

JOURNEYS

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

Autumn 2014

A publication of
St. Mary's Home.

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ABOUT US

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

Girl Scouts Explore the Oceanfront



Cookie sales, generous donors make daylong "staycation" extra sweet

Kulquinda smiled and elegantly waved a lace fan in her right hand. To her left, Amelia looked pretty in pink.

Resplendent in long gowns, flowery hats and vintage-style jewelry, four Girl Scouts from St. Mary's Troop #5067 and their chaperones posed for an old-time group portrait — a perfect keepsake from their daylong outing to the Virginia Beach Oceanfront resort area on July 23.

Kulquinda, 19, Amelia, 21, and Ashley and Alysha, both 22, sold 840 boxes of Girl Scout cookies this spring, and used part of the proceeds for the trip. They sold 300 more boxes than last year, with help from online cookie orders, social media promotions and friends living on a military base in Greece who bought 150 boxes.

Troop leaders showed them pictures

representing activities, and the Scouts voted on what they wanted to do. Some verbally answered "yes" or "no," while others used smiles or other vocalizations, or adaptive switches, to indicate their preferences.

Businesses and attractions learned about the Girl Scouts' plans through the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau and volunteered to step in to help stretch the Scouts' funds. Thank you to Rockafellers Restaurant for inviting the troop and their chaperones to enjoy lunch on the house, The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center for providing free passes, Barclay Towers Resort for donating an oceanfront suite for the group to relax in between activities, and Dough Boy's California Pizza on 24th Street and Atlantic Avenue for baking free pizzas for dinner.

The Scouts also shopped for T-shirts and

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From left: Kulquinda, assistant troop leader Shirley Justice, Amelia, nurse Jenny Stephens, assistant troop leader Robin Geluso, and Alysha. Not pictured: Ashley and troop leader Mary Murphy.

From the Auxiliary Board President

Clare Davison

Auxiliary Board Supports Children Through Events, Activities

It is my privilege to serve as president of the Auxiliary Board of St. Mary's Home. Our goal as a board is to enrich the lives of the residents of the Home. We achieve this by providing funds and/or volunteer hours needed.

We strive to support activities such as day camps or trips, as well as special occasions including luaus, proms and graduations. We also provide much-needed equipment. We most recently helped fund the newest vehicle in St. Mary's fleet, which St. Mary's Girl Scout troop used to take the daylong trip to the Virginia Beach Oceanfront you read about on the front page of this newsletter.

We truly value our many sponsors, who enabled us to surpass our goal of raising \$100,000 at our auction and gala earlier this year. We are especially appreciative of the continued support of Checkered Flag Volkswagen and their general manager, Todd Collins.

I'm pleased to announce that for the fifth year in a row, Checkered Flag has offered to donate a car for us to raffle, contributing 100 percent of the proceeds for us to use. This time, the raffle will be for a 2015 Jetta. Tickets make great birthday or holiday gifts and can be purchased after Nov. 15 at saintmaryshome.org. They will be \$25 each, or five tickets for \$100.

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn during our 10th annual gala and auction, to be held Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Please join us as we celebrate a decade of giving. To make this an even more special celebration, we will have music by the Original Rhondels — so wear your dancing shoes!

We want to thank Joe Flanagan of WVEC-TV for agreeing to be our emcee once again. We all love Joe and know how St. Mary's holds a special place in his heart.

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



At the auction: Auxiliary Board President Clare Davison, right, with Laura Livingston, whose son lives at St. Mary's Home.

Farewell to Katheryn Hutchison Mote, Auxiliary Member

Katheryn Hutchison Mote, beloved donor, advocate and friend of St. Mary's Home, passed away on Aug. 5. She leaves a legacy of making this world a better place for children in our Hampton Roads community. Please see our next issue of Journeys to learn more about the many contributions this member of our Auxiliary Board made to the children and young adults of St. Mary's Home.



Thank You for Raising a Record \$109,000 at Auxiliary Board Gala

The 9th annual gala and auction organized by the Auxiliary Board of St. Mary's Home raised a record \$109,000 to support the children and young adults with disabilities who live at St. Mary's. Thank you to all who made this such a success.



Checkered Flag Volkswagen General Manager Todd Collins and his wife, Alicen, at the gala. In his remarks, Collins said he was happy to be able to continue supporting "St. Mary's Home for amazing Children."

About 300 people attended the gala, presented by Checkered Flag Volkswagen earlier this year at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront. WVEC-TV personality Joe Flanagan was emcee for the second year in a row.

Guests enjoyed dinner, music, a silent auction and a live auction featuring items such as a week's stay in a centuries-old village house in Provence, France, a trip that included two business-class airline tickets donated by Maersk. The live auction also featured bidding to fund field trips for the children and young adults, raising \$20,000.

The gala concluded with the Auxiliary raffling off a 2014 Volkswagen Jetta, donated by Checkered Flag Volkswagen. This was the fourth year that Checkered Flag Volkswagen has donated a car for the Auxiliary raffle, with help from General Manager Todd Collins.

Thank you to Checkered Flag and all the other sponsors for the auction and gala: Monarch Bank & Mortgage; Newtown Building Supplies; Portfolio Recovery Associates; Katheryn Mote, in memory of her husband, J. Harry Mote; Wells Fargo Advisors; PF&A Design; Hook Law Center; Roof Engineering; Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley; Bank of America; Colonna's Shipyard; DRS Construction & Design; InA Associates; Pat & Jim Kramer; TowneBank; Lucy Oldfield; and Optima Health.

Save the Date:

Please Join Us to Celebrate a Decade of Giving
The Auxiliary Board's 10th Annual Gala & Auction
Saturday, February 28, 2015
Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront
Featuring music by the Original Rhondels
Information: (757) 572-3014

Junior League Names St. Mary's Community Partner of the Year

We are so pleased to have been named Community Partner of the Year by The Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach. Bobbie Gribble, JLNVB president, right, and Laura Radspinner, administrative vice president, center, visited St. Mary's Home this summer (pictured here with Mary Helen Hilton, St. Mary's director of annual giving). The JLNVB volunteered at our Fall Mile for Movement Festival last October and at our Auxiliary's 9th gala and auction in March. We look forward to many new partnership opportunities.



Congratulations to Sally Hartman, vice president of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, who held the winning raffle ticket for a 2014 Jetta donated by Checkered Flag Volkswagen.

We'd Love to Speak to Your Organization

Every club and organization faces the ongoing challenge of providing quality programs for its membership. Our staff members enjoy speaking to groups about St. Mary's and the exceptional care, education, therapies and recreational programs we offer for children and young adults who have severe disabilities. Our presentation is designed to fit easily into your breakfast, lunch or dinner program format, at no cost. A lively, 10-minute video, "The Power Of Touch," will both inform and enlighten your membership. Our speakers also are prepared for a short question-and-answer period.

To book a speaker from St. Mary's Home, please contact Sonja Barisic, director of marketing communications, at sbarisic@smhdc.org or (757) 352-2700. For additional information about St. Mary's, visit saintmaryshome.org or call (757) 622-2208 or (800) 237-6555. Thank you for considering a presentation by St. Mary's Home.

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(go to News>Blog)

Wendy's Supports St. Mary's, Treats Kids to Day of Food and Fun

Some of the children and young adults from St. Mary's Home and The Albero House had a fun afternoon at the newly remodeled Wendy's on Newtown Road in Norfolk. Thank you to the restaurant for choosing St. Mary's as its community partner to receive a \$500 donation during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 19, and for generously providing free food to invited family, staff and friends of St. Mary's. Clark Elverum, area director of Wendy's Hampton Roads locations, and Zach Barnes, general manager of the restaurant, held the donation check while Jorge and St. Mary's CEO William C. Giermak cut the ribbon, with Salim, Isaiah and Rachel looking on. Special thanks to District Manager Sophie Young (not pictured), who reached out to St. Mary's and set up the event.



Congratulations to St. Mary's Class of 2014

Colton had worked hard in class on a speech and when Graduation Day came, school staff helped give voice to his words: "I've had an awesome time in school."

Congratulations to Alexandria, Amelia, Colton and Karyn. These members of St. Mary's Class of 2014 will transition from the Home during the current year, either moving to The Albero House, our new home for adults, or to another facility.

The graduation ceremony on May 9 included heartfelt tributes by teachers and friends of the grads and the mothers of two of the grads followed by lunch and a cake donated by Sugar Plum Bakery.

Colton's mom, Roxane Ward, thanked the many people who affected her family's lives along the way, including his teachers and principal. "Their integrity tells me that they're not here because it's their job," she said. "They're here because it's their passion. And it makes a difference."

Myra Perdue said she watched her daughter, Amelia, blossom at St. Mary's. "I could not have asked for a better place for Amelia to have been for the past 10 years," she said. "This is her family. This is our family."

Edward Miller, Esq., an associate at the Hook Law Center who is involved in special needs planning, spoke about empowering people with disabilities. "The more that special-needs individuals can be involved in the community and be active in ways that St. Mary's strongly encourages, the more people will understand that they are loving, caring, compassionate and passionate people. That's an important part of St. Mary's mission."



Amelia and the other graduates were surrounded by family and friends on their special day.

Teens Dance Thanks to Many Helping Hands



Sixteen teens dressed up in gowns or tuxedos purchased or rented by St. Mary's Auxiliary Board and enjoyed prom on May 18. Thank you to students from Grassfield High School in Chesapeake and members of LifePoint Christian Fellowship for decorating St. Mary's Atrium and joining the residents for the fun event organized by our recreational therapy department, and to Play It Again DJs in Newport News for donating their time to provide music. Congratulations to Prom Queen and King Hannah and Dylan!

Golfer Marc Leishman Donates \$10,000, Putts with Kids at St. Mary's

Aidan, Isaiah, Jorge and Salim took turns trying out their putting skills with one of the world's top golfers by their side as they positioned their wheelchairs next to a practice green. Then, Jorge asked their companion to show them what he could do.

Marc Leishman, a native Australian who lives in Virginia Beach, obliged by sinking a 6-foot putt. "I've had a lot of practice," Leishman said, turning toward Jorge with a smile.

Thank you to Leishman, who donated \$10,000 to St. Mary's from The Presidents Cup 2013, and toured the Home on Aug. 14, with his wife, Audrey. After a little golf, Jorge, 14, presented them with a framed piece of artwork created by a child who lives at St. Mary's.



Aidan, 13, gets some putting tips from pro golfer Marc Leishman.

The Leishmans were accompanied by friends Sheri Mantoni, a support coordinator at St. Mary's Home, and Jessica A. Hayes of Hook Law Center, who helped arrange their visit.

"It's a great home. Before I came here, I wasn't sure what it was going to be like. But it definitely surpassed all my expectations for sure," Leishman said. "It's an awesome place. If we ever get the opportunity, hopefully we can help out in the future, too."

Leishman tied for fifth place at the British Open in July and followed that by finishing third at the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational. The Rookie of the Year on the PGA Tour

in 2009, Leishman participated in The Presidents Cup as a member of the International Team. Competitors receive no prize money but allocate their portion of the proceeds to charitable causes.

"We are extremely grateful to Marc for his generous gift," CEO William C. Giermak said. "Our supporters like Marc and his wife, Audrey, help make it possible for children and young adults with severe disabilities to be happy and healthy while receiving a level of complex care that can be difficult for families to provide at home."

Goodbye to Dr. Ahmad Shoaibi, Friend and Former St. Mary's Medical Director

Dr. Ahmad A. Shoaibi, longtime medical director of St. Mary's Home, passed away on Aug. 3. He was 84. Dr. Shoaibi, who was born in Tehran, Iran, was the first neonatologist in the Tidewater region of Virginia. Along with treating children at area hospitals and clinics, he was medical director of St. Mary's from 1968 to 2009. In 1993, St. Mary's established The James E. Etheridge, Jr., M.D., and Ahmad A. Shoaibi, M.D., Scholarship, given each year to an Eastern Virginia Medical School graduate committed to practicing pediatrics in eastern Virginia. St. Mary's conducted a memorial service for Dr. Shoaibi at the Home on Aug. 14. We will greatly miss this wonderful friend of St. Mary's.



In The News

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

July 31

St. Mary's Girl Scouts featured on front of the "Beacon" section for Virginia Beach.

July 14

St. Mary's participation mentioned in front-page story about an international conference for children with rare genetic disorders.

May 19

St. Mary's prom featured on front of "Hampton Roads" section.

INSIDE BUSINESS

July 21

St. Mary's Home cited for winning four awards, including Best in Show, from the Public Relations Society of America-Hampton Roads chapter, for publications.

July 14

Dominion Volunteer of the Year Elsie Harris, who supports St. Mary's, featured.

TIDEWATER WOMEN

July issue

Dominion Volunteer of the Year Elsie Harris, who supports St. Mary's, featured.

THE NEW JOURNAL & GUIDE

June 11

Dominion Volunteer of the Year Elsie Harris, who supports St. Mary's, featured.

TIDEWATERBIZ (daily-press.com)

June 25

St. Mary's Home cited for winning four PRSAHR awards for publications.

WTKR-TV

May 18

St. Mary's prom featured on evening news broadcast.

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

Special thanks to Teresa Diaz, social responsibility coordinator for the Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, for helping to make the trip happen. The Scouts presented Diaz, seen here with Alysha, with a piece of artwork created by a child at St. Mary's.

Girl Scouts Explore the Oceanfront



Continued from page 1
other souvenirs, attended an outdoor circus performance at the 17th Street Stage and watched a fireworks show along the Boardwalk before making the 15-mile trip back to St. Mary's in a new bus. This was the first field trip taken with the bus, purchased in part with support from St. Mary's Auxiliary Board and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"We're always thinking about how we can help the children and young adults at St. Mary's experience the same things their peers outside of St. Mary's are doing," said Robin Geluso, an assistant troop leader and a support coordinator at the Home. "Going to the beach and hanging out with your friends is what many teens and college-age kids from this area do during the summer, so we're thrilled we got to do that, too."

Kulquinda and Amelia actually took a break from summer school to go on the trip. The principal told Geluso that she checked in with them later and according to Kulquinda, it had been the best day ever.

See more photos of the Girl Scout trip at [Facebook.com/StMarysHome](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysHome). Watch a video of trip highlights at [YouTube.com/StMarysHome](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysHome).

Upcoming Events

OCT. 24, 2014
Friday Forums lecture featuring Terry A. Lyle, principal, SECEP REACH, St. Mary's Home.

Atrium, St. Mary's Home, 1-2 p.m. For information: (757) 622-2208 ext. 321

OCT. 25, 2014
Battle of the Beers, presented by Beach Ambassadors. 75% of the proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Home.
Tapped! Gastropub, Virginia Beach, 1-6 p.m.
For information: beachambassadors.com.



Philip Casone, a member of the Beach Ambassador, helps Hanna take a dip in St. Mary's therapy pool.

JAN. 29, 2015
"What About Me? Sibling Support"
Free workshop for parents, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at St. Mary's Home. In partnership with Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters.



For Dominion Employee, Volunteering is a Way of Life

Like many people, Elsie Harris celebrated Memorial Day this summer with a cookout, but not just for her family. She and her granddaughters prepared and handed out food to veterans, homeless people, senior citizens and others in need.

Harris designs electrical systems for Dominion Virginia Power for a living, but volunteering is her way of life. For her community service, she was named a Dominion Volunteer of the Year twice, in 2001 and again earlier this year. Thank you to Harris for both times selecting St. Mary's Home to receive a \$1,000 donation from the energy company.

She learned about St. Mary's Home when Dominion loaned her to United Way for a couple months to help the agency with its fundraising campaign kickoff. That experience led her to volunteer to sit with the babies at St. Mary's. "I do a lot of volunteering at different places, but this is one place that my heart is," Harris said.

Harris has passed down her passion for helping others to her two daughters and four grandchildren, including Paige Beavers, a licensed practical nurse at St. Mary's.

"She was so happy when I started working here," Beavers said of her grandmother. And Beavers was happy, too. "I love the kids. They're so joyful. You can never have a bad day here, no matter how you come in feeling."

During a recent visit to St. Mary's, Harris and Beavers spent some time with two-year-old Payten, who was all smiles when they walked in to the classroom for the Infant and Toddler Program for St. Mary's youngest residents. Harris also visited 16-year-old Nate, one of the young adults under Beavers' care. He was feeling a bit under the weather but brightened as Harris read a book to him.

That afternoon, Martha Price Stewart, St. Mary's director of development, surprised Harris with a vase full of flowers to thank Harris and Dominion for their support. "I knew there was love here," Harris said.



Payten with Dominion Volunteer of the Year Elsie Harris, left, and Paige Beavers, a nurse at St. Mary's and granddaughter of Harris.

Making a connection. It sometimes requires extraordinary patience, effort and skill. But in a place filled with love and laughter, where victories are often hard-fought but deeply rewarding, it's worth it. And every inch of progress is unforgettable. **How will you be remembered?** We invite you to link your legacy with ours through a planned gift. After all, love is forever.



It can be as easy as asking your attorney to add a codicil, a simple addition, to your will. Or, interested in a gift annuity? The current rates are quite competitive:

Age	60-61	65	70	75	80
Rate	4.4%	4.7%	5.1%	5.8%	6.8%

Please contact Martha Price Stewart at (757) 446-6797 or mstewart@smhdc.org to ask more about these and other ways you can continue your support into the future. And, ask about a special October member event.



St. Mary's Home | Meeting the complex needs of children and adults with disabilities.
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Journeys is published by the nonprofit St. Mary's Home. Questions or comments? Contact the editor, Sonja Barisic, at (757) 352-2700 or sbarisic@smhdc.org.

Thank you to our newsletter sponsor:



CREATE
LASTING
MEMORIES
WITH A PAVER



Engraved with a loved one's name, a sentiment or an expression of gratitude, pavers create lasting memories. Create your own memories while supporting the children and young adults of St. Mary's by buying a paver to be installed at our front entrance or in our tribute garden. See saintmaryshome.org/donate/pavers/ or contact Diane Zinn, development coordinator, at (757) 622-2208 ext. 328 or dzinn@smhdc.org.



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The Albero House Celebrates a Year of Caring for Adults

Moving away from the comfortable environment and caring, expert staff they have known can be difficult for the young adults of St. Mary's when they turn 21. We're proud to offer another option for our graduates. Thank you to the supporters like you who contributed the more than \$3.2 million needed to build and equip The Albero House, named after the main benefactors, Carl and Carole Anne Albero.

A year after The Albero House was dedicated, on Sept. 19, 2013, nine adults are living in this 10,000-square-foot home on our campus. The Albero features a spacious common living area, a kitchen where staff, family and residents have whipped up birthday cupcakes and holiday feasts, an enclosed porch and a beautifully landscaped courtyard. Each resident has a private bedroom, decorated to his or her personal taste, with help from generous supporters. All 12 private rooms are expected to be full by year's end.



Molly gets some exercise in the spacious common living area at The Albero House. (photo by Tony Cece)

Yes, I WANT TO HELP

Please donate today to help children and young adults with severe disabilities live well and get the best care, in a warm, homelike environment. You can make your 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 tax-deductible contribution helps with essential medical care and brightens the children's lives with adventures they treasure year-round.

You also are invited to create your legacy by making a planned gift, such as leaving St. Mary's in your will, and becoming a founding member of The Guardian Society. For more information, contact Martha Price Stewart, director of development, at (757) 446-6797 or mstewart@smhdc.org.

Thank you so much for gifts you have made to St. Mary's Home. Please consider a monthly recurring gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to increase the power of your donation.