



# 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 138 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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Left: Kathleen Nienaber and Patrick Belton chat during the cocktail portion of the Annual Benefit Dinner evening. Right: Advisory Board Member, Tiff Armstrong, poses with wife, Kelly, at the Commonwealth Club.

## Old and New Friends Alike

### Join to Raise Funds at Benefit Dinner

Jovial spirits and generous hearts filled the ballroom at the Commonwealth Club for the Little Sisters of the Poor's 39th Annual Benefit Dinner. With a record turnout of 315 people, long-time attendees mingled with many new faces whom we were delighted to meet. The evening's three co-chair couples, Michael and Beth Siewers, Chris and Lisa Brennan, and Chris and Katherine Nott hosted the elegant evening in honor of the Little Sisters and our dear Residents.

While guests socialized over their first course, the evening got off to a great start with a lively auction. With packages ranging from dinners for 20 to a week stay at an exclusive villa in Honduras, the bidding was fast and furious. One of the many highlights of the auction included two parties bidding on Chef Paul's famous 6-course dinner for 10 and going for a record \$17,000 - each!

The rest of the evening was spent

enjoying delicious food and even better company before the evening concluded with Mother's Challenge. Before Mother Paul took to the podium to pose this year's challenge, the Sisters performed a humorous "thank you" song which was sung to the tune of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." When the singing ended, everyone got busy making pledges to meet Mother's challenge to raise \$50,000 for upgrades to the nurse call system.

Overall, the evening's guests donated more than \$220,000 to ensure the elderly poor continue to have a Home with the Little Sisters of the Poor. Thank you to all who helped support our mission through this wonderful event, and a special thanks to this year's Seraphim and Cherubim event sponsors:



# Little Sisters of the Poor



Sr. Mary Chantal smiles with the group of students who lived and volunteered at the Home over their spring break. From left, Lauren McCook, Bridget Ward, Adrienne Doebrick, Anna Bninski, Matt Cafarella, and Logan McCann.

## Selfless Spring Break

During Spring Break, we hosted a group of students from UVA Campus Ministry, who chose to serve others selflessly during their vacation time. It was a mutually beneficial experience, and we hope that it becomes an annual tradition.

The six students used our Home as their “base” for the week, and brought their talents to several other local agencies in addition to working hard with us. Sharing meals with our Residents let the students know them as persons. They helped us with some “serious” tasks, including window washing, mopping and

sealing our new dining room floors, and getting our porches ready for spring.

The Little Sisters of the Poor has a Summer Program for College Students which enables qualified individuals to spend the summer working with us in a paid experience with room and board provided. Students may work in Homes in the U.S. or abroad. Please contact our Vocations Coordinator, Sr. Joseph Marie, at [vocrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:vocrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org) for more information about this great opportunity.

## Cause for Applause

Our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, always said: “Making the Residents happy, that is what counts!” All of our employees strive to live out this motto every day for the Residents. The Jeanne Jugan Award was created to recognize those employees who go above and beyond as they carry out the mission of the Home and the Little Sisters.

Each year, our employees nominate a coworker they feel most exemplifies the qualities of Saint Jeanne Jugan. Diane Alley, our Home’s Bookkeeper, was voted as our most recent recipient. Diane’s dedication to our Residents, cheerful spirit and willingness to help those around her made her a clear choice for such an outstanding honor. We are all very proud of Diane and congratulate her on a much-deserved designation.



Jeanne Jugan Award winner, Diane Alley, poses with Sr. Jeanne Emmanuel after her award presentation.

## Connecting All Things French - RVA French Food Festival

The 5th Annual RVA French Food Festival is coming up on Saturday, April 20 from 11:00am-9:00pm. This event brings thousands of people out to our Home to enjoy gourmet French food, wine and beer, live jazz music, a Parisian marketplace, kid’s activities, and so much more. Sponsored by Bon Secours and the Page Auto Group, this community-wide “can’t-miss” event is connecting all things French in Richmond in order to raise funds for the care of the Little Sisters’ elderly Residents. For more information about the festival, or to sign up to volunteer, please visit the event website at [www.rvafrenchfoodfestival.com](http://www.rvafrenchfoodfestival.com).



# Around Our Home



## Valentine Deliveries

Thanks to a visit from some cheerful CarMax employees, Valentine's Day was a little sweeter for everyone at our Home! These special visitors brought unique handmade Valentine's for all of our Residents and personally delivered them door-to-door. The Residents delighted in the sweet surprise of opening up their doors to see beaming faces and cute cards made just for them. This personal gesture and greeting helped bring smiles to each of our Residents' faces and reminded them that they are loved. Pictured above is Resident Kathleen Yates with several of the CarMax employees.

## Rock 'n' Roll

Our family here at Little Sisters of the Poor is very large and ever-growing. It includes not only the Residents, Staff, Little Sisters and Volunteers, but also all of our benefactors and the family members of our Residents- even after a Resident has gone to Heaven.

Josephine "Jo" Towner, a Resident for 10 years, loved music and parties. Melody Martin, Jo's daughter, and her co-workers at Luck Stone had been planning a Rock 'n' Roll party for the Residents when Jo went to her eternal reward last November.

This year, they were able to host the party, and although we all missed having Jo there to rock to the music, the group put on one

rockin' party we won't soon forget.

They set up all the decorations and even had a DJ come and spin great rock 'n' roll music throughout the party. The Residents loved dancing and even just listening to familiar tunes in between snacking on old favorites, including ice cream sundaes and root beer floats.

Melody, when describing the party, said "the smiles on the Residents' faces - that is what it is all about. It was so cool to see them having so much fun!"



*Jeanne Jugan Pavilion Resident Beth Nolan and Activities Director, Brenda Hooker, try their hand at dancing to some songs of the past.*



*The ground has been broken and preparation for the installation of our new whole-home generator has begun. Above, a crane lowers the generator into place onto a concrete pad.*

## Generating Activity

The ten Little Sisters currently serving here in Virginia have served in Homes around the world and have vast experience with what is involved in caring for the elderly during emergency situations. They have witnessed first-hand the dangers and risks of evacuating a Home, and the complications that arise when there is extended loss of sufficient power especially for those who are frail.

Although we had a small back-up generator, it was capable of meeting only the barest of needs. That is why the Little Sisters knew that it was imperative for our Home to have a generator powerful enough to maintain our food supplies and allow meal preparation, permit us to do the laundry, run computers and use power equipment for lifting and bathing devices as well as oxygen concentrators and other medical equipment, not to mention air conditioning and adequate lighting.

With the help of our Advisory Board and other committed volunteers and benefactors, we have been able to raise the more than \$423,000 we needed to purchase and install a 600 kW emergency generator that will allow our Residents to remain in place during the event of a severe weather event. We are so very grateful to all who contributed to this special project, and we are pleased to report that installation should be complete early this spring.

# Mother's Musings

BY: MOTHER PAUL MARY



If one kind act surpasses millions of words, then there is no wonder that St. Joseph has been considered the patron and protector of the Little Sisters of the Poor throughout our history. We have always gone to him with our special needs, and have no doubt that he is the silent partner of our collecting sisters when they are seeking help to care for the elderly poor. There is not a word of his found anywhere in the scriptures; he is a “doer,” not a “talker.” His official titles

are: Patron of Workers and Patron of the Dying.

Every Little Sister has stories from our communal history, and from her personal life about the help he has given. They are not superstitious, nor are they told to make people think that if they carefully fulfill certain conditions or say a magic prayer a specific number of times, all their wishes will be fulfilled. Our prayers are absolutely open to God's plans in all things; but just like hearing our requests from his Mother, we know that the humble requests of Jesus' foster-father “put our needs out there” better than we could ever do it. Joseph spent his life in humble service, in sacrificing his existence totally for those with whom he shared his life. What better mentor or intercessor could we have?

St. Joseph was above all, a man of faith. During this year of Faith, whether trying to sell your house, get a job, or deal with serious illness, we know that St. Joseph will be there to help you, as he does for us. And when you ask us to pray for your intentions, we will do it. Because for our part, we have everything to be thankful for.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendars!

- **50's Sock Hop Dance for Thrifty Sisters**  
Friday, April 12  
St. Mary's School, Richmond
- **5th Annual French Food Festival**  
Saturday, April 20 at 11:00a.m.-9:00p.m.  
1503 Michaels Road
- **Sr. Teresa's Waffle & Omelet Breakfast**  
Sunday, October 13, 2013

We are blessed with the generous support of Printing Services Inc., 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!

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorvirginia.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorvirginia.org)

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