

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



*Serving the elderly poor
in Chicago since 1876.*

Spring, 2014

ST. MARY'S HOME
2325 N. Lakewood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614



ST. MARY'S HOME

March "Gladness" at St. Mary's

March is an exciting time at St. Mary's Home, and not because of the "madness" that comes with the college basketball championship, although some of our Residents are fans. Actually as the Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Universal Church, the devotion of protector and patron takes on a particular meaning for the Little Sisters.

From the very beginning of our congregation, we have relied on the intercession of St. Joseph for our needs. When Little Sisters make their vows, we are given a small statue of St. Joseph to remind us to turn to him in our time of need. Relying on Divine Providence, St. Jeanne Jugan, our Mother Foundress, instructed her spiritual daughters to avoid endowments. Following her original intent, we do not receive any direct funding from the Archdiocese, corporations or large community foundations such as United Way. She believed that having money saved and living on the interest would not be trusting that God will provide. So began the tradition of Little Sisters going out into the community every day to "beg" for the various needs of our Residents. Currently all of our 76 Residents qualify for Medicaid support and a few receive pensions; this provides only 48% of

our monthly funding requirements. We rely on our benefactors to help us fulfill our mission. (See graph to right). And we turn to St. Joseph all during the year, whenever we have a need. Because God entrusted Jesus and Mary to Joseph, we pray: "God, allow him to continue to do the same for us."

Recently Pope Francis explained that Joseph carries out his role as protector "discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity. . ."

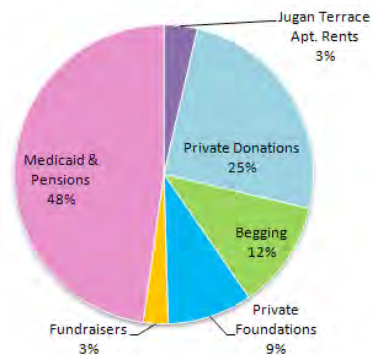
The role of "protector," however, not only involved Christians, but encompasses all people and all of creation. It means respecting ... (and) protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, most especially the elderly – those in need who are often the last we think about. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.

For St. Joseph's feast day March 19, we set up a display to share our special intention for a new, updated nurse call system, an item that is vital to the welfare of our Residents.

As we approach the holy Easter season, we are also mindful of, and grateful for our protector and benefactor St. Joseph.



Funding Sources for St. Mary's Home



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



**Habits on the Green
Golf Outing**
Monday, June 9

Sheffield Garden Walk
Saturday, July 19
Sunday, July 20

**Chez Ste. Marie
Wine Tasting**
Thursday, Aug. 21

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Welcoming Ambassadors of St. Mary's Home

“Good morning, Little Sisters of the Poor,” is a greeting you will often hear when you call St. Mary's Home. Quick to warmly welcome callers and those walking through the door, our reception staff provides a vital communication link, and helps ensure the home's day-to-day business runs smoothly.

Each of our key reception team members has a wide range of experience and many years of service at St. Mary's Home. The team of four — Wanda, Joann, Reese and Carol — are our ambassadors. They are the communication hub directing inbound calls, answering questions, sending messages on the pagers, and keeping track of who is in the building and which Residents have gone out.

Wanda and Joann are the senior staffers with a combined 25 years at St. Mary's. They both joined our team by chance, or perhaps Divine Providence. Wanda heard about our Home through a friend and co-worker and quickly fell in love with the Sisters' mission and the Residents. She marvels at the Sisters' dedication to providing tender care to each Resident.

Joann was reading the paper when a job posting for St. Mary's caught her attention. It has been a short 12 years since she first came, and we hope for many more. Joann

finds the job relaxing and enjoys chatting with Residents throughout the day.

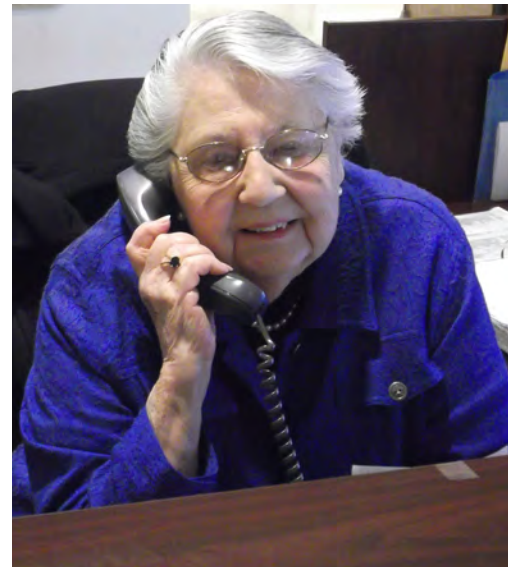
Newer members Carol and Reese came on board when front desk veteran Beverly transferred to occupational therapy. While things at the front desk can be rather hectic, Reese jokes that “coming to work is when I can relax.” She has three children involved in cheerleading, karate and music lessons, to name a few of their activities.

You can count on
a friendly voice
or smile from the
front desk at St.
Mary's Home.

Carol, who also happened upon St. Mary's Home, says she's happy she did. Asked about the best part of the job, she quickly replies, “Meeting everyone.” For leisure, Carol enjoys travelling with her husband to South America to visit his family still living in Lima, Peru, although she does not speak any Spanish.

If your timing is just right, you will see Resident Frances Thomas at the front desk as she covers for a break in the evenings, Tuesday through Sunday. Fran recalled how she began helping: “One of the Sisters asked me one day and now I've been doing it for about a year.” She enjoys helping out when she can and has learned a lot about dealing with people and her neighbors.

Call it reception, front desk, or guest services, this key function can be overlooked or undervalued in some organizations. In reality, a strong front desk operation is the most important point of contact with everyone who calls or walks through the door. Our lobby ambassadors create the first impression of St. Mary's, which means they leave a lasting impression. While the level of activity may vary from day to day and even from minute to minute, you can count on a friendly voice or smile from the front desk at St. Mary's Home.



Resident Frances Thomas helps out at the front desk.

Chicago's Emerald Isle Connection

Chicago has deep Irish roots that go back to the 1840s, a time when many individuals and families migrated to escape the great potato famine. This caused a rapid population increase in Chicago. By the time the Little Sisters of the Poor opened their first Home in Chicago in 1876, the Irish community was aging and many of the less affluent elderly were in need of affordable care.

The Sisters never discriminate based on race, creed, or personal background. But in an Irish city, of course, there would be many Irishmen in their care. There are currently three Irish immigrants at St. Mary's Home – Mary Healy, Teresa McFadden and Mary Collins. And, there are many more Residents of Irish heritage who call 2325 Lakewood home.



Receptionists Wanda Velez and Reese McGowan pose before their shift change.



Resident Profile: Teresa McFadden

**By: Brendan Dempsey,
Development Assistant**

*When Irish eyes
are smiling,*

*Sure, 'tis like the
morn in Spring.*

In the lilt of Irish laughter

*You can hear the
angels sing.*

This famous song came to life as I sat down to talk with Resident Teresa McFadden on the eve of St. Patrick's Day. Chicago's Irish roots are deep, going back to the 1840s when many emigrated to escape the great potato famine.

Throughout the years, hundreds of Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans have called St. Mary's home.

When I spoke with Teresa, I wanted to hear about what she experienced coming to America.

Here is what she told me: Most everyone grew up on farms. Every year her family planted a variety of vegetables from potatoes, turnips and cabbage to onions and beets. Farm life was not easy, but the few cows, goats and horses they owned made things a little easier. Teresa is one of ten children; she has five sisters and four brothers. All but one of her brothers emigrated to the U.S.; many of them passed through England before making the long journey by sea.

In 1952, Teresa arrived in New York City, where she remained for two weeks. It was a confusing place, and she felt quite lost at times. After finding transportation, she traveled to Chicago

to live with her sister, who had come to Chicago earlier that year, in the Uptown neighborhood.

For the first few weeks in her new city, Teresa spent time learning her way around and meeting people. She reconnected with her heritage by finding places to watch Irish dancing. She soon found an office where she worked as a secretary until she retired in 1998. Teresa joked that she needed to work because she never met a rich man to marry. After retirement, her rent continued to rise and it became necessary to find another place to live. St. Mary's Home was the first place she visited and three years later, she is still here and loving it.

Teresa enjoys and appreciates the freedom to do what she likes and set her own schedule at St. Mary's. You can be sure to find Teresa in the dining room every morning, enjoying a bowl of oatmeal; it's the food that reminds her of Ireland.



Resident Teresa McFadden takes a break from reading her newspaper.



Apartment Residents David and Nelli Zak in their living room.

News in Jugan...

By: Angie Salinas, Jugan Terrace manager

Recently long-time Resident Joan Thiry wrote an article, "Am I Mindful," for DePaul University. She has been working with Gina Sian, Program Director at Alumni Sharing Knowledge, a network of alumni and friends who serve as student career mentors. The article tackles stress and meditation and living in the now in an age of multi-tasking. It refers to the readings of Elisha Goldstein in Mindfulness Meditations and The Now Effect. Ms. Thiry has been using the Mindfulness exercises to focus on her own mindset, her emotions and physical ailments as she works to continue "rehab" on a broken bone. She has remained positive and active, continuing to heal. Read Joan's article online at: <http://bit.ly/ASKJoanThiryMindfulness>.

Another interesting story in the Terrace is that of Nelli and David Zak, 10 year Residents who just published a book of memoirs recalling their lives in St. Petersburg, Russia and their travel here to the United States. It took them nearly two years to write the book, compiled for their children and grandchildren, and as a gift to each other on their 60th anniversary. When they arrived here, the couple was mesmerized by the beauty and architecture Chicago has to offer. They worked hard to learn English, studying in groups, joining book clubs and even holding socials with Residents and becoming quite active in the community. Nelli has also published several articles for a local Russian newspaper, "Reclaimer."

Of course, there are many other Residents who have accomplishments and stories to share, but space is limited. To all the wonderful Residents of Jugan Terrace who are unsung heroes...who do so much here in the Terrace looking out for their neighbors, promoting the family spirit and volunteering at St. Mary's, thank you for making our Home an even more wonderful place to live!

Mother's Message

By: Mother Theresa

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org



Dear Family and Friends,

Well, it's officially spring but it doesn't quite feel like it. When it finally gets here it will be welcomed with open arms. Even though I thought I would be prepared, having spent the last five years in St. Paul, Minnesota, this was an unusually cold winter. Fortunately it did give us many opportunities to thank God for the warmth of our home and for the even warmer hearts of our generous benefactors who helped all of us, especially our Residents, "weather," the cold days and nights in the comfort of St. Mary's.

As we draw closer to Easter, it is interesting to note that the word Lent is derived from the old English word "lencten," meaning "spring" and lenctetid, which literally means "Springtide." It also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

The Church in her wisdom provides the liturgical seasons, which aid us as we contemplate the life of Christ. At the beginning of these 40 days, during his Ash Wednesday homily, Pope Francis said that Lent is meant to wake up Christians and help us see that God can give us the strength to change our lives and our surroundings. This certainly makes us hopeful that we can lift those up in need through our sacrifices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. He went on to say that at the "heart of the Gospel is the poor." And he made the observation that, as a society, "We have entered into a throwaway culture, and whatever doesn't serve this globalization is discarded: the elderly, children and the youth." Fortunately this doesn't have to remain the way; we can ask God for the courage to help those who can no longer help themselves.

Sharing our need with you, at the top of the priority list is a new nurse call system. The current one is 35 years old – 15 years beyond the typical life expectancy. Our engineering staff has done a terrific job extending its use throughout the years, but it is difficult – almost impossible to obtain replacement parts for what is now an obsolete system. We hope to raise most of the \$175,000 needed for the project through our upcoming Habits on the Green fund raiser. Please join us if you can at this fun and worthwhile event. Our Residents' safety is of paramount importance, and is at the core of our mission, but we need your help to achieve our goal.

We also urgently ask for your prayers as I'm sure you have seen coverage of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the media regarding the HHS mandate and religious freedom. Please pray for a positive outcome.

At this joyous time of year, we remember that our Mother Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan told her spiritual daughters, "Let us sing the glory of our risen Jesus." We pray that this season you will experience the great joy of God's unbounded love for us and rediscover the meaning of our faith.

Happy Easter!
Mother Theresa, I.s.p.

More Information on Funding Sources for St. Mary's Home

All of our Residents at St. Mary's Home are eligible to receive Medicaid, but that only makes up about half of our revenue. The additional operating revenue comes from private donors, begging and fundraising events such as our Habits on the Green golf outing and our Chez Ste. Marie wine tasting.

**Begging consists of door to door business solicitation, church collections and the value of donated commodities.*

Upcoming Events



June 9 - Midlothian Country Club



Sister, I'd like to support Habits on the Green

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Dinner Ticket @ \$150/each
- Individual Golfer including Lunch & Dinner @ \$500 (\$550 after May 9)
- I cannot attend, but I am enclosing a donation of \$ _____.