

VOICES of

ST VINCENT'S VILLA

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

HOPE

A Home for Healing and Hope

197

Provided residential care and treatment to 197 Maryland children in crisis

70

Number of residential families that participated in parent support group

23

Number of youth the Catholic Charities Department of Community Resources (DCR) staff provided in-home after-care services*

84%

of the children were able to return to families in the community following treatment

The data provided is for fiscal year 2017.

* 2016 figure

For more information, please visit cc-md.org/sw

BOMA Baltimore Day of Service

Volunteers worked wonders as part of the Building Owners and Managers Association's (BOMA) Baltimore Day of Service. The skilled team of volunteers partnered with St. Vincent's Villa's Environmental Services to weed and mulch playgrounds and courtyards, wash vehicles and windows, install bike racks, and assemble a basketball hoop.

The Day of Service was organized by Malia Chapman, and sponsored by Chapel Valley Landscape Company, BrightView, Mona Electric Group, Multicorp Commercial Cleaning Systems, Infinity Environmental Inc., Team Cam Construction and USSI. The results were spectacular!



Letters From Former Children in Care

Staff, read this aloud to the unit:

I miss you Mercy, I will never forget you guys and what you taught me. You guys are the best. All of you help me in different ways even the children. You gave me many chances, and talks, and fist pounds, and hugs. It was fun going to trips with you guys like the Ravens game and snowballs. I had fun sledding, playing basketball, soccer, skip bo, legos, bey blades, cards, and having nerd talks. It was a nice time with you all. Bless Mercy kids and staff, never forget me. And the people I want to thank most are Steven, Caitlyn, Ms. Mellissa, Ms. Patrice, and Mr. Devin!
Love, Jeremy

Dear Staff of Ambrose,

I learned a lot while I was at St. Vincent's Villa. I learned that things are not always going to go your way. I also learned how to be patient and respectful. I do not always have to have a lot of attention. I also learned to use my coping skills. I learned how to express my feelings in groups with my statements. I also learned how to say no to bad things and how to use no. I learned how to ignore negative behaviors. I learned how to be patient with my peers. I have two words for you - thank you! I miss you a lot.

From,
Alice

From the Prayer Box

A prayer box sits in the St. Vincent's Villa Chapel. Here, the children place their prayers, which often reflect their hopes of returning home, their concerns for their family or staff members they have grown to love, their love of God and their desire to make meaningful changes in their lives. We are sharing their prayers with you.

For my mom to stop drugs

I want to thank God for the roof over my head, clothes on my back, and food on my table

Dear God, I want you to help me with my high cholesterol

For my mom to have forgiveness towards me

For my mom and dad who died, and for a better world

For my family who has abandoned me, I pray they are doing alright

Dear God, I want to be good and not cut myself

Lord, I need help forgiving those who have hurt me

For someone to love me

Please give me strength to keep fighting my way through my troubles

I pray for homeless people

Dear God, will you help me have good dreams and help me not to worry and watch over me and my family? Love and amen.

Pray for a particular staff to get a long vacation 'cause she could really use one

Hope my pet hamster Martin is ok and stops losing his hair. I hope to go home soon. I hope my life would get better.

Volunteer Spotlight

Luna Visits the Ambrose Unit

Volunteer guest **Erin Tschantret** (c) recently brought her pet pig, Luna, to visit with the Ambrose Unit during their "Sassy Cats Club" meeting. Volunteer leaders, **Melissa Parker** (l) and **JoAnne Cianfichi** (r) coordinate the club throughout the school year, using their connections to introduce the Ambrose girls to special folks and resources in the local community.



Deck the Halls Family Volunteer Event

Each year, the community gets together to turn the gymnasium into a winter wonderland, and we need all the help we can get decorating Christmas trees, hanging garland, and positioning giant teddy bears. Together, we make the children's Christmas extra special. Sign up to help by emailing volunteercfs@cc-md.org.

* Pre-Decking the Halls: Raise the Trees, Friday, December 1

To get a jump start on the project, we meet the evening before Deck the Halls to put together 100+ trees so that they are ready for the morning.

* Deck the Halls, Saturday, December 2

Over the course of the day, we decorate the trees and the gym while listening to Christmas music and enjoying light refreshments. Stay as long as you like!

* Un-Deck the Halls, December 30

What goes up must come down. Help us pack everything away (we promise it's a lot quicker!), and we'll provide the Christmas cookies.

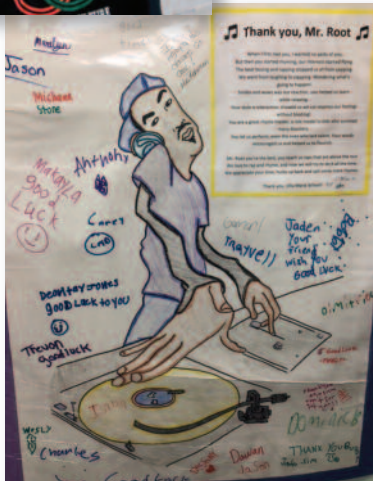
Villa Maria School Enhances Language Skills with Hip Hop Artist



Villa Maria students participated in an innovative week-long language workshop led by Hip Hop artist, Jamaal "Mr. Root" Collier, of Young Audiences, the nation's largest arts education network.

Through rapping, vocal percussion, and dynamic stage presence, Mr. Roots helps students gain a better understanding of Hip Hop culture while making seamless connections with current course material. Students learned, listened, and rapped rhyming couplets and non-traditional quatrains during the workshop.

Young Audiences began in Baltimore in 1950. It's a nonprofit organization devoted to enriching the lives and education of Maryland's youth through educational and culturally-diverse arts programs. They partner with professional artists from all disciplines and with schools throughout Maryland for hands-on arts learning experiences.



Wish List

Individually-wrapped incentive toys (Matchbox cars, Bey Blades, Pokemon and football trading cards, sticker sheets, Legos – small, medium, and large sets, Baby Alive)

Sporting goods (football gloves, basketballs, jump ropes, bike helmets)

Card games (Uno, Phase 10, Skip-Bo, playing cards)

Writing journals suitable for children (not notebooks)

Therapy games and books (We have a list of types of games and titles of books; please contact us.)

Gift cards for children's clothing needs (Kohl's, Old Navy, Walmart, Target)

Gift cards for children's activities (AMF Bowling, Regal Cinema, Sky Zone, Red Zone, Go Kart Track (Pulaski Hwy), Skateland, Baltimore Tourist Attraction places (zoo, science center, Port Discovery, etc.)

Gift cards for off-ground dining (Applebee's, IHOP, Subway, McDonald's, Chuck E Cheese, Burger King, Chick Fil-A, Pizza Hut, Golden Corral, Coldstone Creamery)

Thanks to our generous supporters we are well stocked with hats, gloves, scarves and Barbie dolls.

If you would like to donate an item, please contact the volunteer services manager at volunteercfs@cc-md.org. We are only able to accept donations of NEW toys and clothing. Please keep in mind that a majority of the children we serve are over age 10, so toys for preteens and clothing in adult sizes are most useful.

Cash donations can be made online at cc-md.org/give-svv



Your Legacy, Their Future

Include Catholic Charities in your will when you establish your legacy. To give to Catholic Charities or St. Vincent's Villa, contact the office of planned giving, at 667-600-2026, or plannedgiving@cc-md.org. The staff will assist you with specific language to ensure that your gift (a general, specific, residual or contingent bequest) supports the program that matches your interest.

ST VINCENT'S VILLA

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

Catholic Charities | 320 Cathedral Street | Baltimore, MD 21201
www.cc-md.org

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Inspired by the Gospel mandates to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need.

THE

Season OF Wonder

JOIN IN AND CONTRIBUTE to this year's Season of Wonder by sponsoring a family, sponsoring a child or donating items that are used throughout the year!!

**Contact Stephanie Eckhart at
seckhart@cc-md.org or 667-600-3006
to request a wish list or to learn more.**

CENTER
FOR FAMILY
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

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