

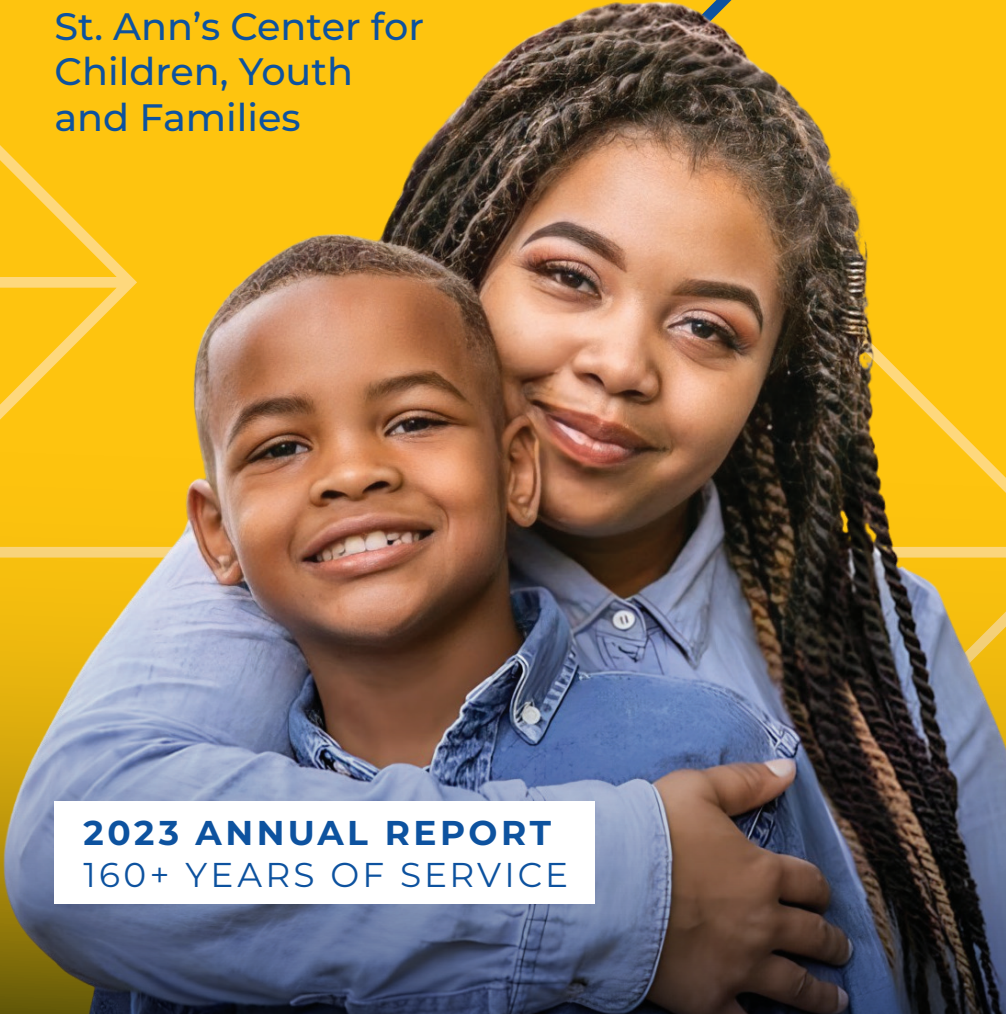


*A Tradition of Caring*

# New Chapters

St. Ann's Center for  
Children, Youth  
and Families

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**  
160+ YEARS OF SERVICE





## Table of Contents

Client Spotlight	1
Mission, Vision & Values	3
About Our Theme	3
Letter from Sister Nancy Downing, CEO	4
FY2023 Housing Programs	5
St. Ann's Wrap-Around Services	6
Child Care Center	7
"U.S. Catholic" Excerpt	8
FY2023 St. Ann's Center Leadership	9
Partners in Caring	10
Financial Statement	28
Ways to Support St. Ann's Center	29



## “St. Ann’s Was My Saving Grace”

An Interview with A’ja, by Maureen Stiles

One of St. Ann’s Center’s core goals is to help mothers achieve independence. No one embodies this mission more than A’ja—a resident of both Hope House and Faith House with her son during the last several years. Now living in the DC area on her own, A’ja spoke with us recently, sharing a bit about her journey and an exciting new update.

You may recall reading A’ja’s story in our 2021 Annual Report. At that time, she had just earned her Associate’s Degree from Prince George’s Community College, and planned to transfer to Bowie State University to earn her Bachelor’s Degree. A’ja soon realized that working full time, taking classes, and raising a child required flexibility. As she has done numerous times in her life, A’ja pivoted and switched to the University of Maryland’s Global Campus program and found a better fit.

Accommodating her job schedule was vital as A'ja was steadfastly saving to purchase a home. Her persistence and discipline paid off recently, as A'ja and her son picked up the keys to the home she purchased herself.

"This has been an ongoing process for the last 2-3 years," A'ja explained. "It was such a competitive market. Finally, a seller and my lender signed off on a property and we closed at the end of November."

A'ja generously credits St. Ann's Center for providing the security, stability and support necessary to make this dream a reality. "St. Ann's was my saving grace," she said. "I give thanks to God first but then to St. Ann's. I had a mission and the feeling of security they gave helped me want to push myself."

A'ja also credits St. Ann's Life Skills classes with helping her prepare for this new chapter. "The budgeting classes will be beneficial so I can stay on track with expenses and savings. The schedule we had at St. Ann's also trained me to use my time wisely which I will, hopefully, keep doing in the future."

That future looks bright for A'ja and her son. After graduation this May, A'ja wants to continue her work in the advising office at Prince George's Community College. Her son will be starting high school soon and she knows the teen years are "crucial," especially considering her son aims to serve in the military.

After all, A'ja was a teen when her own journey with St. Ann's began, and she saw first-hand what stability and care can yield. When asked what advice she would give to a teen mother wondering about her future she said, "Definitely pray and trust in God that he has a plan for your life. St. Ann's is a wonderful place with programs to help with groceries, Christmas presents and learning to balance motherhood with school and work."

In closing she added, "Use your time at St. Ann's wisely. Grow your savings. Get your education. Earn a degree or certification. Elevate in your career. Position yourself to become a better version of YOU. The time you invest into yourself will pay off in the end for you and your family." Sound advice for new mothers—or just about anyone trying to better themselves and grow.

# Mission, Vision & Values

**MISSION:** St. Ann's Center helps mothers and children overcome crisis and achieve lasting independence and stability by providing a safe and supportive home, child care, education and employment assistance, and clinical social work services within a Catholic community that welcomes all.

**VISION:** Where all women and their children have a loving home and thrive as a family.

**VALUES:** St. Ann's Center is committed to providing care that is safe, nurturing, healing, empowering and strength-based, and where all are served with compassion, dignity, and respect.



## About Our Theme

Our theme for this year's Annual Report is **"New Chapters."**

FY23 was a year of graduations, promotions, successful transitions, and healthy babies born to mothers who knew they could count on the stability and caring support within St. Ann's supportive and transitional housing programs. We celebrate all of these bright "New Chapters!"

We especially celebrate A'ja (Cover Story), who has shared about an incredible "New Chapter" in her journey for this year's Report. A'ja, thank you so much for sharing your story.

Lastly, this year's theme speaks to the latest "New Chapter" in St. Ann's Center's 164-year story, as we began implementing our FY23-FY26 Strategic Plan under our new CEO's leadership.

St. Ann's story is not possible without supporters like you. Thank you for helping us continue our life affirming mission, started by the *Daughters of Charity* in 1860. With your help and God's providence this story will have many more chapters to come.

# Letter from the CEO



Dear Friends,

You make St. Ann's Center a special place. Whether through donations, partnership, or prayers, you help mothers facing housing insecurity and homelessness find a new confidence in themselves and new hope for the future.

You help to counsel and advise, coach and encourage, educate and teach so that our mothers can set goals and achieve them — perhaps for the first time in their lives. I am honored to be joining so many people like you who believe in the value and potential of each woman and child who comes to St. Ann's

Today, the young families we serve are increasingly challenged by the world in which we live. Abuse, neglect, homelessness, human trafficking, and many other denials of human dignity are heavy burdens that many of them carry. By offering them a safe home, counseling, and guidance within a caring environment, you bring them to a place where healing is possible. Through your support, you help provide the services they need to take meaningful steps toward a more stable and independent future.

This journey—from despair to hope—has been central to St. Ann's mission ever since our founding in 1860 by three Daughters of Charity. Now, as then, we are challenged to adapt and grow to best meet the needs of those we serve.

I look forward to carrying on this work in the spirit of those who have led St. Ann's before me, and I am so grateful to you for being a valued partner in our mission.

Thank you!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Nancy J. Downing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**SISTER NANCY DOWNING, CND**

# FY2023 Housing Programs

St. Ann's Center operates three supportive housing programs that cater to the needs of mothers and their children seeking safety and stability through St. Ann's – **Grace House**, **Hope House**, and **Faith House**.

## GRACE HOUSE

**Grace House** is the home of our Teen Mother-Baby Program, where St. Ann's staff members support homeless pregnant and parenting young women through their pregnancy and early motherhood in continuing their education, making decisions for their family, and planning for the future.

## HOPE HOUSE

## FAITH HOUSE

**Hope House** and **Faith House** are the sites of our Supportive and Transitional Housing Programs. Hope House clients reside in single-family units with shared kitchens and living spaces in St. Ann's main building. Faith House residents live in a standalone building consisting of private, one-bedroom apartments with a shared kitchen and living areas.

Residents across our three programs have access to our comprehensive wrap-around services – see page 6.

GRACE



12 & 12  
Teens Children



215  
Average Night Stay

HOPE



17 & 22  
Mothers Children



343  
Average Night Stay

FAITH



6 & 8  
Mothers Children



484  
Average Night Stay

# St. Ann's Wrap-Around Services

## Education and Employment Program (EEP)

- > Helps families create personalized roadmaps towards financial stability through developing academic and long-term career goals and strategies.

## Employment Counseling

- > In collaboration with local partners, residents build the foundation for lifelong independence through 1-on-1 career coaching, resume assistance, job readiness and job placement assistance.

## Education Support

- > Our primary objective for clients is high school completion by earning their diploma or GED. We work one-on-one with each client to meet her educational goals and build a foundation for a family-supporting career. Supports include: GED Support; Post-Secondary Support Services; Volunteer and Internship Opportunities; Career Counseling; Child Care Services; and Parenting Classes.

## Parenting and Life Skills Classes

- > Classes offered by staff and qualified volunteers help residents gain practical knowledge and skills in areas like: financial literacy; maternal and pediatric health; child development; nutrition; self-care; spirituality; parenting; and Street Law, Inc., to name a few.

## Mentoring

- > Volunteer Mentors are paired with Mentees for weekly encouragement and guidance, aiming to both celebrate successes as well as develop support systems for various challenges.

## Clinical & Social Work Services (CSWS)

- > CSWS provides trauma-informed, strength-based services to help women heal from past experiences and start building a better future for their young families. Upon arrival at St. Ann's, either a Case Manager or Social Worker is assigned to each resident to assist in navigating access to health care, child care, and other benefits. Personalized plans address and serve each mother's complex and unique needs.







## Child Care Center

St. Ann's Child Care Center has provided high-quality, holistic child care to residents and children from the community for over three decades. Our child care program enhances social and emotional development.

### Infant and Toddler Program | Ages 2 Months to 2 Years

Every infant and toddler entrusted to St. Ann's receives individualized care and attention in a loving environment. Early Head Start is available for low-income families with children under the age of 3, helping young working families manage the child care gap.

### Preschool Program | Ages 3 to 4 Years

Over their final two years at the Center, children grow in confidence and self-esteem while learning social skills and preparing for successful entry into kindergarten.

### Paul's Journey

Paul, his parents' first child, was 15 months old when he entered St. Ann's Early Head Start program, following concerns about Paul's developmental progress. He wasn't crawling or walking and he was disengaged around other children. Paul's parents spoke primarily Spanish at home.

Our Child Care staff consulted with St. Ann's physical therapist and focused extra attention on Paul. In just three months, Paul has come a long way. He is a dual-language learner, interacts and runs around with his toddler classmates, and can feed himself and drink from an open cup!

## 83 TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED

38 Infant & Toddlers, 45 Preschoolers  
25 Children of Residents served across both programs

## 30 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START

19 St. Ann's Residents / Former Residents,  
11 Children from the Community

## CHILD CARE CENTER BENEFITS



Low Teacher-  
Child Ratio



Indoor and  
Outdoor Play Areas



Hands-on  
Science Activities



Computer Fun  
& Play-Centered  
Learning



Health and  
Fitness Activities



Music



Arts and Crafts




Dedicated and  
Experienced Staff



License #33020

“ It is a privilege to help our students grow, learn, and reach their developmental milestones. We look forward to expanding our classrooms in the year ahead to serve additional families at St. Ann's and those families in the community. ”

MONIQUE HARPER, DIRECTOR, CHILD CARE CENTER



## St. Ann's Center Advocates for Maternal Mental Health in "U.S. Catholic"

My colleagues at St. Ann's Center and I encountered a young woman named Celine. Like many women who come to us, Celine was pregnant and alone with virtually no family members or social networks she could rely for support.

Celine was one of the hundreds of pregnant youth under 24 years old experiencing homelessness in our region that year.

Fortunately, Celine was able to connect with our center through a social worker, who shared about Celine's circumstances and outlined the supports she sought. Celine's primary need was to secure safe and reliable housing in time for her baby's arrival. The other piece of Celine's story was that she had also experienced significant trauma in her own childhood. Understandably, Celine preferred not to explore these experiences during her early days with us. However, Celine began to slowly form a trusting relationship with one longtime residential staff member. Celine showed courage in risking this new relationship, which began to blossom. New doors opened in Celine's life as she gradually realized she was in a safe environment—physically and emotionally.

Celine took more courageous steps, including engaging with our clinical and social work services team, who helped her process the trauma she had experienced. In time, Celine's innate strengths allowed her to form a secure and loving bond with her infant. Happily, mom and baby are both now thriving and have transitioned to independent housing of their own.

Excerpt from "Moms need mental health support as well as material resources," (5/10/23) by Sister Mary Bader, writing for U.S. Catholic. Link: <https://uscatholic.org/authors/sister-mary-bader-d-c/>

# St. Ann's Leadership

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and the stewardship of our Board of Directors.

## STAFF LEADERSHIP

**Sister Mary Bader, DC**

**Sister Nancy Downing, CND as of January 2024**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Susan Flaherty**  
Vice President of Development

**Dr. Augustine Frazer**  
Vice President of Programs

**Karen Gilroy**  
Vice President of Finance & Administration

**Shaneen Alvarez, LCSW-C, LICSW**  
Director, Clinical and Social Work Services

**Knina Harvey, LMSW**  
Acting Director, Clinical and Social Work Services as of November 2023

**Jeanette Chittams**  
Director, Residential Programs

**Louise Cole**  
Director, Human Resources

**Peggy Howard Gatewood**  
Administrator of Contracts, Licensing & Special Projects

**Monique Harper**  
Director, Child Care Center

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## EMERITUS

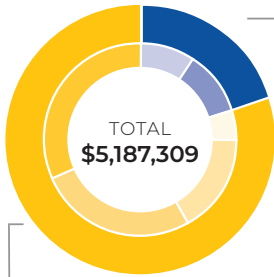
Elaine Baugham-Young

Mary Lou Krestchmer

Anne E. Schneiders, Esq.†

# Financial Statement

## EXPENSES FY2023



**80%**  
PROGRAM SERVICES  
\$4,140,958

**20%**  
SUPPORT SERVICES  
\$1,046,351

**32%**  
TEEN MOTHER &  
BABY PROGRAM  
\$1,634,742

**27%**  
CHILD CARE  
CENTER  
\$1,406,121

**11%**  
GENERAL &  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
\$594,175

**9%**  
FUNDRAISING  
\$452,176

**17%**  
TRANSITIONAL  
HOUSING  
PROGRAM  
\$862,514

**5%**  
EDUCATION &  
EMPLOYMENT  
\$237,581

## REVENUE FY2023

**56%**  
PRIVATE  
DONATIONS  
AND GRANTS  
\$3,158,187

**13%**  
CONTRIBUTED  
SERVICES AND  
MATERIALS  
\$705,731

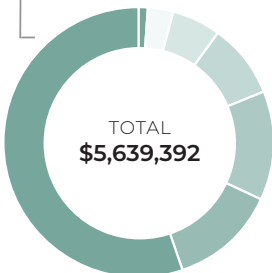
**13%**  
GOVERNMENT  
CONTRACTS  
\$708,030

**9%**  
SPECIAL EVENTS  
\$508,085

**6%**  
PRIVATE FEES  
\$318,762

**3%**  
RENTAL INCOME  
\$172,200

**1%**  
INVESTMENT  
INCOME/LOSS  
\$68,397



### DONOR TRUST

Value: 6/30/22 \$9,261,861

Value: 6/30/23 \$10,232,183

FY2023 gain \$970,321.97

# Ways to Support St. Ann's Center



## **Outright donations**

Outright donations, on-line or by check, are the simplest way to give directly to St. Ann's most urgent needs.



## **Estate Giving**

Invest in St. Ann's future by including St. Ann's in your will or as the beneficiary of a financial account. St. Ann's Employee Identification Number (EIN) is 53-0204626.



## **Workplace Giving**

Combined Federal Campaign #29344



## **United Way #8180**

Maryland Charity Campaign #53-0204626



## **Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution**

Meet your minimum distribution requirement while potentially decreasing your taxes. Ask your IRA custodian to find out if this type of contribution is right for you.



## **Circle of Angels**

Thank you to St. Ann's Circle of Angels for committing to a monthly, quarterly or annual contribution. This is most easily done by making a donation through our website.



## **Donate Stock**

By donating appreciated stock, you may be able to deduct the full market value without capital gains tax.

 **View the online version of our  
report at [www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org).**

St. Ann's Day 2024  
"Planting Seeds of Hope"



 Matching Gift Opportunity! 

# Help Us Plant the Seeds of Hope!

This year on July 26 – *St. Ann's Feast Day* – we invite you to help as we plant the seeds of hope for the women and their children who turn to St. Ann's for help. At the same time, we'll also honor the women who have meant so much to you. Your donation will also be matched by **Raskob Foundation** – they will generously match your donations up to \$25,000!

Make your donation – **DOUBLE THE IMPACT** – planting seeds of hope and honor a wonderful woman in your life with your tribute!



Make your gift at:  
[bit.ly/StAnnFeastDay](https://bit.ly/StAnnFeastDay)

Your gift will be generously honored by Raskob Foundation until August 30, 2024.



*A Tradition of Caring*

## St Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families

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Hyattsville, MD 20782

 301.559.5500

 [info@stanns.org](mailto:info@stanns.org)

 [www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org)

EIN 53-0204626

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2023

**Candid.**



United Way  
of the National Capital Area  
Proud Partner

UW #8180 | CFC #29344