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## Construction Begins at VCS

February marked the ground breaking on a new 8,000 square foot Activity and Research Center at the Vince Carter Sanctuary.



The project is being funded through a federal grant and is expected to be completed in August of this year. It will include a hobby room and fitness center.

## SMA Expands Services into Putnam and St. Johns Counties

On February 1, SMABH began providing services in Putnam and St. Johns Counties. The Palatka location serves 1,600 clients and in St. Augustine 1,200 clients are served.

SMABH added 56 employees making 959 (616 regular employees and 343 with the Enrichment Program). SMABH now operates in five counties and has a total budget of over \$47 million. We want to welcome all the citizens of Putnam and St. Johns Counties.

## 2012 Annual Dinner Gala

The SMA Foundation 2012 Annual Dinner Gala will be on Wednesday, June 27 at the DAYTONA 500 Club and will honor the distinguished career of Senator Evelyn Lynn.

The Honorable Senator Lynn served for 18 legislative sessions in the Florida House and Senate representing the families and residents of our community.

Senator Lynn is a *Director Emeritus* on the SMABH Board of Directors.

## Children of Alcoholics

*"Children are our most valuable natural resource."*

- 31st US President Herbert Hoover

The week of February 13-19 is Children of Alcoholics Week. It was established to increase awareness of the those who perhaps suffer most from alcoholism, the children of alcoholics (COA). According to the National Association for the Children of Alcoholics, more than 28 million Americans are COA's and nearly 11 million are under the age of 18.

Research shows that children in homes where alcoholism is present are more likely to develop serious problems of their own. These children are actually two to four times more likely to develop a problem with alcohol or drugs.

Through early intervention, strong support systems, and treatment, we can take heed to President Hoover's message and protect our most valuable natural resource.

## Prevention Strategies for Parents

- Monitor alcohol use in your home
- Connect with other parents to keep tabs on your child
- Keep track of your child's activities
- Develop family rules about youthful drinking
- Set a good example
- Don't support teen drinking

## Dr. Sara Jo Nixon Visits the Foundation

Dr. Sara Jo Nixon, from the University of Florida Department of Psychiatry, paid a visit to the SMA Foundation at our February Board Meeting. Dr. Nixon presented the latest research being conducted by the SMA Research Team (SMART).

The most exciting aspect of her visit was the presentation of the Virtual Reality Lab. Clients at SMA are using virtual reality as an experiential activity.