



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 144 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. 7 No. 2
Summer 2018



Left: Master Chef Paul Elbling, with his wife Marie Antoinette, is honored by Mother Marie on behalf of the Home for 10 years of dedicated service to the festival. Right: Knights of Columbus volunteers cook up tasty shrimp and grits in the Cajun tent.



Cheers to TEN Years!

French Food Festival Celebrates Record-Breaking Anniversary

Turning a decade old is a mile marker worth celebrating—and celebrate we did at this year's RVA French Food Festival! With the dedication, talent, and support of five guest chefs, 12 tent captains, 450+ volunteers, thousands of festivalgoers, Grand Event Sponsor Page Auto Group, and our other sponsors, we are thrilled to announce that the festival was BY FAR our most successful yet!

As we look back, we find ourselves transported right back to festival weekend—it was a gorgeous, cloudless day and the air was nearly buzzing with chatter, the chipper tune of a saxophone, and that sweet melody of scents that has become a familiar friend these ten years. A quick jaunt around the grounds brought one face to face with children laughing and playing games or couples hand-in-hand perusing the marketplace or sharing bites from a crepe piled high with strawberries

and cream. The grassy area that once held only seating was this year home to a second stage, and an even bigger line-up of musical entertainment kept toes tapping and friends swinging to the beat, under the twinkle of new café lights. Really, we sometimes had to pinch ourselves to remember we had not tapped our heels and ended up on the streets of Paris.

In all those fond memories, we are reminded of how it all came to be, and how many hearts and hands work together to keep it going. From humble beginnings, the festival now spans two days, welcomes thousands from the Richmond area and beyond, and this year raised over \$200,000 for the elderly poor.

Over the years we've built a reputation for great food, a great time, and a great cause—the buzz generated about town this year began early, and *(continued on pg 2)*

Little Sisters of the Poor

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without prompting. Talk of the festival was everywhere, from Facebook posts to radio spots, in magazine ads and newspaper articles, even on billboards around the city and local blogger's sites. Our advertising dollars stretched further as television stations contacted US for interviews, and we were delighted to spread the word about the festival and the mission of the Little Sisters here in Virginia.

With increased attention and a well-deserved reputation for excellence, attendance hit an all-time high this year as well. While Friday evening drew more young people and the after-work crowd, Saturday brought out families and kids eager to take a turn at the bounce house or check out one of Jonathan Austin's fun juggling shows. At peak hours, festivalgoers walked from blocks away just to get in on the fun!

As with any great production, of course, it is often the unseen players who are most deserving of recognition, and we have quite the 'cast' to thank. From the amazing chefs who took time away from their restaurants and families to cook up the best festival fare around, to the Knights of Columbus councils who stepped in to support those chefs, and the dedicated crew of tent captains who take charge of their areas, there is no doubt we have some of the best volunteers around.

There is one secret treasure, though, whose humble heart and true love for the Little Sisters and our Residents has kept her tucked in the shadows,

refusing recognition—Event Chair, Wanda Vizcaino. Wanda spends hundreds of hours throughout each year securing chefs, seeking out talented entertainment, planning out the menus, finalizing layouts, and much more. She's always the last to leave and not afraid to do the dirty work; if you drove by the Monday after the festival, you may have seen her filling dumpsters with extra trash to make sure the grounds were clean for our Residents. Her dedication, vision, and incredible work ethic have made this festival what it is today, and we are endlessly thankful and blessed to call her a friend.

To all those who have supported us over the years, whether by donating, volunteering, or just coming to enjoy the day, we thank you, too. To our sponsors, your generosity—be it through the donation of goods or services that help us stay under budget, or financial contributions to cover expenses—has allowed the festival to continually grow and raise more funds each year for our elderly. When you are out in the community, consider supporting those who support our Home—you couldn't find more genuine, reliable, and generous people to do business with!

So, with another year in the books (the record books, for sure!), we look back with grateful hearts to the many blessings bestowed upon us by our community. Here's to ten joyful, blessed years of French food, flavor, and plenty of fun—we're excited to keep the good times going!



Grand Event Sponsor:



Additional Sponsors:



In Kind Partners:



Welcome Sister Claire and Sister Rose Marie!



We are so excited to have Sister Claire here supervising our second floor assisted living Residents. Some of you may remember her, as Sister Claire served in this Home several years ago. Welcome back, Sister Claire!



Sister Rose Marie has been busy meeting with donors already—as our new Begging Sister, she's had a great intro to Virginia! We're so happy to have her on board and hitting the ground running already. Welcome, Sister Rose Marie!

Around Our Home



Resident Sunni Southward shares jokes and smiles while helping staff member C.J. Meade prepare some tasty fried fish at the FryDay Cheers party for fellow Residents.

A 'Fryday' Soiree

Residents celebrated the start of sunnier skies, long days, and cool treats with a special FryDay Cheers social on the patio. Bistro lights twinkled as the sun dipped behind the trees, and the smell of fried fish and oysters prepared by Maintenance Supervisor/Fish Fry-er Extraordinaire C.J. Meade brought Residents flocking down to start the party. D.J. Spark spun some classic tunes and Residents laughed and danced and enjoyed summer bbq staples like mac and cheese, baked beans, and cornbread. It was the perfect start to a summer of great fun here at the Home, and we are so grateful to all who help make events like these possible for our Residents.

A Taste of Jazz

If you had made your way to the auditorium on a Thursday afternoon lately, you may have thought you took a wrong turn and ended up in a little coffee shop in New Orleans. As midday bled into the cozy calm of afternoon, Residents made their way to a dimly lit auditorium, gathering around round tables with friends. Volunteers and staff brought around plates of fresh baked cookies and coffee—plain black or with a bit of sugar for those who like classics, or with a heaping scoop of vanilla ice cream for the more adventurous!

As friend of the Home Lou Stevens serenaded to them with some of her favorite Jazz tunes, Residents hummed along and swayed to the beat. It was such a fun afternoon to be surrounded by friends and 'family.'



Resident Ruth Anne Blakely samples fresh baked cookies offered by a volunteer at the 'Jazz Cafe.'



Summer Fashion & Decor Heats Up at Thrifty Sisters

You know the feeling you get when you shimmy into a great new-to-you sundress or finally find the perfect lamp or piece of art for your living room? Imagine doubling that feeling, knowing that those dollars you spent went to provide a meal or a warm bed for an elderly Virginian in need. That is exactly what happens when you choose Thrifty Sisters for your summer shopping!

Aside from carrying some of the finest, most unique clothing, housewares, and more in all the Richmond area, Thrifty Sisters donates proceeds to our Home to care for our dear elderly Residents. There really is no better way to feel good about that shopping spree you're dying to go on than to support those more needy.

We will never stop shouting from the rooftops how wonderful Thrifty Sisters is, but by now we don't even need to—the store was recently awarded the impressive #2 spot for Best Thrift or Consignment Store in Style Weekly's 'Best of Richmond' issue! Congratulations to Thrifty Sisters and the volunteers that work so hard to keep the store stocked with great goods, beautiful displays, and friendly faces!

In case you've never visited the store, it is located at 8911 Patterson Avenue, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

A Simple Note



Dear Friends,

This May, the Residents' hearts were renewed with the energy of youth. For a week, 23 students from Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Mary Washington visited our Home, infusing the love of Jesus as they beautified our gardens, visited and dined with our Residents, and even shared in a lively drum circle. We are so grateful for their visit! This is just one of several visits we will enjoy with University and Catholic young adult groups in our Home this summer.

We will celebrate the Feast Day of Our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, on August 30th with Holy Mass in our chapel. We will again be blessed with the presence of His Excellency, Bishop Barry C. Knestout. All are welcome to join us at 11:00am.

This brings us back to our humble beginnings in joyful recognition of our 150th Anniversary in the United States! Our Little Sisters arrived in New York on September 13, 1868. If not for these pioneer Little Sisters' fortitude to do the Will of God, and the ongoing generosity of kind benefactors like you, we would not be celebrating 150 years of service to America's elderly poor.

According to an old Chinese proverb, "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody." So, THANK YOU for your help!

Mother Marie

IMPORTANT DATES

■ **St. Jeanne Jugan's Feast Day**
August 30, 2018
Mass at 11AM

■ **Birdies for Charity**
Pledge a lump sum or per birdie in the PGA tournament to support our Home. Pledges made to LSP will be received with a 10% matched donation from Dominion Energy Charity Classic! Go to www.littlesistersofthepoorvirginia.org and click on this logo to find out more.



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

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