

WAYS TO GIVE

- **Day of Giving** – On October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis, we will be hosting our first ever Day of Giving! Learn how you can be a peer-to-peer fundraiser and use your social media to invite your friends to participate and support Saint Francis Home and our mission by visiting:

GivingDay.SaintFrancisHome.org

- **Benefit Dinner** – Save the date for Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the Commonwealth Club for a formal dinner and live auction! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, have a unique item or experience to donate to the auction, or would like to receive an invitation, please contact Christy Heinen at cheinen@SaintFrancisHome.com or (804) 237-5602.

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

SHOP IN STYLE TO SUPPORT SAINT FRANCIS HOME

Thrifty Sisters Designates Saint Francis Home New Charitable Beneficiary

With the departure of the Little Sisters of the Poor from Richmond, Thrifty Sisters, a Henrico-based, non-profit thrift shop, announced June 1st that Saint Francis Home has been selected as their new charitable beneficiary. Founded in 2012 to provide support to elderly Richmonders who lack the financial means to secure quality, affordable assisted living care, Thrifty Sisters has become recognized as Richmond's curated, go-to thrift shop for women and men's clothing, jewelry, home goods, furniture, books, and other treasures, and has gained a loyal following. As they looked to the future of Thrifty Sisters, a partnership with Saint Francis Home seemed the perfect fit, as our missions are complementary and are blessed to share some of the most wonderful donors and supporters around! We are so proud and grateful to partner with Thrifty Sisters as they continue the legacy of hospitality and generosity which they have built over the last decade and know that together we can provide even greater opportunities and support Richmonders for many, many years to come. ✚



Visit Thrifty Sisters in the Maybeury South Shopping Center to shop their unique collection of thrifted treasures—your purchases will directly help support the Saint Francis Home mission and our Residents!

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

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

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SAINT FRANCIS
HOME

SUMMER 2021

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

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

A SUMMER OF FUN WITH SAINT FRANCIS HOME OLYMPIANS

Residents travelled the world from the comfort of Home with Olympics-themed dining and activities

As the summer heated up, so did some friendly competition here at Saint Francis Home, as our programs and dietary departments joined forces to bring the spirit of the Olympic games to the halls of our Home! It was the perfect opportunity to encourage Residents to get active, out of their rooms, and into the spirit of teamwork and international exploration.

Throughout July, there was a little bit of Olympic 'flavor' sprinkled everywhere, from unique, specially tailored competitions and activities to custom dining options. Taking their tastebuds on a journey around the world, Residents were treated to new specialty menus each week, featuring traditional meals from countries that have hosted the Olympics. While one week they savored oven roasted Pencil served with red beans and rice (Rio, 2016), the next they found themselves transported to the Mediterranean (Athens, 2004), enjoying pastitsios with spanakopita, Greek salad, and decadent, flaky baklava to satisfy a sweet tooth. Each week, along with the delicious cuisine, Residents participated in a variety of crafts and games that paid homage to the Olympic games and the culture and history of the host countries, from crafting Olympic torch centerpieces and origami paper crafts to disc

throwing competitions and relay races. At the end of the month, a special awards ceremony was held to honor our Saint Francis Home Olympians and celebrate their victories.

A big thank you to some of the true champions: our donors, whose generosity makes unique opportunities like these possible. ✚



Residents Frances Williams, Beverly Saylor, and Janet Jackson celebrate their victories at the Olympic awards ceremony in July.

RIDING HIGH WITH CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

When it comes to summer fun, there is nothing quite like those carefree summer days of youth, hopping on



Resident Virginia Johnson and volunteer pilot Susan Grymes (top), take a pit stop for some tasty treats at the food truck that came to the Home. Below, Resident Claude Dillard grins behind his mask while cruising the neighborhood with his pilot, Ben Dacus.

a bike with the wind in your hair, the sun on your face, and zipping around your neighborhood with friends. Thanks to our friends at Cycling Without Age (CWA), our Residents are able to enjoy the simple pleasure of a bike ride once again. Founded on a dream of creating “happiness among our fellow elderly citizens by providing them with an opportunity to remain an active part of society and the local community,” CWA has had an active program at Saint Francis Home since 2017.

Using a special seat called a trishaw on the front of the bike, volunteer “pilots” pedal Residents around local neighborhoods twice a week, sometimes stopping to look at holiday decorations, point out blooming flowers, or listen and even sing along with a neighbor who often sits on his porch strumming a banjo. Volunteer Ben Dacus says CWA turned his love for cycling into an opportunity to give back to the community and shared a story about a Resident named Andy who became a regular rider and friend. “After two years of giving rides to Residents, we’ve gotten to know them, and were saddened when Andy passed away. Several of our core pilots found photos of Andy, turned them into a collage, and gave it to his girlfriend, Jackie. We still talk about Andy and how we miss him.” We are so grateful to CWA, Ben, and all the volunteer pilots for the special moments and memories they bring our Residents, on and off their bikes. ✚

CLAY TO CYANOTYPES – RESIDENT ARTISTS ENJOY CREATIVE CONNECTIONS



Residents Elsie Jones (left) and Regenia Weaver (right) carefully create lovely clay pots, and Residents Diane Thomas and Frances Smith (center) explore Cyanotypes during recent Visual Arts Center visits.

Like any successful endeavor, great partnerships and connections are critical to offering our Residents the best possible experience and resources. While their physical health, safety, and security are our top priorities, we know that there is so much more to life, so we are always searching for new ways to foster Residents’ social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural connections, too.

As part of these efforts, we have recently partnered with the Visual Arts Center of Richmond to offer new opportunities for Residents to express their creativity, explore their hidden talents, learn about art, and interact

with each other and the community. Outings are hosted once a month to the Visual Arts Center to explore current exhibits and participate in small, hands-on classes with Visual Arts instructors, who also visit the Home twice a month to lead classes. From clay molding to cyanotypes, there is always something new and exciting to experience, and there are always lots of smiles after each class and visit.

Thank you to our friends at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond for working with us to share the beauty of Richmond, art, and community with the Residents, and for helping to color their lives with joy and creativity. ✚

LIFE, LOSS, AND LIFTING THE BURDEN

Sometimes, despite the best of plans and even for the best of people, life doesn’t turn out the way you expect. This was true for Resident Mary Haley, who has seen more loss in her lifetime than any one person should. At just 14 years old, when most young people are venturing out with friends and just beginning to discover their place in the world, Mary was caring for her mother as well as a brother who struggled with developmental delays and needed specialized care. In the years that followed, Mary started a family, becoming a mother at 17 to a beautiful little girl she named Claudette, but was left to care for her alone when her partner died before ever meeting their child. She found love again, had another little girl named Alvinette, and was struck once more by loss when Alvinette’s father passed away unexpectedly.

Now a single mother in her twenties, Mary moved to New York, where she worked long hours in difficult jobs to support

her children, everything from working in strawberry farms or fields cutting cauliflower with a machete to a duck plant and then in housekeeping for hotels. As the years passed, Mary found herself once again as a caretaker for her mother and brother, providing for them the best she could while working full time and caring for her young children. After a time, both her mother and brother passed away. Despite it all, Mary pushed on, marrying the true love of her life, Joseph, in her thirties, and finding her passion working in restaurants, where she worked her way up from washing dishes to training to be a sous chef. When she was no longer able to work due to arthritis and bad knees from the toll of her years of tough, physical jobs, lost her leg, and had to give up her dream of a career as a chef, Joseph was there for her.

Still more hardship was not far away. Mary’s daughter, Claudette, passed away suddenly at 54 from heart trouble,

followed by the loss of Joseph ten years ago. After that, Mary moved from one unpleasant situation to another, staying in a private home where she felt taken advantage of and had little help, proper care, or the accommodations to allow her to live safely and comfortably. When she arrived at Saint Francis Home last year, she was slow to warm up, guarded and frustrated by her past experiences, but with the help of caring staff and a little time, she began to open up and share her beautiful personality.

For Mary, whose resilience, grit, and determination carried her through a series of hardships and loss, Saint Francis Home offers stability and a fresh start. After a lifetime of caring for everyone around her, finally, she can have the weight of those responsibilities lifted from her shoulders and enjoy the care and comfort she so deserves. ✚



Resident Mary Haley continues to create in her room when not participating in group art programs.