

// *Karen L. Hibbard, president*



A special place for special children

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The Guardian is published by St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children, a nonprofit organization. If you have questions or comments, contact Sonja Barisic at 757.622.2208 ext. 331 or sbarisic@smhdc.org.

in the news

HEALTH JOURNAL, April issue

// *St. Mary's Auxiliary's Gala & Auction fundraiser*

Photo of Trustee Carl Albero, who bid on a mermaid statue for St. Mary's children, and mermaid sculptor Georgia Mason.

INSIDE BUSINESS, April 6

// *Beazley Foundation awards grant to SMHDC*

Item about \$18,600 grant to provide comfortable heat for St. Mary's children.

INSIDE BUSINESS, April 20

// *Physical Therapy Department*

Photo of staff, who coordinated a drive to collect peanut butter for a food bank.

INSIDE BUSINESS, May 4

// *Soozi McLain, head of Physical Therapy Department*

Discussed her exercise regimen in full-page "Inside Fitness" article with photos.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, May 10

// *Nicole Hoskins Jones,*

director of recreational therapy services

Quoted in Sunday "Magazine" cover article about multisensory techniques and photographed with Jahmari, a 2-year-old resident.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, May 18

// *St. Mary's prom*

Story and photos, plus a video on the paper's website. *The Associated Press* distributed the story to other media outlets.

"WHAT MATTERS," WHRO-TV, May 22

// *Sister Mary June Morin*

Featured in an entire episode of the public affairs program produced by Hampton Roads' public television station.

// For more mentions of St. Mary's Home in the news, see www.saintmaryshome.org. To obtain copies of articles, contact Sonja Barisic, 757.622.2208 ext. 331 or sbarisic@smhdc.org.



SAYING GOODBYE AFTER 43 YEARS She was the guest of honor, yet Gladys Jones kept getting up from her seat, asking people if they needed anything. That's Gladys: always concerned about others. She joined St. Mary's Home as a certified nursing assistant on June 2, 1966; staff and family members gathered 43 years later to the day to fete her as she retired. Gladys "set the tone with her love and care and devotion for all the children," said Hazel Lane, St. Mary's purchasing manager. "She made me understand what St. Mary's does." // *Left, Gladys Jones as a young CNA; right, Gladys with Anthony, one of St. Mary's residents, shortly before her retirement.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

09/17/09

6th Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Sponsored by Alhambra Padul Caravan #69
Ocean View Golf Course, Norfolk.

Shotgun start, 12:30 p.m. Florida Best Ball.

For reservations, contact Paul Siebeking,
757.481.4030 or KP59PE@verizon.net, or
John Romanus at 757.464.0161.

10/02/09

Packet Pickup for St. Mary's 21st Annual 5K

St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children,
noon-2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy
light refreshments and take a tour of the
Home. Contact Sonja Barisic, 757.622.2208
ext. 331 or sbarisic@smhdc.org.

10/03/09

**St. Mary's 21st Annual 5K Run and Walk,
Plus One-Mile Fun Run**

Fort Story, Virginia Beach, 8 a.m.
registration, 9 a.m. 5K, 10 a.m. Fun Run.
Contact Sonja Barisic, 757.622.2208 ext. 331
or sbarisic@smhdc.org.

02/20/10

5th Annual Gala & Auction fundraiser

Sponsored by St. Mary's Auxiliary Board
6:30 p.m., The Westin Hotel, Town
Center, Virginia Beach. To reserve tickets,
donate, volunteer or request sponsorship
information, contact Karen Hibbard,
757.622.2208 ext. 381 or klhibb@cox.net.