



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



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

Africa, Guest Speaker and program alumna,, with Sister Nancy Downing, CEO of St. Ann's Center, at Hope Blossoms

Africa, St. Ann's Center Alumna, Inspires at Hope Blossoms

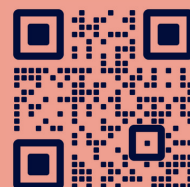
"She is the flower that blooms from concrete."

"When I first came to St. Ann's, I was seven months pregnant, lost in a storm of unknowns, carrying a weight I didn't fully understand. As a new mom, the world didn't give me slack. I found myself questioning why I wasn't further along, why I wasn't reaching the same milestones as others.

"Now, I see my life differently"...



Africa, an alumna of St. Ann's Center's Hope House program, shared her inspiring testimony at Hope Blossoms on May 13, 2026, at Columbia Country Club.



Scan Here
Watch Africa's
Full Story



Hope Blossoms

A Night to Celebrate & Support Women & Children at St. Ann's Center



Special Thanks to: Co-Chairs Eric, Kyle, and Thomas Heidenberger; Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington; Emcee Jim Handly; Msgr. John Enzler & Hon. Michael Steele; Honorees - St. Anselm's Abbey School and the Rotary Club of College Park, MD; Colleen & John Williams and Urban Petals.

St. Ann's Center Thanks Our Generous Event Sponsors!

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Thank you for joining us at Hope Blossoms!

Thank you for supporting St. Ann's Center at Hope Blossoms on May 13!

We were honored to co-chair this year's event. We thank our family, especially Michele Heidenberger and Steve Heidenberger, in whose memory and footsteps we follow.

We thank Sister Nancy and her team, for inviting and encouraging us. And we thank everyone - near and far - for the love you show to families who count on St. Ann's Center. We hope you'll join us in staying connected with this mission!

Eric Kyle Thomas

Eric, Kyle, and Thomas Heidenberger

Co-Chairs, Hope Blossoms 2026

Hope Blossoms 2026

- 325 Guests
- 60 First time Attendees
- One Inspiring Client Speaker
- 99 Silent Auction Items
- Two Extraordinary Honorees
- \$550,000 Raised for Families at St. Ann's Center

Thank you to our Event Committee, Honorary Host Committee, and Auction Committee!



Our team of more than two dozen Staff and Volunteers worked together to pull off Hope Blossoms, making each guest feel welcome!



The Rotary Club of College Park, MD received the Mary McGroarty Advocacy Award.





Eric, Kyle, and Thomas Heidenberger presented St. Anselm's Abbey School with the Michele Heidenberger Volunteer Award.



Special Guests
Hon. Michael Steele
and Msgr. John Enzler



Emcee
Jim Handly



See more photos!

Scan the QR code to view more photos from Hope Blossoms!



Thank you for being part of Hope Blossoms!

END OF HOPE BLOSSOMS SECTION



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

NEWS & UPDATES



Introducing Danielle DeWitt, Chief Advancement Officer

I am honored to introduce myself as the incoming Chief Advancement Officer for St. Ann's Center. As I prepare to begin this new role in July, I do so with deep gratitude for the opportunity to join an organization that has served women, children, and families with compassion, courage, and love for more than 165 years.

I had the privilege of attending Hope Blossoms in May, and I left deeply moved by the spirit and joy in the room. The Heidenberger family's leadership that evening brought together loyal, longtime friends of St. Ann's while also welcoming the next generation into a mission worth passing on. That kind of witness reminds us that the future of this work depends on those who have loved St. Ann's for many years and those who are just beginning to discover its impact.

Cardinal McElroy's prayer captured the heart of this mission, calling us to *"transform wounds into strength, sadness into beauty, and challenges into compassion."* Those words reflect the dignity and resilience Africa spoke to so powerfully that evening, central in the daily work of St. Ann's and evident through the partnership of the remarkable staff whose determination and deep belief in what is possible has already inspired me.

As I begin this new chapter, I look forward to hearing your St. Ann's story and learning what drives your commitment to this community. If you would like to connect over a virtual or in-person coffee, I would be grateful for the opportunity.

With Gratitude,

Dani Perraut DeWitt, Chief Advancement Officer
St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families



Let's Connect!

ddewitt@stanns.org
301-559-5500

Deloitte Volunteers Uplift St. Ann's Center Women For **Deloitte Impact Day** (June 5), five women at St. Ann's Center were welcomed to Deloitte offices for professional head shots, makeup, wardrobe styling, resume reviews, interview coaching, and individually tailored "Brand Booth" consultations!

This awesome initiative helped the women we serve feel seen, supported, uplifted - and confident in their career searches Thank you Crissy, Christine, Jenna, and the Deloitte Team!



Does your company want to make a difference for women at St. Ann's? **Learn how!** Contact Ellen Toups at etoups@stanns.org.



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

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Hyattsville, MD 20782-3301

2026 Summer Newsletter

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

At Hope Blossoms (see cover), St. Ann's alumna **Africa** shared brilliantly about her journey from a young mother facing life's storms, to where she stands today: a case worker, pouring into other young women the way she once needed.

One line from Africa's testimony has stayed with me:

"I've learned that strength doesn't just come from standing alone. It comes from connection. From being open. From something as simple as a hello or a smile."

Connection is so critical for young women like Africa, who come to St. Ann's often facing a "storm of unknowns." Then – supported by caring peers, staff, and volunteers – women learn they don't have to carry it all alone.

St. Ann's is a place where women lift each other up. **A community that exists because of you.**

St. Ann's Day on July 26 reminds us of the power of supporting one another. Please consider joining our St. Ann's Day fundraising campaign, which will help the 20 mothers and children living with us this summer, and the additional families who we expect to welcome by Fall.

Thank you and God bless you!

Sister Nancy Downing, CEO
St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth & Families

