



Certified Nursing Assistant Program to Start in the Fall

Soon, students on our Jarratt campus will have access to another vocational program to compliment the three already offered. With generous funding from the Jackson Foundation (Richmond, VA) and through a partnership with Southside Community College, JFH residents will begin taking classes for the certification program to become Certified Nursing Assistants.

The national shortage of healthcare workers offers well-paying job opportunities for JFH students – jobs that pay a living wage that would enable these teens to become self-supporting as young adults. JFH currently makes CNA training available to a handful of students through Southside Community College but this arrangement is no longer workable. Under the current arrangement, girls must be transported by the agency's staff through numer-

ous trips back and forth each day.

In 2006 the college drastically reduced its CNA classes and moved them to the evenings, which doesn't work for JFH girls because it interrupts their therapy schedule as well as teen moms' evening infant care. Transportation in the evening drives up costs because additional staff must be brought in to accommodate the extended work hours. Another problem with the current situation is that students can enter the community college only at the beginning of the semester, whereas JFH has girls arriving throughout the year.

By partnering with Southside Community College and offering CNA on the JFH campus, we can offer small classes and a minimum of 4 program entry dates each year. Also, the community college requires a GED or high

school diploma prior to entry into the program, whereas JFH can offer both high school coursework and CNA training concurrently, thereby shortening the time required for girls to achieve maximum education credentials and they also receive high school and college credit for the course. Therefore, agency management has determined that it is much more advantageous financially and logistically to offer the CNA training directly through its Gwaltney School. We will provide support and follow-up to the girls to take their state certification exam.

We will be working with Southside Community College to hire an instructor for this program. Under the supervision of Dr. Bill Bowling, the Director of Education, the program will begin offering classes to interested girls in September 2007.

Reverend Colin Cooper Retires

We are sad to report that our Chaplain of nine years, Colin Cooper has "retired" from Jackson-Feild Homes. Early in March, the campus celebrated his time with us at a luncheon in his honor. Colin leaves a legacy of creating a high impact Spiritual Program at Jackson-Feild.

While at Jackson-Feild Reverend Cooper provided individual and group Christian counseling, performed baptisms, confirmations, and led Sunday worship services. He also provided spiritual guidance for all girls interested in participating.

Continuing his great work is the newly appointed Chaplain, The Rev. Robin C.M. Jones (pictured on the right). Robin lives with her family only a few miles from our Jarratt campus and has been serving in the capacity of substitute pastor for the past 2 years whenever Colin was away. While we

are sad to say goodbye to Colin, we are happy to welcome Robin Jones with open arms.

Rest assured the spiritual program at Jackson-Feild Homes is alive and well. Robin has joined the staff ready to go and is on campus 6 days a week guiding our girls. Feel free to give her a call and say hello.



The girls at Jackson-Feild Homes need your help! As the warmer weather approaches our girls are in need of spring and summer clothing.

How can you help?

- ✓ Donate gently used age appropriate clothes in the following sizes: 8-16
- ✓ Donate maternity clothes and infant clothes.
- ✓ Donate gift cards to Walmart and Southpark Mall.
- ✓ Adopt a cottage!
- ✓ Sponsor a baby shower for a teen mother
- ✓ Make a financial contribution earmarked to the "Spring Clothing Drive"

Call (804)354-6929 to find out more.

Alumna update: Crystal (West) Jones



Recently the staff at JFH had the opportunity to sit down with an alumna to see how she was doing. Crystal (West) Jones lived at Jackson-Feild from 1998 to 2001 beginning at the Jarratt Campus and eventually ending at Eleventh House.

Since leaving Jackson-Feild Crystal has become the mother of a beautiful daughter and is expecting a son this month (at press time, Crystal was still waiting for her new son to arrive). When asked how she found the skills to raise her daughter, Crystal replied, "I'm just raising her the way I wish I had been raised."

While at Eleventh House and after graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School, Crystal began working part-time and attending J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College eventually earning her CNA. When Crystal left Eleventh House she first rented an apartment nearby so she could maintain contact with the staff.

For the last several years she has been working for the Hospice of Virginia. On her job, Crystal comments, "I love working with people and I love geriatrics." Since becoming pregnant, she has been working on the administrative side of the Hospice, but

looks forward to moving back into direct care.

Crystal credits part of her success to the budgeting skills she learned in JFH's Independent Living program stating that she, "felt prepared for living on her own."

Crystal continues to thrive as an adult and is appreciative of her time at Jackson-Feild. She is happily married and living in Richmond's West End. She vows to stay in touch and let us know how she is doing.

Crystal agreed to share her story in a recent interview as part of the national StoryCorp project sponsored by the Community Idea Stations 88.9 NPR affiliate. Crystal was interviewed by Becky China, JFH's Executive Director. An audio recording of the full interview is available on our website or by calling us at (804)354-6929.

T-L-C & Technology at JFH

Over the last 12 months over \$134,675 has been spent updating, upgrading, and generally cleaning up the main campus buildings and the Eleventh House with more grant funds waiting to be spent. The generosity of area foundations (see right) have led to these necessary and somewhat unglamorous updates including roof replacements, a new fire sprinkler system, new carpeting, and exterior repairs.

Chris Thompson, Director of Administrative Services, has been overseeing the progress of the project. Thompson submits a capital budget each year and says of this year's progress, "I am excited that we have been able to accomplish so much this year. It has been wonderful working with local contractors to complete this work." Due to increases in grant writing, staff was able to secure funding from a variety of sources to help ensure that donations are used for the direct care of our girls.

In addition to much needed capital projects, the Jarratt campus is ushering in a new era of technology. Within a few months the entire campus will be hooked up to a network allowing teachers, students, and staff access to the internet from a cable connection. In addition, new computers have been provided for use by the girls at Jackson-Feild Homes.

We are also proud to introduce our new website, made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor. You can visit us on the web at www.jacksonfeild.org.

Both projects are still in need of funding to be complete, but much of the work has been completed. If you are interested in making a donation to the Capital Renovations Project or the Technology Project, please call (804)354-6929 and speak with Sarah E. Johnston, Director of Development to discuss your interests.

Capital Renovations:

Philip Morris Employee Community Fund
Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
Greensville Memorial Foundation
Lind Lawrence Foundation
Constance Dundas Foundation
Marietta McNeill Morgan and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation
Richard & Caroline Gwathmey Trust

Technology Project:

Dominion Foundation
William H., John G., & Emma Scott Foundation
Philip Morris Employee Community Fund
VuBay Foundation
Titmus Foundation
William J. Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation

The new gym roof is pictured below.

