



6171 Kempsville Circle,
Norfolk, Virginia 23502
www.saintmaryshome.org

St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children

A Special Place for Special Children.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit No. 2218



The Guardian

St. Mary's Celebrates as Matthew Turns 18

Matthew's parents, Mark and Linda, planned a big celebration for the entire staff at the Home on Friday, March 31, in honor of his 18th birthday. Catered by Pollard's Chicken, the picnic lunch was timed so that multiple shifts could take part in the event. Complete with balloons and birthday cake, the staff enjoyed the event that took place in the atrium.

Matthew has been a resident of St. Mary's since November 1989. After he spent a year and a half in the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C., Mark and Linda made the difficult decision to find long-term care. Matthew's needs were extremely complex, and caring for him in a home environment along with his four-year-old brother would have been impossible for their family. After touring St. Mary's and meeting with staff members Melanie Perez-Lopez and Ann Sparkman, they were so impressed with the Home's program and philosophy that they decided to place him here. "Selecting a facility nearly four hours from our home was a great measure of trust," recalls Mark. "It's not like you can just pop in for a surprise visit. You're totally dependent on the Home and the staff, and in all these years we've never had an issue."

Mark and Linda have been amazed by the teaching talent in the SECEP program at St. Mary's.

Please see "Birthday" page 4

A Day of Fun at Booker T. Washington

Five children from St. Mary's participated in a special day for students with disabilities on April 20 at Booker T. Washington High School. Sixty-three kids from seven Norfolk public schools competed in wheelchair races, beanbag tosses, softball throws and a variety of other activities. Brandon represented his class from Suburban Park Elementary by carrying in a flag during opening ceremonies. During the event Anita bowled, Brandon participated in a powerchair race, Greg tried his hand at the football target pass, Lauren did the beanbag drop and Terrance also bowled.

Games, music, lunch and an awards ceremony rounded out the event with special appearances from Old Dominion University's Big Blue and the Norfolk Tides' Rip Tide. Event organizer Daniel Biegun from Booker T. Washington designed this special day for students with disabilities to take center stage and represent their schools. "We even planned a special adapted table that was totally switch operated so everyone had the chance to play games," said an enthusiastic Biegun.



Brandon, pictured with his school flag, was one of five residents from St. Mary's who participated in the special event at Booker T. Washington High School.

Upcoming Events

Hope to
see you at
the 5K Run
July 29!

18th Annual St. Mary's 5K Run & One-Mile Fun Run

Saturday, July 29
6:30 a.m. Registration
8 a.m. 5K
9 a.m. One-mile Fun Run
Norfolk Botanical Garden
Contact Mary Helen Hilton at
757-446-6793 for more information or
download an application at
www.saintmaryshome.org.

3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Sponsored by Friends of Alhambra,
Padul Caravan #69
Thursday, September 21
Four Person Florida Best Ball
Ocean View Golf Course
Contact Paul Siebeking at
757-481-4030 or
Kp59pe@verizon.net for
more information.

Fifth Annual Community Service Golf Outing

Institute of Real Estate Management
Tidewater Chapter
Wednesday, September 13, 12 noon
Nanesmond River Golf Club
Contact 757-473-8701 for more information.

2006 Annual Car Show

Greater Tidewater Owners Society
Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m.
St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children
Contact Rick Holladay at 757-642-7883
for more information.

Chapter B Dice Run

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Sunday, September 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Honda of Norfolk
Contact Dennis Weston at
757-416-8479 or dweston6@cox.net
for more information.

The Great Trane Ride

Motorcycle Ride and Car Show
Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m.
Trane Parts Center in Chesapeake
Contact Amanda Elliot at
757-558-3304 or aelliott@trane.com
for more information.

Birthday *continued from page 1*

"Matthew's had a new teacher every year for the past five years, and every one of them has done creative and amazing things with the kids," says Mark. Katie, his current teacher, helps Linda stay connected to Matthew by giving him an article of clothing with Linda's perfume on it when he receives a call from his mother.

Linda and Mark wanted to plan a special celebration for staff members at the Home because of the close relationship that has formed over the years. "When we left Matthew here, I was overcome with such a sense of peace, and in all these years, I've never felt differently," shares Linda.



Mark and Linda pictured with Anthony Fontes, Human Resources Director, who helped them coordinate the logistics of the celebration

St. Mary's Staff Gives Back



Seven staff members from St. Mary's Home visited the American Red Cross the morning of April 14 to participate in the Day of Life platelet donor program. Although it takes a little bit longer than a typical whole blood donation because the platelets are separated and the rest of the blood returned to your body, platelet donations help cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. A platelet transfusion can literally mean the difference between life and death for some patients. Soozie McLain (pictured third from left), head of the physical therapy department at St. Mary's, motivates co-workers to join her in an endeavor she began when a family friend was battling cancer. ♥

KOVAR Makes New Beds Possible

The Knights of Virginia Assistance for the Retarded, known as KOVAR, recently awarded St. Mary's \$20,000 enabling the Home to purchase 20 new beds especially adapted for the more active children. KOVAR began as a small effort in 1971 and has grown into the largest non-governmental fundraising charity in Virginia specifically dedicated to helping citizens with mental retardation. KOVAR has generously supported St. Mary's over the years with funding for a number of special projects. ♥

Spring Talent Show

Southwestern Cooperative Educational Program (SECEP), the organization St. Mary's partners with to provide specialized education to residents, produced a Spring Talent Show on April 26 for staff, visitors and all of the children taught by SECEP. Christina Sammarco, the intern from Old Dominion University's Human Services Counseling program who joined SECEP for her spring semester, designed and facilitated the program. Students and teachers



performed a variety of eight acts ranging from painting and comedy to singing and poetry reading. Staff members and visitors enjoyed the show and chimed in with applause and laughter throughout the program. ♥

Ashley represents classroom 5 with a stand-up comedy act

Dr. Shoaibi Retires as Medical Director of St. Mary's

After nearly 40 years of dedicated service at St. Mary's, Dr. A. A. Shoaibi passed his leadership role of medical director over to Dr. Joseph Toland on June 1. Throughout the years, Dr. Shoaibi has delivered excellent care with a gentle approach and developed a special connection with the children. A well respected pediatrician in the community, he will continue to visit St. Mary's as an attending physician. St. Mary's thanks Dr. Shoaibi for his service and looks forward to working with Dr. Toland. ♥



Mollie Pavlik, chair of the Auxiliary's art auction committee, with a doll house donated for the silent auction

Successful Art Auction

The Auxiliary of St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children hosted their first successful art auction on Friday, February 24, at the Princess Anne Country Club in Virginia Beach. The evening began with cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres and live music as guests bid on silent auction items. Kim Thumel, president of the Auxiliary Board, opened up the live auction by presenting guests the opportunity to make \$400 contributions toward the children's Camp Horizon program on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan each summer. The live auction was then conducted by Rick Brandwein from Ross Galleries in Holbrook, N.Y. A successful first-time event, the auction netted \$18,000 in proceeds that will fund special projects for the children at St. Mary's. Mark your calendar for next year's art auction on Friday, February 23, 2007. ♥

Beazley Foundation Supports Capital Campaign

St. Mary's received an additional gift of \$50,000 from the Beazley Foundation, bringing their total support to \$75,000. The Beazley Foundation was started in 1948 when Fred Beazley wanted to give back to the community that gave so much to him while he was growing up. He especially had a warm spot in his heart for young people who were less fortunate than he. According to Judge Richard Bray, president of the Beazley Foundation:

"Recognizing the loving care St. Mary's has provided children with disabilities for close to 60 years, quietly giving so much and asking so little in return, the Beazley Foundation was pleased to initially contribute \$25,000 to the capital campaign and an additional \$50,000, when we learned further help was needed. The work of St. Mary's reflects the conscience of our community and bespeaks our compassion for one another, calling upon the best in each of us."

You'll find an envelope enclosed for your convenience if you would like to join the Beazley Foundation in making a first-time or additional gift to the House of Promise campaign and help advance St. Mary's standing as a leader in the care of children with severe disabilities. ♥

Qualified Gas Contractors (QGC) Support St. Mary's

The QGC held its 11th annual golf tournament on Wednesday, May 3 at Bide-A-Wee Golf Club in Portsmouth and raised \$8,641 for the Home. David Gregory (pictured in the center behind the check) is the board chairman of the QGC, an innovative partnership of area contractors and Virginia Natural Gas who share technical expertise with each other and emphasize both ethics and training. This marks the fourth year in a row the QGC has generously chosen to support St. Mary's with the proceeds from the tournament. ♥



Q.E.D. Systems Funds Shed

Jimmy Jones (pictured at the far left of the front row) spearheaded the effort to fund a much needed outdoor storage shed at St. Mary's. Mark Jones, (president of Q.E.D. pictured second from the right end of the first row) and the Q.E.D. team pictured here helped make the project a reality. ♥

Spotlight



A dedicated board member of St. Mary's Home for 20 years, Joan Damsey received her graduate degree from Catholic University and her undergraduate degree from the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, N.J., where the axiom was "to lead, to achieve, to excel and to contribute to society – this is a woman's place." Joan has demonstrated this philosophy in her career over the years, both as the founder and Director of Practice Management at Eastern Virginia Medical School and as the founder of Damsey & Associates, Ltd., a nationally recognized medical management consulting firm. She is also a founding Director of a Florida bank and a Virginia Beach bank, the author of two books and several medical management articles. Inspired by the care and loving touch St. Mary's gives to special children with severe disabilities, Joan sees compassion intrinsically linked to action at St. Mary's.

Board of Trustees 2006

Suzanne Puryear President	Carl Albero
Michael Cotter Vice President	Theodore Broecker
Norma Taliaferro Secretary	George Consolvo
Richard Knapp Treasurer	Joan Damsey
Donald F. Price Immediate Past President	Michael Duffy
The Most Rev. Walter F. Sullivan Ex-officio	Sandra Gordon
William Giermak, CEO	Gregory Kilduff
Joseph Toland, M.D. Medical Director	Vincent McPhillips
	Vince Napolitano
	Frederick Napolitano
	William Ripley
	J. Hume Taylor, Jr.
	Kimberly Thumel President of the Auxiliary Board
	Robert Voogt

The Mission of St. Mary's

The mission of St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children is to provide quality, specialized care within a home-like environment for special children with severe disabilities, so each child can achieve his or her fullest potential.

The Guardian is published by St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children, a non-profit organization. If you have questions or comments, please contact Mary Helen Hilton, Marketing Communications Manager, St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children, 6171 Kempsville Circle, Norfolk, Virginia 23502, (757) 622-2208, ext. 307 or mhilton@smhdc.org.