

# VILLA VICTORIA

## A C A D E M Y



## 2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

# Our Mission Statement

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The mission of Villa Victoria Academy, consistent with the Catholic vision of the Religious Teachers Filippini, is to respect the inherent dignity of each individual, to educate the whole person, and to empower young women to reach their full potential and influence the world in a truly Christian manner.

## WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING:

Life is a gift from God and should be safeguarded. Every person, created in the image and likeness of God, possesses inherent worth and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Every person has the ability to learn and reach her potential. Children are our community's most valuable asset and have a right to safety, love, and learning.

Education is a shared responsibility of the school community which consists of the administration, faculty, parents, and students. The academic and spiritual formation of girls is vital to the human family. Effective education develops the whole person - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.



## Sister Lillian's Words

Dear Villa Victoria Family,

God bless you and thank you for the support you continue to show to Villa Victoria Academy! I would like to acknowledge our Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, parents and caregivers, and our faculty and staff who are dedicated to our Villa girls and the Academy.

We are blessed to be celebrating our 90th anniversary this year! Since 1933 we have been providing young women with a quality education on the banks of the Delaware. Our graduates are proof that we are making a difference in the world by what we do here every day. I would like to personally invite each one of you to join us for our mass to kick off our 90th. It will be held in the Villa theatre on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at noon. All are welcome. We encourage all alumnae to join in the school after

the mass for refreshments and tours of the building. There are wonderful new rooms to see such as our dance studio, our strength training and conditioning room and our TV Studio.

Now, more than ever, we need your support in various ways so that we can continue to educate young women.

*"The Church of God is not a restful garden, but a working vineyard,"* said our foundress Saint Lucy Filippini. We are grateful for your generosity that has allowed us the opportunity to educate our young women to a global view, teach them to uphold the dignity of each individual, and empower them to influence the world in a truly Christian manner. Please know that you and your family remain always in the prayers of the Religious Teachers Filippini.



Together in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Lillian Harrington".

Sr. Lillian Harrington, MPF,  
President

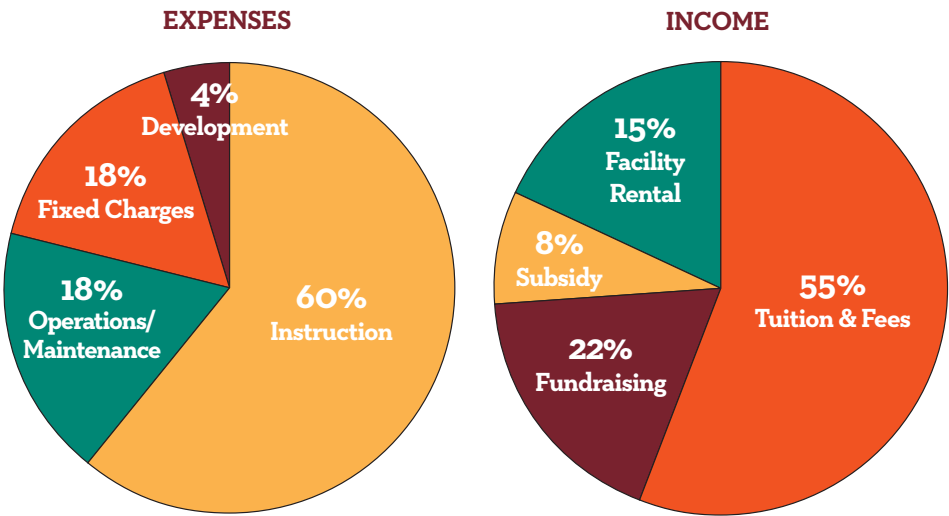


# Our Summary of Giving

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Villa Victoria Academy received over \$230,000 in Annual Fund gifts to the school. This was our highest total ever! We are so grateful for your support. Your gifts help to offset the expenses of the school and enhance our programs

here at Villa Victoria Academy. This Annual Report of Giving acknowledges donations to the 2022-2023 Annual Campaign between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Gifts received after that date will be included in the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

## Financial Summary 2022-2023





## From Our Board Chair

Dear Villa Victoria Community,

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the strength of our community and our collective commitment to nurturing academic excellence, spiritual growth, and personal development.

We have seen the donation of a state-of-the-art television studio from a Villa family, under the direction of our Technology Coordinator, Deacon Frank Golazeski. We have established a Major Donation Naming Committee and our Green Thumbs initiative continues to be the highlight of our campus beautification. We have surpassed expectations in various academic, theatrical, and other competitions. These accomplishments highlight the talents of our students as well as the dedication of our educators.

The alumnae association program continues to build connections with past alumnae through social media and events held at the school. The Director of Guidance, Mrs. Barbara Yetman, organized a school-wide event that allowed students to interact with alumnae about colleges and careers. We encourage all alumnae to share with us your accomplishments and milestones.

Education extends beyond textbooks, and we take pride in fostering personal development. Our emphasis on character education, leadership, and community service has empowered our students to become well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society.

Our Senior class included 15 students, who earned almost \$2.9 million dollars in scholarships and grants. These young women plan majors from science to the arts, to education and beyond.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to adapting and innovating in the ever-evolving educational landscape. Our goal is to provide an education that supplies our students with the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to navigate the complexities of our world.

In closing, Villa Victoria Academy stands as a testament to the power of education and community. We are dedicated to nurturing young minds, fostering a sense of purpose, and instilling values that will guide our students to become compassionate leaders of tomorrow.

With your generous support, we will continue to thrive at VVA and inspire and educate these young women. They are our future, and we pray that you will continue to be a part of the process.

Thank you and God Bless you,



Gina Giordano

Chairperson, Villa Victoria Academy  
Board of Directors, Alumnae Parent



## Alumni Speaker Series

For the seventh year, Villa Victoria Academy hosted the Alumnae Speaker Series. The Villa Board of Directors selects graduates to speak to the students about how Villa benefited them and also to introduce students to a wide range of career opportunities. On Thursday, December 15, 2022, Niamh Cloughley '08 was the alumnae speaker and on May 19, 2023, Dr. Poppy McLeod '75 was the featured speaker.

Niamh is a 2008 graduate of Villa Victoria Academy. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Villanova University, Niamh lived in Paris from 2012 to 2018, earning a master's degree in translation and working in communications at Euro Disney. She returned to the US and currently works as Managing Director at CRA, Inc.

Niamh's favorite memories at VVA were Spirit Week and hanging out in the senior lounge. Niamh shared with the students that Villa gave her excellent teachers and an excellent education, but also taught her the importance of valuing differences and working well with others. It also taught her

how to speak up for herself and for others, and to be strong and confident. Niamh's sisters Sinead '05 and Megan '11 are also VVA graduates.

Poppy is a 1975 graduate of Villa Victoria Academy. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, she earned a master's degree and a doctorate in Social Psychology from Harvard University. She is currently a Full Professor in the Department of Communication at Cornell University. Poppy's sister, Aleta '77, is also a VVA graduate.

When asked about her favorite Villa memory Poppy responded, "It's hard to choose just one. I loved being in the choir, the spring recitals and our visits to nursing homes. I loved being involved in forensics - the experience of public speaking gave me the foundation to be a confident and clear communicator in my classes."

More information about the speaker series can be found on the Moving Villa Forward page of the VVA website.



# Villa Turns 90!

In 2023, Villa Victoria Academy will celebrate 90 years of Filippini education on the “banks of the Delaware.” In 1910, five Filippini sisters arrived in the United States, settling in Trenton, New Jersey. As the ministry of the Filippini sisters prospered, the bishop of Trenton at the time, Most Reverend Thomas Joseph Walsh, dedicated himself whole-heartedly to the development of their institute.

With the help of a New York businessman, James Cox Brady, Bishop Walsh was able to purchase the Fisk Estate in the suburb of West Trenton in 1920. Soon after the purchase of the estate, it was renamed Villa Victoria after Mr. Brady’s late wife, Victoria May Pery Brady. In 1933, Villa Victoria Academy was formally christened as a private academy. Today Villa educates girls in grades 6-12.

Villa Victoria’s 90th anniversary year will kick off on Saturday, October 21, 2023 with mass in the Villa theatre at noon. All friends, current families and graduates of

VVA are welcome to attend. Bishop David M. O’Connell, Monsignor Thomas N. Gervasio and Ewing Mayor Bert H. Steinmann are all invited guests for the mass. Religious Teachers Filippini who have taught at VVA over the years are also invited guests. No tickets are required for the mass.

After the mass light refreshments will be served in the school and tours by current students will be available. Each graduating class is encouraged to make their own arrangements for dinner at a local restaurant.

The 2023-2024 school year will be full of other anniversary events and celebrations. Watch Villa’s social media for updates. If you would like to help with planning these events please contact Colleen White in the Advancement Office at [cwhite@villavictoria.org](mailto:cwhite@villavictoria.org) or 609-882-1700 ext. 419.





# The Year in Review

Villa Victoria Academy had a fun, successful and productive 2022-2023 school year for its students. From the first day of school until the last, Villa provided its girls with not only a rigorous education, but also fun events, retreats and spiritual activities, opportunities for growth, sports competitions and bonding experiences with their fellow Villa sisters. These activities included the following:

## FALL EVENTS

Blessing of the Animals • Walking Rosary for Life • Talent Show • Fall production of Godspell • Freshman induction where the 9th grade students are presented with their Villa blazer • Halloween costume competitions • Thanksgiving Food Drive • Night at the Movies in the gym • Class Spirit Points competition • National Honor Society induction ceremony and reception

## WINTER EVENTS

Winter Concert including the Hallelujah Chorus with the Dad Choir and alumnae • Secret Santa Party • Honeybees and Decibelles sing carols at Quakerbridge Mall and Pennsbury Manor • Junior Ring Ceremony • Singing at the Super 50/50 Party • Catholic Schools Week activities and mass • Winter Ball • First live broadcast from the VVA-TV for morning announcements • Advent Prayer Service

## SPRING EVENTS

Annual Musical *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* • Spring Concert • Living Stations of the Cross • Senior College Signing Ceremony • Students singing at the Trenton Thunder • National Honor Society hosting the Walk-a-thon to benefit AIDS Orphans Rising • Junior/Senior Prom • Senior Lunch and Field Trip



# Parent Alliance

Following the success of Villa Bag Bingo Events in 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2022, the VVA Parent Alliance decided to add a fall event to their line-up of fundraisers and community building activities for the 2022-2023 school year.

On October 28, 2022 under the direction of co-chairs Mark Nance (P '23) and Christine Dertouzos (P '24) the Parent Alliance hosted Villa's first *Night at the Races*. Some 75 friends of Villa, including current parents and alumnae, gathered in the dining hall for a fun night of betting on pre-recorded races with caller Kevin Graham from Tumbling Dice Entertainment. Betting "bucks" were the name of the game as participants won tickets to use for the beautiful basket raffle organized by Villa parent Helen Hildreth Roszko (P '28). Race and horse sponsors helped to keep expenses low!

Then on June 23, 2023 the Parent Alliance hosted its biggest and best

*Villa Bag Bingo* event ever. Over 180 people came together in the Villa gym for a terrific night of bingo and laughter. The night included ten games of bingo with beautiful designer purses, a basket raffle which included a fabulous fire pit package, a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. DJ Jerry (also a Villa parent) provided music. Everyone worked together to make it a great night! Villa parents and alumnae sponsored all ten designer purses which included Tory Burch, Coach and Kate Spade.

These two events, along with a pie fundraiser and a spring plant fundraiser, helped the Parent Alliance meet their fundraising goal. These funds directly benefit the students and teachers at VVA.

Dates are already set for this year. Plan to join us for *Night at the Races* on November 3, 2023 and *Villa Bag Bingo* on June 21, 2024.



## Donor Page

Villa Victoria Academy wishes to thank all those who supported our school during the 2022-2023 school year. Tuition alone does not cover the full cost of educating a young woman today. The Villa Annual Fund helps us to bridge that gap. This year we raised more than ever before thanks to our generous donors!

During the school year we held two special online giving campaigns to focus on the life of Saint Lucy Filippini. On October 20 and 21, 2022, to commemorate Saint Lucy's birthday, we held the **Support Your Sisters** campaign and asked our Villa alumnae to make their annual fund gift at that special time. The Villa alumnae came through! Our \$5,000 goal was beaten three times over with the final giving total of \$15,285.

Then on May 11 and 12, 2023, to recognize Saint Lucy Day, we held another special online giving campaign, **Strong Past, Strong Future**, for everyone in the Villa family. Once again, the Villa community did not disappoint. Our

final giving total was \$30,202. One anonymous donor stated, "We believe in our daughter's bright future and we believe that VVA will help her to achieve it."

Also, this year members of the VVA Board of Directors contacted all past donors during the spring to remind them to not forget Villa when making their charitable gifts for the year. We thank them for their hard work making calls and sending notes.

Click on the QR code for a full copy of the Villa Annual Report which includes a listing of all donors



to our Villa Annual Fund Campaign. You can also access the donor list at <https://villavictoria.org/giving/>.

Contact the Villa Advancement Office to learn more about other ways to give to Villa beyond the Annual Fund, such as named scholarships and our **Sponsor a Villa Girl** program. It takes a Villa!





# Villa Victoria's Boards

## ADMINISTRATION

Sr. Lillian Harrington, MPF, President  
Sr. Lesley Draper, MPF, Principal

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Devin Butchko, '10  
John Butchko  
Amy Butta Wisener, '98  
Grace Donlon  
Enrica Gioè Chrétien, '71  
Gina Giordano  
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Bethanne Warrack, '75  
Phillip Woolfolk  
Kathy Zsolway



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Provincial Councillor  
Sr. Marianne McCann, MPF,  
Provincial Councillor  
Sr. Marie Antonelli, MPF,  
Provincial Councillor  
Sr. Laura Bezila, MPF,  
Provincial Councillor

## Super 50/50 Raffle is Back!

We are excited to announce that by popular demand, the Annual Super 50/50 Raffle is returning this Christmas season, complete with a drawing party at the mansion on December 16, 2023. All proceeds benefit Villa Victoria Academy.

Ticket prices will remain the same at **\$100** and we will be splitting winners' shares three ways, with **1st prize paying 50%, 2nd prize paying 30%, and 3rd prize paying 20%**.

For example, if 800 tickets are sold, 50% of all tickets sold would be \$40,000:

1st Prize \$20,000

2nd Prize \$12,000

3rd Prize \$8,000

To buy tickets or if you have any questions contact Chairperson John Butchko at **Johnbutchko1480@gmail.com** or call **609-227-3718**. You can also contact Anita Toth at Villa Victoria Academy at **609-882-1700 Ext. 401**.





# VILLA VICTORIA ACADEMY

376 West Upper Ferry Road • Ewing, NJ 08628  
[www.villavictoria.org](http://www.villavictoria.org)



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TRENTON, NJ

All dates are subject to change. Please call the school or visit our website or Facebook page for updates or ticket information.

**90TH ANNIVERSARY MASS** • October 21, 2023, 12 noon

**NIGHT AT THE RACES FUNDRAISER** • November 3, 2023, 7 pm

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & CAROLS** • December 6, 2023

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR: MOVIE & CAST REUNION** • December 9, 2023

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** • December 12, 2023, 7 pm

**50/50 DRAWING AND PARTY** • December 16, 2023

**SPRING MUSICAL** • March 8-10, 2024

**SPRING OPEN HOUSE** • April 27, 2024, 1-3 pm

**BAG BINGO** • June 21, 2024, 6 pm

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The Villa Annual Report is published annually for the members of the Villa Victoria Academy Community. We welcome contributions in the form of articles, updates and photos. Thanks to the following for their contributions of stories and photos: the Villa Social Media Team, Kathy Keelan (Margaret '16), Sr. Lesley Draper, Catalina Ripley, the Monitor magazine staff and Rachel Sorrento.

Editor: Colleen White    Designer: Kim Waters, Zoe Graphics

Villa Victoria Academy strives for accuracy and apologizes for any errors. Please contact Colleen White at [cwhite@villavictoria.org](mailto:cwhite@villavictoria.org) or 609-882-1700 ext. 419 to make any corrections, to request additional copies or to request to receive a digital copy of our annual report.