

St. Mary's Home
Meeting the complex needs
of children and adults with
disabilities.

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saintmaryshome.org

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Questions or comments? Con-
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at (757) 352-2700 or
sbarisic@smhdc.org.



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If you would prefer to read Journeys in a digital version instead of receiving a print copy in the mail, please email Sonja Barisic at sbarisic@smhdc.org. We will email you to let you know when the next issue is available online. **Thank you.**

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JOURNEYS

Because it is in the process, as much as the progress, that we measure each journey.

Autumn 2013

Kids Kick Soccer Ball with Pro Hockey Players

Hockey may be their usual game, but when Norfolk Admirals players John Mitchell and John Kurtz visited St. Mary's in March, they played indoor soccer with some of the kids, like Jorge, who deftly maneuvered an oversized soccer ball into the net so many times we lost count. Team mascot Salty also was on hand.



YOUR HELP is NEEDED

Please donate today to help children and young adults with severe disabilities live well and get the best care, in a cheerful, homelike environment. You can make your life-altering gift online at saintmaryshome.org, or call (757) 622-2208 or (800) 237-6555, or send it, with our deep thanks, in the envelope provided with this newsletter. Your gift to St. Mary's Home is tax-deductible and helps our residents in many ways. For example, supporters like you help make it possible for the children to take hundreds of field trips a year.

You also are invited to create your legacy by making a planned gift to St. Mary's Home and becoming a founding member of The Guardian Society. Gifts made through estate plans — for example, leaving St. Mary's in your will — offer benefits to you and ensure that future generations of children and young adults will benefit from the excellent care at St. Mary's Home. For more information, contact Martha Price Stewart, director of development, at (757) 446-6797 or mstewart@smhdc.org.



A publication of
St. Mary's Home.

INSIDE

2
Helping Hands Make Residents' Rooms Cozier

2
St. Mary's Welcomes New Board Members

4
Children Make Friends, Memories, Thanks to We Promise Foundation

5
Guardian Society Founding Members: Catherine & Tom Giordano Look to the Future

6
Kids Celebrate with Graduation, Prom

6
Garden is Fitting Tribute to Friend of St. Mary's

7
Volunteers Spend Busy Summer at St. Mary's

ABOUT US

We provide quality, specialized care within a homelike environment for special children with disabilities, so each child can achieve his or her fullest potential.

St. Mary's Embraces Adult Care Thanks to Supporters Like You



Josh cut the ribbon in front of The Albero House, with help from his mom and a few friends, including Carl M. Albero, the main benefactor whose generosity helped build the adult facility. (photo courtesy of Ashley Abraham)

"happy and healthy, and (now) he has a beautiful new home."

Josh moved in to one of 12 private bedrooms this July. Several more residents are expected to begin living at The Albero House, a 10,000-square-foot expansion designed by PF&A Design, by the end of 2013.

Thomas W. Godfrey, Jr., president of St. Mary's Board of Directors, thanked supporters for making The Albero House possible. "We are here to tell the world that the St. Mary's mission is growing and expanding," Godfrey said.

St. Mary's CEO William C. Giermak noted that 450 donors contributed more than \$3 million to the "Embrace" capital campaign, enabling St. Mary's to build The Albero House free of debt. The campaign also is raising \$2 million to establish an endowment fund to protect against economic downturns and \$1

Josh came to live at St. Mary's Home when he was 13. When the time came to look for adult care for Josh, his mother found few options. So she was excited and relieved when she learned St. Mary's planned to open The Albero House for adults, and that Josh would become the first resident.

Thanks to generous supporters like you, St. Mary's now can provide a loving, secure future for adults with severe disabilities from across Virginia, including our own graduates, who previously had to seek other places, such as nursing homes, to live after they turned 21.

On Sept. 19, more than 250 family members, staff and supporters helped dedicate The Albero House with a ceremony, underwritten in part by Colonna's Shipyard, Inc., that was capped by Josh, his mom and a few friends cutting a red ribbon.

"St. Mary's is a godsend," Josh's mom, Nancy Stockner, of Harrisonburg, told the crowd. Josh is

million for annual operating costs.

The main benefactors of the adult home are Carl M. Albero, a St. Mary's director, and his wife, Carole Anne Albero, a St. Mary's volunteer and member of St. Mary's Auxiliary Board. Other major supporters include St. Mary's Auxiliary Board, Beazley Foundation, The Cabell Foundation in Richmond, Dominion Enterprises, Hampton Roads Community Foundation and Sentara Healthcare.

The brick exterior of The Albero House matches the original St. Mary's structure. The building includes a spacious common living area, a modern kitchen, an enclosed porch and a landscaped courtyard. Large windows flood the rooms and hallways with natural light. The

To watch a brief video of Josh cutting the ribbon at The Albero House, go to youtube.com/StMarysHome.

Continued on page 7

HELPING HANDS

Make Residents' Rooms Cozier



While the cheerful blue-and-green interior of The Albero House was designed by Image Business Interiors, shipping company Maersk Line, Limited wanted to personalize a room for Josh, the first resident of St. Mary's new wing for adults.

Maersk employees Beth Branch, Meredith Siviter and Kristen



Barton (see photo at right) worked together to decorate the room with an ocean theme, based on Josh's likes, with input from Josh, his mother and Sheri Mantoni, his support coordinator at St. Mary's. They had some help from Lisa Edwards-Soblotne, a friend of St. Mary's, and Ron Herrick, St. Mary's facility maintenance manager, as they installed items including a beach mural, surfboard wall art and a sound machine that plays soothing sounds.

That act of generosity inspired another: A group of women who work for Chartway's corporate office volunteered to decorate a room for Mercedes, who moved into The Albero House in October. Melissa Stocker, Rene Bollinger, Kim Little (see photo at left) and Beth O'Toole (not pictured) met with our staff to learn what would appeal to Mercedes and then embarked upon a shopping spree to create something special just for her.



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From the Auxiliary President

Clare Davison

Thank You for Helping the Auxiliary to Change Children's Lives



It is my honor to serve as president of the Auxiliary Board of St. Mary's Home.

The Auxiliary's Gala and Auction this spring raised \$72,000 through the generosity of supporters. We are grateful for the many donations contributed by local businesses.

In June, I was very pleased to present St. Mary's CEO Bill Giermak with a check for \$13,000 from the funds raised at the gala. The \$13,000 will help the children and young adults take trips to the beach and zoo and take part in other great activities arranged by the Home.

We value our partnership with Todd A. Collins, general manager of Checkered Flag Volkswagen. This was the third year he donated a car for us to raffle, contributing the proceeds. He has been very generous and has promised another car for next year's event.

Joe Flanagan of WVEC-TV emceed the gala. He did an amazing job and has already agreed to come back next year. Thank you, Joe.

I also want to thank our sponsors: Monarch Bank & Mortgage, Mrs. Kathryn Mote, Wells Fargo Advisors, Clark Nexsen Architecture & Engineering, Colonna's Shipyard, Roof Engineering, Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Lucy Oldfield, DRS Construction & Design, Optima Health and American Road Markings, LLC.

Please mark your calendars for the 2014 Gala and Auction, which will take place on Saturday, March 1, at a new venue: The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

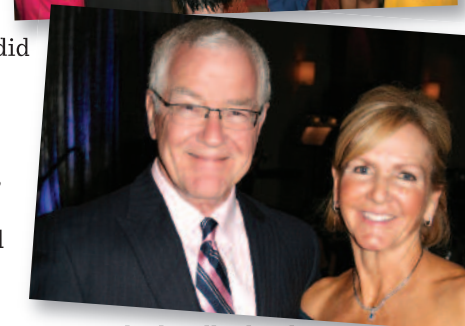
If you would like to sponsor the auction or make a donation, please feel free to contact me at (757) 572-3014 or claredavison@msn.com.



Todd A. Collins, general manager of auction sponsor Checkered Flag Volkswagen and his wife, Alicen.



Ceceila Walker, second from right, a St. Mary's parent, and her friends from Team Hoyt VB, a group that takes people with disabilities on runs in the community.



Auxiliary Board President Clare Davison with WVEC-TV reporter Joe Flanagan, who emceed the Auxiliary's auction.



Congratulations to Esther and Tim McDermott of Ashland, Va., winners of the Auxiliary's raffle of a 2013 Volkswagen Passat S, donated by Checkered Flag Volkswagen.

St. Mary's Welcomes New Board Members

Dr. Allen "Trey" Hardin White III of Oceanfront Dentistry in Virginia Beach has joined St. Mary's Board of Directors. In addition to his practice, Dr. White also cares for patients at Sentara Nursing Center in Virginia Beach and Beth Shalom Home of Eastern Virginia. He is a founder of Team Hoyt VB, which strives to help people with disabilities become active members of the community.



Christopher B. D'Surney is one of two new members of the St. Mary's Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. D'Surney is director of human resources for Virginia International Terminals, LLC. He also is a member of the board of the Virginia Business Coalition on Health.



M. Powell Peters, Esq., an attorney with Wolcott Rivers Gates, also has joined the St. Mary's Foundation Board of Directors. His practice is focused on trusts, estates, elder law, family businesses, tax-exempt organizations, charitable trusts and foundations. He actively supports a number of civic, charitable and professional organizations.



Children Make Friends, Memories, Thanks to We Promise Foundation

Representatives from the We Promise Foundation visited the playground at St. Mary's Home to present a check for \$20,800 to fully fund summer camp for residents. From left: John Blum, We Promise chairman; Rene Bollinger, Chartway corporate human resources officer; Beth O'Toole, Chartway's vice president of operations; Allison Bough, St. Mary's major gifts officer; Wayne Foshay, Chartway's chairman of the board; William C. Giermak, St. Mary's CEO; Cindy Casteen, We Promise secretary/treasurer; Dallas England, Chartway's board of directors; Brian Schools, Chartway's corporate strategy officer; Mary Helen Hilton, St. Mary's director of annual giving; Payten, St. Mary's resident; Amelia, St. Mary's resident; Brandon, St. Mary's resident; Zach, St. Mary's resident.



For many children, camp is a summer tradition of making new friends and creating lifelong memories. With a \$20,800 grant from the We Promise Foundation, the charitable arm of Chartway Federal Credit Union, 16 children and young adults



from St. Mary's Home had fun at camp, and made those memories, this summer. As the sole sponsor of this year's camp experience, We Promise

enabled the children to enjoy eight weeks of field trips, art sessions, sports, music lessons and outdoor games.

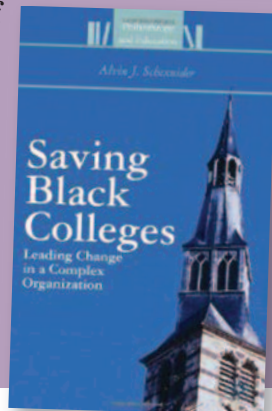
"Camp is always a big highlight for us," said William C. Giermak, St. Mary's CEO. "It gives the children a renewed sense of freedom and independence as a result of access to adaptive items and equipment."

We Promise Chairman John Blum said the Foundation, which also donated \$20,800 to fully fund camp in 2012 and \$10,000 to partially sponsor camp in 2011, is proud to be able to help St. Mary's. "Our employees and supporters are extremely passionate about making a difference in our community so we are honored to provide St. Mary's residents with the chance to enjoy an enriching outdoor experience."

St. Mary's Director Writes Book



Alvin J. Schexnider, Ph.D., a member of St. Mary's board, has written a book, *Saving Black Colleges: Leading Change in a Complex Organization*, published in September. Based on Schexnider's years as chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, the book describes the challenges and opportunities for change faced by historically black colleges and universities. Schexnider is president of Schexnider & Associates, LLC, a management consulting firm.



Guardian Society Founding Members: Catherine and Tom Giordano Look to the Future

Catherine H. Giordano is an award-winning entrepreneur, leader, speaker, and champion for small business. She recently retired as president and CEO of Knowledge Information Solutions, Inc. She also is a founding partner of Women Impacting Public Policy and routinely meets with government policy makers and Congressional leaders to advocate for small business issues.

Mrs. Giordano and her husband, Tom, moved to Virginia Beach in 1985. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Her friend Carl M. Albero, a St. Mary's director, introduced her to St. Mary's. For a dozen years, Mrs. Giordano has delivered holiday presents to the children of St. Mary's. She and her brother, Augustine Riolo, donated funds for a resident room in The Albero House and named it in honor of their mother, Clotilde Gandulla Riolo.

Catherine and Tom Giordano also created The Giordano Trust as founding members of The Guardian Society, a group of people who have planned for a future gift to the children and young adults of St. Mary's, whether by will, trust, insurance or life income arrangement. Here, Mrs. Giordano discusses why it was important to her to invest in the future of St. Mary's.

Q. What inspired you to make a planned gift to St. Mary's?

We truly understand the need to keep the light of hope in the hearts of the parents and children who call St. Mary's their home; The Giordano Trust designation is just one way to enhance the environment for future generations of St. Mary's resident angels.

Tom and I have been blessed with healthy children and grandchildren. However, some in our extended families, and many of our friends in

other states, are dealing with a variety of medical issues within their families. This trust designation is our way of acting to support their respective plight to find care facilities that can provide and nurture their loved ones.

Q. Was the process of making a planned gift easy?

One of the most simple things I have ever done. We called our trust attorney to set the wheels in motion to update our trusts and add our gift to St. Mary's. The attorney provided the skilled knowledge and guidance as well as the documentation to get our wishes for this gift in place.

Q. Why was it important to your family to make a planned gift?

Tom and I have tremendous respect for the parents who fight the good fight on a daily basis. Our intention was to not only donate to the fund to build The Albero House but to also provide a lasting legacy to the foundation. This helps to ensure funding for any future maintenance requirements for the facility that will continue to provide an exceptional environment for the residents.

I encourage everyone to think long and hard about the footprint in the sand they leave behind. This gift will absolutely benefit those less fortunate but, more importantly, those who deserve to be cared for with grace and the nurturing environment that St. Mary's provides.

If you make a planned gift to St. Mary's by the end of 2014, like Catherine and Tom Giordano, you will be recognized as a founding member of The Guardian Society. Of course, you may prefer to join and remain anonymous. For information, contact Martha Price Stewart, director of development, at (757) 446-6797, (800) 237-6555 or mstewart@smhdc.org. Thank you.

In The News

"NORFOLK PERSPECTIVES"

week of Sept. 22

Auxiliary Board member Amy Dagnall and Director of Annual Giving Mary Helen Hilton discussed the Fall Mile for Movement Festival.

week of Sept. 8

CEO William C. Giermak and Director of Social Work Melanie Pérez-López discussed the opening of The Albero House.

WVEC-TV

Sept. 19

Josh and his mother were featured in a story about the dedication of The Albero House.

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Sept. 15

Josh and his mother were featured in a "Compass" section cover story about the opening of The Albero House.

Sept. 14

Josh and his mother were featured in a "Home" section story about the opening of The Albero House and the decoration of Josh's room by Maersk, Limited.

Aug. 13

Betsy Turner, a certified occupational therapy assistant, offered fashion tips for people who use wheelchairs for mobility, in the newspaper's style column.

May 8

Tara Dean, LPN, was featured in a special National Nurses Week section and Jennifer Stephens, LPN, was listed among the 2013 Nurses Week Winners.

INSIDE BUSINESS

June 17

Payten, Amelia, Brandon and Zach were featured in a photo of the We Promise Foundation presenting a \$20,800 grant to fund summer camp.

For links to these and other media mentions of St. Mary's Home, go to saintmaryshome.org, News > News Coverage.

KIDS CELEBRATE WITH GRADUATION, PROM

Keshia proudly walked to the podium in May to receive her graduation certificate in St. Mary's Atrium, where just the month before she had been voted queen during prom.

Graduation Day is always the happiest, yet saddest, time of the year at St. Mary's Home. We're happy for the grads and all they have accomplished, but it's sad to know that they're all grown up and may be getting ready to leave us now that they've turned 21.

"These children have taught me more than I could ever teach them," said Terry Lyle, principal of the SECEP REACH program, which runs the school at St. Mary's.

Younger students Kenneth, Nate and Koko presented the colors during the ceremony in our Atrium, while Isaiah recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alysha's father, John Borden, Jr., paid tribute to his daughter and the other graduates. St. Mary's and SECEP "just made a big difference in her life," he said.

Congratulations to graduates Alysha, Ashley, Gregory, Keith, Keshia, Shanita, Terrance and Thomas.

During that other ritual of spring, prom, Colton, who was voted king, and the other young men looked so grown up in their formalwear, while Morgan looked radiant in the dress she and her mom picked out together; St. Mary's Auxiliary Board sponsored shopping trips for the girls to pick out their dresses and also provided tuxes. All the girls looked quite glamorous thanks to volunteer Michelle Gabriele, who came in to do their makeup professionally.

Many thanks to the students from Norfolk Academy who decorated our Atrium and danced the afternoon away with our kids. Adam Rose, a Norfolk Academy alum who co-founded the St. Mary's Club at Norfolk Academy in 2006, dropped by to see this year's prom.

To see more photos from prom and graduation, follow StMarysHome on Facebook.



Save The DATE

March 1, 2014

Please mark your calendars for the 2014 Auxiliary Board Gala and Auction, which will take place on Saturday, March 1, at a new venue: The Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

If you would like to sponsor the auction or make a donation, feel free to contact Clare Davison at (757) 572-3014 or claredavison@msn.com.

Garden is Fitting Tribute to Friend of St. Mary's

Ann Wagner Gill was a dedicated friend to St. Mary's. She collected and delivered gifts during the holidays to the children and young adults and she also belonged to the Virginia Beach Garden Club, which helped to beautify our grounds. Before she passed away on July 23,

2012, her sons, John and Patrick, and husband, Howard, talked with her about creating a tribute garden at St. Mary's. Friends and family contributed more than \$40,000 from 165 gifts in her memory. "With this garden, her legacy will not be forgotten," John Gill told guests during a dedication of the garden on April 21. The photo shows family members at the dedication. From left, John Gill, Susan Gill, Ainsley Gill, Barr Gill, Patrick Gill, Cannon Gill, Clay Gill and Howard Gill.



VOLUNTEERS KEEP BUSY at ST. MARY'S OVER SUMMER

BB&T employees volunteered at St. Mary's in June, washing windows, cleaning chairs and assembling communication books for our kids to use in school. The employees are part of the BB&T Lighthouse Project, in which BB&T associates have completed more than 4,400 community service projects.

In August, our service vehicles were extra clean and sparkly thanks to students from Regent University School of Law who spent a day volunteering at St. Mary's Home.

Also in August, we enjoyed having four groups of volunteers from Amerigroup (see one group in photo above) with us over the course of a week. Our kids' classrooms are well-stocked with communications books assembled by these folks under the direction of Ynez Peterson, assistive technology specialist with the SECEP REACH program, which runs the school at St. Mary's.

Thank you to these groups and to all of our dedicated volunteers. You make a big difference in the lives of the children and young adults of St. Mary's Home.

Is your corporate group interested in volunteering? Contact Diane Zinn at (757) 622-2208 ext. 328 or dzinn@smhdc.org.

Continued from page 1

heating and cooling system uses 20 geothermal wells that are 300 feet deep, helping to reduce St. Mary's carbon footprint.

"St. Mary's Home offers a level of complex, professional care that families may find difficult to provide at home, and we do so in an atmosphere of warmth, nurturing and personal attention," Giermak said. "With the opening of The Albero House, we have created another option for adults with disabilities."

To see more photos from the dedication, follow St Marys Home on Facebook.com.



@
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Subscribe to our periodic email newsletter at saintmaryshome.org.

For more news, visit:

- facebook.com/StMarysHome
- twitter.com/StMarysHome
- youtube.com/StMarysHome
- saintmaryshome.org (go to News>Blog)

Josh and his mother check out his room at The Albero House on the day he moved in.