



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Journeying Together

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



Watch Mary 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

Mary's Story

Note: Since this interview, Mary successfully completed her CNA certification training and is now working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She is currently preparing to take her Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) certification exam. In addition to her professional progress, Mary moved into her own home just days ago, a significant step forward in her journey toward independence and stability. We are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and ongoing growth!

My name is Mary, and I am 22 years old.

In Fall 2023 my father passed. My mom had difficulty coping with the death, and at the time I was living with her. She wanted to move. But I couldn't go with her because where she was going there wouldn't be enough space.

A social worker helped me find St. Ann's. She described it as a safe place, a safe haven. A place that can help you with getting stable, getting back to where you were before or even better than before.

At first when I came in, I was scared because there's not one time I've been on my own, alone. I had always been with my mom. I was super scared. I was super depressed. With my oldest child and being pregnant at the same time, it was hard doing it alone.

Story continues on page 4

Journeying Together

YOU HELP FAMILIES MOVE FORWARD! FY2025 IMPACT



80

women and children served through transitional and supportive housing

18

families successfully completed St. Ann's programs



55

physical therapy sessions provided for infants of residents

1,298

Case Management visits between Clinical Social Work staff and residents

52

Life Skills classes held

12

Parenting Skills classes held

20

Therapeutic group sessions for our Teen Mothers



17,645

total days of housing provided

463

average days length of stay



4

healthy babies born at St. Ann's



105

children served through onsite Child Care Center

57

served through Preschool Program

48

served through Infant/Toddler Program

Letter from CEO Sister Nancy Downing



Dear Friend,

Thank you for supporting St. Ann's Center families! I am pleased to share our annual report for fiscal year 2025. Our theme is "Journeying Together," reflecting the importance of collaboration and community to our programs.

This year, St. Ann's provided 17,645 total days of housing for 35 women and their 45 children, as each family progressed toward their goals. We welcomed four healthy babies born at St. Ann's – new beginnings, in the fullest sense!

We celebrated clients like Mary (cover) who made strides to self-sufficiency by completing Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) programs and Registered Pharmacy Technician programs. And we celebrated 18 families who successfully completed our Residential Programs and transitioned to housing of their own. We also renewed St. Ann's Mentoring Program, connecting our residents with caring members of our community who encourage their journeys.

This year we also saw: 1,298 total Case Management visits between clients and Social Work staff; 55 physical therapy visits for infants of residents; 52 Life Skills classes; 12 monthly Parenting Classes; and 20 Therapeutic group sessions offered in English and Spanish for our Teen Mothers. These resources help women grow, explore their interests and abilities, and clarify their vision for the future.

Our Child Care Center, serving residents and families from the community, continued to grow, with 105 children served across our Preschool Program and Infant/Toddler Program. This includes 35 students in Early Head Start and 9 students in Head Start. On Page 9, learn how our wonderful teachers have adapted and responded to our growing number of learners with special needs.

Relationships are at the heart of St. Ann's—and that includes our relationship with you. Because of your compassion, our staff can walk beside each mother and child with patience, care, and hope. From my heart to yours, thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Nancy J. Downing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Sister" and "Downing" being more formal and "Nancy J." being more personal.

Sister Nancy Downing, CEO

Mary's Story continued

Closer to my delivery I just noticed how caring St. Ann's staff were. Their readiness for the delivery, how we made a whole birth plan. One staff came with me to the hospital.

She was very caring, listened to whatever I needed. And usually me, I'm always afraid to speak up. So she was also my voice when we were at the hospital.

Support is important. I know some people think that you don't really need anyone to get to where you need in life, but I feel like the support can give you a push, some motivation

My oldest child is energetic and playful. He's also a sweetheart. He loves to be held. He wants me to hold his hand most of the time. He does have a little bit of a speech delay. So there's not much he can say, but he still is smart to the point where he still lets me know what he needs. And my youngest, he's really bubbly, very happy, smiles every day. There's not a time or an hour in a day where he's not smiling.

One thing that helped me adjust to St. Ann's was making a friend that had already been here for a couple of months. She helped me with anything I needed or any questions that I had. She also let me know, "you are not in this alone."

This place is here to help you. They're here to listen to you. Anything you need help with. Also, they have support. They offer therapy, while you're figuring out your way, how to get back to a good level of stability in your life. Everyone cares.

“ My biggest hope is to stay happy, the way I am now. I know there's challenges in life. I know that there's things that might bring me down, but [my hope is to] always find my way back to being happy, [because] when I'm happier I feel like I can do anything. ”

Before my dad's death, I really never understood how emotions really work. I felt like... if you're really depressed, that that's just how it's going to be. My dad's death taught me a lot with grief, going through grief and being pregnant at the same time. Coming to St. Ann's made me realize things do get better. It's not always going to be a storm.

Today I'm focused on my children having a roof over their head, clothes on their back, and me being able to provide for them. My children are my world. I am in the job search process, with an interview coming up, and it is going really well.

My biggest hope is to stay happy, the way I am now. I know there's challenges in life. I know that there's things that might bring me down, but [my hope is to] always find my way back to being happy, [because] when I'm happier I feel like I can do anything.

As for my kids, my biggest hope for them is just for them to know anything that they need, anything that they need help with, I'm there. All the love, I'm there.

Now I've made a plan and a timeline. I feel like hopefully, God willing, I'll be able to leave maybe next fall, now that I am starting to work, finally I can start my savings and all of that. I would like to give a thanks to St. Ann's because they've done a lot for me and other women here as well. And I just want them to know it's greatly appreciated.



**Watch Mary share
her story here!**



FY2025 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.

GRACE



10 & 7
Teens Children



327
Average Night Stay

HOPE



16 & 27
Mothers Children



493
Average Night Stay

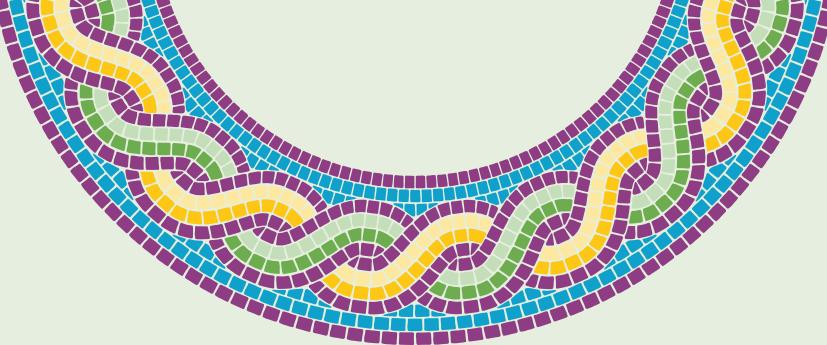
FAITH



9 & 11
Mothers Children



559
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 build community while learning valuable tools 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.

FY2025 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.

FY2025 STATISTICS

105

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

57

children served in Preschool Program

48

children served in Infant/Toddler Program

27

children of residents served across both programs

35

children enrolled in Early Head Start

16

St. Ann's residents and former residents

19

children from the community

9

children enrolled in Head Start

5

St. Ann's residents and former residents

4

children from the community





Working Together to Support All Learners

In FY2025, St. Ann's Child Care Center helped connect 7 students and their families with early intervention services for different needs – a huge feat. In parent-teacher conferences, our staff can share about any developmental delays they have noticed. Then we can help parents with referrals, and even – with the Lourie Center's assistance – helping parents navigate initial phone calls and paperwork.

Making our Center as accommodating as possible, helps the families we serve. For instance, we can accommodate modified drop-off schedules so that morning appointments with a child's speech therapist, occupational therapist, or – for children on the spectrum – ABA therapist, doesn't mean needing to miss the entire day at Child Care.

We work closely with the specialists who come here to St. Ann's to work with individual children. This year, a full-time AmeriCorps volunteer worked closely with our Head Start learners with special needs, while providing an extra set of hands for our teachers.

The Lourie Center also helps by providing two personnel who assist our teachers in everything from addressing specific challenges with individual students to classroom layouts – like installing two new "Cozy Corners" in our preschool classrooms – spaces designed with soft, sensory items where children can have a moment to themselves and learn to self-regulate.

By working together, we can create environments where all learners have the support they need to thrive!



Sarah von Pollaro, owner of Urban Petals, reflects on 10+ years of flower-powered dedication to St. Ann's mothers and children.

Volunteer Spotlight

HELPING FAMILIES BLOSSOM, ONE FLOWER AT A TIME

I first got involved with St. Ann's 10+ years ago. I was looking for a local nonprofit to donate flowers to following a Kennedy Center event. I came across St. Ann's online, and I thought, "What a wonderful organization."

It was amazing to bring flowers to St. Ann's and decorate the space. That wonderful experience led to doing Hope Blossoms, and flower-arranging workshops at St. Ann's with the mothers. It's wonderful working one-on-one with the mothers, helping them have fun with what can also be a therapeutic activity.

If you know St. Ann's, you know it's a wonderful place. You're going to want to help.

This September, we hosted a flower-arranging workshop for St. Ann's Center donors and new people from the community, to thank them – or introduce them to the mission – while also getting them to relax, get their hands on the flowers, and make something beautiful.

And really that's what we're all doing when we help St. Ann's – we're making beautiful things, and we're making people feel beautiful.

When you hold flowers, and make them into something of your own, you can't help but feel special, and beautiful. The same holds true when we help or give in some way. You're always going to feel good. And you're always going to improve the life of someone else. To me, that's why flowers are the perfect analogy for what St. Ann's does.

There's something powerful about helping an organization by being hands on – whether it's getting your hands on flowers, coming in and volunteering at St. Ann's, picking up the phone and getting people to come to Hope Blossoms, getting new people involved, organizing supply drives when there's a need – it's all about just getting involved.

FY2025 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

Nicholette Smith-Bligen
Chief Operating Officer

Susan Flaherty
Vice President of Development

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

Jeanette Chittams
Director, Residential Programs

Peggy Howard Gatewood

Administrator of Contracts, Licensing & Special Projects

Monique Harper

Director, Child Care Center

Board of Directors

Sept. 24 – Sept. 25

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Vice President

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Secretary

Cara Snyder
McVie
Treasurer

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Anne-Marie R. Coakley

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Tricia Lloyd
Colleen Mahoney
Kimberly Manthei
Jeannine Marino
Brian E. McCagh

Michael A. Mitchell

Gina M. Pryor
Margaret (Meg) C. Slovenkay
Robin Wiener

Sr. Suzanne Baumgartner
Daughter of Charity Liaison

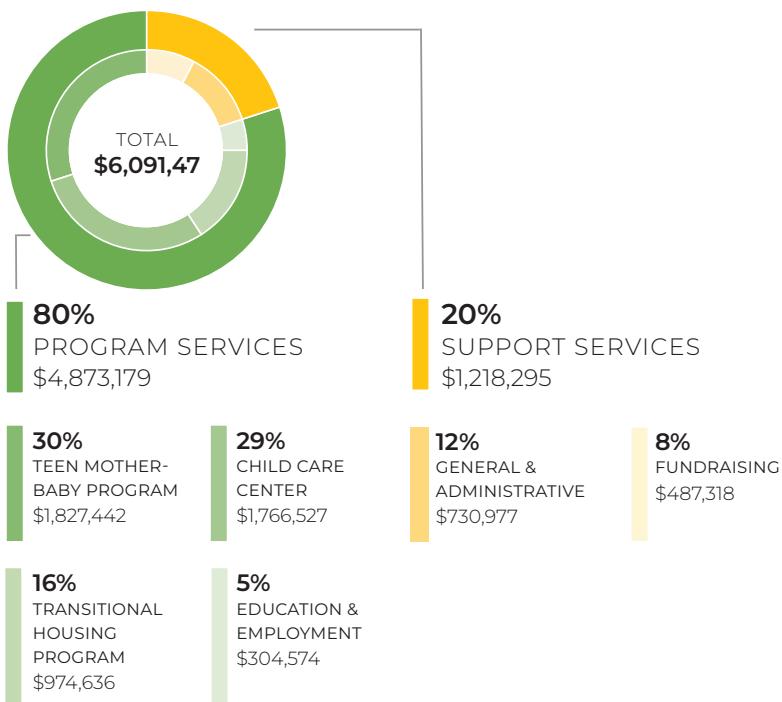
Emeritus Members of Board of Directors

Elaine Baugham-Young
Mary Lou Kretschmer
Anne E. Schneiders, Esq.^t

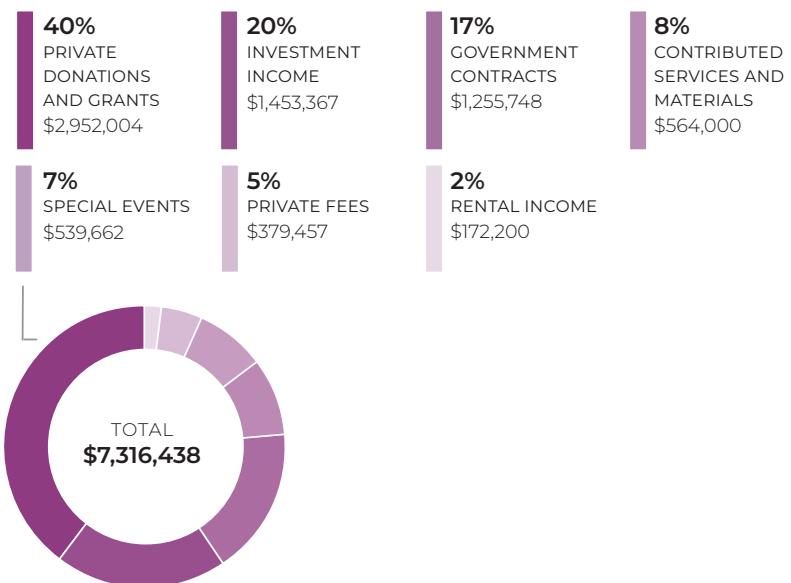


Financial Statement

EXPENSES FY2025



REVENUE FY2025



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 13, 2026**

**6:00 PM to
9:00 PM**

**Columbia
Country Club**

Sister Nancy Downing and St. Ann's Center's Board of Directors cordially invite you to the annual Hope Blossoms gala, taking place on May 13 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Columbia Country Club.

**Join us in celebrating St. Ann's
Center's history and mission!**



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Children, Youth and Families**
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