



Providing an affordable, loving home and quality assisted care for older adults who have limited financial means.

RESIDENTS RETURN TO “SUPER” ACTIVITIES!

With COVID restrictions easing, a new activity calendar brings fun and community

Life at Saint Francis Home has looked much different over these many months of quarantine, but with COVID beginning to come under control and most Residents and staff now vaccinated, a little bit of “normal” is creeping over the horizon! With careful planning and following strict CDC guidelines for health and safety, we have slowly begun reintroducing Resident activities.

Program Director Fajr Mills joined our community in late February and has been busy filling the calendar with new, exciting activities to encourage Residents to come together once again in fellowship and fun. From “Snacking Around the World,” where Residents savor goodies from across the globe, to live music in the courtyard, to everyday favorites like chair aerobics, book club, and themed Bingo, there is a little something for everyone, with each activity specially tailored to all levels of cognitive and physical ability. Though some

Residents have been apprehensive about returning to group activities, with a little reassurance from staff and friends, more and more are venturing out of their rooms to participate, and spirits are lifting.

For our Residents, Saint Francis Home is more than just a place to lay their heads—it is their home, their community, and a place to stay social, engaged, and entertained. Thank you for your support, which makes it possible for the Residents to have life-enriching opportunities like these to foster their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. As we near the close of our fiscal year on June 30th, please consider making a donation to our Annual Fund. Your gifts help bridge the gap between our Residents’ financial capacity and the cost of the quality care they deserve. Gifts to the Annual Fund are a “super” way to help ensure quality activities and services for those who need us most. ✚



Residents are experiencing the joys of community once more since activities resumed! For Superhero Day, Beverly Saylor and Food Service Assistant Lenora Dixon donned flashy capes, while Elsie Jones played games as the Hulk! Twin day had Claude Dillard and Front Desk Concierge Tyrell Short showing off their matching duds!

WE'RE DITCHING THE COVID BLUES AND WE NEED YOU!

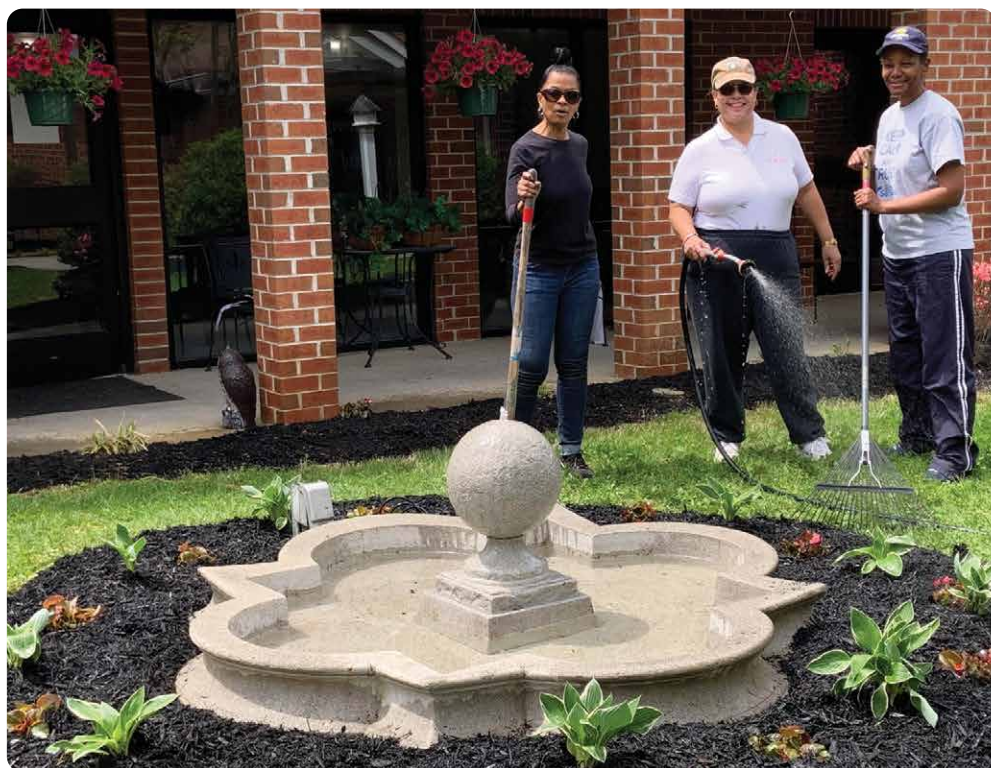
Join Saint Francis Home to make a difference in your community and bring smiles to the faces of our Residents! With a lot of new activities being added, we're working hard to bring Residents out of the COVID blues, but we need your help to make it happen! As we safely move into

a new phase of daily life, we are thrilled to once again begin opening our doors to volunteers.

An integral part of our community, volunteers can help enrich the lives of Residents and support our mission in so many ways. Whether you are interested in helping with activities (bus drivers to bring Residents to off premises activities, board game aficionados, crafters, readers), assisting with resident care (one-on-one socialization, transportation, being an advocate for medical appointments), or contributing to household chores (bed making, laundry, gardening, sewing) we want to hear from you!

Spending just a few hours a week or whenever you have them to spare can make a tremendous impact in the lives of our Residents. We know you have the heart, would you consider lending us a hand? ✚

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, reach out to Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator Fajr Mills at (804) 237-5604 or fmills@SaintFrancisHome.com.



Volunteers Deborah Johnson, Delta Bowers, and Ann Hill from the Chickahominy River Women's Society donated plants, mulch, and their green thumbs to beautify the courtyard. We're grateful for their labor of love!

SPRING (AND HOPE) HAVE SPRUNG AT SAINT FRANCIS HOME

With warmer weather, longer days, and a slow return to normalcy, Residents are venturing outdoors for fresh air and a little bit of sunshine. A few have also been volunteering to help beautify their home by enthusiastically participating in a series of spring planting and garden activities that have been unfolding, bringing new life to the grounds.

Wheelchair-accessible flower beds allow Residents of all abilities to be hands-on at every step, digging their fingers in the dirt and carefully tending to each seedling. Their faithful nurturing has created a beautiful oasis for

all to enjoy, including the birds and butterflies that visit to appreciate the new flowers and birdfeeders.

While gathered in the courtyard, Residents chat with fellow gardeners, offering precious moments of connection and community after so many months of COVID isolation. As we watch flowers bloom and our courtyard come alive again, we cannot help but be reminded of the resilience of our Residents—after a long, hard winter, they are “blooming” again too. We are so grateful for the support of donors and friends who make these kinds of projects possible and allow the Residents to experience the hope and joy of new life this spring! ✚



Jackie Dennis and Scott Buchanan are among the Residents who enjoy tending the garden and feeding the birds.



AN ANSWER TO A PRAYER

For Resident Philip Liga, Saint Francis Home is the home he never imagined needing, but the answer to a prayer. Philip's story begins in Brooklyn, where he was married, owned a home, had a daughter, and worked hard building a successful 22-year career with the United States Postal Service. When he lost his job, though, Philip faced a series of unexpected hardships that turned his life in a direction he could not have anticipated. While raising their grandchild and with Philip struggling to find work to adequately replace his former salary and help make the mortgage, stress and financial difficulties caused friction in his relationship with his wife. In what felt like one fell swoop, he lost his career, his home, and then his marriage, and soon after was diagnosed with cancer. By the grace of God, Philip's cancer treatment was successful, but he was

dealt yet another blow when his estranged wife was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and soon passed away.

Left to raise his granddaughter on his own, Philip soon found that she was struggling in school and needed a change of pace, so when she reconnected with her mother, who lived in Richmond, it seemed the right time to make a change. As they made arrangements for his granddaughter to move in with her mother, Philip began searching for a place to live, but discovered that assisted living costs far exceeded his resources and what he had been able to set aside after his health struggles and hardships depleted his pension and savings.

This is where his story merges with Saint Francis Home, which offered the affordable, stable home he was looking for. Though raised Catholic, Philip had not practiced in many years, and had just recently returned to the church shortly before relocating to Richmond.

When he discovered Saint Francis Home, it felt like just the right fit. “I never thought I'd end up in a place like this,” Philip said, “It's safe, it's clean, and it came along just when I needed it.” Philip has called Saint Francis Home “home” for eight years, has formed close relationships with other Residents, and has enjoyed volunteering in the chapel and helping other Residents get to Mass. After a year of quarantine, Philip says he is happy to attend Mass in person once again and is looking forward to visiting with his two-year-old great-granddaughter someday soon!

At Saint Francis Home, we believe quality care and a safe place to call home should not be a luxury reserved for only those with the biggest pocketbooks. Your support allows hardworking, resilient people like Philip the opportunity to find joy and new life in their golden years, without worrying that their financial resources perhaps will not be enough. ✚



Philip has become the Sacristan for each Mass, and works with our priest celebrants in preparation for services.

WAYS TO GIVE

- **Father's Day Memorial/Honorarium** – Making a gift that will help provide an affordable home and care for low-income seniors is a beautiful way to pay tribute to your father.
- **Planned Giving** – By including Saint Francis Home in your will and estate plans you can continue to impact the mission of the Home after your lifetime.
- **IRA Required Distribution** – If you're 70 ½ or older, the IRS requires you to take a minimum distribution from your IRA each year. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution could prevent you from an additional tax burden.
- **Employer Matching Gift** – Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program to increase the impact of your donation.

Visit our website at www.SaintFrancisHome.com for more ways you can support our mission.



65 West Clopton Street
Richmond, Virginia 23225
www.SaintFrancisHome.com

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit #2367

We are grateful to a member of the Saint Francis Home Board of Directors whose donation made this publication possible.

A NEW HOME FOR A TREASURED TRADITION

Annual Dinner to Benefit Saint Francis Home

Though the major Coronavirus difficulties are beginning to fade into the background, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our beloved Blue Grass Blue Crab Festival again this year. While we are sad to miss another festival, we are excited to announce we have been presented with a wonderful opportunity to become the new host and beneficiary of an Annual Benefit Dinner that was started more than 45 years ago to support Richmond's elderly poor. The event will take place **January 27, 2022**, at the Commonwealth Club, in downtown Richmond.

We are honored to have been entrusted with the legacy of an event that has done so much good over the years, and are grateful to co-chairs Jerry and Margaret Keightley and Alex and Katie Sleeker who are already hard at work planning our first year with this event.

As in the past, the Annual Benefit Dinner will include a gourmet menu, cocktails, and a live auction. If you are interested in becoming an event sponsor, would like to



*Event co-chairs Alex and Katie Sleeker and Margaret and Jerry Keightley are looking forward to the Annual Benefit Dinner to be held at the Commonwealth Club on **Thursday January 27, 2022**.*

be added to the invitation list, or think you may have a unique opportunity/item to donate for the live auction, please contact Development Director Christy Heinen at (804) 237-5602 or [cheinen@ SaintFrancisHome.com](mailto:cheinen@SaintFrancisHome.com). ✝

Saint Francis Home is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. Financials are available upon request.