

St. Gerard Campus report

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By MARIA GLEASON

Grant Grant Administrator

What does it mean to work together? It means we all play a huge role in the lives and the future of many infants, children, teens and people of our community. St. Augustine is an amazing city, of so many different people, all working together for the betterment of all. We are so proud to be a part of the big picture along with all the other agencies that reach out to help the less fortunate, the poor, the hungry, and the desperate.

So much has happened and is happening here at St. Gerard Campus!

Graduation this past June was a huge success. Our entire senior class of 15 students, walked with their class and received their diplomas. Even the babies received graduation mortars. Families came together to celebrate and join in the festivities. A wonderful banquet with donations from our volunteers and from local food chains finished off the evening. We are so proud of each student and the hard work they put into achieving this day. We educated them, laughed with them, cried with them, saw their babies born and sent them out into the world, prepared to face the challenges that are life as independent young women. We are honored to announce Destiny Wells was Valedictorian and De'Shananya Humphrey was named Salutatorian. Congratulations to all the students and their families.

A wild thunderstorm could not stop our **"50's Remember When Sock Hop** July 20 at Bishop Baker Center. It was a huge success! We need to take a moment to thank some wonderful people and companies that helped us realize our goal of a fun event while raising much needed funds. We were truly blessed! Burkhardt Beer Distributors donated beer, Publix Supermarkets donated \$3,000 which covered the hero sandwiches, salads, soda and other incidentals. Wal-Mart donated water and a gift card. Our music was provided by Ava/Cameron Audio and Video Productions. DJ Tony put on a wonderful show and the 50's music was top-notch. Thanks to Judy and Gus Klein we were able to offer delicious wines. St. Augustine Candy and Nut provided retro candy for everyone's enjoyment. Thanks to Richard and Irina Ziemann we had beautiful centerpieces made up of old record albums. Thanks also to Jackie Siegel for her contribution of poster art, balloons and the posters we distributed around town. A special thanks to Samantha of the Northeast Florida Woman's Journals for designing the wonderful poster for us. Thank you, too, to our wonderful volunteers, Rainy, who spent the entire evening handling all the food and drinks for our crowd and Dennis and Donna McNary, who handled all the door prize gifts, from beautiful baskets to gift certificates from local restaurants. It was certainly a job well done! Without all this support we could never have done this. Our guests came in costume, everything from poodle skirts, 50's hairdos, leather jackets and "pink ladies" attire. What fun! Trophies were awarded for the dance contest, hula hoop contest, a 50's Karaoke contest and a best costume contest. We are already making plans to have this event again next year. We hope you will all come!

The **Spring Newsletter Raffle** winners have been announced. First place winners were James and Kimberli Hargnett, who won a World Golf Village Package worth over \$620. Second place went to William Garvey, winner of a Romantic St. Augustine package valued at \$500. Third place was a spa basket from Ponte Vedra Beach Plastic Surgery, valued at \$350 and was award to Loretta Respoli. Thank you all for you kind contributions to our mission. Our next newsletter will be sent out in September with details of our next fund raiser....the **30th Annual Fashion Show and Silent Auction at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort Dec. 7 from noon to 3:30 p.m.**, for the benefit of pregnant teens and new teen mothers. Ticket prices will remain at \$35 per person. You can reserve your tickets early by calling St. Gerard Campus, 829-5516.

School Registration for the upcoming new school year is going on right now. If you know a pregnant teen, between the ages of 13 and 20, or a new teen mother, in need of a high school diploma, please contact our dean, Julie Gramza, at -829-5516 for an interview and enrollment package. Seats fill up fast so act now. And speaking of school....we are reaching out again to the public to help us with school supplies. Most of our young women come from the poorest of homes and can ill afford school supplies. We are looking for and in desperate need of donations of backpacks, spiral notebooks, pens, memo pads, marble notebooks, calculators, rulers, folders, colored markers and colored pencils. We can always use donations of diapers and wipes. Donations may be dropped off at our school located at 1405 US Hwy 1 in St. Augustine.

Our **7th Annual A1A Ale works Golf Tournament** is scheduled Sept. 11 at the Slammer and Squire Golf course at the World Golf Village. Registration is \$100 per golfer and includes your cart, range balls, green fees, a tournament gift bag and an awards reception at the A1A Ale Works restaurant. There are many awards, raffles and prizes to be given, including 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, men's and women's longest drive, amongst others. There is also a grand prize of a new car for a hole-in-one! One was actually won last year. This year, it could be YOU! Please contact Scott King at A1A Ale Works at 829-2977 or 540-1757.

We feel blessed to have such an active 2013. We are still struggling, but we know God will prevail and protect us. Thank you for all the time, energy and money you have poured into St. Gerard Campus. We would love to hear your good news, call 829-5516 to share with us. We continue to pray our little star continues to shine brightly as we work to save the lives of the little angels and empower our young women through education.

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First Militia dinner Aug. 15

Your rating: None





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