

Quick Facts

Valley Forge Educational Services was established in 1959 as a small private school serving children with learning challenges.

Today, Valley Forge Educational Services is a multifaceted not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Valley Forge Educational Services is located in Malvern, PA on a twenty-eight acre campus.

Valley Forge Educational Services has served more than 10,000 students and their families.

Valley Forge Educational Services has 170 employees; 18% have served for over 15 years and the average length of service is 7.25 years. Over 38% of instructional staff members have advanced degrees.

At-A-Glance

1777 North Valley Road
P.O. Box 730
Paoli, PA 19301

Phone: 610.296.6725
Fax: 610.640.0132
Web: www.vfes.net

Overview

Valley Forge Educational Services (VFES) offers educational services focused on guiding children with learning challenges and/or special needs to independence. It serves young children, adolescents, and post high school learners (18-21) through its Vanguard School, Vanguard Transition Center, Luma Center™ for Development and Learning and Summer Matters™ programs.

Our mission is twofold:

- To provide a high quality education, serving students who have special needs on many varied levels, and to provide a full spectrum of educational and support services with the goal of unlocking students' potential thus enabling them to become successful learners and contributing members of society.
- To increase the awareness and understanding nationally and globally about children with special needs and to be acknowledged as experts, leaders, and innovators in the art of special needs education and to share this expertise generously.

Our Programs



The Vanguard School serves students ages 4-18 with exceptionalities including autism spectrum disorders, neurological impairment and related social-emotional difficulties.

www.vanguardschool-pa.org

Vanguard Transition Center serves students ages 18-21 and prepares them for the future through post secondary education, career development and social and life skills development.

www.vanguardschool-pa.org/vtc

Summer Matters™ offers innovative summer learning programs to youth and young adults ages 6-21 along with weekend retreats, school break excursions and respite programming.

www.summermatters.org

The Luma Center™ offers therapeutic services, tutoring/academic support, social skills groups, early learning groups and private consultation to families of children with learning challenges.

www.lumacenter.org

As part of its mission, VFES also shares expertise and promotes the exchange of ideas. A professional development program for professionals on campus and in the community and a parent learning series are offered. For 2011-2012, VFES Professional Development and Outreach topics include bullying prevention and All Kinds of Minds training. Community awareness of VFES' clinical expertise has resulted in requests from mental health agencies, local universities, preschools, public schools and families for training and consultation.

VFES recognizes the importance of recreational opportunities for students when school is not in session. Students and parents who seek overnight or school holiday recreational programming are able to register for respite activities offered through Summer Matters™.



VFES Leadership Team 2011-2012

Ms. Nancy Allard, Director of The Luma Center™

Ms. Allard, MA, OTR/L, is Director of The Luma Center™ for Development and Learning, a division of VFES.

She has worked with families in medical, educational, and private practice settings for over twenty-nine years. She has specialized training and extensive experience in the evaluation and treatment of children who have Sensory Processing Disorders.

She is a member of the Department of Occupational Therapy Advisory Board at the University of the Sciences, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association, and the Delaware Valley Association of Early Childhood Education. She was a member of The Vanguard School Board of Directors from 1990-1992.

Mr. Howard Carroll, Supervisor Operations and Maintenance

Mr. Carroll is the Supervisor of Operations and Maintenance at Valley Forge Educational Services.

He has been employed with VFES for 13 years. Prior to coming to VFES, he worked for 30 years as a production manager at a printing firm. A longtime Little League and women's softball coach, he has served on the board of directors for the league.

He attended North Dakota State University and Colorado State University and earned a degree in Forestry.

Ms. Victoria Fringer, Director of Technology

Ms. Fringer, M.B.A., is Director of Technology at Valley Forge Educational Services.

She is responsible for technology management and control, including planning, inventory, supervision of technology employees, recommendations for acquisitions, and development of guideline and procedures.

Prior to coming to VFES, she was Distance Learning Coordinator for the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and worked as a field technical sales specialist for IBM Corporation in West Chester. She has also taught technical courses as an adjunct instructor at West Chester University

and Delaware County Community College. She earned a Post Masters Certificate from Pennsylvania State University in Management Information Systems.

Mrs. Holly M. Henry, Director of Communications

Mrs. Henry, M.S. Public Relations, is the Director of Communications for Valley Forge Educational Services.

She directs VFES' public relations and marketing efforts and provides communications support to all VFES divisions. Projects include corporate branding, publications, advertising, website development/maintenance, media relations and promotional campaigns. She serves on the VFES Leadership Team, the Advancement Committee to the Board of Trustees and the Advancement Council. She has worked on the VFES campus since 2005, originally serving as the Communications Director at VFES' Crossroads School where she was a member of the PR and Enrollment Committee of the Advisory Board.

Prior to coming to VFES, Mrs. Henry was employed as Communications Coordinator, Tredyffrin Easttown School District, Valley Forge Elementary School; Public Relations/Marketing Associate, People's Light & Theatre Company; and Development Associate, Haverford College.

Mr. James (Jim) G. Kirkpatrick, CFO

Mr. Kirkpatrick, C.P.A., is the Chief Financial Officer of Valley Forge Educational Services.

He has been employed with VFES since February 1988. Prior to joining VFES, he worked for a local CPA firm as a senior auditor. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He received his B.S. degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Maria Kreiter, Director of Professional Development and Outreach

Ms. Kreiter, M.Ed., is Director of Professional Development and Outreach at Valley Forge Educational Services.

Prior to coming to VFES, she was a Staff Development Specialist for the School District of Philadelphia, specializing in data-driven instructional practices and professional development leadership. Earlier in her career she taught elementary, middle, and high school. Maria participated in and graduated from the National Staff Development Council's Philadelphia Academy in 2007. She is an adjunct instructor for Temple University's College of Education and West Chester University's College of Visual and Performing Arts. She is a certified curriculum and instruction supervisor, holds principal certification, and completed the Superintendent Letter of Eligibility.

Mr. Timothy Lanshe, Director of Education, The Vanguard School

Mr. Lanshe, M.Ed., serves as the Director of Education of The Vanguard School, a division of VFES.

Mr. Lanshe is entering his forty-first year in the education field. He has worked in public sector schools as a Title I teacher, for Delaware County Intermediate Unit as a vocational evaluator, Elwyn Institute as a teacher and supervisor, and the Woods School as a program supervisor prior to coming to Vanguard as Upper School principal twenty-five years ago. Mr. Lanshe has taught graduate courses at Antioch University, and has written and published curriculum materials. He is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Ms. Anne McCrary, Director of Human Resources

Ms. McCrary, PHR, assumed the role of Director of Human Resources for Valley Forge Educational Services in February 2001.

Ms. McCrary has eighteen years of work experience in human resources. Before joining VFES, she served as human resources generalist and benefits specialist in the corporate offices of Pet Valu, employment coordinator for the Savannah College of Art & Design, and personnel manager for an amusement and water park in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Ms. McCrary is a member of the Society for Human Resources Management and the Pennsylvania Association of School Personnel Administrators.

Mrs. Anne Marie (Jacque) Murray, Director of Vanguard Transition Center

Mrs. Jacque Murray, M.A., E.d., is the Director of the Vanguard Transition Center at Valley Forge Educational Services. She has 33 years of experience as a teacher and administrator at The Vanguard School and the Vanguard Transition Center.

Jacque is responsible for Vanguard Transition Center offerings for post-secondary education, career development, and social and life skills development to adults ages 18-21 who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, mild emotional disturbance, and/or neurological impairments.

She also teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in special education and autism at Eastern University.

Dr. Kathleen M. Wilkins, Director of Clinical Services

As Clinical Director of Valley Forge Educational Services, Dr. Wilkins, Ph.D., provides administrative and clinical supervision to the clinical staff working within The Vanguard School, develops policy and clinical standards of care that address the needs of the children and adolescents served by VFES, and provides training and consultation to assist parents, staff and local community members in better understanding and serving individuals with special needs.

Dr. Wilkins has worked with children and adolescents in residential treatment programs and in special education schools for over 37 years. Dr. Wilkins came to the Philadelphia area to complete her pre-doctoral internship at Devereux where she could work closely with children diagnosed with autism and their families. She spent 24 years at Devereux as a staff psychologist and clinical

director, followed by four years at the Crestwood program of Woods Service in Langhorne, PA. Dr. Wilkins came to The Vanguard School in 2001 as clinical director.

Ms. Holly Zipperer, Director of Summer Programs and Ancillary Services

Ms. Zipperer, M.Ed. Special Ed., is the Director of Summer Programs and Ancillary Services at Valley Forge Educational Services.

As director of VFES' Summer Matters™ division, Zipperer is responsible for the operations of Summer at Crossroads, Summer L.I.F.E. and The Extended School Year Program at The Vanguard School. She also plans and manages weekend retreats and respite programs operating when regular school is not in session. Zipperer serves on the Swamp Creek Environmental Collaborative Planning Committee.

Ms. Zipperer has 17 years of work experience in the field of education. From 2002-2007, Ms. Zipperer was a special education teacher, High/Scope curriculum mentor, and early intervention manager for KenCrest Services' Artman Child Development Center. From 2001-2002, she worked with other education professionals in Elwyn's Early Childhood Services division to develop the Archworks Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. In addition to her work at VFES, she consults and facilitates workshops for Learning for a Lifetime throughout southeastern Pennsylvania.