Christmas Caring Trees

A new tradition will ensure that the love of Christmas shines even brighter at Vincentian — all thanks to your help.

A new Christmas Caring Tree will soon grace the lobbies of Marian Manor, Vincentian Home and Vincentian de Marillac. During December, members of our Vincentian family will receive a mailing and an ornament to be filled out with the name of a loved one. With a donation of any amount — every gift counts — donors can honor someone special.

Your gift can help decorate our ministries by honoring those loved ones past and present who have decorated your life.

All who visit our residents' homes will see the trees — an expression of overflowing love and support. Then, during the week of Christmas, we'll hold a special blessing ceremony with the Sisters to pray for all the names on the Caring Tree. Support during the holiday season and throughout the year means so much to the residents in our care.

Let your love shine on this Christmas with an ornament!

Lorna’s Lads and Ladies Fight Leukemia

One little girl with a big smile has rallied our Marian Manor Child Care community around a very special cause. Students, teachers and parents from Marian Manor Child Development and Learning Center have raised funds to fight Leukemia as part of Pittsburgh’s Light the Night event. It’s all because of little Lorna, who was diagnosed with Leukemia last year. Everyone came together to support Lorna and this important cause.

After her diagnosis, Lorna missed time at Marian Manor Child Care, but she is doing well and recently started attending classes again. The first thing she absolutely had to do was show off her freshly painted fingernails to her classmates. “Lorna lights up any room she’s in,” says Lisa Pindilli, Director of Child Care. “Everyone is so happy that she’s back with us at the Manor.”

Sr. Marie Becker Draws Christmas from the Heart

From her cozy studio in Nazareth, Kentucky, Sr. Marie Becker, SCN transforms fabrics into dazzling collages, creates serene oil paintings, and painstakingly restores a garden statue of St. Francis of Assisi for a church in Belize. It’s all in a day’s work for this multitalented artist, who has also lovingly designed another one-of-a-kind Christmas card for our Vincentian communities.

Although Sr. Marie wasn’t always a professional artist, she has always loved art. In fact, when she was in elementary school, she won a coloring contest. “It was easier back then,” she joked. “All you had to do was stay within the lines and you were golden!”

After joining the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in 1963, she became a teacher. Yet, art continued to call her, and in 1999 Sr. Marie earned a degree in the field. She even taught ceramics to Sisters in Bardstown, KY.

Sr. Marie has been to Pittsburgh several times, but says that she doesn’t get to visit as much as she likes. This is why the Christmas card project has special meaning for her. “I like the idea of it being a way to reach out to our Sisters in Pittsburgh, and I love Christmas, too. This is a nice way to wrap it all up in one package.”

Cards designed by Sr. Marie
**The President’s Corner**

"Christmas is not a time nor a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States from 1923 to 1929, spoke those words around the same time the Sisters were putting plans into place for the Holy Rosary Cottage in McCandless. President Coolidge, and, indeed, Vincentian’s early pioneers, understood the awesome power of peace, mercy and goodwill. Today, that spirit is at the forefront of our ministries.

At Vincentian, we are stewards of peace and goodwill every day by recognizing that we are guests in our residents’ homes. This philosophy is reflected in our mission and one of our core values — dignity. We promote human dignity not simply because it is the right thing to do. Our mission compels us.

When you visit one of the Vincentian ministries this holiday season, I believe you will see the spirit of Christmas alive in everything we do — be it a gentle touch, kind encouragement or joyful care. You’ll also see our ongoing work to enhance our residents’ lives through engaging programs and activities, the innovative use of technology and spiritual opportunities for all.

I wish you and your family a bountiful Thanksgiving holiday and a most blessed Christmas. The entire team at Vincentian is honored to be part of your lives. May the love of Christmas fill your heart, mind and soul all year long.

Raymond E. Washburn
President and CEO

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**Magical Manor Christmas**

The North Pole will take over Marian Manor this year on December 11 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for the ever-popular Magical Manor Christmas. Festive activities include an appearance by Santa Claus, plenty of holiday treats and a caricature artist. Musical entertainers will include a harpist, bell choir and more. Friends of all ages are invited to join in fun throughout Marian Manor.

Stunning luminaries will line the walkways to Marian Manor to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus. Inside, Jesus’ birthday cake will be shared with all. Our youngest visitors will surely enjoy the Elf’s Workshop and Crafts. For more information, call 412-440-4300.

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**Walk Down Candy Cane Lane**

Attention Santa’s helpers — look no further than Vincentian de Marillac this Christmas for great holiday gifts. In December, Candy Cane Lane will open up for business in the activity room. Donated items will be for sale, with proceeds benefiting the activity fund.

Residents freely peruse the gift options, and activity staff helps to box and wrap presents for loved ones. In addition to quirky selections like a Yoga for Cats book, shoppers can find high-tech items too, like stereos and animated Christmas ornaments.
Career Change Inspired by Visits to Vincentian Home

A young volunteer unexpectedly discovers a new and more fulfilling path in life, and takes it.

When Maureen Fechik started visiting Vincentian Home four years ago, she wasn’t looking to change her life. She simply wanted to spend time with her grandmother. But, the experiences Maureen had there inspired her to leave her desk job behind and study for a new career as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

As a web designer, Maureen had been spending much of her time at the computer. Her visits to Vincentian Home energized her. “The time with my grandma was meaningful to me and I wanted to volunteer and spend more time there,” said Maureen. Twice per week, she helped with everything from craft projects to escorting residents to Mass.

“Eventually, I decided it was great to volunteer, but volunteering wasn’t enough,” said Maureen. After researching her options, she enrolled in courses at the Community College of Allegheny County. Newly motivated, Maureen even embraced the science classes she had worked so hard to avoid in earlier years!

Vincentian Home gave her a new appreciation of the role of spirituality in health. “Even if there is a day when residents are not feeling well,” she says, “by the time Mass is over, they’re happy and thanking me that they went.”

Maureen is on track to complete her degree in 2016, and her biggest cheerleader is her grandmother. “She prays for me a lot and wants to know what’s going on.” With hard work, and under grandma’s watchful eye, Maureen is sure to excel in her new career.

Attitude of Gratitude

What are you thankful for this holiday season?

This Thanksgiving week, staff at Vincentian de Marillac and Marian Manor are taking time to share an “Attitude of Gratitude” in our ministries. Each day, a different theme encourages staff to express kindness and thankfulness to fellow co-workers, residents and visitors. It’s a way for everyone to come together with a positive message.

For example, on Marvelous Monday, staff invited a coworker they didn’t know to join them at lunch. On toothy grin Tuesday, everyone was encouraged to smile throughout the day. And, to close out the week, an ice cream social is planned for all on Fantastic Friday.

Ice Cream is Always in Season at Vincentian Home

The next time you’re at Vincentian Home check out a scoop of Americana. Visit the new ice cream shop, decked out in classic 1950s décor and staffed by friendly volunteers during lunch time on most days. Ice cream is free, but donations are accepted. The ice cream shop is located across from the gift shop near Julia’s Place of Beauty.

Don’t be a square — come on in! ♥
Good Deeds, Treats and Seats

Costume-clad youngsters enjoyed Halloween at Vincentian. Janet Hagan passes out candy to one of the many trick or treaters this year at Marian Manor. At Vincentian Home, three superheroes in training flex their muscles before running off for more candy.

Vincentian Collaborative System
8250 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Vincentian Charitable Foundation
10559722

Marian Manor
275 85964

Vincentian de Marillac
3819 40228

Vincentian Home
478 23883

Vincentian Child Development Center
3066 32657

Vincentian Rehabilitation Services

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.

Learn more about how you can help. For more information call 412-548-4056

SAVE THE DATE - February 21, 2015
Le Mont, Mt. Washington

Affair of the Heart
Celebrating friends and family
To benefit Vincentian de Marillac and Marian Manor

Giving Tuesday is Coming Up!
The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is Giving Tuesday, a day Americans are encouraged to give to their favorite causes. Visit www.vcs.org on Tuesday, Dec. 2 and look for the special Giving Tuesday button. Your generosity is appreciated!

Thank you to all of our donors!
Your continued support of our ministries throughout the year makes a world of difference to our residents!