



ST. ANN'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

A Tradition of Caring Since 1860

FALL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

Our Mission

St. Ann's, a faith based organization, in keeping with its long tradition of caring, acknowledges the human dignity of each person by empowering women and children in their journey toward becoming self-sufficient and engaged members of the community.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

A YOUNG MOTHER'S JOURNEY IN PARENTING

When we asked 18-year old mother, Gabrielle, about her dreams for her young son Caleb, she answered just as any mother would: "I want him to do well in school, graduate, go to college, and do something he loves."

But Gabrielle knows that in order to give her son the best opportunity to accomplish his dreams, she must lead by example.

And she is doing so. At the end of year celebration for St. Ann's High School - a component of St. Ann's Center's Education and Employment Program - Principal Valerie Swain announced that Gabrielle had advanced to the 12th grade and was on track to graduate in May 2015.



Once the applause settled down, Ms. Swain added that Gabrielle had also been accepted into a competitive work-study program for her Senior Year, affording her the opportunity to attend school in the morning and work at a paid internship in the afternoons. Her internship placement would be with a local business, where she has volunteered and worked part-time for nearly three years.

Everyone in the room - from Gabrielle's classmates to St. Ann's staff and volunteers - knew that this was an enormous accomplishment, particularly for a young woman who arrived at

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SETON GUILD: THE NEXT CHAPTER

Gathered around a dining room table in Bethesda, six members of St. Ann's Seton Guild are charting a new course in their organization's sixty-year history.

A few of the women seated at the table have been members of the Guild for

decades; others have just been recruited. Although they acknowledge that their discussions about social media and web design would have seemed foreign to their founding members many years earlier, they remind each other that the Seton Guild's mission has not wavered.

Founded in 1953 by three local women, the Seton Guild supports the recreation and educational needs of St. Ann's young mothers.

The impact of the Seton Guild's work can be found in every nook and corner of St. Ann's. In 1961, the group was responsible for hiring the first psychiatrist to support the mental health needs of St. Ann's young mothers.

The educational and life skills programs once administered by Seton Guild members led to the

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ST. ANN'S LEADERSHIP (FISCAL YEAR 2015)

CORPORATE BOARD

Donald Cardinal Wuerl,
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William Gorman

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Nicola Whiteman, Esq.

Sister Mary Bader, *CEO*

** Signifies a new member of the
Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2015*

MESSAGE FROM SR. MARY BADER

Long before St. Ann's school year officially began in August, our hallways and residential spaces were already filled with new faces and voices.

In July, we opened a third wing of Hope House - our newest transitional housing unit - to increase our capacity to serve formerly homeless families. Our residential and transitional housing programs now serve twenty-three families (including twenty-five children) and four expectant young women.

As our residential programs continue to grow, so will the number of families taking advantage of our on-site supportive services.

The Child Care Center expects to care for more than 20 residential children this year, up from just 11 children in May. To accommodate the additional pupils, Director Barbara Dubik has hired new staff and opened an additional child care room.

When Principal Valerie Swain ushers in a new academic year at St. Ann's High School, she will have three new faculty members to support the larger student body.

Our summer of growth would not have been possible without the steady leadership of our Board of Directors. This September, we are thrilled to welcome our new officers: Karen Hess (President), Anne Schneiders (Vice President), Steve Heidenberger (Secretary), and Tom Borger (Treasurer). I am confident that with their leadership, St. Ann's will continue to grow and thrive.

"St Ann's provided a safety net for my birth mother over 60 years ago. It has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of young mothers, yet its mission remains essentially the same today. I look forward to bringing my energy, insight, and enthusiasm to St Ann's Board of Directors and am grateful for the opportunity to give back to an institution that holds such a special place in my heart."

Lynda M. Anderson
New Member, Board of Directors

Workplace Giving



8180

29344

*To request a St. Ann's staff member
to speak at your workplace giving
event, please contact Mary
Wadlinger at (301) 559-5500*

Find us Online!



Our Website

<http://www.stanns.org>



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LEADING BY EXAMPLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

St. Ann's when she was just 16 years old, nine months pregnant, and homeless.

While Gabrielle's day is filled by her studies and her paid internship this year, Caleb will be enrolled in St. Ann's on-site Child Care Center. She looks forward to him being able to socialize with children his age and the parenting guidance she will receive from his child care instructors.

Last spring, when Gabrielle became worried that Caleb wasn't picking up new words as quickly as other children

his age, the Child Care Center arranged an appointment for them with a speech therapist to measure his progress on important developmental milestones. After confirming Gabrielle's concerns about Caleb's vocabulary, the speech therapist recommended that Gabrielle encourage him to try new words through interactive reading activities.

Gabrielle began reading aloud to Caleb every night. As with every resident, she had been given a collection of age-appropriate children's books by St. Ann's staff. "Right now, our favorite

book is a collection of Dr. Seuss stories." She is already noticing improvements in Caleb's vocabulary.

Gabrielle hopes that one day her accomplishments will inspire Caleb to work hard in school, but for now she credits her academic motivation to another young mother.

"Last year there was a girl in the [Teen Mother-Baby] program who graduated from St. Ann's High School. We all watched her walk down the aisle and accept her diploma. She is my role model."

SETON GUILD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

establishment of St. Ann's High School, which is now a Maryland-approved private school. Today, the Seton Guild continues to support the High School by contributing learning materials and sponsoring instructors' continuing education.

To continue their support of St. Ann's young mothers, the Seton Guild has embarked on a new mission to recruit more women to their organization. New members will help the Guild to

plan and organize fundraising activities and community engagement events throughout the year to support St. Ann's mission. Currently, the group is planning their annual Afternoon Tea and Basket Auction, which will be held at Normandie Farms on October 18th (see page 4).

If you are interested in joining the Seton Guild or learning more about their activities, please contact Isabella Donnelly at (301) 460-4932.

BY THE NUMBERS

CLIENTS SERVED IN FY 2104

23 & 22

mothers children

served in Teen Mother Baby Program

18 & 22

mothers children

served in Transitional Housing Program

80

families

served in Child Care Center

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

HOPE BLOSSOMS - MAY 7, 2014



From right to left: Honorees Msgr. John Enzler & Valerie Guste Johnson with Sr. Mary Bader, Madeline and Shania Waters, and Chuck Short.



Our distinguished emcee, Kathleen Matthews, addresses the crowd at Hope Blossoms.



Former Faith House resident, Madeline Waters, delivering a moving testimony with her daughter, Shania, standing by her side.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Whether your cool weather fix is a pint of cold beer, cup of tea, or mug of hot cocoa, we have an opportunity for you to join St. Ann's old and new friends this autumn at one of our upcoming events!

October 2nd

OKTOBERFEST

St. Ann's Fall Social

Join us at **Cesco Osteria**, home to Bethesda's only outdoor beergarden, for a festive evening with friends.

*Cesco Osteria
Bethesda, MD
5:30pm-7:30pm*

October 18th

Seton Guild Tea and Basket Auction

Join the women of St. Ann's Seton Guild for their annual Afternoon Tea and Basket Auction.

*Normandie Farm
Potomac, MD
12pm-3pm*

December 6th

St. Ann's Christmas Open House

Our annual holiday celebration for all those who make it possible for us to advance St. Ann's mission.

*St. Ann's Center
Hyattsville, MD
TBD*

Keep an eye on our website for additional details about these events and registration information:

<http://www.stanns.org/events>

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

4901 Eastern Avenue
Hyattsville, MD



"To truly prevent homelessness... you can't just keep picking people up. You have to stop them from falling."

- Robin Williams

1951-2014