



A Ministry of the SCN Family



VINCENTIAN  
COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM

# Insights

Holiday 2012

## Civil War Ties at Vincentian de Marillac

Most people don't know the story of how women, men and children prepared to defend Pittsburgh from a Confederate attack, but the evidence is right under our feet! Once known as Fort Croghan, an earthen mound on the de Marillac property holds the key to a nearly-forgotten incident in our history.

In June 1863, Pittsburgh had been far removed from the action, but after reports of raids in West Virginia, many believed an attack on the city was imminent. General Brooks, who was charged with fortifying Pittsburgh, convinced business owners to lend workers for the job, and editorials in the daily papers implored women to prepare rations.

Thousands of men built more than 12 miles of fortifications all around the city in less than one month. The fortifications were not buildings, but trenches and earthen defenses. In the sweltering heat, boys lugged water to workers as they completed a battery overlooking what is now Stanton Avenue. The battery was named "Fort Croghan," after the estate owner.

Thankfully, Pittsburghers never needed to man the fort. In July, Confederate forces were defeated at Gettysburg and the feared attack on Western Pennsylvania never materialized. Many of the entrenchments were eventually eroded by the elements or buried under new construction.

The Fort Croghan site, which is now inaccessible to visitors, is one of the few remnants of this little-known chapter of Civil War history. It's an amazing piece of history in our own backyard.

## One Good Deed Inspires Many

How many hearts can you touch through a kind word or gesture? When you give your time or treasure to the Vincentian communities, your gift can multiply, as residents of Marian Manor demonstrated during their recent Good Deed Month.

A group of residents helped the homeless thanks to a donation provided to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. Sr. Irene Ellis and Ben Zeszutek, the 20-year-old grandson of resident Zella Dellana, purchased toiletries and other comfort items for care packages. In a single evening, the group assembled more than 50 packages, which were distributed on the streets as well as to the Light of Life Rescue Mission. Their efforts brought compassion and dignity to the lives of those who are among the most vulnerable in our society.

Throughout Marian Manor, residents developed their own service projects, whether reading to children in day care, making bedside visits, or spreading joy via the hospitality cart full of puzzles,

magazines and games. The men's club brightened visitors' day by offering fresh-squeezed lemonade.

It's impossible to know how many people's hearts were touched during the month, as the recipients of a kind gesture paid that forward to someone else with a smile or story. Our seniors remind us that every gift we give can multiply many times over. 



Marian Manor residents made care packages for the homeless.



Ida Rizzo reads at Marian Manor's child care center.



## Vincentian Child Development Center Turns 40!

Originally housed in the Vincentian Sisters' Motherhouse (now St. Louise Convent), VCDC moved in 1995 to its current location next to Vincentian Academy. Sisters Meinard Doctorik and Conrad Mulyar ministered at Vincentian Childcare Center in the early years. Do you recognize any of these children? 

## The President's Corner

Dear Friends,

“There’s no place like home for the holidays.” Here at Vincentian, we know that our communities are not just providers of medical care, but they are home to the residents we serve and their families. In the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise, we nurture not only the body, but also the mind and spirit.



Our new rehabilitation center at Vincentian Home continues that tradition, offering state of the art care, with a heart. In a supportive environment, our highly-trained therapists help people learn the skills they need to transition from hospital to home. In our simulated home setting, residents can use adaptive equipment and practice maneuvering around the “house” doing tasks like cooking, the laundry, or emptying the dishwasher.

All residents can join in activities throughout our neighborhoods that exemplify the Vincentian spirit, such as lively fairs and festivals celebrating friendship and fun. These are just a few examples of the ways we cater to the varied lifestyles of today’s seniors and their families.

All of this is possible thanks to our dedicated staff, creative volunteers, and donors. As we celebrate the season of giving, I want to thank you for your commitment and hospitality that makes Vincentian such a welcoming place for our residents.

Yours in Service,

Raymond E. Washburn  
President and CEO  
Vincentian Collaborative System

## Insights

*Insights* newsletter is published four times per year by Vincentian Charitable Foundation to share the news and activities of the Vincentian system. If you would like a friend to receive a copy of *Insights*, or you have a question or comment, please contact Robin Weber.

### Editor

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## Your Giving Got us There!

A sunny and breezy day – and the first time in years without rain – had Marian Manor’s 12th Annual Charity Golf Classic off to a great start this September at Montour Heights Country Club. The golf committee and host of volunteers along with 112 golfers and 180 dinner guests made this the highest grossing outing since 2007. The day’s income will go a long way in helping Marian Manor provide needed building improvements for its residents. Give yourselves a hand; our residents will! 🍷



Brenda and Bob Tate share a laugh during dinner with Sisters Christina Marie and Madalyn. Keith Loisel, golf chair, takes a swing.



## A Bounty of Fall Fun

Residents all around our Vincentian communities celebrated fall in spectacular fashion. From “county fairs,” to down-home chili cook-offs, we are making the most of the beautiful season.

The residents of Vincentian Regency delighted in a fall color tour to North Park. After viewing the splendid amber and burgundy foliage, they cozied up with cider and donuts.

Marian Manor doubled the fun with a harvest fest – complete with chili cook-off – and country store. At the country store, residents use their hard-won bingo coupons to select from handmade crafts and donated goodies, such as costume jewelry, purses and shoes. They love to “buy” special items for themselves and to shop for grandkids and loved ones.

Not to be outdone, Vincentian de Marillac’s county fair offered a cornucopia of delights. Residents sold their homemade crafts and admired the displays of artwork, angel collections, and more. “I loved the quilts – they reminded me of the ones my grandmother made,” said one resident.

Country-themed events are some of our residents’ favorites, allowing them to express their creativity and inspiring nostalgic reflection. We are grateful for your support which allows our residents to fully embrace the offerings of the seasons. 🍷



## Employees Honored with St. Vincent and St. Louise Award

In conjunction with St. Vincent de Paul’s feast day this fall, four employees were awarded the St. Vincent and St. Louise Award for significant acts that demonstrate turning our Vincentian mission into action in caring for our residents. They are:

**Ellen O’Toole**, physical therapist,  
*Vincentian Rehabilitation Services*

**Sharon Snead**, registered nurse,  
*Vincentian Home*

**Sr. Christina Marie Janusek, SHS**,  
pastoral care, *Marian Manor*

**Patricia Hall**, nursing assistant,  
*Vincentian Regency*

# Recuperate in Style at Vincentian Home

With resident Robert Moag on hand to cut the ribbon and Father John Vojtek conducting the blessing, Vincentian Home celebrated a momentous “step” in enhancing short-term rehabilitation with the opening of a new therapy center.

“The occupational therapy kitchen and laundry area were so helpful,” says Millie Kozar, who recovered at Vincentian Home after a knee replacement. “I folded clothes, baked a cake... You can practice all those things you need to do at home.”

The new therapy center complements the beautifully appointed private rooms, country kitchens, and living areas of the community building. It also marks a new approach to rehabilitation that caters to people’s varied lifestyles following a surgery, illness or other health event requiring hospitalization.

“Rehab is hard work for those undergoing it so we keep the mood light,” says Carolyn Augustine, therapy supervisor. “We provide the right pace for each resident’s needs, allowing each to progress as quickly as is feasible toward the goals we’ve set together.”

Ken Nickels, son of a short-term resident agrees. “The therapists not only motivated my father and got him walking again, they also talked with him. He never felt rushed and the staff always took the time to make him feel



The physical therapy room contains all the necessities and extras, too, including a space for interactive video games that can make therapy more entertaining.



A simulated home setting takes occupational therapy to a new level. Residents can try out adaptive equipment, practice maneuvering around the kitchen or bathroom safely, even do laundry.

important. Everyone is made to feel at home here; the residents feel safe. That mental aspect, the peace of mind, is so important to healing.”

Swing by the new therapy center at Vincentian Home, conveniently located just off the main lobby. And if you’re scheduling a surgery, call to plan your stay with us or, tell a friend! For admissions call Julie Schell at 412-348-2346. For a photo tour visit [www.vcs.org/vincentian-home](http://www.vcs.org/vincentian-home). 🧡

# Vincentian Home Brings Pittsburgh Traditions to Life

The sun smiled upon young and old as the residents and families of Vincentian Home celebrated everything Pittsburgh one late summer day.

“This is what it’s all about; it’s great to see so much joy,” said one reveler. “We couldn’t have asked for a better day,” said another.



Anna Mae Luty and her daughter visit the popcorn cart in the “North Side.”

Hands clapped and toes tapped to tunes pumped from the accordion by Wally Merriman. Nostalgia abounded as guests circled the home picking up Clark bars and Heinz pickle pins, sampling Isaly’s chipped ham sandwiches and skyscraper cones, and viewing scenes of old Pittsburgh lining the walls. Volunteers provided exquisite escort service and assistance with all the day’s activities. Above all, it was the family spirit that brought the day to life.



Radio announcer Mike Lange, voice of the Pittsburgh Penguins, joined Marie Murrin and delighted guests with his stories.

Your support of Vincentian helps these special events thrive. Our residents send cheerful smiles of thanks to our benefactors who make it possible. 🧡

# From Valentines to Jack-O-Lanterns

Playwright Alan Jay Lerner has said, “Stay close to the young and a little rubs off.” Residents at Vincentian Regency agree, relishing their interactions with young volunteers and their parents from the MOMS Club of Wexford/Franklin Park. “It’s really nice to connect with people. We want to spread some extra love,” says parent organizer Kaatje Harrison. The children work side by side with residents on seasonal crafts and everyone has a great time. 🧡





**VINCENTIAN**  
COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM

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***Vincentian de Marillac***

3819 40228

***Vincentian Regency***

517 24005

***Vincentian Home***

478 23883

***Vincentian Rehabilitation Services***

***Vincentian Child Development Center***

3066 32657

**United Way code**

**Combined Federal Campaign code**

***Mission Statement:***

Compelled by the love of Christ, Vincentian Collaborative System nurtures and sustains a ministry of compassionate care that preserves the human dignity of persons within a diverse and changing society.

**Your Gifts Bring Joy All Year Round!**

Your contributions mean so much. With each gift, you help brighten the life of an elderly resident or inspire a child through new experiences. Don't let year-end giving opportunities pass you by!

Donations of any size are greatly appreciated, whether checks, matching gifts, stock, or IRA distributions. As you make your decision, please note that your gift must be postmarked by December 31 for tax deduction purposes. For each and every gift, our residents thank you.

**A Note on IRA Charitable Rollovers**

IRA Charitable Rollovers have been a popular giving option for donors age 70 ½ or older who receive a tax benefit when transferring monies directly from their IRAs to qualified charities. As many donors are eager to know if this giving option can be used for 2012, please consult your financial advisor if you are considering an IRA rollover donation. ❤️

**Cultural Program Begins with Holiday Outing**

At Vincentian Home the magic of the holidays has begun with help from a generous individual. A group of residents, including Jenny Savinis and Bee Fohl (right), will be attending the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's "The Nutcracker" in December free of charge. This donation has spawned a system-wide initiative to bring culture and the arts to our residents, now dubbed the "Encore" program. Look for more in an upcoming newsletter or contact Denise Calkins at [dcalkins@vcs.org](mailto:dcalkins@vcs.org) or 412-366-8540. ❤️



**The NEW 5-Star Ratings are In!**

Congratulations to Marian Manor and Vincentian de Marillac, which have recently joined the elite status of 5-Star facilities across the state!

**Save the Date**  
*Vincentian's Annual Dinner Dance*

**Saturday, February 23, 2013**

LeMont Restaurant

*Benefitting Marian Manor and Vincentian de Marillac*