



*A Tradition of Caring*

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**1860 - 2021 | 160+ YEARS OF SERVICE**

# Discovering Hope

St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families



# Save-the-Date!

Hope Blossoms 2022

COCKTAIL AND AWARDS RECEPTION

May 11, 2022

COLUMBIA COUNTRY CLUB, CHEVY CHASE, MD

CO-HOSTED BY PAM AND DENNIS LUCEY

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# Mission, Vision & Values

**MISSION:** St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families strengthens and supports families on their journey toward stability. Inspired by Catholic social teaching and Gospel values, St. Ann's Center provides a nurturing community where families heal from the past, overcome barriers, and take hold of their future.

**VISION:** St. Ann's Center is a leader in innovative services to women, children, and families.

**VALUES:** St. Ann's Center is committed to providing care that is safe, nurturing, healing, empowering and strength-based, and where all are served with compassion, dignity, and respect.

# Letter from Sister Mary Bader, CEO

Thank you for supporting St. Ann's Center in 2020 – 2021. Your generous support enables our resident families to find new confidence, set new directions, and explore new opportunities during their stay in our program.

Before joining St. Ann's, I served as a middle school principal – which is perhaps why graduations strike me as particularly special moments for St. Ann's families. This past year, we witnessed several St. Ann's mothers graduate from high school, college, and employment programs; and we safely celebrated their successes with decorations, socially distanced parties, and cake!

Many St. Ann's families also marked a different type of graduation – one without caps and gowns, yet equally special. These graduations occurred each time a family successfully transitioned from St. Ann's to permanent, stable housing of their own. In FY2021, we marked twelve such happy transitions.

Our families' successes – achieved during a pandemic, no less – continue to infuse our entire community with hope as we navigate the course ahead. Thank you for being part of this journey.

**SISTER MARY BADER, CEO**



## About our Theme

**DISCOVERING HOPE: NEW CONFIDENCE,  
NEW DIRECTION, AND NEW OPPORTUNITY**

This year's Annual Report theme is **Discovering Hope**. The sunny imagery throughout this booklet reflects this theme and represents the bright futures that families create for themselves at St. Ann's Center – as they progress from homelessness to stability and independence.

**Discovering Hope** speaks to how families – from their very first day at St. Ann's – feel supported in reaching their unique goals. Within a safe and nurturing environment, young mothers are able to tap into their innate resources and strengths as they take hold of today and plan their tomorrows with their children.

Vision becomes reality as families reach important milestones. In 2020 – 2021, St. Ann's families celebrated many such milestones, which you will read about in the pages that follow.

# Alumni Spotlight **Rashawn Straus**



Rashawn Straus recently returned to St. Ann's Center as a volunteer mentor for young women seeking to achieve their dreams – a desire spurred by her own journey from instability to independence.

Rashawn first connected with St. Ann's in 2019, after experiencing a period of homelessness. She quickly found a supportive environment: "When I [arrived] to my room . . . all of the beds had fresh blankets and sheets. There was a crib for my baby, and three beds for me and my two other children. [I felt that] St. Ann's was saying, 'We've got your back.'"

Rashawn met her own goals while helping other St. Ann's mothers access educational and employment resources. She was also inspired by St. Ann's Life Skills classes – especially the finance presentations – and mentoring sessions with St. Ann's Board Chair Tonya Sharpe,

volunteer Michele Davis, and others who helped Rashawn and other residents plan for their futures beyond St. Ann's.

Looking back, Rashawn advises mothers living at St. Ann's to "Use this time to figure out what you want to do. Plan out your future and use the [opportunity] to go back to school for a couple of months, or switch jobs. This is just the beginning . . . You've got this!"

In 2020, Rashawn and her family transitioned to permanent, stable housing. She now manages a 35-person staff at a health center for adults with disabilities, and plans to return to school, open her own business, and develop her mentoring skills. Rashawn credits her success to her family: "My children are my biggest inspirers and motivators, to know they are looking up to me."

# Board Member Spotlight **Elise Ambrose**

Ms. Elise Ambrose serves on St. Ann's Board of Directors. She is the owner of Elite Personnel, a national award-winning staffing agency.



Elite Personnel is a sponsor of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Ambrose also owns and manages The Atlas Agency, a professional search firm. She is a founding member of the Catholic Business Network of Washington, DC. Ms. Ambrose resides in Takoma Park, MD with her better half, John, and is the proud aunt of amazing nieces and nephews.

## **How were you first introduced to St. Ann's Center?**

I was introduced to St. Ann's by Steve Heidenberger, a longtime ally and friend to St. Ann's. Steve overheard me talking about other Catholic organizations that Elite supports and invited me to attend St. Ann's annual spring event - held that year at Congressional Country Club. The event was lovely, but the highlight was the charming young mother who told the audience about her stay at St. Ann's and how St. Ann's had literally saved her and her child (who was busy dancing around the stage in an adorable dress).

Her recounting of her life before St. Ann's was profoundly sad and the success she has found since was inspiring to all in the room. It was truly a moving and memorable experience. Along with everyone else in the room, I was hooked.

## **What is the most rewarding part about being a member of St. Ann's Board of Directors?**

The most rewarding aspect of being part of the St. Ann's family is hearing the stories of the young mothers who have struggled through unbelievable hardship and who have successfully turned their lives around with the help of St. Ann's.

St. Ann's reminds me of the many gifts I have been given, how much harder life has been for so many other people and how much harder they have to fight for every bit of their success.

## **What do you wish more people knew about St. Ann's?**

St. Ann's is the unsung hero among the many, many organizations dedicated to helping people in need in the D.C. area. St. Ann's literally changes the fortunes of young families and gives them the opportunity to move forward and establish happy, successful and productive lives. It is truly an organization that uses every resource available in a positive and constructive way, decade after decade.

## **What is the best advice you have ever received?**

Hmmm ... everything my mother and father ever said to me. Now, if only I had listened!

## **What is your favorite place to visit in Washington, D.C. and why?**

The Lincoln Memorial - the grandeur and history are without compare. The toll of saving the Union was more than most could bear but Lincoln persevered. He is a hero in every way.

# Client Success Stories

## Tiffany Excels in Year Up Program

In 2021, St. Ann's celebrated with Tiffany\*, a young mother in our Hope House program who successfully completed the nationally-recognized Year Up internship program. Founded in 2000, Year Up is a full-time, year-long workforce training program for economically-disadvantaged young adults focusing on economic sectors with jobs in high demand—namely, information technology and financial services.

With the support of St. Ann's Social Work team, Tiffany completed an application and entered Year Up's Learning & Development phase, working with trainers to gain skills in her particular area of interest. Tiffany then accepted an internship placement with a local tech company in Northern Virginia.

In January 2021, Tiffany successfully completed her year-long internship. Soon after completing Year Up, Tiffany received a series of job interviews, and she accepted a job offer as an account representative with the tech company where she had interned. Tiffany now joins a number of St. Ann's alumnae who have completed Year Up, paving her way for future career success and stability.

*\*Resident names changed for confidentiality.*

## A'ja Earns Her Associate's Degree



As the pandemic unfolded, A'ja helped her son adjust to the changing landscape of virtual and hybrid schooling while also balancing her own career and schoolwork demands. All of A'ja's efforts paid off in May 2021, when she earned her Associate's Degree from Prince George's Community College.

A'ja shared her journey during St. Ann's 2021 virtual *Hope Blossoms* gala, reflecting that she has "been able to accomplish so much" during her time at Faith House, while also stepping directly into her next goal - completing her Bachelor's Degree at Bowie State University, where she began coursework in Fall 2021.

A'ja's many plans for the future include becoming a homeowner. While she continues school, she is also collaborating with St. Ann's Social Work team to research first-time home buyers programs as well as develop her budgeting and savings plan. Congratulations on your many successes, A'ja!

## Jasmine Reaches Academic Milestones

Jasmine and her son began their journey at St. Ann's in March 2021. Just a short time after moving in to Hope House, Jasmine reached two major educational milestones: earning her high school diploma and beginning college classes.

“Through the College of Southern Maryland, I was able to participate in the National External Diploma Program. This was an online class taken through a series of modules. Before St. Ann's, it was taking me forever to finish, because of the situations I was living in. Once at St. Ann's, I finally had the peace and structure I needed to concentrate – and I knocked it out so quickly.”

Jasmine soon graduated, earning her Maryland High School Diploma. She then was able to register and prepare for college classes in accounting at Prince George's Community College, where she began online coursework in Fall 2021, to further her goal of opening her own business in the future. Congratulations, Jasmine!

“My plan for the future is to remain being the best possible mother that I can be for my son and to provide stability for my family.”

**JASMINE**





12 FAMILIES SUCCESSFULLY  
TRANSITIONED FROM ST. ANN'S TO  
SAFE, PERMANENT HOUSING



## GRACE HOUSE



8 &amp; 7

Mothers Children



320

Average Night Stay

23 TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED BY  
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

## HOPE HOUSE



15 &amp; 16

Mothers Children



384

Average Night Stay

## FAITH HOUSE



8 &amp; 12

Mothers Children



664

Average Night Stay

# FY2021 Housing Programs

St. Ann's Center operates three supportive housing programs that cater to the needs of mothers and their children seeking safety and stability through St. Ann's - **Grace House, Hope House,** and **Faith House.**

## GRACE HOUSE

**Grace House** is the home of our Teen Mother & Baby Program, where St. Ann's staff members support housing-insecure pregnant and parenting young women through their pregnancy and early motherhood in continuing their education, making decisions for their family, and planning for the future.

## HOPE HOUSE

## FAITH HOUSE

**Hope House** and **Faith House** are the sites of our Supportive, Transitional Housing Program, which serves local families facing homelessness and instability. Hope House clients reside in single-family units with shared kitchens and living spaces in St. Ann's main building. Faith House residents live in a standalone building on St. Ann's campus consisting of private, one-bedroom apartments with a shared kitchen and living areas.

Residents across our three programs have access to our comprehensive wrap-around services - see page 10.



# Responding to COVID

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, St. Ann's Center continues to protect our clients and staff. Weekly testing is provided to all who wish to take part. Our Housing Programs have operated uninterrupted during this time; other services have adopted remote formats when needed. Federal COVID funding and generous donors enabled our residents to access building-wide WiFi on brand-new laptop computers. These upgrades have allowed mothers to work and attend school from home, as their children attended school virtually.

Throughout 2020 - 2021, in-kind donors also provided abundant cleaning supplies, facemasks, clothing and bedding, and other essentials to keep us running. We are grateful to all who are helping us provide for, and protect, our St. Ann's home and all who are in it!



# Wrap-around & Support Services



## Education & Employment Program (EEP)

St. Ann's residents partner with staff to create personalized roadmaps for success in meeting education and career goals, based on each client's particular strengths and needs. St. Ann's provides residents with one-on-one career counseling, resume-writing assistance, job etiquette advice, and job placement assistance with local partners.



## GED Prep and Tutoring

Our Education Center helps women at St. Ann's secure their high school or GED diplomas through tutoring and prep classes.



## Mentoring Program

St. Ann's residents have the opportunity to be matched with a Volunteer Mentor for support sessions aimed at developing personal strengths and skills. The mentor provides a listening ear and encouragement to our young mothers.



## Parenting & Life Skills Classes

Residents acquire practical knowledge and skills through classes led by staff and volunteers with expertise in topics such as child development, maternal and pediatric health, financial literacy, and law.



### Individual & Family Counseling

Many of our young mothers are survivors of trauma, including adolescent pregnancy, homelessness and abuse. Individual and group counseling is available to help residents and their families stabilize by providing holistic trauma-informed services to improve mental and behavioral health in a way that is strength-based and reflective.



### Clinical & Social Work Services

Families pair with social workers to create service plans addressing each mother's complex and unique needs while ensuring her family has access to essential services like health care and child care vouchers.



### On-Site Child Care

One of the biggest obstacles for our mothers in finding employment or going to school is finding affordable childcare. St. Ann's mothers can enroll their children in our affordable, on-site, licensed Child Care Center providing physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. Knowing their children are safe and in competent hands enables these mothers to focus on achieving their academic and career goals.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

# 1,018

Former residents and underserved individuals in the community received much-needed food, children's clothing, baby items, diapers, toys, and other supplies through St. Ann's Community Outreach and material assistance programs.





# Child Care Center

St. Ann's Child Care Center has been offering high-quality child care to residents and children from the community for over three decades. Our child care services includes a full developmental program focusing on social and emotional development.

## Infant and Toddler Program

### AGES 2 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

Every infant and toddler entrusted to St. Ann's receives individualized care and attention in a loving environment where children can develop and grow at their own pace. St. Ann's Early Head Start Program is available to low-income families with children under the age of 3. This program helps meet the gap in child care for young working families.

## Preschool Program

### AGES 3 TO 4 YEARS

Over their final two years at the Center, children grow in confidence and self-esteem while learning social skills and successfully preparing for kindergarten.

## Child Care Adapts to COVID

From March through June 2020, our Child Care Center closed to in-person child care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, teachers were able to lead virtual “Circle Time” and storytelling activities until our safe re-opening. From July 2020 onwards, our Center has remained open and we have safely celebrated fun Child Care Center traditions, such as our Halloween trick-or-treat parade and our Easter Egg hunt!



## 53 TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED

21 Infant & Toddler Program, 32 Preschool Program  
14 St. Ann’s Residents Served

## 20 TOTAL CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START

9 St. Ann’s Residents, 11 Children from the Community

## CHILD CARE CENTER BENEFITS



Low Teacher-Child Ratio



Indoor and Outdoor Play Areas



Hands-on Science Activities



Computer Fun & Play-Centered Learning



Health and Fitness Activities



Music



Arts and Crafts



Dedicated and Experienced Staff



License #33020

“We have been so thankful for St. Ann’s this past year. His teachers have welcomed our son with open arms. By how our son speaks about Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Tonay it is clear how much they are teaching him as well as showing him love in the classroom.”

CHILD CARE CENTER PARENT



# Ways to Support St. Ann's Center

## Planned Giving

When you make a gift as part of your estate plan, you are making an investment in the future of the young mothers with children who turn to St. Ann's Center for help. You can provide long-lasting support. This is a simple way to ensure that St. Ann's work will continue to help strengthen families on their journeys toward stability for years to come.



## Workplace Giving

- » Combined Federal Campaign #29344
- » United Way #8180
- » Maryland Charity Campaign #53-0204626

Workplace giving is an easy, affordable, and efficient way to make tax-deductible donations to St. Ann's Center through payroll deductions. Please contact your HR Professional or our Development team at (301) 559-5500 or [donations@stanns.org](mailto:donations@stanns.org) to learn how.



## Consider an IRA Rollover

Over 70? Donors Age 70 ½ or older have a unique way to support charities like St. Ann's Center by transferring a contribution directly from a traditional IRA account. This can satisfy a portion or all of the annual required minimum distribution and serve as a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. This can decrease your tax burden even if you are no longer itemizing deductions. Ask your IRA custodian to find out if this type of contribution is right for you.

## Circle of Angels

Thank you to St. Ann's Circle of Angels for your ongoing commitment to our mission. Your recurring donations have enabled St. Ann's to provide high-quality care all year long.

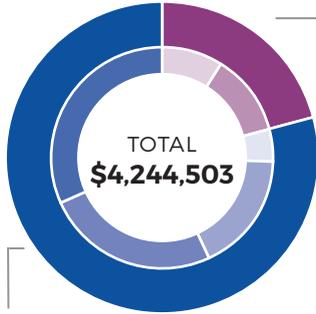
*Circle of Angels donors are denoted with an asterisk (\*) in the donor section of this report.*

## Donate Stock

By donating stock, you may be able to deduct the full market value without capital gains tax. For more information, please contact Susan Flaherty at [sflaherty@stanns.org](mailto:sflaherty@stanns.org).

# Financial Statement

EXPENSES FY2021



**79%**  
PROGRAM SERVICES  
\$3,361,667

**21%**  
SUPPORT SERVICES  
\$882,836

**32%**  
TEEN MOTHER  
& BABY  
PROGRAM  
\$1,346,213

**25%**  
CHILD CARE  
CENTER  
\$1,073,102

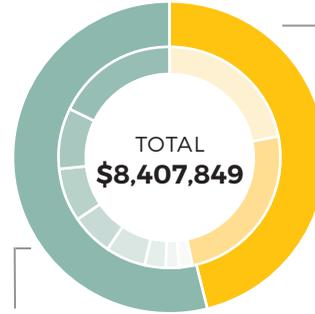
**12%**  
GENERAL &  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
\$506,893

**9%**  
FUNDRAISING  
\$375,943

**17%**  
TRANSITIONAL  
HOUSING  
PROGRAM  
\$743,313

**5%**  
EDUCATION &  
EMPLOYMENT  
\$199,039

REVENUE FY2021



**53%**  
OPERATING REVENUE  
\$4,469,463

**47%**  
DONOR TRUST REVENUE  
\$3,938,386

**25%**  
CONTRIBUTION  
AND BEQUESTS  
\$2,108,094

**22%**  
DONOR TRUST  
INCOME  
\$1,830,292

**18%**  
PRIVATE  
DONATIONS  
AND GRANTS  
\$1,522,238

**9%**  
GOVERNMENT  
CONTRACTS  
\$733,365

**8%**  
CONTRIBUTED  
SERVICES AND  
MATERIALS  
\$708,000

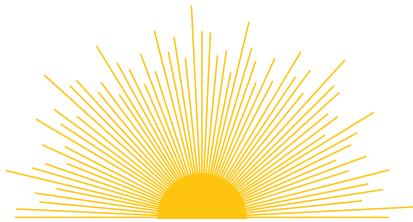
**6%**  
PPP LOAN  
FORGIVENESS  
\$479,684

**6%**  
SPECIAL  
EVENTS  
\$465,649

**3%**  
PRIVATE FEES  
\$250,549

**2%**  
RENTAL  
INCOME  
\$166,200

**2%**  
INVESTMENT  
INCOME  
\$143,778



# St. Ann's Center Leadership

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and the stewardship of our Board of Directors.

## Staff Leadership

**Sister Mary Bader, DC**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Karen Gilroy**  
Vice President of  
Finance & Administration

**Amy Rice**  
Vice President of Programs

**Shaneen Alvarez,  
LCSW-C, LICSW**  
Director, Clinical and  
Social Work Services

**Jeanette Chittams**  
Director, Residential Programs

**Louise Cole**  
Director, Human Resources

**Peggy Howard Gatewood**  
Administrator of Contracts,  
Licensing & Special Projects

**Monique Harper**  
Director, Child Care Center

## Board of Directors

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**President**

Charles Asmar, Esq.  
**Vice President**

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**Secretary**

Cara McVie  
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Patrick Selwood, Esq.  
Margaret (Meg) C. Slovenkay  
Colleen Williams

## EMERITUS:

Elaine Baugham-Young (Emeritus)  
Mary Lou Kretschmer (Emeritus)  
Anne E. Schneiders, Esq.  
(Emeritus)†



A Tradition of Caring

**St Ann's Center for  
Children, Youth and Families**

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in @StAnnsCenter



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