



St. Mary's HOME FOR CHILDREN

Healing Lives, Restoring Hope – Since 1877

The Doorway

Volume Eleven Issue One

A Letter From The Executive Director



Dear Friends:

The State's financial crisis continues to have a significant impact on St. Mary's and other human service agencies. Funding for residential treatment continues to be cut. The payment rate for sexual abuse specific individual therapy has not changed since it was established in 1992 and cities and towns are sending children to out-of-district special education placements with much less frequency. Our three core service areas have suffered the sting of what seems to be a never-ending recession. For those of us working with vulnerable populations, it has been a test of our resolve, resilience and commitment.

We are viewing our work through a different lens. The work itself is still mission-driven, but the way in which we deliver services must change. "Business as usual" and those old silos have gone the way of the dinosaur. To serve at-risk children and families, it is imperative that human service agencies that share the same values collaborate and form partnerships. The system of care to which we aspire is one that is fluid, flexible, responds immediately, provides a holistic view of the needs of each family and keeps families together.

St. Mary's continues to examine industry trends and innovate. Innovation, diversification of our program portfolio, strategic partnerships and quality improvement are some of the methods we employ to stay relevant and focused on our ultimate purpose in an ever-changing landscape.

St. Mary's has expanded its services into the community. Our Enhanced Outpatient Services program, which provides in-home services to families being reunified and to children and families that are at-risk for placement of a child outside of the home is growing. This service has been well-received by the families we serve and various referral sources. Our in-home sexual abuse treatment program continues to experience a great deal of success. This is funded through the Victims of Crime Act and has a 96% rate of success in maintaining child victims of sexual abuse in their homes. We hope to increase capacity as we seek other funding sources to support expansion of this very successful program.

Recognizing the financial strain that Rhode Island's cities and towns are experiencing, we have partnered with the Woonsocket School District to provide special education and clinical services to the Woonsocket Middle School. This has been a very successful endeavor and we hope to replicate it in Woonsocket and other communities.

During harsh economic times, it is tempting to hunker down, weather the storm and hope for the best. Doing so may have gotten us through it, but it would not have prepared us for the new world that we are facing. Instead, St. Mary's Home for Children has focused its efforts on developing new programming and cultivating collaborative partnerships. With the help of our community, we will intensify our efforts to ensure a brighter future for the children and families that we serve.

Sincerely,

Carlene Casciano-McCann, LMHC - Executive Director

Sponsor a Child program

How many times have you seen a business promote its philanthropy? The benefits of sponsoring a charity are countless, even beyond the satisfaction of giving back to the community. Your sponsorship will help to fund clinical programs that are an integral part of a successful treatment process. Sponsoring helps enhance your company's image, promotes community goodwill, improves employee morale, and can be used as a crucial marketing tool. For a corporate donation of at least \$500.00 annually, sponsors will have permission to embed the St. Mary's logo on their marketing material indicating the company is a sponsor of the agency. A certificate of appreciation will be given to the sponsor to be displayed in their waiting area, reception area or conference room. Jim Paolino of Res/Title was the first company to join the program. Res/Title began its support of St. Mary's by donating several gifts to the children during the holidays and moved a swing set for us from our Cranston location to North Providence. They then became a sponsor of our Annual Women's Golf Classic. Jim has seven offices and the St. Mary's logo is placed in every e-mail indicating their sponsorship and he is amazed at the amount of people who ask about St. Mary's when they see the logo on his communications. He also feels that it is a great way to communicate the philanthropic mission of his company to his business clientele. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact 353-3900 x262 or jderita@smhfc.org.



2010 National Philanthropy Day

Annually, we recognize a donor who has not only made a financial commitment to the agency, but has shown dedication by service. This year we chose to honor Captain Carl I. Hoyer.



Formerly a member of the Board of Directors, Captain Carl I. Hoyer has continued his support for the children of St. Mary's Home for Children through his acts of generosity. After an admirable military career, Captain Hoyer continues to serve his community through participation on several boards and committees. We are grateful to Captain Hoyer for his unending dedication to the children of St. Mary's.

Saint Mary's Home for Children

Vision, Mission and Values

The vision, mission and values statements were thoughtfully developed by soliciting comments from staff, members of the Board of Directors, volunteers and clients. The process was dedicated to developing statements that truly reflect the work that is done at St. Mary's, the population of clients we work with and our affirmation of the commitment to those we serve.

Vision

St. Mary's Home for Children is dedicated to helping children who have been affected by violence in their homes or communities and/or who have behavioral health issues. Our vision is to provide the opportunity for each child in our care to become a healthy adult, capable of healthy relationships. Our programs focus on providing children with the skills and strengths they need to cope with family, school and social environments. We provide families with appropriate supports as they strive to create healthy relationships. We seek to provide children in our care with positive and lasting relationships with adult role models and a permanent home base that they can return to as they need us. We seek to build a strong sense of self worth and raised aspirations for what each child can become.

Mission

Our mission is to create an environment of healing and hope for those we serve. Children and families are empowered to develop healthy, trusting relationships. Through an array of residential and community based services, we create effective, lasting partnerships that enable children and adults to lead fulfilling lives.

Beliefs and Values

Our services are child centered and family focused:

We are committed to meeting the needs of the people that we serve. Effective decision making that balances autonomy, individual empowerment, and personal accountability is encouraged.

Respect and compassion are the hallmarks of our work:

We commit to a safe, nurturing atmosphere in all we do. Our aim is to foster the growth of children and families and this requires a full measure of both respect and compassion.

We commit to the long term healthy development of children:

Children who have experienced abuse and neglect can develop into healthy adults. They are fully capable of participating in a life with the same opportunities, privileges and responsibilities as others in the community. We are committed to supporting the development of individuals through their lifespan.

We believe family members are an integral part of our clients' lives:

Our first choice is always to support the successful reintegration of a child into his/her family's life. If this is not possible, we commit to finding alternative family settings with the goal of permanency for each child.

We commit to employing best practices in our work:

It is our responsibility to seek out, and integrate best practices into our provision of services. We value innovation and creativity, and we reward our staff for demonstrating excellence in our field.

We will practice Continuous Quality Improvement:

We are committed to review and evaluate our work. We recognize that the success of our organization is dependent on our willingness to look objectively at what we do, and to make the changes necessary to improve practice. We accept the challenge to learn from our efforts.

We value a quality and reliable workforce to fulfill our mission:

We recognize that reliability and continuity in the lives of the people we serve are critical to their success. We reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to develop and maintain competent, caring and dedicated staff.

Our employees are the cornerstone of our agency:

We recognize the importance of our staff and the contributions they make in the lives of our children and families. We are committed to offering education, training, and advancement opportunities that enhance employee professional development and a work environment that expresses both dignity and respect.

Gracias, Merci, Grazie, Toda

We thank our corporate friends and community groups who have helped the children by providing funds for activities, holiday gifts, clothing, toys and other needed items. The following have gone "above and beyond" and we thank them for their generosity.

Al Gab Realty Holdings Co.
Alice I. Sullivan Charitable Trust
American Mathematical Society
Amica Insurance-Corporate Services
Bank of America
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI
CVS Caremark
Clafin Company
D'Evan Manor Associates
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Emma G. Harris Foundation
Emmanuel Church

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Glocester Dance Academy
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Knights of Columbus/Scalabrini Council
Marion Esser Kaufmann Foundation
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White Cross Pharmacy
Yushin America, Inc.

Reading, part of the 3 R's

Eileen Koshgarian, a Reading Specialist, was retained to assess the reading level of all students at the George N. Hunt Campus School. Based on the results of the assessment of each child, she determined an instructional, independent and frustration reading level for each student. Students who are not on grade level receive two thirty minute instructional periods with Mrs. Koshgarian. She has screened twenty-seven students and currently instructs eight students. These students are identified as having substantial gaps in the five components of reading and are substantially below level in reading.

Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) are developed and implemented for the identified students who are not on grade level. The Reading Specialist shares the PLP with the classroom teacher and school principal. PLPs are a requirement of the Board of Regents and are a plan of action for a teacher to use to bring a student to reading proficiency. The Reading Specialist identifies from the five components of reading (Phonological/Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension). The student's strengths and weaknesses determines the area of instructional focus. The PLP establishes an intervention plan with suggested instructional focus, instructional strategy and student goals.

Plans are updated with progress monitoring information by the Reading Specialist and upon transition from our school they are forwarded to the student's new school placement. All students who have an existing PLP are to continue with the plan until they are reading on grade level. Progress monitoring is an integral aspect of the PLP.

As an instructional support to the classroom teachers, the Reading Specialist provides specific information and documentation regarding a student's reading needs and conveys this to parents at student Individual Educational Plan meetings.

The addition of a Reading Specialist to our educational program has been invaluable. Post-testing results in phonemic awareness, fluency and vocabulary have determined that all eight children working with Mrs. Koshgarian have shown substantial improvement.



A sign of spring!

Mrs. Lemieux and Mrs. Casey work with the children in the library and in the school classroom. Bryant University students are helping coordinate our upcoming fundraiser. We are especially grateful to our Visiting Resources who work with an individual child who has no family relationships. The Visiting Resource regularly visits with a child and takes him/her off campus for special activities. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 353-3900 x295 for an application and explanation of available opportunities.

Our Valued Volunteers

Did you know that National Volunteer Appreciation week is April 10-16th? St. Mary's is fortunate to have over 200 volunteers annually who help maintain our sprawling seven-acre campus, work with the children or help staff with administrative duties. The Wellesley Club planted beautiful spring flowering bulbs that are just starting to bloom throughout our campus. City Year volunteers spread a trailer-truck load of mulch on our playground and the Internet and Mobile Strategy department from Citizens Bank helped to organize new donated clothing and assist the children in making choices. Several Bank of America branches and Boy Scout Troop 64 Saylesville were responsible for the collection of over 400 packages of socks and underwear. Local college students from Providence College and Rhode Island College continue to volunteer this year helping the children with homework or arts and crafts projects. Long time volunteers Mrs. Henry,

We remember our friends

The entire St. Mary's community mourns the passing of several individuals who have been a part of our extended family. Marilyn (Hartley) Picerelli was the driving force behind the past 15 years of the Annual Women's Golf Classic. Marilyn was an accomplished athlete and travel expert and her dedication to helping others was exhibited in her work and volunteer efforts. Marilyn is survived by her two sons Peter and James and her husband Bob, Director of Education at our campus school.

We also offer our condolences to the families of:

George Aldrich, II

R. Park Palmer

Joan Strike

Ernest Wilkinson, Past Board President



Brown University's Women Basketball Team treated the children to a basketball clinic. Thank you to Coach Jean Burr and her team for a fun afternoon.

Classroom at Woonsocket Middle School a Success

The George N. Hunt Campus School is pleased to announce the opening of a classroom in the Woonsocket Middle School, Hamlet this school year. Designed as a forty-five day diagnostic and "step-up" placement for fifth through eighth grades in the WMS Feinstein (Alternative Learning) program, the program is housed within the pod of classrooms serving children with considerably challenging needs.

Locating the classroom within the public school building provides many benefits to the student, municipality and to St. Mary's. The program promotes inclusion since students are able to attend their neighborhood school and engage in learning and other activities with mainstreamed peers. Financially, the district saves transportation costs and the child spends less time on the bus. Collaboration between the school district and St. Mary's is enhanced with constant communication about the children and availability for our specialists to share our best practices with other building personnel.

The program has exceeded the expectations of everyone involved. Students are being considered for reintegration back into the Feinstein classrooms, Individual Education Plans and Behavioral Improvement Plan goals are being achieved and the program has received praise from everyone involved.

ST. MARY'S HOME FOR CHILDREN

420 FRUIT HILL AVENUE
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Please join us for
An evening to benefit
St. Mary's Home for Children
Friday, May 6, 2011

Join us for a cocktail hour* and performance

Bravo
123 Empire Street,
Providence, RI 02903
5:30-7:30 p.m.
followed by a walk across the street to
Steel Magnolias - Trinity Repertory
7:30 p.m.
Valet parking for the evening provided

\$100 donation per person

\$35 for cocktail hour only

For additional information

353-3900 x262 or sderita@smhfc.org

*Cash bar. Hors d'oeuvres and pasta bar served

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