



What is Saint Basil Academy?

Saint Basil Academy is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children and families in need. Located in the beautiful Hudson Valley of New York, our mission is to provide a safe and loving Orthodox Christian environment where residents are nurtured to become productive members of society with vision and hope.

Brief History of Saint Basil Academy:

Saint Basil Academy was founded in 1944 under Archbishop Athenagoras of blessed memory (later Ecumenical Patriarch) with the great support of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Although it began as an orphanage and was also formerly a women's college, Saint Basil Academy has continued to evolve over the last eight decades to become what it is today: a well-equipped residential care facility responding to the ever-evolving needs of children and families in crisis.

Saint Basil Academy Campus:

The Saint Basil Academy campus is located on 130 acres of land in Garrison, NY on the banks of the Hudson River. It overlooks historic West Point Academy and is home to abundant wildlife and borders protected marshlands. The campus is also home to several buildings of great architectural and historical significance, such as our Main Building which was previously the home of Colonel Jacob Ruppert (former National Guardsman, New York Congressman, and owner of the New York Yankees). The campus also contains numerous hiking trails, vistas, and scenic places for both contemplation and exploration.

Residential Programs at Saint Basil Academy:

There are currently three distinct programs housed at Saint Basil Academy: the Youth Program, the Bridge Program, and the Family Program. Every person in each program lives full-time on campus and receives significant support for meeting their financial, educational, physical, and spiritual needs.

- The Youth Program is for children ages 6-18 who live on campus without the presence of a parent. Direct care staff function as their caregivers and provide them with love, guidance, and crucial life skills that they will take into adulthood. Outside of dorm and campus life, children in the Youth Program also participate in a range of sports, arts, and extracurricular activities. By providing structure and guidance, the Youth Program allows children to feel safe in their environment and open themselves up to learning and growing.
- The Bridge Program is for young adults who are transitioning more fully into adulthood and independent living. Our mission is to work collaboratively with

each participant to help in the areas of educational proficiency, financial independence, vocational security, and social and psychological growth. Bridge residents learn to take responsibility for their own life trajectories and become more fully prepared to move off-campus and support themselves independently.

- The Family Program is for single mothers and their children who are facing extreme challenges such as homelessness, poverty, and domestic violence. To avoid the trauma of separating a child from their mother, Saint Basil Academy provides food, shelter, and education to nurture the children while simultaneously helping the mothers become more independent and self-sufficient. The program also provides various types of emotional, professional, and psychological support to help both children and their mothers thrive and flourish.

How children and families come to live at Saint Basil Academy:

Residents typically find Saint Basil Academy through referrals from clergy, parishioners, family members, friends, schools, and/or social service agencies. They also find us through our website www.sbagoa.org. Admissions candidates must submit an application to determine eligibility and whether Saint Basil is the right “fit” for them. An admissions team reviews applications, meets with applicants, and conducts a thorough assessment of whether Saint Basil Academy is the appropriate place to meet their individual needs and allow them to thrive. All admissions must be voluntary, and candidates must actively want to live here to be considered. If you wish to make a referral or submit an application, please email admissions@sbagoa.org.

Religious Life at Saint Basil Academy:

Life at Saint Basil is religious by nature of the fact of who we are. As Orthodox Christians, we view every individual as created in the image and likeness of God, and we instill that belief in our residents as well. We offer them every opportunity for spiritual growth anchored by weekly Sunday Divine Liturgies, faith-based camp opportunities, regular visits to neighboring parishes, and Orthodox events throughout the year. We have two beautiful chapels on campus, relics of Saint Dionysus, and we are home to the gravesite of Archbishop Michael of blessed memory.

Educational Life at Saint Basil Academy:

Every child who attends Saint Basil is offered the highest level of educational care tailored specifically to meet their unique educational needs and abilities. In 1997, Saint Basil ended its tenure as a boarding school and began sending residents to both private and public local schools, which we continue to do today. For kindergarten-8th grade, our children attend a private faith-based parochial school before transitioning to an excellent local highschool that ranks in the top 5% of New York State. Upon completing high school, we assist our residents in continuing their educational and professional development, whether through college programs, trade schools, certificate programs, or work experiences that best meet their needs, interests, and abilities. For our youngest

residents, we have on-campus nursery school, early education, and elementary homeschool support with highly trained Saint Basil staff. We also have a well-equipped education building, a wonderful library, and a team of dedicated educators who provide residents with significant academic support, tutoring, and guidance throughout their school careers and beyond.

Mental Health Services at Saint Basil Academy:

The Saint Basil Academy clinical staff specializes in clinically proven psychological and educational interventions that include but are not limited to family and group therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, attachment theory interventions, cognitive behavioral therapy, life skills coaching, animal-assisted and nature based therapy. The clinical team works collaboratively with residential life staff, the education center team, and outside professionals to provide psychological and educational assessments that result in an ongoing, highly comprehensive and individualized treatment plan. Physical health is also a focus and priority. On campus, our Mindful Swim aquatics program is offered to teach children mindfulness, water safety, swimming and confidence.

Saint Basil Trainings, Retreats, and Partnerships:

Since its inception, the Saint Basil campus has been the site of numerous retreats, events, and training programs for both clergy and laity throughout the Orthodox world and beyond. Our campus and facilities are tremendous resources that benefit our entire Orthodox community, and we are proud to have partnered with organizations such as the Orthodox Volunteer Corps, The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, Mental Health First Aid, and Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage in a variety of training programs and initiatives. Some of these include the Peace of Mind training for clergy and ministry leaders, Refugee Crisis Care Training, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Red Cross First Aid, and advanced social work internships for graduate students from Fordham, NYU, and Hunter College. Saint Basil also played an integral role in developing the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's Clergy Family Initiative to provide financial education and support to clergy and by extension to their families, parishes, and parishioners. To inquire about attending a training or holding a retreat at Saint Basil, please contact Deacon Kyriakos Ioannou at ekkleisia@sbagoa.org.

Support Saint Basil Academy:

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity, Saint Basil Academy depends upon the financial support of its beloved friends and donors. Our supporters contribute in many different ways: from monetary and material donations; to naming Saint Basil Academy as a beneficiary in life insurance and estate planning. Saint Basil Academy also has several dedicated funds in place for things like therapeutic art classes and outdoor excursions. Sponsoring a resident, attending Saint Basil events, becoming a host family, and/or referring a child to Saint Basil Academy are other vital ways of providing support as well. For more information, please visit www.sbagoa.org.