Hopping into the Hearts of Residents

Once upon a time, a bunny named Smokey and a girl named Anastasia hopped into the hearts of a great many seniors.

You needn’t look far for this fairy tale. It’s happening right now at Vincentian de Marillac, where Ana Sider-Rose and her therapy bunny visit every weekend. Smokey lies quietly while spending time with residents in his basket or wrapped in a blanket.

Ana has taken classes to learn how to train Smokey to promote a relaxing experience for all. Many look forward to the Saturday visits. On one such visit, a resident asked Ana “Do you think he remembers me?” as she held him in her arms. “I think he does!” Ana said, as the resident smiled and gave Smokey a few loving pats on the back.

Christmas Caring Trees: A Vincentian Tradition

Thanks to the generosity of donors from near and far, ornaments are pouring in to adorn the Christmas Caring Trees at each of the Vincentian ministries. Supporters have honored loved ones on these special ornaments returned with their Christmastime gift. This kindness serves as a sign to our residents, staff and visitors of the love that surrounds them this holiday season.

During the week of Christmas, the Sisters will hold a special blessing ceremony to pray for those whose names have been placed on the Caring Trees. You can add your loved one’s name to the tree, too. Just contact us at 412-548-4067 to learn how.

Follow your heart this Christmastime with a gift!

A Reflection on Christmas with Pope Francis

“When we realize that God is in love with our smallness, that he made himself small in order to better encounter us, we cannot help but open our hearts to him.”

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In a letter to Vincentian benefactors dated Christmas 1941, the Sisters captured the promise of the holiday season with prayers for abundant blessings during the holidays and throughout the New Year.

Of course, that same month, the United States was plunged into the midst of World War II with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Today, we may be tempted to see our world again in turmoil amid violence, terrorism and injustice. But we are renewed by the magic of Christmas. The blessings of the Christ Child are forever – in good times and in bad.

What a comfort it is to know that the love of Jesus is as unwavering as it is unconditional.

For more than 200 years, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth have dedicated their lives to education, health care, and social work. Here in Pittsburgh, our ministries have served seniors in need for more than 90 years. All the while, we’ve worked to strengthen our residents in mind, body and spirit so they can enjoy every moment of life to the fullest – in good times and in bad.

This Christmas, I echo the Sisters’ prayer of 1941 that you and yours are blessed abundantly now and throughout the New Year. Thank you for being a friend to our ministries. On behalf of everyone at Vincentian, Merry Christmas!

Raymond E. Washburn
President and CEO
Vincentian is Aglow with the Spirit of Christmas!

Don’t Miss these Holiday Event Highlights

- **Dec. 10**
  - Magical Manor Christmas
  - 6:30 – 8 p.m.
  - Marian Manor

- **Dec. 11**
  - Cookie Decorating with Eden Christian Academy Kindergarten
  - 10:15 a.m.
  - Vincentian Home

- **Dec. 12**
  - Ed Sullivan Christmas Show
  - 2 p.m.
  - Marian Manor

- **Dec. 15**
  - Winter Wonderland Christmas Community Stroll
  - 6:30 – 8 p.m.
  - Vincentian Home

- **Dec. 20**
  - Erickson Hand Bell Duo
  - 6:30 – 8 p.m.
  - Vincentian de Marillac

- **Dec. 22**
  - Lunch with Santa
  - Vincentian de Marillac

Get the complete calendar of holiday activities at vcs.org in the Daily Schedule for each home.

“Charity is the paradise of Communities and the soul of the virtues.”
— St. Vincent de Paul, the Great Apostle of Charity

Interested in learning more about the Vincentian Society?
Call Nakia at 412-548-4067

THE VINCENTIAN SOCIETY: Answering St. Vincent’s Call

Vice President of Advancement Karen Kutzer, Vincentian Personal Care resident Bob Lang, Activities Supervisor Kathy McKinney and resident Dorothy Pfischner enjoy An Evening of Good Taste.

The clinking of wine glasses and the sound of camaraderie echoed in the Vincentian Villa Clubhouse as many of Vincentian’s top donors gathered to celebrate a year of spectacular giving. The event, a wine tasting reception, was held to recognize members of the Vincentian Society for their steadfast stewardship of the Sisters’ mission. More than 40 donors attended the soiree.

Noted area oenologist Brian Turek highlighted the reception with his commentaries describing wines from all around the world.

With a motto of “begin by doing”, Society members answer St. Vincent’s call by ensuring that the work begun by the Sisters many years ago carries on for decades to come. Along with all those who support our ministries with their generosity, including members of the Caritas Society, these leadership donors set the standard for giving at Vincentian.
Meet Vincentian’s 2015 VIPs

(L-R) Vincentian CCOO Susan Lewandowski recognizes awardees of the 2015 St. Vincent – St. Louise Award, employees Agnes Adera, Dilpreet Gill and Crystyl Craig, along with Adeline Fehribach, SCN, Provincial, Western Province. Not pictured is 2015 awardee Kathleen Rice-Coon.

2015 Christmas Cards are on Sale Now

Vincentian’s annual Christmas card is now available! This card was lovingly designed especially for us by Sr. Marie Becker, SCN.

A package of 15 is $10. To order by phone or email, contact Laura at 412-548-4056 or foundation@vcs.org.

Save the date!
Saturday, March 5, 2016
LeMont, Mt. Washington

Double Your Gift and Maximize your Impact

Your employer may match your charitable gifts. Contact your company’s human resources department for more information.

Join the Caritas Society Today!

The Caritas Society is comprised of individuals who have made provisions for the Vincentian family in their will or estate. Call 412-548-4056 to learn how you can become a member of this group. Everyone can make gifts from their will or estate so that their legacy lives on.

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

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 412-548-4067.

Scan this QR code to visit our website.