ST. ANN'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN. YOUTH AND FAMILIES OCTOBER 2021 | FALL NEWSLETTER





Jasmine at St. Ann's Center



Jasmine with son, Miles

IN HER OWN WORDS - JASMINE'S STORY

In just a few short months at St. Ann's Center, Jasmine* has earned her high school diploma, secured full-time employment as a Child Care Aide, and started college classes – all while providing a nurturing and enriching environment for her son, Miles*.

Jasmine moved her family into St. Ann's supportive housing program in March 2021, after viewing St. Ann's Virtual Tour online**. She said, "Something about Sister Mary's words resonated with me. I could sense [the] care and support, and I decided right then that I was going to call."

Right away, Jasmine was able to begin completing her high school coursework through the National External Diploma Program online: "Before St. Ann's, it was taking me forever to finish, because of the situations I was living in. [Here], I finally had the peace and structure I needed to concentrate – and I knocked it out so quickly."

Jasmine and St. Ann's staff celebrated her achievement this July with a cap-and-gown party. Soon afterwards, Jasmine successfully obtained an aide position in St. Ann's Child Care Center, where she works full-time with classes of three-to-four-year-olds. "I really enjoy the work. The kids follow me around like I am the Mother Hen," said Jasmine.

Jasmine's next goal is completing her first semester at Prince George's Community College, where she is taking accounting classes to prepare for her dream of opening a business. To other new moms, Jasmine advises, "If you can do something positive for your family, do it! There is definitely help available. Use every opportunity here at St. Ann's."



Darren and Anna

IN HER OWN WORDS - ANNA'S STORY

This Fall, St. Ann's celebrates two generations of students achieving together! Resident Anna* and her son Darren* each returned to school this September. Darren began fifth grade at a nearby elementary school after a year of virtual learning, which Anna acknowledges was a challenge, "although we [did] great." Anna returned to school as well, beginning her Bachelor's degree after earning her Associate's degree in May 2021. Anna shared her journey, her dreams, and her family's educational goals during St. Ann's *Hope Blossoms* gala this past Spring:

"When I came ... to St. Ann's, they welcomed me with open arms. It has been a pleasure since I've been here. I've been able to accomplish so much. I just received my Associate's from Prince George's Community College." Anna added, "As of September 2021, I am enrolled at Bowie State University, to complete a Bachelor's in Business Administration."

"For someone coming to St. Ann's for the first time, don't be discouraged, you can do this. Stay encouraged, stay focused, and you can do whatever you want to do - like going to school or getting a job. Stick to that and don't give up!"

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A SEASON OF REIMAGINING

A LETTER FROM SISTER MARY BADER

As Fall begins, I am awed by all that our St. Ann's community has accomplished in 2021. The families in our three supportive housing programs – Faith House, Hope House, and Grace House - continue to reach amazing milestones. In FY 2021, twelve families successfully transitioned from St. Ann's programs!



We celebrate their successes – and we continue to welcome new families starting their own journeys to healing and stability.

Other "new beginnings" abound. Our Child Care Center started a new school year in September, while the older children who reside at St. Ann's returned to offsite, in-person schooling after a year of remote and hybrid learning.

One recent morning, I witnessed a family leaving Faith House for their first day back to school – Mom leading her two daughters, both dressed in their new school clothes and toting new backpacks. The older girl looked so proud of her new and crisp uniform, that I could not help but share her excitement about the new school year and all the possibilities in store for her.

Throughout St. Ann's Center's 161 years of service to mothers and their children in the Washington D.C. region, St. Ann's has always adapted to changing circumstances while staying focused on our core mission. Like other world events before it, this pandemic has tested our adaptability. Yet, our community has been able to thrive at every turn, as we reimagine new ways of meeting our goals and our residents' needs.

We reimagined St. Ann's 160th Anniversary milestone by hosting our firstever virtual Hope Blossoms gala. We reimagined our core programming by pivoting our Life Skills Classes, Parenting Classes, and Social Work Services to remote formats when needed. And we draw inspiration from our resident mothers and children, who have reimagined academic success by pursuing their educational goals together - like residents Anna and Darren.

Seeing all of this imagination at work, I am confident about the road ahead for our families and for our greater St. Ann's community. Thank you for your generous support, which empowers all that St. Ann's residents are able to accomplish.

Sister Mary Bader, CEO

ST. ANN'S CENTER - 2021 HIGHLIGHTS







EASTER JOY AT ST. ANN'S

Easter Week 2021 brought many surprises for St. Ann's staff and residents, including generous donations of baskets, sweets, and treats from individuals and groups in our community. St. Ann's residents were also treated to a drive by Easter Parade and Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Miss DC and the Order of Malta. Thank you all for making this one hoppin' holiday!



INNOVATING THROUGH CHALLENGES

Over the past18 months, staff and residents have worked hard to keep our 24-hour residential programs safe and open during the pandemic. Services like Child Care, Employment Counseling, and Social Work Services have at times pivoted to online models, while St. Ann's invested in new technologies allowing residents to attend work and school from home.





Miguel Coppedge

Board President Tonya Sharpe & Jake Garner

ST. ANN'S YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS HONORED

One of St. Ann's young philanthropists, **Miguel Coppedge**, was honored in July as a Baskin-Robbins' *"Pint Size Hero"* for his volunteer work in D.C. Congratulations, Miguel! With co-honoree **Jake Garner**, Miguel also received the *Michele Heidenberger Volunteer Award* during St. Ann's 2021 *Hope Blossoms* gala.





Michael Steele

The String Queens

HOPE BLOSSOMS - ST. ANN'S ANNUAL SPRING GALA

In May, we celebrated St. Ann's 160th Anniversary with our first-ever virtual gala. Emcees Michael Steele and Tommy McFly charmed attendees, while Terrence Cunningham and The String Queens each provided pitch-perfect musical performances. In recognition of 160 years of service, St. Ann's founders The Daughters of Charity received the *Mary McGrory Advocacy Award*.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS

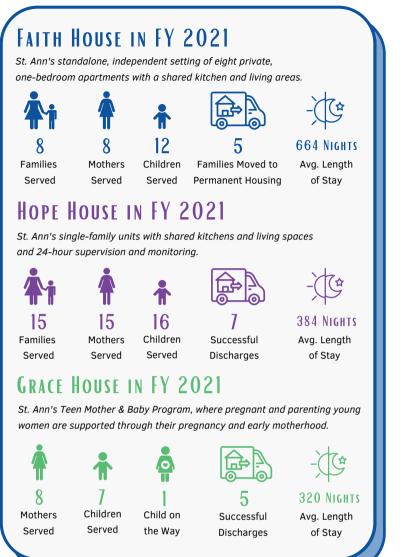
Summer months brought sunshine and smiles to our community in the form of a Strawberry Harvest from St. Ann's Garden, a 4th of July Parade for our Child Care Center, a fun St. Ann's Day (our annual outdoor BBQ for staff and residents), and a Father's Day Fundraiser benefitting St. Ann's - hosted by Terry Cullen of Tommy Joe's Bar and Grill in Bethesda.



ST. ANN'S WELCOMES FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

This Fall we welcomed four individuals to St. Ann's Board of Directors: *Kathy Cornwell, Tricia Lloyd, Kimberly Manthei*, and *Joanna Pim.* We thank our outgoing members, *Lynda Anderson, Mary Armstead, Mary Dee Clancy, John Magnolia, Barbara Ann Myers,* and *Vernon Pizzi* for their dedication and commitment to St. Ann's mission to strengthen and support families on their journey towards stability.

FY 2021 IN REVIEW: ST. ANN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS



BACK TO SCHOOL - BY THE NUMBERS



St. Ann's Child Care Center began a new year with 58 children enrolled in 7 classrooms. Participants include children currently residing at St. Ann's and children from the local community - as well as four children who formerly resided with us.



7 CLASSROOMS

Additionally, St. Ann's currently has four young residents between Pre-K and 5th Grade who have returned to offsite, in-person schooling.



WORKPLACE GIVING

Please support St. Ann's Center through your local workplace giving campaigns. To request a St. Ann's client or staff member to speak at your workplace, contact Susan Flaherty at sflaherty@stanns.org or 301-559-5500 x163.



BECOME A MONTHLY GIVING PARTNER



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 on monthly giving, please contact Carolyn Boyle at cboyle@stanns.org or 301-559-5500 x187.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Christmas • The Christmas Open House will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at St. Ann's Center.



Hope Blossoms will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at Columbia Country Club.

THANK YOU!



St. Ann's Center relies on gifts large and small to provide services to the vulnerable young families in our care. Thank you for your generosity and loyal support!

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