

MAIN OFFICE
ST. VINCENT HOMES
7201 MILNOR STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135

Residential and Shelter
Program

Soon to be
St. Joan of Arc Hall
7201 Milnor Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135

St. Vincent Maternity
Group Home

104 E. Township Line Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083

Guardian Angel Hall
Mother/Baby Group Home

157 W. Carpenter Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19119

St. Joseph Hall Group Home

477 E. Locust Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

St. Joachim Hall Group Home

1509 Church Street
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Let the little
CHILDREN

Come unto Me

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Vol. III, Issue 2

A Newsletter of St. Vincent Homes

June 2009

A THANK YOU FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY "IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

This very familiar quote above has been first and foremost in my mind - ever since I was asked to write an article on Youth Ministry. I keep thinking of the wonderful people, in all departments, who help me in my ministry each day. From Rick, our very supportive Administrator, to our very experienced Administrative Team, to our Therapists, Nurse, Social Workers, Youth Care Workers, Cooks, Office Personnel, and Maintenance Department. I am grateful for each and every one.



Looking back on our year of transition, moving to four homes and preparing to inhabit our fifth, I see each and every individual staff member as a thread that is woven

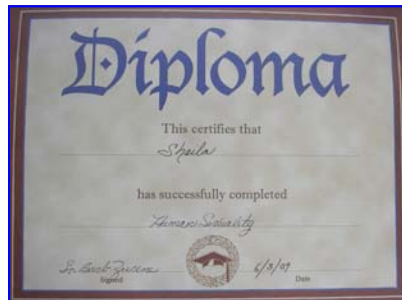
through colorful material, "a work of art, a Masterpiece for God".

I believe that this transition time has brought all of us closer together - for in



ministering to five homes - we must rely on each other for daily communications - as well as practical projects. I think that "working together" is the greatest example that we could give to our residents. For if our girls can not pattern their lives on us as "a family at work" - then who?

And then there is our extended St. Vincent family, Father Steve Wetzel, Pastor of St. Joachim Parish (who celebrates Mass



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CQI Corner

Following a recommendation from the St. Vincent Quality



Mr. Tim gives visitors the Mother Caroline History Room tour

Control Department, a recent decision by the Administrative Team will ensure that the St. Vincent History Room will move along with the agency's transition to community based group homes. The former chapel at

St. Joan of Arc, the fifth and final group home location, will be designated as the Mother Caroline History and Conference Room. While the St. Joachim Hall chapel remains active for Mass and religious purposes, the chapel at St. Joan of Arc had already been deactivated and cleared of its tabernacle, altar, etc. The room has, however, been beautifully restored, maintaining an original mural and stained glass windows.

The first Mother Caroline Room, the original SSND's dining room on the Tacony Campus, was gifted to the agency

by the Sisters following the rebuilding of the St. John Neumann Building resulting from the fire which destroyed the original orphanage structure in 1980. The room was intended to serve the multi-purposes of commemorating



Tim Paul and Donald Saurman take measurements for the new MCR

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twice each month in our house Chapel) and holds a Youth Group for our girls once each month, Rev. Barnes, Rev. Garvin, Rev. Bounds (our Baptist brothers) who teach Bible Study weekly, Aminag, our Instructor of the Muslim Religion and Pastor Abram who is organizing several "outreach projects" for us at our St. Vincent Campus. These spirited volunteers add so much life to our programs and we know how blessed we are to have them. All of these activities, coupled with classes on Human Sexuality, provide our our girls with a simple, yet profound foundation, the truth that they are each

personally loved by God and that they are precious in His sight.

I truly believe that Youth Ministry at SVH is not so much a department as it is a "spirit of solidarity" which permeates our homes. As I go from home to home to see our residents, I see youth ministry being carried out in many ways, in close relationships with staff, outrageous laughter, listening ears, encouraging words and smiles and in activity companions.

I often hear things like; "this staff person really helped me," or "a Youth Care Worker took me shopping," "someone helped me to make a good choice," or "I promised this person that I'd

try harder at school today." It is obvious that our kids do better once relationships are formed with the staff, once they begin to trust again. Only God can judge how many "seeds" have been planted in the hearts of our residents - in simple and caring conversations.

We, as a staff, wish to thank our teens for allowing us to "walk with them" on their journey at this particular time in their life.

We know that we are united and supported by Jesus, the Lord of Relationships, the Prince of Peace and that He is working through our hands each day.

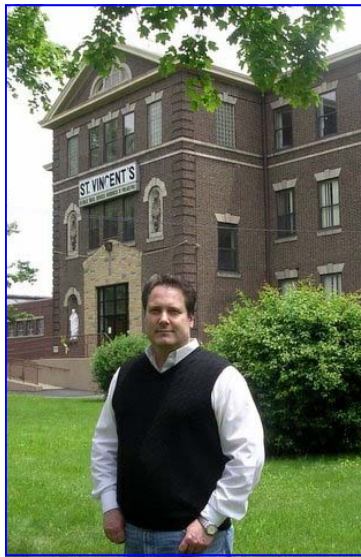
*Sr. Barb Zwine, SSND
Youth Minister*

Congratulations, Graduates 2009



Every day I appreciate our youths working hard on their educational goals, achieving them, and making their futures bright. I am inspired when I witness the tremendous willpower and talents our youths exhibit, successfully overcoming enormous adversities and accomplishing their goals. Congratulations to all of our youths who passed into the next educational grade level. Your work has not gone unnoticed. Furthermore, additional congratulations go to our High School Graduates; **Tyshonda**, resident at our Guardian Angel Mother/Baby Group Home, who is graduating from Hope Charter High School and soon to be a freshman at Penn State University; **Zari**, a resident of our St. Joan of Arc Group Home, who is graduating from Delaware Valley Charter School and soon to attend Community College of Philadelphia; and **Lahmiekah**, who is also a resident

of our St. Joan of Arc Group Home and is scheduled to graduate from Lincoln High School this summer, to continue her education at the Prism Career Institute. Congratulations also go to **Levette**, who is a resident at the Guardian Angel Group



Home who is graduating from Roosevelt Middle School. To our graduating class of 2009, you set the standard of achievement that inspires all

of us to do better. Thank you!

Our staff are role models for our youths and their achievements also do not go unnoticed. Congratulations to our staff: **Jen Cutler**, social worker of our Joan of Arc Group Home, who recently graduated with a Masters of Social Work degree from Widener University; **Sarah Hill**, manager of our Joan of Arc Group Home, who recently graduated from St. Joseph University with a Bachelor of Science degree; **Deneen Wilson**, social worker at our St. Joseph Hall Group Home, who graduated with a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's University; and **Felicia Rogers**, manager of our St. Vincent Maternity Group Home, who recently received her Masters Degree in Public Administration from Cheyney University.

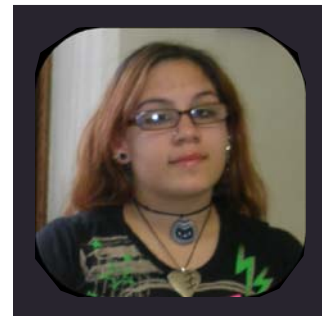
Best wishes to you all.



*Rick Pytkowski, MSW
Administrator*

LIFE

*Life is crazy these days,
So don't bother me if you catch me in a daze.
I'm only human and I'm trying to live;
I'm also trying to give advice to those who are willing to take.
Ball it up and try to make or recreate
Something new not only for you but for others too.
Take your information and share it with the world.
This goes for everyone: adults, children and elderly.
Let's all come together as one big family.
Let's put an end to violence and drugs and start a new beginning
With joy and love.*



CYNTHIA—ST.

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Mother Caroline Friess, the American foundress of the SSND's who brought the first Sisters to St. Vincent's in 1859; to provide a time-line pictorial history of the 150 years of the agency in Tacony; and establish a Training/Conference room for staff development. The room contains pictures, writings and artifacts of Mother Caroline; some early documents and photographs of St. Vincent's; as well as conference tables and video equipment utilized in staff training sessions.

As with the original Mother Caroline Room at Tacony, the room will continue to provide the opportunity for former residents, benefactors and historians to view the history of the agency and peruse old photographs and records.

It is significant that the first residents were admitted to the Tacony campus of St. Vincent's in the summer of 1859 and that the last admissions and transfers to the five community based group homes will occur in the summer of 2009, exactly 150 years apart. All of the history in between will fortunately be commemorated in the new Mother Caroline Room at St. Joan of Arc Hall on Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia.

*John Timothy Paul, MA, MSW
Director of Quality Control*

Have a safe summer!

We're on the Web!
www.stvincenthome.org

United Way
Donor Number
09414

**MISSION STATEMENT**

INSPIRED BY THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, "LET THE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME", ST. VINCENT HOMES PROVIDES SERVICES TO CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES. RECOGNIZING THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF ALL PERSONS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORK TOGETHER TO HELP FAMILIES AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS DEVELOP TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL AND TO EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT IS THEIR HERITAGE AS CHILDREN OF GOD..

IN THIS SPIRIT, WE ACCEPT EACH INDIVIDUAL AS JESUS DID, AND EMBRACE EVERY PERSON OF EVERY RACE AND CREED IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. UTILIZING THE CORE VALUES OF COMPASSION, DIGNITY, CHARITY, JUSTICE AND EXCELLENCE

BASIC TO CHRISTIANITY AND THE

St. Vincent Homes
7201 Milnor Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135

FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL CHILD WELFARE, ST. VINCENT'S WILL CONTINUE TO IMPACT ON SOCIAL CHANGE AND ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA.

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