



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home

Serving the elderly poor in Virginia since 1874

Mission Statement

As Little Sisters of the Poor, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Our Home in Virginia

Following St. Jeanne Jugan's example throughout our 141 years in Virginia, the Little Sisters of the Poor have relied on God's Providence, manifested through the kindness of benefactors, to continue our work of caring for the elderly poor. A financial statement is available upon request from the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.

**Little Sisters of the Poor
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged
1503 Michaels Road
Henrico, VA 23229**

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Members of our community come together each year for a beautiful evening in support of our Home. Here, guests Guy Davis, Meg Johnson, Rachel Davis, and Kathleen Redmond catch up before dinner.

Rising to the Challenge at the 42nd Annual Benefit Dinner

Blustering through the doors of the Commonwealth Club on a jet of chilly winter air, guests shed thick winter coats to reveal dapper suits, elegant dresses, and million dollar smiles, all the accoutrements of a wonderful evening. As the minutes ticked by and the room began to fill and ring with cheerful voices, Sisters wove in and out of the crowd greeting dear friends of the Home and new guests alike.

At the 42nd Annual Benefit Dinner, generosity was the theme, as 274 members of our community came together for a lovely evening in support of our Home. Up for auction were six exciting items, like a vacation at a beautiful private home in Hilton Head or a six course, authentic French dinner by world-renowned chef and friend of the Home Paul Elbling.

As auctioneer Stokes McCune amped up the energy, eager hands began to fly up as dinner attendees made a bid for their favorite item. Spirited challenges ensued for some items as bidders attempted to beat out

the 'competition' to take home their desired prize.

As the first auction wound down, Annual Dinner Chair Tom Benedetti took to the podium to introduce the Mother's Challenge portion of the evening, touching on the importance of the Challenge in raising funds for critical projects for the Home. Attendees were treated to a lovely, lighthearted song written by Sr. Jeanne Emmanuel and sung by all the Sisters to the tune of Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory, leaving the crowd laughing, smiling, and ready to give! We were truly astonished as the bids continued to roll in, as dinner attendees generously pledged to contribute to this year's project—the unexpected, costly, and unavoidable repairs to the front entrance ramp.

By the end of the evening, over \$220,000 had been raised for our Home! We are so grateful for all of our wonderful friends and benefactors, new and old, who came out on a chilly winter night to support our dear Residents.

Little Sisters of the Poor



Thank you for continually providing for the needs of our Residents, ensuring that they always have a comfortable, safe, and happy home. Your love and support helps put smiles on these faces every day!

2015: A Year in Review

As 2016 has gotten well underway, we find ourselves reflecting on all of the wonderful blessings that 2015 brought to our Home. From construction projects to improve the quality and safety of the Home for our Residents to fun outings and activities, there was never a dull moment, and it was a year full of big projects, big events, and countless smiles.

In the beginning of the year, our chapel underwent construction to replace the unreliable and very loud HVAC unit—a true blessing for those who ever sat through roasting hot mass in the summer or chilly mass in the winter, as the old unit was too noisy to turn on during the service. Our Home underwent some big changes to the property and external building structure as well, with the fall bringing the much awaited repaving of the parking lot as well as an urgent and unexpected reconstruction of the front ramp leading into the building. In the repaving process, all exterior lighting was upgraded to LED, increasing energy efficiency and sustainability and minimizing long-term costs.

Special events were in full swing this year as well, with a successful Mother's

Challenge at the 41st Annual Benefit Dinner in February raising the funds for the repaving project. Spring brought another successful French Food Festival where, despite rain and cold temperatures, we were blessed to see loyal members of our community coming out to support the Home. In the fall, we had the opportunity to participate in the excitement of the UCI Road World Championships, meeting with thousands of fans from Richmond and around the world at FanFest and spreading the word about the Little Sisters and our French Food Festival. That same weekend, we took part in the Cathedral's International Food Festival, where we featured signature dishes from two of the talented local Chefs who participate in our festival. Come November, the 38th Annual Christmas Bazaar knocked it out of the park with \$16,000+ in sales of unique handcrafts, frozen entrees, baked goods, snacks, and even a couple dozen of Sr. Teresa's famous cream puffs!

The fundraisers and building updates are all wonderful and necessary, but what was the BEST part of last year? Well, all of the amazing opportunities, events, and activities that our Residents were able to

participate in throughout the year, of course! There were concerts and musical offerings galore, from events right here at the Home like Christmas carols by St. Christopher's second graders to a fabulous a cappella production by the Yale Society of Orpheus and Bacchus, to special trips offsite like Altria Theatre to see the Richmond Pops Band. On Friday nights through the summer the patio was the place to be, with Fridays Cheers offering Residents dinner with fresh fried fish, happy hour, and tunes straight from a DJ. Tea, ice cream, popsicle, and apple cider socials were hosted throughout the year and varied by season, offering a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy refreshments. With all the great options for fun right here, Residents didn't even have to leave the building to get in their entertainment, but our crew loves to get out too! Trips to local treasures like the VMFA or the Holocaust Museum, outings to movies like Cinderella or The Intern, and special lunches at area restaurants filled up the calendar throughout the year, leaving Residents with a bevy of options to choose a couple or take part in everything!

When we reflect on the events of the last year, we are reminded that each of these events, special outings, or updates to our Home are integral parts in our commitment of living the mission of Jeanne Jugan. Each one is a part of building the foundation for our Residents to enjoy the best life has to offer, and as a dear benefactor of our Home you are the most significant piece of that foundation. Nothing that is done here at the Home would be possible without the support we receive daily from people like you, and we are filled with joy, gratitude, and comfort in knowing that with you by our side our Residents will never go without. Thank you for believing in the Little Sisters of the Poor, and for being a shining example of love and generosity in our community. With your continued support, we hope to make 2016 the best year yet!

Around Our Home



Residents, volunteers, and staff spent hours rehearsing to share a beautiful message about mercy with their play *The Merciful Shepherds*. Above, from left to right: Activities Staff member Alex, Resident Carol Lee, Volunteer Mary Freundt, Volunteer Elsie, and Volunteer Ed Miller.

'Acts' of Mercy: Resident Actors Share Meaningful Message

Envision gleaming faces, the bubble of laughter, Residents clapping boisterously in support of their peers—this was the scene as our Resident actors concluded their production of *The Merciful Shepherd* for an audience of volunteers, staff, family, friends, and fellow Residents. The play was a reflection of the unique talents of so many of our Little Sisters of the Poor family, from the scenery painted by Activities Staff member Alex, to the little white sheep handmade by Sister Angela, and of course, most importantly, the energetic performance of our Resident actors. Simultaneously humorous and thoughtful, the production also aimed to remind us all of the message of Pope Francis in this year of mercy: “In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort.”

Girls Get Glam

Some of our Residents experienced a little taste of the ‘glam treatment’ recently with a Spa Day hosted right here in the Home. As a little something special for the ladies, they were treated to a little pampering and primping to bring out that natural beauty we see in them every day.

The ladies loved picking out colors for eyeshadow and lipstick, having their makeup done, and checking out the beautiful results. Edythe Hendrickson enjoyed her makeover so much she happily announced, “I’m going to sleep in this makeup. It’s so beautiful!”



Residents like Edythe Hendrickson, pictured here with staff member Alex, enjoyed getting glam for their Spa Day.



Resident Spotlight: Denise

For Denise, the Little Sisters of the Poor is more than just the place she calls ‘home’—it is a family, and a place where she can live an independent life, something she believes in most ardently. When she speaks of her five living children—4 girls and a boy—it is with delight and tenderness, but she says she always knew that her children must have their lives just as much as she should have her own, with happy visits and holiday gatherings to mark the intersections.

Denise’s story did not begin here, of course, but with a loving husband, a 25 year career in a healthcare facility, and the joy of raising her children. When her husband Floyd passed away at a young age after many years of poor health, she spent a short time of living with her children, but the timing just seemed right for Denise to move into the Jeanne Jugan Pavillion upon its completion in July of 2001. She found herself immediately at home, even volunteering in the kitchen and helping to transport Residents to and from appointments. After twelve years, Denise moved from the apartments into a room on the assisted living floor of our Home, where she could receive more of the care she needed as her health began to decline.

Now, Denise continues to participate in Bingo, Pokeno, and other favorite activities, enjoys twice monthly lunch visits from her brothers, and is thankful for the home she has here, saying “I am so appreciative that God led me to the Little Sisters of the Poor, a beautiful, spiritual place to spend one’s later years of life.”

A Simple Note



What better way to start the New Year than to quote Our Holy Father Pope Francis: “With joy we enter into the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which is a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective” (Misericordiae Vultus 3).

Jesus’ Fifth Beatitude- “Blessed are the merciful”-embodies a major part of the Christian message. In Luke

6:37, we read: “Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

I have been astounded by the outpouring of “Merciful Love” manifested by all of you, our devoted supporters, during the beautiful season of giving. By this token, all of you have been “Witnesses of Divine Mercy.” We are so blessed to have you as part of our family of St. Jeanne Jugan and you may be certain that you have made a difference in the lives of God’s Elderly Poor. As much as we depend on your support, please be assured of our prayerful support for you and your family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **8th Annual RVA French Food Festival**
Friday, April 29 - Saturday 30, 2016
1503 Michaels Rd
*Sponsorship opportunities are still available for RVA French Food Festival 2016. Please contact Corinne Waldrop at ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org for more information.
- **39th Annual Christmas Bazaar**
Saturday, November 12, 2016
9:00am to 2:00pm
1503 Michaels Rd

We are blessed with the generous support of Allegra Design, Print, Mail who helped us with the printing of this newsletter; xpedx, who donated the paper; and ColorTree Inc., who donated the printed envelopes. This newsletter would not be possible without them!

Vist us at www.littlesistersofthepoorvirginia.org

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