

VILLA MARIA SCHOOL

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION



SUMMARY

Villa Maria School is a nonpublic special education school that is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. We operate a Type I and Type III school serving day and residential students grades K-8 with emotional disabilities.

The 2023-2024 school year was a very successful year at Villa Maria School. We focused on increasing our census capacity by hiring and maintaining the needed staff to operate 11 classrooms. We used our CARE and TCI training to keep our students safe and create an atmosphere for them to learn, grow, and heal. We saw a significant reduction in the use of physical restraints, which is just one indicator that our therapeutic supports and services are benefitting our students. We continue to partner with our families to promote the success of our students.

KEY OUTCOMES



Number of students served throughout the year

120



Percentage of children who were able to step down to less-restrictive schools closer to their homes and communities.

nearly one third



Number of students who matriculated, moving on to high school

12



Number of classrooms operated

11



Percentage of families that would recommend the program

92%

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Full-day special education services
- Psychiatric services
- Individual and group therapy
- Speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Music therapy
- Art
- Physical education/health
- Environmental sciences program (therapeutic gardening)
- Family support/events

KEY GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and local education agencies fund our program and pay a per diem rate for student enrollment.

In addition to the grant support from key government funders, we extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals, corporations, community partners, and foundations that support our work. Their generosity provides life-changing opportunities for families and individuals in need.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF)
- Residential Child Care Project at Cornell University

PROGRAM NEEDS

Donations of new items, specifically:

- Coloring books and gel pens
- Craft kits, especially DIY bracelet kits and slime kits
- Gift cards for Walmart, grocery stores, and Amazon
- Graphic novels, especially anime
- Kid-friendly non-perishable food items
- Legos (50-300 pieces)
- Modeling clay
- New clothing (underwear, socks, leggings, t-shirts, jackets) in boys/girls Medium to men/women Large
- Noise-cancelling headphones
- Puzzles (40-200 pieces)
- Sports equipment, especially footballs, Nerf footballs, basketballs, and basketball nets
- Squishmellows
- Sticker packs
- Stress balls and fidgets (all types, except spinners)
- Weighted blankets and sensory pillows (sequined ones)

Volunteer needs:

- Career Day participants (annually)
- Special event support (seasonally)
- Club day volunteers: chess, Lego, cooking, sports, hair styling, and many other clubs (monthly)
- Book Buddies, one-to-one reading partners (weekly)
- Classroom assistants: gym, art, ecology (weekly)
- Undergraduate interns pursuing Special Education degree (at least twice weekly)



To make a gift, visit www.cc-md.org/donate

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