On The Menu
Dining Gals Offer Up Tasty Tips

Spring Sprung Early at Vincentian Child Development Center

One winter morning, children at Vincentian Child Development Center got a big surprise in the form of Easter eggs. But, it was still February, and these were no ordinary eggs — in fact, live chicks were inside waiting to hatch.

Over the course of about three weeks, the children learned about chickens and monitored the eggs. Each day, a bright light was used to illuminate the egg so the children could see inside the shell.

Once the chicks began to hatch, the yellow and black baby chickens were given names like Bruiser and Liam.

Children learned to pet their new friends gently with just one finger and watch closely so they didn’t escape the makeshift pen set up on a table.

About six weeks after the eggs arrived, it was time to return the chickens to the local farm that they would call home, but not before the students learned lessons about life and enjoyed some early spring fun!

Marian Manor residents Janet Hagan, Bernice Miller and Madeline Rakaczky sample and discuss various menu selections.

Chicken casserole, stuffed flank steak, goulash and homemade mushroom soup are new additions to the menus at Vincentian de Marillac and Marian Manor, thanks to the aptly named “Dining Gals” and “Tasty Tips” resident committees.

The residents meet regularly to review the current menu and sample new food items. Traditional and ethnic recipes are also added to the mix to bring a taste of home to all residents.

Started earlier this year, the committee meetings serve as more than just food critiques. The residents gather to talk about their life experiences with food, for example what their parents or grandparents made when they were growing up. Committee members also share stories of their time around the dinner table with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

All-in-all, it’s a fun way to stir up some treasured memories around a favored topic – food – all while diversifying and personalizing the menu selections at our homes. The next item rumored to be on an upcoming menu? Sauerkraut pierogies. Stay tuned.

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING ABOUT VINCENTIAN

“Jesus is alive and living right here among the staff at Vincentian.”
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It’s All About You

People are the core of Vincentian’s mission; we exist to serve our residents. Likewise, the success of our ministries relies on the Sisters, volunteers, staff and benefactors that make up the Vincentian family. Here are a few measures we are taking to make sure your voice is heard:

Around Town
Members of my team have recently begun performing regular Leadership Rounds. During weekly visits to each of our communities, they spend time with residents, staff and families to learn what is working and what could be done better. The information collected will be put to use right away to improve the quality of care across our system.

Hard at Work
At each of our homes, we have created staff working groups with the goal of transforming resident care and engaging employees. For example, a Vincentian Home rehab group has been formed to improve care by co-designing improvements with short-stay residents and their families. Groups are also underway at Marian Manor and Vincentian de Marillac.

An Open Door
Finally, you should know that you always have a direct line to me via email at ceo@vcs.org or by calling 412-548-4054. Your feedback — both positive and not-so-positive — is essential to our success as a system.

Yours in Service,

Nick Vizzoca
President and CEO

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING ABOUT VINCENTIAN

My therapist actually made physical therapy fun!”

Lounging in Style at Vincentian de Marillac

Thanks to a generous grant from an anonymous donor, resident lounges at Vincentian de Marillac recently received a major makeover.

New tables, loveseats and other furniture have improved seating options for residents and their visitors. The lounges also feature new electronics, remote-controlled window treatments, decorative accents and new flooring.

The transformations have received rave reviews from residents, visitors and staff alike. If you’re interested in making a difference at one of our homes through a special project, we’d like to hear from you! Call the Foundation Office at 412-548-4056 or e-mail foundation@vcs.org.

A total of three lounges were renovated. Below, Mildred Jackson, Laura Ploff, Mollie Harper, Dolores Cicchetti and Trish Murphy enjoy a game of cards.

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING ABOUT VINCENTIAN

Thank you for making sure all residents are treated with kindness and respect.”

Vincentian Collaborative System
LOOKING AHEAD: An Innovative New Approach

The former Vincentian Regency property is the future site of an innovative new approach to independent living — and ground could be broken as soon as this year.

Vincentian President & CEO Nick Vizzoca, staff, stakeholders and volunteers recently spent three days in guided meetings to develop design concepts for the project. Referred to as a kaizen, meaning continuous improvement, the intense sessions generated many ideas that Vincentian’s architects will use to develop a plan.

The design will feature smart technology and environmentally friendly building concepts. By borrowing best practices from diverse industries and collaborating with area partners, the new community will adapt to serve each resident’s needs and abilities as they change, allowing them to age in place.

Stay tuned for more details! If you or someone you know is interested in reserving a spot on the waiting list, contact Manager of Independent Living Larry Hayward at 412-364-6591. ♡

Rocco Magrino, VCS+ Board Member Dr. Mark Thomspson, Jason Fierko and Nick Vizzoca review preliminary plans.

A Sparkling Affair

Thanks to 250 of Vincentian’s top friends and supporters, some $120,000 was raised at the annual Affair of the Heart gala at LeMont atop Mt. Washington.

Following the invocation from Bishop David Zubik, guests enjoyed gourmet food, a live skyline painting by artist Tim Engelhardt and a dose of Pittsburgh wit from KDKA’s Larry Richert, the evening’s emcee. Bidders vied for fabulous auction items including a Pirates Luxury Box, a private Myrtle Beach condo vacation, a Sidney Crosby autographed jersey and much more.

Golden Heart Awardee David Newell, AKA Mr. McFeely, was recognized for a lifetime of service to the Pittsburgh region. For many years, David has delivered smiles, laughter and love to neighbors near and far. He serves as an ambassador to the neighborhood and is a genuine “golden heart” of his native Pittsburgh.

Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dunlap, Graziano Construction, Glenmede, Grane Rx and all of our sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers. ♡

CLOCKWISE: Bob and Michelle Rowland; VCS+ Board Chairperson Mark Stadler and his wife Mona; Vincentian President & CEO Nick Vizzoca, Sr. Grace Fabich, SHS, and Bishop David Zubik; Maria Sirabella, Angelina Furforo, Salvatore Startari and Dr. Laura Wholey; and Golden Heart Awardee David Newell, AKA Mr. McFeely.
Donor Dollars Go Far
STOCKS SOAR, MATCHING FUNDS AND MORE

Dow Jones Tops 20,000
With the Dow Jones average above 20,000, investment portfolios are booming. When it comes time to sell those shares on the market, you’ll be subject to a capital gains tax. One way to eliminate this tax and ease your burden from Uncle Sam is to consider a charitable donation of stocks. Not only do donated stocks forego capital gains taxes for you, but you can also claim today’s market value on your taxes as a donation.

Your Company Could Match Your Gift
Does your company have a gift matching policy? By giving through a corporate match, you leverage your donation to do even more good for Vincentian. Contact your company’s HR department to learn more.

A Gift of Life Insurance
Smart donors can also make gifts to Vincentian that cost them nothing in their lifetime but provide excellent tax benefits. The donation of a life insurance policy provides an immediate benefit to the donor and organizational support to Vincentian’s ministries. If you continue to pay the premiums, those payments are tax deductible, too.

Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated by the residents in our care. However you choose to give, your dollars will be put to work to enhance the lives of those we serve. As always, you should consult your financial adviser to be sure you have all the information you need to make a smart choice when supporting any worthwhile cause.

Hit the links for a good cause!
The Sr. Eileen Charity Golf Classic is set for Monday, June 12, 2017 at South Hills Country Club
Proceeds benefit Vincentian residents. Learn more at vcs.org or call Laura at 412-548-4056

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.

Thank you to all of our supporters this springtime!
Your generosity truly makes a difference for our residents

Vincentian Collaborative System
8250 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
visit us at vcs.org

UNITED WAY CODE
Vincentian Charitable Foundation 10559722
Marian Manor 275
Vincentian de Marillac 3819
Vincentian Home 478
Vincentian Child Development Center 3066