



A Ministry of the SCN Family



VINCENTIAN
COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM

Insights

Summer 2012

Come Play with Us!



Squeals of laughter and the ringing of children's voices can be heard on Wednesday mornings as a group of Marian Manor residents are engaged in special play dates. Residents are paired one-on-one with children from Marian Manor's child care for activities like play dough sculpting, block building and arts and crafts.

Artists at Work

Move over, Picasso. Vincentian Home residents are showing off their artistic skills in a new monthly art program led by North Hills Art Center volunteer Ruthann Farinacci. From weaving demonstrations to hands-on oil painting, residents are discovering hidden talents.

"Many times residents don't think they can do it but are so pleased to discover they can," explains Jan, an art center volunteer. "They also enjoy seeing how different each resident's painting is, even though they're all looking at the same subject matter."

Residents' creativity will be on display in upcoming programs with pottery, clay and pastels. ❤️



Art center volunteer, Jan, and Margaret Goodrich discuss her still life portrait.

A Four-Star Salute for Your Vincentian Heroes

They traveled thousands of miles from home, endured harsh conditions and risked their very lives – for the cause of liberty. Vincentian is proud to be home to many courageous Veterans who served our country.

An Army nurse in the South Pacific during World War II, **Vincentian Home Resident Barbara Duffy** marched alongside the troops, slept on the ground without mosquito nets or tents, and worked round-the-clock shifts. One of few trained IV nurses, she assisted with surgeries and cared for both U.S. soldiers and Prisoners of War.



Barbara Duffy

Vincentian de Marillac resident Tom Hennen recalls vividly the nights he spent on guard duty during the Battle of Tinian Island in the South Pacific in July 1944. He heard offshore shooting, saw markings from incendiary bullets in the sky, and even fired on Japanese planes.



Tom Hennen

Uncle Sam called upon **Vincentian Home resident Father Wichmanowski** when he was 18 years old. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943, Father Wichmanowski left the South Side and launched a military career that spanned thirty years and three continents. He became a military chaplain, ascended to the rank of colonel, and served in the U.S., Korea, Vietnam, and Europe.

Marian Manor resident Alice Howard knows how to keep a secret! She served in the U.S. Navy as a stenographer with top secret clearance. At the age of twenty, Alice left her job at Duquesne Light for a station in San Diego as a Yeoman Third Class.

We salute all our nation's military for the freedoms we enjoy. Thank you for your service. And thank you to all of the staff, volunteers, and supporters who help us to give back by providing compassionate and joyful care for our resident Veterans. ❤️

Vincentian Veterans, We Salute You!

Albert Bernhardt • William Bordas • Father Robert Boyle • Anthony Casavale • Robert Cost • Brother Harry Dierks • Barbara Duffy • Harry Dunston • Frank Geruschat • Charles Godlasky • John Gruber • John Hadricky • Victor Henke • Tom Hennen • Father Leo Henry • Father Ed Hoffman • Robert Huchel • Andrew Jeannette • Harry Kleiber • Andrew Kmet • James Krajovic • George Lindner, Jr. • Anthony Marmarosa • Lee McCredie • Arthur Nicola • Russ Nicoletti • Louis Pagona • William Paul • Michael Perok • Walter Perry • Alice Picard • Nick Piergrossi • John Podlogar • Stanley Pyzdrowski • Charles Reynolds • Fred Riebel • Jack Robinette • Arnold Ruppert • Corbett Scarff • Oscar Schneider • John Schrott • Charles Turack • Richard Valecka • Charles Varasse • Leo Wahl • Joseph Waters • Father Walter Wichmanowski • Robert Winter • Thomas Witheral

The President's Corner

Picnics, weddings, graduations – summer brings celebrations of all sorts.

Added to our many reasons for celebration here at Vincentian is my special tribute to you—our family of friends.

More than ever, our ministries are the grateful recipients of your many special talents. The “neighborhoods” within our senior communities are filled with artists, performers, and volunteers of all types who bring smiles to our residents’ faces. You, indeed, personify the “Vincentian Way.”

As we take stock of our many blessings, I dedicate this issue to the many Veterans who reside in our communities. The sacrifices they have made in serving our country deserve our enduring respect. I am proud they are present among our family.

I extend my best wishes to you for a happy and safe summer season of fun.

Yours in Service,



Raymond E. Washburn
President and CEO
Vincentian Collaborative System



75 Years of Love and Devotion – We are Blessed

On Sunday April 29, 2012, Sister Mary Berchmans Siglow and Sister Bernardine Golonka marked a very special milestone in their lives – 75 years as Sisters of the Holy Spirit. Besides celebrating on the same day, these two Sisters have much in common: they are cousins, both of them reside at Marian Manor, both hail from New Castle, PA and both have been faithful to their religious calling. Community members, family and friends honored both Sisters at a Liturgy followed by dinner. 🍷



Sister Mary Berchmans Siglow and Sister Bernardine Golonka.



Marian Manor Child Care Marks Ten Years as Top Program

Marian Manor’s child care was among the first centers to sign on ten years ago when Pennsylvania’s Keystone Stars quality initiative for child care centers began. What started as a voluntary pilot program has grown to a huge state-wide initiative. The center was the first in the state to complete the step-by-step

process for earning a 4-star designation, the highest star level possible. Marian Manor’s ten years of success in the Keystone Stars program is a testament to the quality and loving child care provided by their dedicated staff, and the partnership of our families who entrust their children in our care. 🍷

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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Employees Honored with St. Vincent and St. Louise Award

This spring, in conjunction with St. Louise de Marillac’s feast day, five 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:

- Larry McQuaide**, nurse aide, Vincentian Home
- Joanne Zaletsky**, social services, Vincentian Home
- Ella Allen**, nurse aide, Vincentian de Marillac
- Arlene Bloomer**, dietary aide, Vincentian Regency
- Darlene Urgitus**, environmental services aide, Vincentian Regency



Volunteers: You Make the Difference!

What is the recipe for a great volunteer?

Two heaping cups of selflessness, a cup of kindness, a pinch of patience, a dash of enthusiasm, and a tablespoon of love. Combine all these ingredients with a lot of hard work and dedication and cook in a warm, caring environment. Serves all in need.

Our Vincentian volunteers flavor our senior communities with a broad range of personalities, abilities, and life experiences. Your unique contributions are appreciated beyond measure. Below are but a few ways our residents taste the rewards of your efforts.

It's the Rhythm that Moves You

On your next visit to Vincentian de Marillac, you may hear the beat of an African drum, the floating melodies of the flute, or the celestial sounds of the harp. It's all part of the monthly Music and Motion program to bring instruments, singing and creative movement to residents. Run by volunteers from St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Shadyside, Music and Motion provides residents – particularly those with dementia – with an engaging social experience.



Activities intern Keiona Smith and Catherine Tallean enjoy tapping along to the beat.

“It seems that music and rhythm spark something in the brain giving residents a way to express themselves,” explains Aimi Long, activities manager. “We see improved communication and responses we don’t otherwise see.” St. Andrew’s Pastor Janet Grill makes an effort to involve all residents at whatever level they’re able,

encouraging residents who can’t use their hands to use their voices as instruments.

“These volunteers are kind, gentle and work so well with our residents,” says Aimi. “They have been a blessing to us.” 🧡

Hats Off to Dorothy and Her Gang

Recently recognized for 55 years of extraordinary service to Vincentian Home, Dorothy Pfishner began volunteering as a favor! She agreed to assist a local nun, Sister Mary Paul, with office tasks at what was then known as “the Home for the Incurables.” She only intended to help for two weeks.

Through the years, Dorothy’s roles have included a variety of activities. She has enlisted the help of family and friends who supplement her efforts with an additional 350 volunteer hours a year

that enable residents to form new relationships, enjoy fun and laughter, and stay involved.

Today, “Dorothy & Gang,” as they are known at Vincentian Personal Care, run a monthly bingo for 30 residents complete with snack items and prizes. She also holds an annual picnic for 50 residents where she and a team of volunteers do it all from making the food to providing music and cleaning up.



Dorothy Pfishner

Although she has considered “slowing down,” Dorothy cherishes all of the blessings she receives—particularly the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people.

Vincentian needs you (and we don’t expect 55 years from all our volunteers!)

Please join us! To learn more, contact Joyce Andrews, volunteer director at jandrews@vcs.org or 412-548-4060. 🧡

Lap Robes Come from Warm-Hearted Volunteers

Many of our homes are blessed by generous groups who keep our residents warm and comfortable in all kinds of weather. Vincentian Home residents are wrapped in warmth by the Hampton Fields Sewing Circle under the leadership of volunteer Maureen Heyl. Residents at Vincentian Regency thank the Bauerstown AARP for their lap robes and bingo prizes as well! It takes your warm hearts to keep our residents’ needs covered. Thank you!



Sister Mary Judith and the Ladies of Charity at St. Thomas A’ Becket Parish delivered eight bags of lap warmers to the residents of Vincentian Personal Care in May. These Ladies of Charity also bring gifts to personal care residents every Christmas.



VINCENTIAN
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Vincentian Collaborative System
8250 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Vincentian Charitable Foundation

10559722

Marian Manor

275 85964

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.

Making A Lasting Impact: One Family's Story

"Marian Manor has been a lifesaver for us."

So says Mary Ann Rittmeyer, as she recalls the care her aunt and her in-laws received. "I can't tell you enough what they did for Aunt Mae — Bingo, bowling, cards...I know her care was wonderful because she told me all the time." Today, Mary Ann and her husband, Bob, continue to support the Manor's events, attend Mass, and visit residents.

They have also decided to leave a lasting legacy by naming Marian Manor as a beneficiary in their will.

"I think everyone should give to Marian Manor," says Mary Ann. "You can see the updates and improvements they are able to make as a result."

Making a gift through your will is one way to make a substantial contribution without affecting your current income. If you would like more information about how to plan your legacy, contact the development office at 412-548-4059. 

Rocking for Residents June 16 is Waiting for You

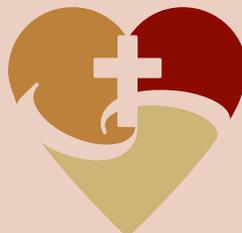
Be part of *Rocking for Residents* Saturday, June 16 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Our homes will feature music, food, games, prizes and fun for all ages.



Participants will be rocking all afternoon to make good on the pledges they've collected. Celebrate our mission of care for the elderly by connecting with the residents who will benefit. You can help our homes purchase special care equipment for our residents' comfort. Get more information at www.vcs.org or call our *Rocking for Residents* hotline at 412-548-4056. 

Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring...

Our need for support is year-round. Please know that your gift of any size is always greatly appreciated.



— Thank you.