



A Tradition of Caring

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Hope in Action

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



**Watch Princess
share her story here!**

St. Ann's Mission, Vision, and 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.

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In Her Own Words: Princess' Story

My name is Princess Angel. My beautiful daughter is Jaziah. I am 19 years old. I am currently looking for colleges, and I'm in St. Ann's and I'm working full-time.

I found St. Ann's when I was seven months pregnant, at another program that wasn't right for me. A caseworker there told me, "Call St. Ann's Center immediately. You don't need to be homeless while you are about to deliver in a month." I called and the next day they said, "After you give birth, just come on." It's the best thing that ever happened.

I had my daughter on July 26, and I came here on July 29. Everybody was very nice. At first, I was very emotional, as a first-time mom. And some nights she would just cry and I wouldn't understand why, and I would just sit there and rock her. The staff would come calm me down, sing a lullaby to her and she went straight to sleep.

I was so happy that someone came and helped me and told me, "It's okay, the baby's gonna naturally do that." And to this day I just tell myself that. If she's crying, I know she's going to be fine.

Challenges and Successes

One month after I had my daughter, I was just wanting to work all the time. I felt, "I need to find a job." I sent applications, and I was just so worried about why I don't have a job, and why no one's contacted me back. And it was just very stressful. **Story continues on page 4**

Hope in Action!

FY2024 IMPACT



66

women and children served through transitional and supportive housing

8

families successfully completed St. Ann's programs



16,893

total days of housing provided

437

average days length of stay



55

physical therapy sessions provided for infants of residents



4

pregnant women served through housing

3

healthy babies born at St. Ann's

*1 baby born in FY25

533

visits between Clinical and Social Work staff and residents



101

children served through onsite Child Care Center

41

Life Skills classes held

27

Parenting Skills classes held

54

served through Preschool Program

47

served through Infant/Toddler Program

You Are the Reason

A LETTER FROM CEO SISTER NANCY DOWNING



Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting families at St. Ann's Center! Our theme for this year's Impact Report is "Hope in Action" – because this is precisely the gift you provide our community.

We truly saw "hope in action" this year as 66 women and children grew and thrived through our Residential Programs and wraparound services. In total, St. Ann's provided 16,893 days of housing in FY2024 - an amazing milestone that reflects the above-and-beyond work of our caring staff. I am so proud of, and grateful to, our team.

Princess, whose inspiring story is featured here*, is one of 30 mothers we had the privilege of working alongside this year. Eight other women successfully completed our programs, moving forward with their children on their respective journeys to independence. We were also blessed to serve four pregnant women who welcomed healthy babies (3 born in FY2024, 1 in FY2025). We thank God for these new lives!

St. Ann's provided 27 Parenting Skills classes, 41 Life Skills classes, and 533 Clinical and Social Work Services visits last year. We also piloted new Therapeutic Group Sessions offered in English and Spanish for our Teen Mother-Baby Program, with special focus on mental health and self-esteem. These offerings help women like Princess to build community while learning valuable skills for life beyond St. Ann's.

Our Child Care Center served 101 students from all backgrounds – including children of residents and families from the community. This growth plus classroom renovations, two new classrooms, and new trainings for our teachers - including caring for children on the autism spectrum and supporting children who speak two or more languages – reflects the incredible work of our Child Care Center team.

Thank you, from my heart, for the hope you provide to all who enter through our doors. Your gifts of time, treasure, and talent make our mission possible. Because of you, our community's future is bright!

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

Sister Nancy Downing

**See cover story*

Princess' Story continued



**Watch Princess
share her story here!**

Now I've found work. I've been working for almost five months now. I am looking for colleges. And mentally, my headspace is in a better position than when I first came here. And every time I look at her, I just smile... she's the reason.

And St. Ann's is doing a great job. The staff check up on me, including my case worker. And

I realized, "Oh wow, somebody does, really does care about me." Sister Molly was my first social worker and I loved her so much. She helped me with everything – my head space, my emotions. Every day she would see me and say, "You're getting better, you have all these achievements that you've already achieved and gotten to."

Miss Ria – my case manager now – she comes up to check on me and Jaziah, like all the time. Next week we're gonna talk about colleges. I'm doing what I want to do. I want to study computer science or radiology – either one.

The parenting and life skills classes on mental health, being a parent, self-awareness, boundaries – they really help me. One parenting class on self-boundaries made me cry one time. And one of the staff hugged me. She was like, "It's gonna be okay. We're all here to talk to you." And she gave me two books, and I'm currently reading them.

Reflecting and Looking to the Future

I'm worried about my next step. Like, "What is my next thing, what am I gonna do?"

I'm currently saving up for an apartment and a car. I'm focused on just being the best mother that I can for her. I'm gonna keep going and keep going until I achieve what I need to.

I've learned that it's okay to take it slow – step by step. You don't have to go so fast or get so frustrated. I'm dealing with my anger going down... my mom passed away and ever since then... I get angry very fast. And I've been working on that, and I've been improving.

Being a mom, I've learned that you can sense your child. It's like a connection that we have. Like if she's asleep beside me or she's sleeping in her bed, I'm like, "Oh, she's about to get up." And I look. And she's just opening her eyes. It's a beautiful thing.

If there is one piece of advice that I could give, it would be that this is just a stepping point. If someone gives you knowledge or advice, take it. And it's okay to make mistakes...you learn from it all the time.

Some of my goals for the future are owning my own home, having a farm, and making sure I will never get back in this position again. Having two degrees in either computer science or radiology. And getting my child whatever she wants. Marrying her father. To be the best mom I can be. I also want to buy my mom a headstone, for her grave. And my father's too. I want my daughter to be incredible, and to go to college also.

“

I want to be financially, mentally, in a great head space, spiritually and all. I'm not saying all will be perfect, no. But I just want to be the best mom that I can be for her. I look at my child and I know that I want more for myself and her, also.

”





FY2024 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 shared kitchen and living areas.

Residents across our three programs have access to our comprehensive wrap-around services.

GRACE



6 & 7
Teens Children



139
Average Night Stay

HOPE



15 & 19
Mothers Children



453
Average Night Stay

FAITH



9 & 10
Mothers Children



509
Average Night Stay

More Than a Place to Stay

At St. Ann's Center, women find a place where they can overcome crisis while also realizing opportunities to grow, develop, and thrive in the pursuit of their interests. Our wraparound support services include:

Clinical and Social Work Services

Support from Day One through collaborative, personalized case management plans and trauma-informed, strength-based services.

Education and Employment Program

Help in creating personalized roadmaps towards financial stability through developing academic and long-term career goals and strategies.

GED Prep and Tutoring

Help for all women seeking to complete their high school diploma – whether they are still enrolled in High School or returning to finish their GED.

Parenting and Life Skills Classes

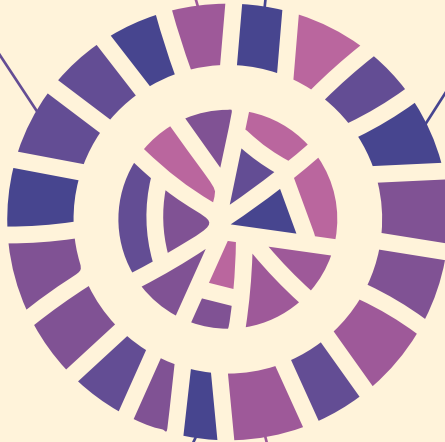
Helping women learn valuable skills for thriving within and beyond St. Ann's Center, while building community.

Mentoring Program

Volunteer Mentors pair with Mentees for encouragement and guidance, aiming to celebrate successes as well as develop support systems for various challenges.

Child Care Center

On-site child care program helps mothers to pursue academic and career goals, while fostering physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development for children.



FY2024 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.

FY2024 STATISTICS

101

children served in our on-site, licensed Child Care Center

54 children served in Preschool Program

47 children served in Infant/Toddler Program

21 children of residents served across both programs

32

children enrolled in Early Head Start

15 St. Ann's residents and former residents

17 children from the community

12

children enrolled in Head Start

4 St. Ann's residents and former residents

8 children from the community





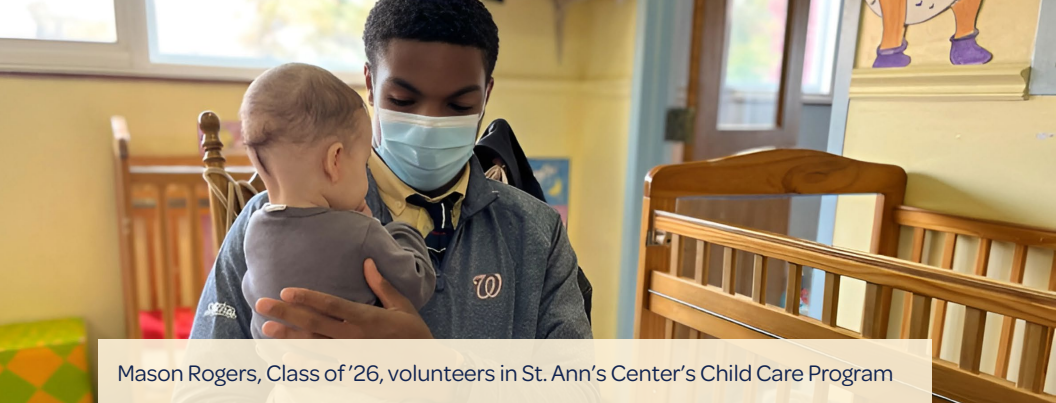
Staff Learn and Grow Together Through Challenges

In January 2024, a small number of students in our preschool program demonstrated behavioral challenges that required regular interventions from our teachers as well as our Director. Seeking creative solutions that would help everyone succeed, we turned to our partners at the Lourie Center for Children's Social and Emotional Wellness.

Our team was able to meet with one of the Lourie Center's Early Learning Specialists, who helped us make creative adjustments to our preschool classroom including: breaking up the class into smaller groups, rearranging student cubbies, and bringing in additional supplies and materials that helped us to keep all our children better engaged. This in turn helped our classroom run much more smoothly.

Within six months, positive behavior had increased greatly, and disruptive behaviors had decreased to the point of rarely happening. All students were able to stay with their original classrooms and teachers and continue learning and growing in our program.

The Lourie Center's focus on social and emotional aspects of young learners really helped us to develop a solution that worked for everyone! We are grateful – and especially proud of our students who grow from needing intervention to becoming classroom superstars.



Mason Rogers, Class of '26, volunteers in St. Ann's Center's Child Care Program

Volunteers Make a Difference!

LEGACY OF SERVICE – ST. ANSELM'S VOLUNTEERS

Over 300 dedicated volunteers help St. Ann's Center annually - from activity organizers and birthday party hosts to parenting instructors, child care volunteers, donation drive coordinators, fundraising coordinators, and even social media volunteers. We are indebted to our volunteers, who bring heart and energy to every corner of St. Ann's.

For decades, students from St. Anselm's Abbey School in Washington, DC, have made a meaningful impact at St. Ann's Center. This year, six juniors — Zikodi, Nate, Ira, Neil, Aidan, and Mason — provided one-on-one care to our Child Care Center students every Tuesday throughout the 2024–2025 school year under the guidance of David McCabe, St. Anselm's Director of Community Service. An alum from the Class of 2002 and a former St. Ann's Center volunteer himself, David continues to foster this legacy of service. We are deeply grateful for our ongoing partnership with St. Anselm's!

“Working with the young kids at St. Ann's has taught me how precious every moment of life is and how I should slow down sometimes and cherish every moment in life.”

Mason Rogers, St. Anselm Volunteer

“Having volunteered at St. Ann's for two years as a student at St. Anselm's, it has been great to resume our partnership and see the growth in our current students as they volunteer at St. Ann's.”

David McCabe, St. Anselm's Director of Community Service

FY2024 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 Nancy Downing, CND
Chief Executive Officer

Susan Flaherty
Vice President of Development

Dr. Augustine Frazer
Vice President of Programs

Karen Gilroy
Vice President of Finance & Administration

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

Knina Harvey, LICSW, LCSW-C
Director, Clinical and Social Work Services

Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Tricia Lloyd

Colleen Mahoney
Kimberly Manthei

Jeannine Marino

Brian McCagh

Michael A. Mitchell

Gina M. Pryor

Margaret C. Slovenkay

Robin Wiener

Emeritus

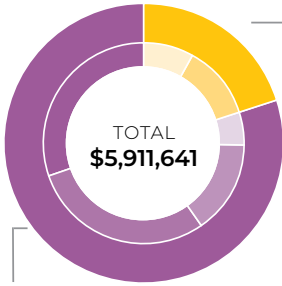
Elaine Baugham-Young

Mary Lou Kretschmer†

Anne E. Schneiders, Esq.†

Financial Statement

EXPENSES FY2024



80%
PROGRAM SERVICES
\$4,727,629

20%
SUPPORT SERVICES
\$1,184,012

30%
TEEN MOTHER-
BABY PROGRAM
\$1,800,379

29%
CHILD CARE
CENTER
\$1,721,104

12%
GENERAL &
ADMINISTRATIVE
\$682,566

8%
FUNDRAISING
\$501,446

15%
TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING
PROGRAM
\$886,120

5%
EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT
\$320,026

REVENUE FY2024

37%
PRIVATE
DONATIONS
AND GRANTS
\$2,202,114

24%
INVESTMENT
INCOME/LOSS
\$1,417,551

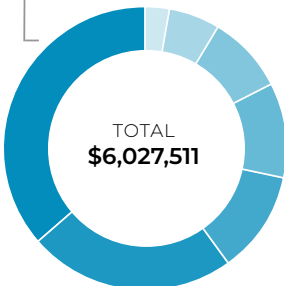
12%
GOVERNMENT
CONTRACTS
\$726,131

11%
CONTRIBUTED
SERVICES AND
MATERIALS
\$648,000

9%
SPECIAL EVENTS
\$518,645

6%
PRIVATE FEES
\$342,870

3%
RENTAL INCOME
\$172,200



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 Center for Children, Youth and Families 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 required minimum distribution requirement while potentially decreasing your taxes. Ask your IRA custodian to find out if this type of contribution is right for you.



Donate Stock

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



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.

View the online version of our report at www.stanns.org.



You're Invited to Hope Blossoms!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
COLUMBIA COUNTRY CLUB

Sister Nancy Downing and Event Chair Vince C. Burke, III cordially invite you to the annual **Hope Blossoms** gala, taking place on May 14 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Columbia Country Club. Join us in celebrating St. Ann's Center's history and mission!



**Sponsorship
and tickets**

bit.ly/HopeBlossoms25



A Tradition of Caring

**St Ann's Center for
Children, Youth and Families**
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✉ info@stanns.org

🌐 www.stanns.org

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Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.



United Way
of the National Capital Area
Proud Partner

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