



Valley Forge
Educational Services
prepares children
and young adults
with special needs
to realize their potential
as contributing members
of the community.

2015-16 Annual Report





OUR VISION

VFES, in partnership with the community, will develop and implement comprehensive clinical, educational and social programs for people with special needs so each individual is offered an equal opportunity for an independent and meaningful life.



Our mission and vision capture the essence of our pursuits to do more and to do better for our students, participants and campers — everyone who reaches out to VFES for care and support. We spent 2015-16 putting our words into action. We implemented an updated and aggressive strategic plan that will address the existing services here at VFES as well as guide us in the development of new services for our young adults. We are committed to initiating the processes necessary to become a provider of services for young adults, ages 21–26, with special needs, as well as sustaining and embellishing the storied reputation of the educational and recreational services so long delivered at VFES.

Our goal last year was to implement several of the recommendations that resulted from the A. J. Drexel

Autism Institute’s year-long program assessment of the Vanguard Transition Center (VTC). We successfully implemented evidence-based curriculum changes, progress monitoring training and new technology initiatives for our job coaches out in the community. These initiatives reinforced the VTC services and began to build the bridge between our existing VTC program and our anticipated Post-21 program. We are committed to strengthening the services surrounding discovery, job exploration and ultimately job support for our VTC students and eventually our Post-21 participants. Many changes have occurred in the last year on a legislative as well as provider level. We look to join other organizations that are currently providers of services for young adults with special needs. Our focus will be vocational skills enhancement, career discovery, job finding and ultimately securing a job in the community with job support.

We also embraced a healthier attitude in 2015-16. In November 2015, we held the grand opening of our Fitness Trail. Due to the generous support of donors, we were able to lay a .33 mile loop with three fitness stations on campus. Since the opening, our students and employees have used the trail and fitness stations countless

times. This initiative was underscored by the aggregation of all of our efforts here at VFES to encourage a healthier lifestyle. Our VanGarden, culinary arts classes and the newly established wellness committee ensure everything from nutrition to exercise receives the attention and resources necessary to routinely practice a healthy lifestyle.

VFES is growing — we are excited about the development of Post-21 services, enhancements to our VTC programming and our rich selection of summer programming.

The Vanguard School remains one of the prominent approved private schools in the state. The privilege of educating our children and young adults is a privilege we do not take for granted.

Summer Matters programming continues to grow and hone important summer services for families.

Our focus is to the future while never losing track of today. Each of you contributes to the fabric that is VFES. Because of you, we are—VFES!

Warm Regards,

Grace A. Fornicola, Ph.D.
Executive Director



THE VANGUARD SCHOOL

The Vanguard School provides comprehensive special education and related clinical services with a unique focus on the individual student and his or her readiness for life.

The Vanguard School offers an integrated academic, social and daily living skills approach within a supportive environment where the goal is for each student to become a contributing member of the community. A team of therapists supports students in the classroom, individually and in small groups as well as through consultative efforts. All therapists and specialists have the advantage of being actively involved in the student's entire day; our clinicians are able to co-treat across disciplines and consult with teachers and other professionals on a regular basis.





VANGUARD TRANSITION CENTER



As part of The Vanguard School, students in The Vanguard Transition Center (VTC) receive continuing education, counseling, self-advocacy training as well as career exploration and community-based vocational experience.

Evidence-based instruction in math, language arts, daily living skills, employment skills, current events, healthy lifestyles and human social development are offered to all students along with community-based activities and recreational opportunities.



THE LUMA
CENTER



StarPoint and StarPoint 2, The Vanguard School's Pre-K/K and K/1 classrooms support students' academic and therapeutic needs.

Classes are taught by a special education teacher with integrated support from and collaboration with speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists. StarPoint and StarPoint 2 recognize each child's abilities while supporting academic readiness, socialization with peers, self-care and communication goals. StarPoint utilizes individualized developmentally appropriate practices to provide a safe, supportive and nurturing environment wherein children develop academically, physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

SUMMER MATTERS

Summer Matters educational and recreational programs are of varying formats and lengths and build on participants' interests to help them succeed, learn and grow. From the development of social and daily living skills to experiencing opportunities to have fun and make new friends, Summer Matters programs maximize each participant's potential. Programs include Extended School Year (ESY) at The Vanguard School, ESY Career Prep Academy, The Vanguard Transition Center Summer Experience, Summer L.I.F.E. camp and respite and The Vocational Immersion Program (VIP).



CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

Our daughter, Riley, has always been a loving and affectionate little girl. Her smile lights up a room, and her laugh is infectious. When she was almost one year old, we noticed that she had stopped babbling and making all of her pre-verbal sounds – in fact, she had stopped making any sounds at all. Her adorable laugh was gone entirely. She didn't even cry. Her voice didn't return for another eight months, but no words. Riley was diagnosed with autism at the age of two, her most pronounced impairment being her inability to use verbal language. After years of speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, she was still struggling and working hard to acquire even a few words. She was ultimately diagnosed with severe Childhood Apraxia of Speech just before she turned five. By that time, her frustration level had grown as her limited ability to speak was creating a huge divide between herself, her family, and her peers. She had retreated further into herself and was making minimal progress. She also had significant sensory needs and several underlying medical issues that required careful monitoring.

When it came time to choose a kindergarten placement for her, we knew that there was only one place that would meet her very specific speech and sensory needs – The Vanguard School. From our first moments at Vanguard, we knew that we had made the right decision. Every faculty and staff member has treated Riley with respect and has maintained high expectations of her. They have never treated her challenges as insurmountable obstacles. Rather, they view them as opportunities for creative planning and well-placed supports.

Riley has been lucky to have had the same classroom and related services team since she started two years ago. They know her so well and they feel like an extended family. We know that her entire team celebrates her successes and feels for her deeply when she struggles. Within the first few months at Vanguard, Riley had gained so many words and so much language overall that it we could hardly believe it. She learned the classroom structure and schedule quickly and works hard to impress her teachers and friends. It is crystal clear how much she loves going to school, and it is equally clear how much the faculty and staff enjoy having her there.

After years of struggling to meet even modest goals, Riley has started to blossom under the skillful care of her teachers and therapists. Her progress is staggering and encouraging. Most importantly, Riley is proud of herself. We are extremely grateful for the critical role that Vanguard, and her team of teachers and therapists have played in that success. She is seven years old now, and we can't wait to see what her future holds at Vanguard and beyond.

David Miller and Michele Munoz-Miller, Parents



“PACK MY BAGS”

Rocco's journey at Vanguard began this past spring, about six weeks prior to the end of the school year. His previous school situation although not always stable, was familiar to him. He was hesitant about the change to Vanguard. Rocco was eased into the swing at Vanguard, and within days you could see the burden and anxiety he carried about going to school lifted from his shoulders. His classmates were incredibly welcoming, the teachers took a liking to him immediately and you could see him enjoying school. He was smiling and was actually excited to go to school, something we rarely saw prior. We finally had real hope for Rocco and his day-to-day school experience.

Then came the Extended School Year and also his time at Camp Kweebec. Rocco's happiness about attending Vanguard grew immensely. He wore it like a coat. Riding a Wave Runner at Camp Kweebec certainly helped! We've recently told him he's going to go back to Camp Kweebec for an overnight stay this fall, and he said: "Pack my bags!" That statement speaks volumes to us as parents. What Vanguard is doing for children is top notch. The chance to be themselves, to make friends, explore and create are some of Vanguard's greatest traits as a school.

Now that Rocco is back in the normal school year schedule, it's more of the same good feelings. We've never seen him so happy, motivated, and ready to "Go" on a daily basis. The decision to send Rocco to Vanguard has done wonders for our family. Before Vanguard, we were burdened across the board dealing with administrative and behavioral issues on a daily basis. A child should not be afraid to go to school, and parents should have confidence that their child will be safe, have fun and most importantly learn at school. We know without a doubt that Vanguard is achieving these goals for Rocco and many other children.

Pete and Jennifer Garzia, Parents





WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

From the moment we toured The Vanguard School, our family has felt welcomed and incredibly supported. My daughter, Maggie, entered Vanguard in the Elementary School in fifth grade. She is now an eighth grader at the Middle School. I can't express the level of gratitude I feel for the constant willingness of the staff at Vanguard to communicate with me throughout these years. There is regular collaboration, at times on a daily basis, to ensure that Maggie's unfolding needs are met.

The team has taken the time to understand Prader Willi Syndrome and in doing so, they really understand Maggie's rare disease AND who she is as a person. The teams at Vanguard have been creative and brainstormed solutions with me on an on-going basis. They listen. They are pro-active. They CARE about MY DAUGHTER in a way that I've never seen a school care. The staff members have offered words of encouragement in times that have been very challenging. The depth and breadth of the knowledge of the staff and the expertise at The Vanguard School are by far the best I've ever seen.

As I write this, tears of gratitude and joy well up inside me. Maggie is becoming the best version of herself because of the constant care, teaching, wisdom and kindness of The Vanguard School staff. When Maggie is at school I know she is going to be safe and that she is going to be understood. And, Maggie knows that she is surrounded by people who truly care about her growth and success in school and in life.

Thank you, Vanguard! Thank you to each of the staff who have taken the time to touch our lives. Thank you for constantly developing and growing your staff, your facilities and your programs to meet the unique needs of your students.

Maggie and my family are better because of the years we have had at Vanguard.

Patricia Omoqui, Parent



THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Danny just had his first experience living away from his home and family. Danny had the opportunity of being in your Summer L.I.F.E. program at Camp Kweebec. This program gave Danny the opportunity to be in a caring, supportive and social environment. What an experience camp was for him.

Even though we had a tearful goodbye, no sooner had we picked him up, he was asking if he could participate in the next session. What a surprise this was for me. At home, Danny is afraid to be by himself, he sleeps with the lights on and has never been away from home.

I was thrilled to know that his experience was so positive that he wanted to go back again. Danny received three awards and was so proud, as was I of him. This camp gave Danny the opportunity to be independent and to make new friends.

To all the nurses, administrators and most of all, camp counselors that assure Danny the experience of a lifetime —Thank you.

Lori Ziegler, Parent

For the past fifty years, the dominant theme of my life has been “teaching and learning.” I love both and I appreciate excellence. That’s what my grandson, Alex, received at The Vanguard School during the past four years.



When he was born in 2002, I was presented with a teaching and learning experience that was different from any I’d encountered before. Alex exhibited different behavior even as a baby. He was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. It was as if he were in another world. By the time he was three

his parents couldn’t find outside babysitters so my husband, Don, and I tag-teamed caring for him. In the years that Alex was four, five, and six – three different schools asked him to leave – I would return home and throw myself on my bed in exhaustion and frustration. Gradually, Alex entered our world and we entered his. His behavior began to moderate and adapt to the expectations of society. There were adventures along the way. Once we were in a checkout line at a produce market. I suddenly realized he had completely dismantled the machine that processes the credit cards. The clerk totally ignored him and so did I until he reassembled it.

Alex has always been a loving child. My teaching him has been practically entirely without words – unless they consisted of shouting in dire situations. But my learning from him has been rich and abundant, along trails where I would not have ventured on my own. Fall of 2012 was Alex’s season of fungus. I had never realized the extraordinary beauty of fungi. We hiked the woods to search for different varieties, traced their growing paths, and cooked many mushroom recipes.

Alex entered Vanguard in fall 2012 at the start of fifth grade. He was a non-reader until spring of fourth grade. When he entered the room of Kim Novik, his reading was rudimentary. He made a leap in reading that year, a true miracle to us. We weren’t present, of course, but we sensed that she reduced his anxiety level about reading and she “met him where he was.” She recognized his passions and enthusiasms and with Rita Porreca,

Reading Specialist, selected books that were at exactly the right level on such subjects as chemistry, the praying mantis, and hissing cockroaches, to name a few.

After Kim, he progressed to Murray Kramer, Emily Lyons, and Sharon Redding. We think they are all miracle workers. My husband Don and I mused over Alex’s remarkable Vanguard reading path from non-reader to Pennsylvania fishing regulations and the original Grimm’s Fairy Tales.

But his behavior still did not always conform to the rules of society — or the school. One afternoon in December of seventh grade, I picked him up to bring him to my house while his parents attended a scheduled school conference. His school counselor, Sharon Redding, met me and related an incident of the day that was unacceptable. His parents were in the meeting until after dark, by which time I was very anxious. I was thinking of those previous school dismissals. But when they calmly walked into the house and I quizzed them, Sarah said, “Murray and Sharon are in this for the long haul.” And that has been our motto of the Vanguard staff ever since. They are into helping the students for the long haul.

In the middle of eighth grade Alex requested that he move to a school that was not designated for special education. Members of the Vanguard staff helped him with that quest. He had worked with his Occupational Therapist, Mandy Adamson, requesting she help him practice interviews for schools he would visit. She did that tirelessly and then repeated the process for a summer internship at an organic farm. Joseph Munley also inspired him to seek the farm position. Alex loved the horticulture class at Vanguard. I picked him up at the end of each day of the summer farm work. In the middle of the third week Alex said, “I love my job.”

This fall he transitioned to another school that is a stretch, but in fall of 2012, The Vanguard School was a stretch. And the Vanguard staff welcomed him with their insights, efforts, endurance and inspiration.

Eleanor Carroll, Grandmother

VOCATIONAL IMMERSION PROGRAM (VIP)

If you are not familiar with VIP, it is a program that prepares students to live and work on their own. I participated in the program for two years. This past summer, I worked for Lintons Service Management as a lunch server at the Pathway School. The summer before, I worked at Baker Industries.

The Vocational Immersion Program also includes an independent living residency. While the responsibility of working and living independently wasn't always easy, it was very fun to live on my own and partake in group activities on the weekend.

I really enjoyed attending the Vocational Immersion Program and thought it was a very valuable experience. The program was fun, enjoyable and yet, at the same time, challenged me to be independent.

Paul Smith, VIP Participant



A TRUE PARTNER IN EDUCATION AND PREPARATION FOR LIFE

The role that the school has played in our lives is immeasurable. For Ben, it is a home away from home, a place where he is safe, happy and loved. His growth in the past eight years has been amazing and is a testament to the quality of education and services he has received there. For us, it has been a true partner in Ben's education and preparation for life. When he started at Vanguard, we no longer had to worry about whether he was actually getting the services he was entitled to — we knew he was getting them and more! I will never forget his first IEP meeting, sitting around the table and slowly realizing that everyone on his team TRULY had his best interests at heart, realizing that we didn't have to fight anymore: we just had to help with the plan. Knowing that Vanguard was on our side allowed us finally to relax a little with Ben and just enjoy him as a child. We no longer had to be his lawyer, his advocate, his therapist — we could just be his parents. Can you imagine what a gift that is?

Heather Bracegirdle, Parent



CHANGING LIVES FOR THE BETTER

The VFES Camp experience has made an incredible difference to our family life. We have been in a twelve-year journey with our daughter where you sometimes could only count the good periods in hours, the other hours were filled with anger, frustration and rejection.

She's like so many of the children you know, an alphabet soup of diagnoses including Autism, ADHD and Tourettes — at the end of the day, it translates to no birthday parties, no sleepovers, no friendships — until summer camp.

Katie is a funny, smart and challenging tween and was not happy about changing schools once again (as a seventh grader, The Vanguard School is her fifth school). We just couldn't face another disappointment for her and so our strategy was to use the Summer L.I.F.E. Camp as a way to help with the transition. We wanted her to get to know some of the staff and the staff to get to know Katie. She participated in one week of day camp and another week of overnight. After camp was over, we picked up a different child. She couldn't stop telling us about her week, the friends she made, and how she saw kids that were like her "former self" who were having trouble trying new things or not liking the options! Her former self was the child we dropped off the week before!!!

The day after camp ended, we left for the best family vacation ever. As I went through her camp bag I found the encouraging letter from the staff, it made me cry with joy. We have never received a letter that reflected the child we know she is. We had grown accustomed to the notes and emails we had received through past programs, most were neutral or outlined where she came off the rails with nothing more than a weak assurance that she was okay.

I fully recognize that there is a long road ahead of us with many ups and downs but we honestly feel like VFES saved our lives! It certainly changed them for the better!

Mary Kay Lewis, Parent

Our journey with Valley Forge Educational Services started after our son's completion of seventh grade at the Summer L.I.F.E. sleep-away camp.

From the initial phone interview, through the guided tour with his father, until pick up, there was a sense of ease and peace with the program.

The Director, Holly Zipperer, made us feel at home and all of our son's needs were met during that week. He loved it! He returned the following year and also completed some weekend retreats through the program; all with success!

Our son was challenged throughout his academic career in public education. He was struggling not only academically but also socially and emotionally. He started ninth grade at The Vanguard High School. The change in his personality was almost immediate. He came home from school happy, not angry as in the past. He actually sat down and completed homework independently! He was eagerly reading instead of fighting with us NOT to read. Prior to starting at The Vanguard School, our son had a rounded shoulder posture but within a few weeks he was walking more confidently and making eye contact with others more frequently. Neighbors and family commented on his improving self-confidence. Some programs such as work study and culinary arts benefited our son in opening his eyes for opportunities after graduation. The Vanguard School educates the whole child, not just in reading and math but teaching lifelong skills in order to be successful in the world.

Jim and Eileen Dowling, Parents



Valley Forge Educational Services Financial Highlights

Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2016

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 371,078
Investments	11,886,627
Accounts receivable, net	2,041,886
Prepaid expenses and deposits	390,389
Property and equipment	8,382,055

Total assets	\$ 23,072,035
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 66,635
Student tuition deposits and credits	2,443,070
Accrued compensation and related taxes	1,041,277
Accrued expenses	56,663
Student activities account	6,943
Loan payable	427,011
Capital lease obligations	52,610

Total liabilities	\$ 4,094,209
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 17,802,231
Temporarily restricted	583,159
Permanently restricted	592,436

Total net assets	18,977,826
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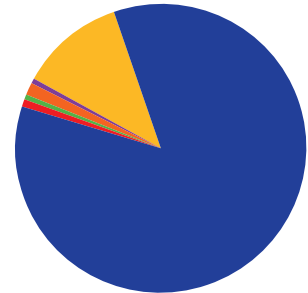
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 23,072,035
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Summary of Revenues and Support for 2015-2016

Tuition	\$ 13,437,140
Summer Programs	1,813,942
Federal Grants and Medicaid	78,372
Contributions	226,702
Investment Income/Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	16,910
Other Revenue	108,926
Total Revenues and Support	\$ 15,681,992

Revenues and Support

Other Revenue 0.7%
Investment Income 0.1%
Contributions 1.4%
Federal Grants & Medicaid 0.5%
Summer Programs 11.6%
Tuition 85.7%

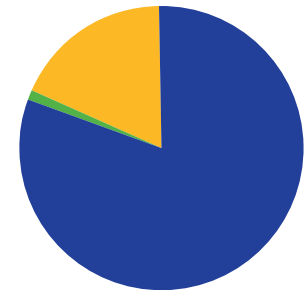


Summary of Expenses for 2015-2016

Program Services	
Instructional	\$ 7,589,479
Student Support Services	3,587,459
Summer Programs	996,917
Therapeutic Outreach Services	89,861
Total Program Services	\$ 12,263,716
Support Services	
Administration	\$ 2,718,449
Fundraising	219,926
Total Support Services	\$ 2,938,375
Total Expenses	\$ 15,202,091

Expenses

Fundraising 1.4%
Administration 17.9%
Program Services 80.7%



Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our children and young adults.
As a donor, you are an essential part of our mission to enhance the lives of children through education, services and programming focused on unlocking our students' potential to become successful learners and contributing members of their communities.

We have compiled a full list of donors who made a gift from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy. Please accept our apologies for any incorrect listing or omission, and let us know about the error by calling the Development Office at 610.296.6725, extension 108.

GIFTS OF \$50,000+

Anonymous Fund of
The Philadelphia Foundation

GIFTS OF \$10,000 – \$49,999

Charles T. Ehlers
Connelly Foundation
Lincoln Industrial
PECO

GIFTS OF \$5,000 – \$9,999

The Charter Foundation
Genuardi Family Foundation
Janet Wilson Smith
Snave Foundation
Vanguard School PTO

GIFTS OF \$2,500 – \$4,999

Drs. Susan Denman and
Simeon Bardin
Alan and Louise Reed
John Rowley and
Melanie Davis Rowley
The Scholler Foundation
Steven and Lynne Spencer

GIFTS OF \$1,000 – \$2,499

Peter and Ellen Evans
Georgia Friel
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IMC Construction
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The Zukin Family

GIFTS OF \$500 – \$999

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Susan Sabol
Kirk and Jean Schultz
Rabbi Margot Stein and
Rabbi Myriam Klotz
Talbots
Target Corporation
David and Anne Troyer
WSFS Bank
GIFTS OF \$250 – \$499
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Frank and Darby Belcher
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Mark and Barbara Comyns
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Gene and Jackie Moore
Steven and Marlene Ross
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Robert and Maureen Stirling
Howard and Denise Stredler
Dr. Kathleen Wilkins
Mary Lou Zwaan



GIFTS OF \$100 – \$249

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 Maude and Thomas Kent, Jr.
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 David Lovell
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 Mary-Jo Siegfried
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 Diana Staquet
 Edward and Therese Staquet
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 Adriana Wilson
 Lori and Frank Witman, Jr.

GIFTS OF \$99 AND LESS

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 Kim Andreacola
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 Marie Belasco
 Mrs. Ruth Bilotta

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 Richard and Sheila Buzza
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 Stephanie Ravett
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 Eleanor Kwapinski
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 Kevin and Maureen McCarry
 Richard J. Mease
 Dale and Alita Miller
 Sandra Molnar
 Daniel Money

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 Frederick and Teresa Pagani
 Patrick and Christine Palus
 Paul Pasko
 Mary Alice Patsko
 Susan Patsko
 Jack and Jamie Paul
 Jeffrey and Catherine Peaper
 Daniel Pescatore
 Ed and Abbe Pescatore
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 Michael Petrillo and Family
 Katrina Phillips
 Gail Pisarcik
 PJM Interconnection
 Stephen D. Potts
 Redner's Warehouse Markets, Inc.
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 Al and Michelle Ricciardi
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 Ernest and Janice Schulte
 Jan Erik Schulte
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 Richard and Gail Shemo
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 Amy Thistle
 C.R. and Marie Tormey
 David and Margaret Turnier
 Louis and Suzanne Valenti
 Daniel and Diane Van Dyke
 Barry and Arlene Weissman
 Elizabeth Williams
 Jennifer Wilson
 Joe Wolf
 Joseph Zaffarese

*Deceased

PARTICIPATING UNITED WAYS

Combined Federal Campaign NJ
Combined Federal Campaign PA
Nationwide United Way
State Employees Campaign Appeal
Truist
United Way Greater Philadelphia/
Southern New Jersey
United Way of Chester County
United Way of Delaware
United Way of Massachusetts Bay &
Merrimack Valley
United Way of National Capital Area

COMPANIES THAT MATCHED GIFTS MADE BY THEIR CURRENT OR RETIRED EMPLOYEES

LPL Financial
Merck & Company
Nationwide
PJM Interconnection
PNC Foundation
Voya
Wells Fargo
Willis Towers Watson

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

*We are grateful for those who have
chosen us in their commemoration of
significant events in their lives. We honor
and remember those loved ones.*

IN MEMORY OF ANNE CAVANAUGH

David and Suzanne Bernett
Nita Blue
Patricia Carlton
Sarah Cavanaugh
Tom Cavanaugh
Diane and Anthony L. Cherico, Jr.
Ann Curran
Brian and Carla Donofry
Carolyn Morgan

Richard and Nancy Petrecky
Carla Zajac

IN MEMORY OF JOAN CROSS

Marie Belasco
The Fender Family
Raymond and Julie Iwanowski
Joseph Kasenchak
Patricia Kozick
Mamary-Durkin Funeral
Service Corp.
Daniel Money
Mary Alice Patsko
Susan Patsko

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Funded by a grant from the Huston Foundation, the PA Farm Bureau Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab visited the VFES campus in February. The mobile science lab was a great opportunity for students to learn more about agriculture and the variety of occupations within the field. Students conducted five science experiments designed to emphasize a different aspect of agriculture and the environment, including Pennsylvania's primary commodities. Students worked cooperatively to solve problems, form hypotheses, collect data and draw conclusions.



- Support from several generous funders triggered the launch of our highly popular Read to Pet Pals program. Students across all programs are improving their reading fluency and confidence in a supportive environment by reading to therapy animals from the local nonprofit Pals for Life. The Read to Pet Pals program not only hones our students' literacy skills, but also nurtures our students' abilities to interact socially with one another and the Pals for Life therapy animals and volunteer handlers.



- In November, VFES students, staff and funders celebrated the grand opening of the Fitness Trail and three fitness stations. Located behind the high school on our spacious and picturesque PACE field, students and staff enjoy walking or jogging on the one-third mile trail. Students use the trail daily for movement breaks, physical education classes, mileage club, the walking and jogging elective, the Billion Mile Race challenge or to simply enjoy the outdoors and fresh air. The trail is one of several wellness initiatives designed to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

Community Day



Thank you for your support of Community Day.

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A SECOND FAMILY

The Vanguard School is the best school that I have ever attended; it is the only place where I've ever truly learned a lot. The Vanguard School is a great school for people who have difficulty learning. Before I attended Vanguard I was lost. I felt like no one understood me. Once I started at The Vanguard School, I found myself. I began to feel that the people here believed in me. I could relate to the other students and felt the teachers truly cared about my education and my future. I would have never imagined that I would make so many great friends and share so many happy, fun memories with people who became my second family.

I had some of the greatest experiences of my life at The Vanguard School: winning Homecoming Queen with one of my best friends, singing and acting in the musicals, volunteering at Boscov's, going to Prom and traveling during field trips to Philadelphia, the King of Prussia Mall and Dorney Park. While I'm sad that this is my last year at Vanguard, I couldn't be more grateful for everything that I have learned and experienced. The Vanguard School will always have a special place in my heart.

Kelly Carpenter, Student



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