

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



St. Ann's Center is Reaccredited!

St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families achieved national reaccreditation from the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA), an international, independent, nonprofit human service accrediting organization. COA accreditation demonstrates excellence in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.



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From the Desk of Sister Mary Bader



In a few months, St. Ann's will usher in a year-long celebration of its 160th Anniversary! Though much has changed since the doors of St. Ann's opened wide to welcome infants, children and pregnant women into the home, the agency's mission has remained vibrant and relevant. Without a doubt, St. Ann's longevity, spanning portions of three centuries, can be attributed to its ability to adapt and respond creatively to the changing needs of vulnerable moms and children, while staying faithful to the mission.

As you read further in this newsletter, you will learn of St. Ann's evolution: from an orphanage and refuge for expectant women of the Civil War era to the large and loving foster home for young children and pregnant teenagers of the 20th Century to today's supportive transitional housing services for homeless mothers and their children.

Over the years, each significant change has not only been a response to an emerging need but also an opportunity to improve the services offered to our families. Our programs have reflected best practice, innovation and values of compassion, dignity and respect. And all the while, multitudes of women, children and families have been healed and strengthened on their journey to wholeness.

Just as St. Ann's has remained faithful to its mission for decades, so, too, have St. Ann's friends – donors, volunteers, and collaborators. Your support in its many forms has been an investment in lives and in families. As with all worthwhile investments, yours has an impact on two generations today with more generations to come. Thank you for helping to write the story of St. Ann's history and future!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Mary Bader".



Image captured by Maureen Porto

Janeika's Journey

You first met Janeika when she shared her powerful story in our **FY2018 Annual Report**. She moved to St. Ann's Center in July 2018 and is the mother of a toddler boy and a baby girl. Ever since becoming a part of St. Ann's residential program, Janeika has faithfully embraced the resources we offer our young families.

She attended daily GED prep classes at St. Ann's, facilitated by Education Coordinator, Sister Bernadette Miller, receiving high scores in every test she took. In August 2019, Janeika earned her **Maryland High School Diploma**. We could not be prouder of Janeika's accomplishments.

Janeika's educational journey continues. She has worked closely with Sister Bernadette in preparation for her next education step: college. Janeika is also working with Sharron Meshack, St. Ann's Center Employment Counselor, to secure stable employment as she prepares for her ultimate goal of opening a hair and beauty salon.



Janeika on her graduation day.



Children on the steps of St. Ann's on K Street in Washington, D.C. - 1860

St. Ann's is Turning 160!

2020 We will be entering our 160th year of serving the Washington, D.C. area's most vulnerable children, youth and families. Throughout the years we have adapted and reshaped our housing and support programs to ensure that we are meeting the ever-changing needs of local families. Read about St. Ann's through the years!

1860 Three **Daughters of Charity**, embarked on a noble mission to establish Washington, D.C.'s first home for orphaned, abused and neglected children. As a result of their vision and courage, St. Ann's Infant Asylum took its place in history. One year later – as the United States Civil War left countless women widowed and children orphaned – St. Ann's initiated its first education and job-training program to prepare single mothers to become family breadwinners.

1863 On March 3, 1863

President Abraham Lincoln signed an **Act of Congress** incorporating St. Ann's Infant Asylum, as it was then called. Washington, D.C. was a city at war, overrun by soldiers and uprooted civilians. St. Ann's Infant Asylum was charged with caring for the city's growing number of abandoned children and unwed mothers of all races and religions, many of whom had no place else to turn.

1929 St. Ann's became a founding member of Washington, D.C.'s "Community Chest", a fundraising organization established to facilitate partnership between local businesses and nonprofit organizations. That organization is now known as the **United Way of the National Capital Area**; its benefactors continue to provide St. Ann's invaluable financial support and volunteer hours.

1949 St. Ann's started providing affordable child care for working mothers with young children to further assist the D.C. community. Seventy years later, the program continues today.

1953 The Seton Guild, named for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of the first American branch of the Daughters of Charity, was established by local women volunteers to support St. Ann's high school and the mothers and children who benefit from St. Ann's care.

1962 To meet the need for more residential space and expanded support services, St. Ann's moved from Washington, D.C. to a larger campus in Hyattsville, Maryland, which remains our home to this day.

1984 St. Ann's continued making history by expanding its affordable child care program for toddlers and preschoolers, to care for infants in 1984. This was the first non-hospital based program authorized in the state of Maryland.

1996 Recognizing the growing need for affordable, supportive housing for impoverished single mothers in the community, St. Ann's opened **Faith House**, a transitional apartment facility built to help families make the transition to independent living.

2013 As the number of homeless families in our community continued to rise, St. Ann's expanded its supportive and transitional housing program for vulnerable mothers and their children with the opening of **Hope House**.

2016 St. Ann's introduced a fully stocked food pantry for residents and members of the community established through the generosity of individuals and local businesses. Mothers have access to all food items in the pantry including fresh vegetables, baby formula and baby food.

2017 To further meet the needs of the community, our **English as a Second Language (ESL)** program was initiated. Several women currently attend ESL classes run by Sister Bernadette Miller, Education Coordinator.



Girls living at St. Ann's visiting Tidal Basin.

2019 Recap!



Master of Ceremonies-Michael Steele, Honorary Host-Mary Jo Mullin, Honoree-Corinne Cannon, Honoree-Vincent C. Burke, III, CEO-Sister Mary Bader, Honorary Host-Tim Mullin

In May, over 300 guests supported St. Ann's with their attendance at our annual reception and awards ceremony, *Hope Blossoms*. The evening was an enormous success thanks to the dedication of our sponsors, donors, partners, Board of Directors, staff and the leadership and guidance of our Honorary Hosts, Tim and Mary Jo Mullin. Over **\$320,000** was raised for St. Ann's families.

In July, we hosted our Annual St. Ann's Day, a day of fun, games and, of course, pony rides. St. Ann's children, residents and staff enjoyed celebrating our namesake. Turley the Magician wowed everyone with his spectacular show. His Excellency, The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, SLD, Archbishop of Washington even stopped by to meet the St. Ann's community.



Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory with Sister Mary Bader as he introduces himself to Child Care Center children.



TV host and author, Ellen Bryan, serves up drinks as guest bartender at St. Ann's Center Fall Celebration.

On October 2, we hosted our annual Fall Event celebrating St. Ann's mission. It was a great opportunity for friends - longtime and new - to relax and share the evening with others who join us in making a positive difference for women and children in the Washington, D.C. area. Thank you to our fabulous guest bartenders!

Live Nation held their Annual VIP Auction on Saturday, October 5, raising \$43,000 to benefit St. Ann's. Janeika, resident at St. Ann's, shared her story about her journey toward stability and independence. The night was filled with lively energy with NBC News4 Anchor Jummy Olabanji as the guest auctioneer and musical performances of local artists, Tracy Hamlin and Carolyn Malachi.



St. Ann's Resident, Janeika and Tonya Sharpe, Board Chair

Welcome New Board Members

This fall we welcomed four dynamic individuals to St. Ann's Board of Directors: John F. Bean, Jr., Anthony J. (Tony) Cancelosi, Connie LaRossa Fabiano and Mary Lou Goehring. We thank our outgoing members, Michael T. Flynn, Cynthia W. Singleton, Monique Anderson Walker, Nicola Whiteman, Esq. and Shawn Yancy for their dedication and commitment to St. Ann's mission to strengthen and support families on their journey toward stability.

Join the Circle

Thank you to St. Ann's Circle of Angels for your monthly/quarterly contributions. Your recurring donations enable St. Ann's to provide high-quality care all year long.

For more information contact

Carolyn Boyle at
cboyle@stanns.org or
301-559-5500,ext 187.

Keeping up with St. Ann's!

Discover more stories on our blog:

WWW.STANNS.ORG/BLOG

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AND FAMILIES

Workplace Giving

Please support St. Ann's through your local workplace giving campaigns.

To request a St. Ann's client or staff member to speak at your workplace, please contact: Marisel Morales at mmorales@stanns.org or 301-559-5500 x163.



#53-0204626



#29344



United Way
of the National Capital Area

#8180

Are you eligible for an IRA Roll-Over?

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you may now instruct your IRA custodian to transfer any amount, up to \$100,000, directly to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families.

Check with your IRA custodian today to find out if this type of contribution is right for you.

For more information contact

Marisel Morales,
Vice President of Development,
at mmorales@stanns.org or
301-559-5500, ext 163.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

St. Ann's Christmas Open House

Our annual holiday
celebration.

St. Ann's Center
Hyattsville, MD
1pm to 3pm

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

Kendra Gives Back Party

Sponsored by
St. Ann's Center Young
Professionals Network.

Kendra Scott
Bethesda, MD
6pm to 8pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Hope Blossoms

St. Ann's annual reception
and awards ceremony.

Columbia Country Club
Chevy Chase, MD
6pm to 8pm

Visit our website for additional details about these events and registration information:

[HTTP://WWW.STANNS.ORG/EVENTS](http://www.stanns.org/events)