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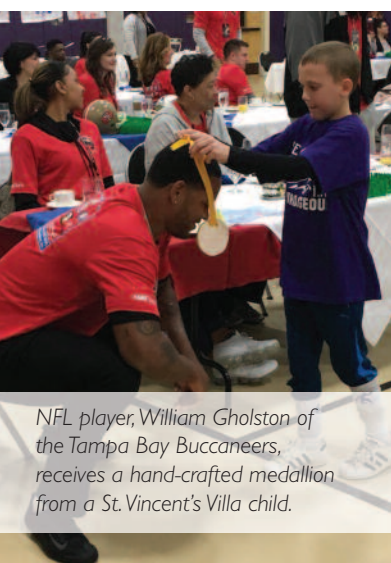
ST VINCENT'S VILLA

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

HOPE

A Home for Healing and Hope

NFL Athletes Gain a Better Understanding of Courage from St. Vincent's Villa Children



NFL player, William Gholston of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, receives a hand-crafted medallion from a St. Vincent's Villa child.

Demonstrating that courage comes in many different shapes and sizes, children from St. Vincent's Villa eagerly connected with a group of larger than life National Football League (NFL) players who gathered at the St. Vincent's Villa gym for an informal breakfast, as part of the 40th Annual Ed Block Courage Awards celebrations.

"This breakfast is the 'Super Bowl of Fun' for the children," said Ezra Buchdahl, Administrator of St. Vincent's Villa.

Created by Ed Block, a former trainer for the Baltimore Colts, the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation partners with the NFL to cultivate awareness and raise funds to support the well-being of abused, neglected and at-risk children.

On a nation-wide basis, the Foundation formed Courage Houses in 25 NFL cities. A Courage House provides support and quality care for abused children and their families. **St. Vincent's Villa was named the first Courage House in the United States in 1978.**

The Ed Block Courage Awards celebration is heralded as one of the most prestigious in the NFL. The honor recognizes a player from each of



Ed Block, Baltimore Colts trainer from 1954-1977 and creator of the Courage Houses.

the 32 NFL teams, nominated by their teammates for exemplifying professionalism and courage to overcome adversity in returning to the field.

While visiting St. Vincent's Villa, the NFL players shared reassuring discussions, tributes, fun and silliness with the children. The children also presented their own personalized awards to the athletes - handmade clay medallions as a symbol of shared resilience. The NFL players in turn presented letters of encouragement and prayers of hope and love to the children.

"Months later, the children are still talking about this once in a life-time opportunity to meet and spend time with the players," shares Ezra Buchdahl.

NFL Football Players Prayers

NFL players wrote prayers of hope and encouragement to the children of St. Vincent's Villa and their families.

Dear God, I thank you for these beautiful children. I pray that you will open their hearts to feel your love. I pray they know that they are never alone because you are with them. Today, they've touched the hearts of every visitor. They are conquerors and can do anything. Amen.

Dear God, pray for the safety and support of all the children in the Courage House. Keep their families in your prayers and continue to comfort and support them.

Papa Thomas and Mama Thomas are praying for you! Be of good courage. Keep the faith and always trust God. We love you!" - Earl Thomas' Mom, #29 Seattle Seahawks



The 2018 Ed Block Courage Award winners with St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria staff and children at the annual celebratory breakfast.

Talented and Compassionate Staff – a Trademark of St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria School

In Annapolis, **Jon Hackbarth**, Director of Centralized Services for Catholic Charities' Division of Family Services, received the Paula U. Hamburger Child Advocacy Award from the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMd) at its 2018 Legislative Reception and Briefing. The non-profit, MHAMd, works to unite families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens to advocate for all aspects of mental health, mental illness and substance use.

"Jon's quality of leadership, integrity, commitment to improving the lives of others makes him an excellent candidate to receive the distinguished Child Advocacy Award," said Linda J. Raines, MHAMd's CEO. This spring, Jon Hackbarth announced that he will be retiring after 23 years serving children and families in need through the Family Services Division of Catholic Charities.



Jon Hackbarth (l) accepting the Paula U. Hamburger Child Advocacy Award from Linda J. Raines, MHAMd's CEO at the 2018 Legislative Reception & Briefing.



Ms. Lorena G. Rivera, Director of Hispanic Affairs in Governor Larry Hogan's Office of Community Initiatives, presented Ezra Buchdahl, Administrator of Catholic Charities' St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria School, with a proclamation in recognition of the outstanding work to counsel, care for and teach children 5 to 14 years of age who are managing behavioral and emotional issues. Joining Mr. Buchdahl and Ms. Rivera at the proclamation presentation were Jon Hackbarth, Director of Centralized Services and Mike Dunphy, Associate Administrator for St. Vincent's Villa.

The University of Maryland's School of Social Work (UMSSW) presented a current St. Vincent's Villa staff member and a former administrator with recognition awards for their exemplary service to children and families, as well as, dedication to mentor interns in the field of social work.

Mark Greenberg, MSW '77, former Director of the Child and Family Services Division, received the school's Emeritus Award in recognition of "his lifelong commitment to best practices and exemplary service to families and children throughout his 41 years working at Villa Maria. Since his retirement, Mark continues to serve others through his volunteer work with Gilchrist as an end of life doula."

Lisa Morris, MSW '94, a program director at St. Vincent's Villa, received the UMSSW Field Instructor of the Year in acknowledgement of her exemplary supervision of interns, leadership ability, unmatched enthusiasm, compassion, integrity, and professionalism. Before assuming her position at St. Vincent's Villa as its director of the Ambrose Unit in 2007, Lisa Morris worked at the Whaley's Children's Center and at Baker Community College.

The UMSSW was pleased to publically honor these outstanding social workers and Catholic Charities is equally proud of their work and accomplishments.



Catholic Charities staff celebrate former administrator, Mark Greenberg (back row-green tie) and current director of the Ambrose Unit at SVV, Lisa Morris (front row-center)

An Exceptional Program for Exceptional Children

The best advocates of St. Vincent's Villa (SVV) and the Villa Maria School are the children and families who've participated and completed its programs.

At a recent Family Game Night, former participants from the SVV's Residential Treatment Center (RTC) mingled with newly arrived children. Jerome, a recent RTC graduate spoke with Paul, a newcomer. "I just left this program," said Jerome. "Don't worry. It's going to be okay. You'll get better here."

On any given day, the Residential Treatment Center at SVV treats 80 children between the ages of 5 and 14 who are learning to manage severe mental, emotional and behavior health issues.

St. Vincent's Villa's Residential Treatment Center (RTC) is the only program in the state of Maryland that cares for children under the age of 12 and as young as 5 years-old.

"Our program truly is unique because of our ability to serve very young children and work with their families," said Jon Hackbarth, Director of Centralized

Services for the Family Service Division of Catholic Charities. "Families come to us at a loss because their community-based resources failed to meet their needs."

Some children that receive care at RTC were removed from their family because of abuse and neglect. Other children became enrolled in the residential treatment center because their behavioral issues could not be adequately managed through community resources or their family.

The goal for many children is to return to their family and a community school – if it's suitable. After they complete the residential treatment program at SVV, children and families have access to a myriad of resources including outpatient therapy, psychiatric services, in-home intervention services and special education. Through collaboration and a continuum of care, the child and the family achieve stability long-term success.

Learn more and support this critical need at www.cc-md.org/sv



Testimonials

"I felt like I had a team of 10 people supporting me to parent my child."

"I had 'hope' for the first time in many years after 10 hospitalizations for my child."

"The staff are my heroes for coming into our home to do the hard work where it's really needed."

An Evening of Voluncheer

In April, Gallagher and St. Vincent's Villa volunteers were treated to a night out by Catholic Charities staff to celebrate the time, talent and treasure given by all. Volunteers are an integral part of St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria School. There's always an opportunity to GET INVOLVED. Contact **Mikael Kristiansen** (mkristia@cc-md.org; 667-600-3039) for more information.

RIGHT | (from left to right): Maria Busko, Volunteer Coordinator, Nuha Kalash, Pre-Vocational Classroom Assistant (Volunteer), Donna Conneely, Teaching Assistant (Nuha's supervisor) Ida Collins, Pre-Vocational Instructor (Nuha's supervisor)



BELOW | Volunteers from Gallagher Services and St. Vincent's Villa with Catholic Charities staff including Kathy Clemente, Jon Hackbarth and Stephanie Eckhart.



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

Summer Fun and Back to School Items

Summer time is pool time for the children of St. Vincent's Villa. Our children are in need of NEW GOGGLES and BATHING SUITS (trunks and one-piece suits for ages 9-14)! Donations for gift cards to local child-friendly restaurants and summer activities such as movies, bowling, go-carts, mini golf, and ice cream parlors are also appreciated.

Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V)

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

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 and general needs (AMAZON, Visa, American Express, Target, Walmart, Old Navy and Kohl's)

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

If you would like to donate an item, please contact the volunteer services manager at volunteer@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

SUMMER DONATION



As we celebrate the beginning of summer, please consider making a donation to St. Vincent's Villa. Your valued support lets the children and families know that they are not alone on their journey through life.

We invite you to make a donation with the enclosed envelope, or

online at cc-md.org/give-svv.

Thank you!