Thanks to these kids, bingo nights this past spring were always sunny at Vincentian de Marillac.

A group of 20 students from Sunnyside Elementary volunteered Wednesday evenings this past school year to share bingo and other activities with residents. Sunnyside Elementary is a PreK-8 Pittsburgh Public School and a nearby Stanton Avenue neighbor to Vincentian de Marillac. The kids are part of the school’s Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter.

The students escorted residents to and from their rooms, set up and cleaned up for bingo, called numbers and played along. Many stayed after the fun was over to sit and visit with residents in their rooms — some came back on other days to visit with their new friends.

One resident, Eugene, isn’t much into bingo, but he does love sports. Each Wednesday after bingo, a particular student visited Eugene at the second floor elevator where he waited. Then the two headed to the solarium for a spirited discussion about the Pirates, Penguins, and all the latest headlines on ESPN.

SADD Advisor Toni Allen said volunteering is an excellent way to teach the students valuable life lessons.

“What an opportunity for our students to interact with seniors, who have so much knowledge and life experience,” Allen said. “We all really bonded with the residents in a meaningful way. It was an all-around wonderful experience.”

For a special Easter gift, students gave each resident a lily and a photo of the class to remember the fun evenings they all shared together.
There’s often a “full house” at Marian Manor’s weekly poker games, as residents play a spirited game of seven-card stud every Tuesday (and sometimes Wednesday). Players come ready for action, carrying tupperware boxes and plastic peanut butter jars filled with nickels, for a friendly game in the cozy country kitchen.

Alice Mae Devine, who goes by “Gamblin’ Gertie” when she’s playing, is a regular attendee with a competitive spirit and watchful eye. “I like to be with a lot of people and have conversation,” she says. Reminiscing between hands, players get to know one another better, while also dishing out some good natured ribbing from time to time. “Don’t put that hat on,” Alice Mae says when Anna Rowkosky puts a hat on player Fred Jackson. “I’m reading the reflection of his cards in his glasses!”

Started in 2003 by volunteer Mario Oliverio, the games were suggested by a resident who enjoyed poker in her youth and wanted to bring it to Marian Manor. Since then, Mario has come to Marian Manor every week to run the games along with Anna, calling out cards and tracking bets like a professional. He invites all residents who want to play, including experienced poker players and those looking to learn new skills.

For Bill Bordas, a lifetime player, these games are fun — not like the high pressure, high-stakes games he experienced in his youth. While on a Navy transport to England during his time in the Air Force, he saw games where bets ran into the thousands. “The Navy guys had a lot of time, and nowhere to spend their money,” he says, so there was a lot of “big spending” during those games. Helen O’Connor and Mercedes Dickson picked up the game at Marian Manor and note that it’s fun to “learn a new skill” and “a great way to pass the time.”

For residents looking to make new friends, sharpen their skills, and enjoy camaraderie, they’ve hit the jackpot at Marian Manor.
Hundreds of Vincentian’s closest friends gathered pledges for the rock-a-thon and spent Saturday, June 21 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at one of our ministries enjoying an afternoon of rocking, music, games, food and fun.

Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto even got involved — he declared Saturday, June 21, 2014 as Rocking for Residents day in the City of Pittsburgh!

Some $60,000 that was raised for our residents will help:

- Vincentian Home purchase a closed-circuit television system.
- Marian Manor purchase blanket warmers for residents.
- Vincentian de Marillac do extreme room makeovers.

Special Thanks to Our Many Sponsors


Thanks for Rocking in 2014!

Just a few of the rockers that joined us were PA State Sen. Wayne Fontana, the Eat’n Park Smiley Cookie, Kenny Kangaroo from Kennywood, 100-year-old resident Mary Fisher, Father Edward Bryce and many more!

Pictured left, Mayor Peduto with Mr. McFeely, who made a speedy delivery to the Mayor’s Office, with Vincentian’s Vice President of Advancement, Karen Kutzer and President and CEO Ray Washburn. Below, Sr. Theresa Bealer dances with Thea Suchma.
Q. How did you get involved with Rocking for Residents?
A. Two years ago, I was asked to sell tickets for baskets and get sponsors and I’ve been doing it since. Every day I am out there in the lobby. I missed some time this year when I had surgery on my elbow, but I came right back. I don’t want praise for the work, but I do it because it’s for a good cause. I love doing it.

Q. What is the secret to your fundraising success?
A. You have to ask and tell the people what it’s for. My dad ran businesses and he used to say if you don’t advertise and you don’t ask, you won’t get anything! I sent out 97 flyers to my family and my friends, and a lot of people responded by sponsoring me. My secret is that I always say it’s for a good cause, and it’s for the use of the residents.

Q. What difference has Rocking for Residents made in the communities?
A. Rocking for Residents makes people very happy. It’s like one of the little festivals that churches have, and I try to invite everybody. With the money last year we got new TVs - they’re big and nice. This year, we’re supposed to get communication throughout the building — so if you’re sick and not at an activity, you can watch it on the TV in your room.

Q. Is there anything else you want to share with our readers?
A. I’d like to say may God bless everybody for helping us. Your support and your donations are really helpful and greatly appreciated. God bless you! 😊
On a beautiful spring evening, students from the North Hills Middle School came to Vincentian Personal Care to throw a prom for the residents. Dressed to the nines, the kids set up a photo booth, served refreshments and danced the night away. Many of the residents brought photos from their senior prom as they shared stories and memories. Keyboardist Marlene EnDean entertained with her repertoire of songs. New friendships and lasting memories were formed for all who attended.

Vincentian Child Development Center Hosts Dads

With cries of “To the gooey machine!” two curly-haired girls dashed across the lawn to a plastic bin of “goop” made from kid-friendly ingredients. It was “Super Dad Day” at the Vincentian Child Development Center, and the girls wanted to show their fathers how to dig through the goop to find “precious stones” to take home.

An overcast sky couldn’t dampen the moods of 60 dads and their children at the annual pre-Father’s Day event, featuring eight superhero-themed activity stations. Kids and dads shared precious moments as they sat on cozy blankets reading stories in Captain America’s Book Area, and laughed as little ones scooted through nylon tunnels in the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Tunnel Race.

Doug Keverline was there with daughters Lucy and Gabriella — the 3rd and 4th Keverline children to be enrolled at the center which serves children ages 6 weeks to 6 years. When asked why his family selected VCDC, Doug said, “It’s a place that teaches our kids about our faith. It’s easy to tell on a day-to-day basis that the people here really love your children.”

Dad Dan Reimer held one-year-old Hannah while chatting with Bruce Beemer, whose daughter Jordan played with friends. “There’s no more important decision than where your kids will spend their time,” said Bruce. Dan noted, “It’s neat observing all the dads. Usually, we pass each other doing pick-ups, but today we get to interact. I met Hannah’s classmates’ dads, and I know she’s getting good care here.”

Indeed, staff kept a watchful eye, calling each child by name and finding teachable moments, such as reminding the kids to use good hand-washing skills after playing in the goop. Then, one by one, the kids packed up their homemade masks and prizes, and happy families headed home with memories of a super day.
Vincentian Collaborative System
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Vincentian Charitable Foundation
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Marian Manor
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Vincentian de Marillac
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Vincentian Home
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Vincentian Child Development Center
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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

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING ABOUT VINCENTIAN
“Thank you for the tender loving care you have given mom…”

CONGRATULATIONS!
“Spring Into Riches” Winners

Grand Prize Winner $2,000  Mary Helen Cerna
2nd Place Winner $1,000  Georgine Lucas
3rd Place Winners $500  Jerome Marinzel, Carol Struth

United Way and CFC Giving: Think of Us!
The United Way and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) giving season will soon be upon us. If your workplace participates in one of these programs, please think of your favorite Vincentian ministry as you consider your gift. Donor choice designation numbers are located on this page for your convenience. Thank you for your generosity!

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!

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