



# 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 142 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.*

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

Vol. 6 No. 2  
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Jonathan Austin performs his Richmond-famous juggling act for festival-goers to enjoy while listening to the lovely tunes of Barry Bless on accordion.

## Sunny Skies and Smiles

### 9th Annual RVA French Food Festival

Whether it's 40 degrees and pouring rain or a sizzling 90 with sunny skies, the Richmond community has shown the Little Sisters that we can count on their support. This year's 9th Annual RVA French Food Festival brought the heat, the sun, and all the French flavor and fun your heart could desire!

The key to growing a great food festival (besides contributing to a great cause), is having the best chefs and culinary talent you can find. We are so grateful and excited that we were able to welcome back Chef Michael McClure from Lulu's, Chef Sean Murphy from The Reserve, and of course Master Chef Paul Elbling, who, after last year's success, was determined to offer his dishes on Friday evening as well. Also joining us this year was Chef Michael Crowley from Patina.

The addition of Friday night last year went over better than we had even anticipated, so we were excited to continue growing and improving this year. We are so pleased to report that we more than **DOUBLED** the sales on Friday evening this year! With your support, we know we can just keep getting better and raising more money for the care of Virginia's elderly poor.

Uncharacteristically warm weather left Saturday's crowd lining up for wine slushies faster than we could make them, while the little ones cooled off with some ice cream after a round in the bounce house. Festivalgoers enjoyed perusing the Marketplace for unique gifts, trinkets, and even a mobile, air conditioned clothing boutique!

Despite the obstacles that arise when

# Little Sisters of the Poor



planning an event of this size, we are so often encouraged by the rallying cry of our community. Time and time again, members of the community have stepped forward, offering their time, their money, their services. From Martin's, who donated the freezer trucks for our food, and Kelleher Heating and Oil who provided the diesel to keep them running, to Keaney Produce and Gourmet who donated fresh fruits and vegetables for our chefs, to the many volunteers who staffed the 513 volunteer spots needed for the festival, we have support from start to finish.

Like any great production, the people behind the scenes are the true unsung heroes. Volunteer teams dedicate evenings months in advance to baking cream puffs, helped secure marketplace vendors and publicity, coordinated volunteer recruitment, and chopped vegetables for our chefs, among many

other important tasks. This year we were also blessed to have four Knights of Columbus Councils from the Richmond area join us to assist our guest chefs and make sure everything ran smoothly in their tents from prep to clean up!

Whether you're helping with planning and preparation, volunteering the day-of, sponsoring the event, or even just showing up hungry and ready to buy some yummy French treats, YOU are the French Food Festival. You are our family, and your efforts are essential to our success.

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to our captains, volunteers, chefs, and sponsors, especially Page Auto Group, for their many years as our Grand Event Sponsor. When you're out in the community, please consider supporting some of our wonderful sponsors, and thank them for helping the elderly poor.

## Want to be a Sponsor of FFF 2018?

Do you have or know a company that would be interested in having their logo up at the French Food Festival, or being included in our publicity? Or maybe you just want to be a bigger part of our success? We offer numerous sponsorship opportunities, and believe it or not we are already working on next year's event (to

be held April 27-28)! If you're interested in finding out more, please contact our Special Events Coordinator Corinne Waldrop at 804-377-4629 or [ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org). We're happy to work with you to create a sponsorship package that works for you, and would love to have you on board!

## Thank you to our sponsors!

Presented by



With support from



# Around Our Home



Ann Schlusser and Chloe Schneider spend quality time chatting with Resident Ruth Anne Blakely helping her make a beautiful door hanger craft.

## St. Bridget's Family Day

On a recent Family Day of Service, parishioners from St. Bridget's Catholic Church banded together to provide needed aid to local organizations in support of their missions. The project offered a wonderful opportunity for families and parishioners to spend time together serving their community, teaching their younger members the value of giving back. Here at the Little Sisters of the Poor, the kids put on musical performances, helped Residents with a craft, and spent time chatting and laughing.

We are so grateful to the parishioners of St. Bridget's for choosing our Home, and for bringing such joy to our Residents. It is such a blessing to see the support from all levels of our community, from the tiniest little one to the adults, and we are thankful for the lasting relationships formed with every visit.



Resident Marcelline Newman grins while playing with Teddy Smith, one of St. Bridget's tiniest parishioners.



Annabelle Seeley shows off her handiwork on the fun craft made with the visitors from St. Bridget's.



## Toys for Thrifty : School Hosts Charitable Drive

Recently, students and parents from St. Edward-Epiphany Catholic School hosted a toy drive for Thrifty Sisters, the thrift store begun in 2012 to help provide funding for our Home. Organized by a Thrifty Sisters volunteer and mother of three students at the school, the drive collected about 100 gently used toys—everything from baby dolls and stuffed animals to puzzles and games, to be sold at the store.

Are you getting ready to do some Spring cleaning and don't know what to do with everything in that spare closet? Bring it over to Thrifty Sisters—you'll clear up space in your house and do a good deed at the same time! Every item donated to the store directly impacts the elderly poor, as proceeds from the store are donated back to the Home.

Love thrifting? Check out Thrifty Sisters' unique selection of goods, and help support the Little Sisters and our Residents at the same time!



### Thrifty Sisters

8911 Patterson Avenue  
Henrico, VA 23229

Open Tue - Sat 10am to 4pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

804-658-4153

[www.thriftysistersva.org](http://www.thriftysistersva.org)

# A Simple Note



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the events of the year so far, I cannot help but to be struck by one thing: the overwhelming spirit of generosity bestowed upon our Residents by the community.

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, recognized the importance of

the collective effort of a city in caring for the elderly poor, and that principle is still at work here in our Home. Whether it be by participating in the Annual Dinner or French Food Festival, coming to the Home to volunteer or visit with the Residents, serving on our Advisory Board, or making monetary or inkind donations in support of our day to day operations, you are caring for the elderly poor.

When you support our Home and work in service of our mission in whatever way you can, you become a member of our family and an instrumental piece of the puzzle working in service to the elderly poor. With your kindness, you ensure our Residents know that they are never alone with the support of an entire community around them.

Blessings,

Mother Marie Edward

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner

With the Annual Benefit Dinner, one thing becomes clear: the loyalty our donors have to this Home and our Residents runs deep. Begun 43 years ago in an attempt to bring the Home out of a period of financial difficulty, the dinner hosts some of the same faces that were in the room all those years ago. It is a tradition of generosity, and an evening that is not to be missed!



With sponsorships, donations, 'ticket' sales, and the auction, this year's dinner raised \$148,090! We were excited to have many wonderful items up for auction again this year, including a vacation to a Tuscan villa. Franco Ambrogi, whose family the villa belongs to, even stood up to act as auctioneer, offering THREE trips instead of the one expected, really bringing everyone into the spirit of the auction.

Additionally, this year's Mother's Challenge presented a dilemma our guests just could not say no to: the critical repair and replacement of the Home's fire alarm system. As always, our donors stepped up to the plate and gave generously--this year's Challenge income was \$87,300, money that will be used exclusively for the fire alarm project.

We are blessed with the generous support of Allegra Marketing, Print, Mail, who helped us with the printing of this newsletter; Veritiv, 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](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorVirginia.org)

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