



We've Got Talent!

As she was arriving to take up her post as Superior, Mother Julie was not expecting bursting balloons, flying streamers, and a cheering throng of Residents, Sisters, and staff. Nor was she expecting "The King," Elvis Presley.

Weeks of anticipation culminated in celebration as we welcomed Mother Julie, treating her to an extravaganza: St. Mary's Home's Got Talent! The Activity Department, headed by Helen Miner, with Rona Dobyne, assembled a stellar cast of performers, who each shone brightly in the spotlight, aided by colorful costumes and clever props. Development Director Martin Glynn emceed a show that started with a bang!

Dazzling in a blue jumpsuit, Juan Carlos Godinez from Medical Records rocked the house with "Jail House Rock," flawlessly executing the signature moves of "The King." As the opener, he was a tough act to follow, but our Home's got talent!

Roberto Flores, from Medical Records, took the stage, flanked by Residents Liz Funchion and Margaret Brooks, attendant angels holding watering cans to support the heavenly country ballad "Help Pour out the Rain."

Decked out with an enormous bow tie and a tall, red striped stovepipe hat, Resident Bob Kustusich touched hearts



Residents Liz Funchion and Margaret Brooks help Roberto Flores "pour out the rain."



Members from our Resident choir perform "My Old Kentucky Home" for Mother Julie.



Our very own Elvis impersonator, Juan Carlos Godinez, poses after his performance.



Resident Bob Kustusich reads from the beloved children's book, "The Cat in the Hat!"

with his rendition of "Cat in the Hat." Dainty Resident Nina Chinn teamed up with MDS Coordinator Hong Tao to perform a charming Chinese scarf dance.

Assistant Director of Nursing Irene McDonald channeled her best Nancy Sinatra to belt out "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'." With smooth moves, Housekeeper Emmanuel Richman proved "If Bubba Can Dance (I Can Too)." He brought down the house when he worked in some "moon dancing" during his routine.

Roberto appeared again, singing "The Banana Boat Song (Day O)," supported by Lisa Pietrusiewicz and Jeanette Robinson dressed as swaying bananas.

Wrapping up this show of shows, which featured many other performers and acts, Beverly Davis led the Residents' Choir in a medley, closing with "My Old Kentucky Home," making Mother Julie, who hails from Lexington, Kentucky, feel right at home.

Mother Julie was not expecting this fun-filled spectacular, nor was she expecting to find here a fellow native of the Bluegrass State. Born in Paris, Kentucky, Resident Margaret Brooks enjoys a special connection to Mother, whose grandfather was born there and whose cousin is now the parish priest in Paris. With Margaret and Mother, our Home is graced with a little bit of Southern charm.

SAVE THE DATE

Chez Ste. Marie A Taste of France

Thursday, September 19

Register online
www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org

Full of Life

Life is full of stories. Resident Margaret Brooks is full of life.

Margaret was born in Paris, Kentucky, in 1926. After her father died in 1927, Margaret and her six siblings were left with in-laws while her mother left to seek employment in Chicago. The children joined their mother once she found work. Margaret was only two or three.

As a youngster, she remembers attending whatever church was nearby. When a friend asked her to accompany her to confession, 14-year-old Margaret tagged along. “Right away, I was taken by the Catholic Church,” she recalls. “I knew I wanted to belong to it.” Mary Widman, who became her lifelong friend, inspired Margaret to convert to Catholicism. She soon did in 1940, later becoming a Third Order Dominican.

Her best friend was inspirational. When Mary attempted to adopt an orphan boy, the judge denied her petition, citing she was white and the child, black. Undeterred, Mary hounded the judge until he finally relented.

Margaret cared for vulnerable, poor children. Relying solely on donations, the penniless Margaret and friends lived in a home made possible by the brother of a Sister of Mercy. Margaret and her friends provided a loving home in suburban Elgin for children of different races, but were soon forced to leave by neighbors who objected to an interracial home. The brother then purchased another house and supplied all the



Margaret Brooks with Mother Julie

food. As many as 11 children— orphaned, abandoned, or forgotten—lived at the home at one time.

For years, Margaret earned no wages while caring for children. Fearing a future without any money, she became a beautician at 44. “Because I needed Social Security,” she admits.

After a life of caring for others, Margaret now lives at St. Mary’s Home. Although deceased, Mary Widman is never far from Margaret, who keeps a photograph of her best friend in her sitting room.

Margaret lived for others, never thinking of herself. Many are her other stories—including a pilgrimage through Europe and the time she met Dorothy Day, social activist for the poor and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Margaret is indeed full of life!

WHAT’S IN A SONG?

That song. You recognize it immediately, often from just the opening notes. You instantly remember a place, a time, an event, a face, a scent, an emotion. The melody stays with you; the memories linger. For many of our Residents, however, particularly those with dementia, the memories are fading and slipping away. But by hearing music associated with personal memories, these Residents are able to tap deep emotional reserves that remain intact.

Our new Music & Memory program leverages the power of music and the ease of technology to create individualized playlists of songs that were significant to our Residents earlier in their lives. Music & Memory enables our Residents who are struggling with cognitive and physical challenges to reconnect with loved ones and the world through memories triggered by music. Digital music players loaded with favorite, meaningful, and treasured songs deliver the powerful personalized playlist that offers therapeutic, person-centered care.

With help from DePaul University nursing students, we have already created playlists for 15 of our Residents. These volunteers have also spent time with Residents as they

listened to their music. The response to the personalized music has been remarkable. We have seen nonverbal Residents with advanced dementia belt out every lyric to songs they loved when they were young. We have seen a decrease in agitation and depression and an increase in attention and cooperation, lasting long after the listening session had ended. Most important, we have seen Residents who are often lost within their dementia make human connections with our volunteers.

Ours is still a fledgling program. But given its promise, we intend to expand Music & Memory to all our Residents.

We are working to build a comprehensive digital music library from which playlists can be drawn. We are seeking to acquire such needed items as MP3 players, chargers, CDs, headphones, and music gift cards. And we are seeking to attain certification as a Music & Memory Certified Care Organization so that we can benefit from best practices training, peer-to-peer advice and support, and key resources, including assessment tools and research.

What’s in a song? Memories. To help expand Music and Memory, please consider supporting this powerful program.

Bienvenue! Welcome!

New Faces at St. Mary's Home

This summer introduced many new faces. With new staff, new Sisters, and even a new Mother, our Home is buzzing with change but is still pursuing the unchanging goal of serving Residents with love and respect.

Born in Samoa, Sr. Maria Francis joined the Little Sisters in New Zealand in 1975. In 2001, she moved to the United States, where she joined the Jeanne Jugan Center in Kansas City. For the last 13 years she was at the Holy Family Residence in St. Paul, where she served as superior for six years. In Chicago, she will be serving as a "begging Sister" for the first time.

Our new Director of Dietary Services, Sr. Paul Mary, has worked almost every position possible within the Little Sisters of the Poor.

A native of Pittsburgh, she joined the order in 1965, beginning her journey at the Home in Brooklyn. She has worked in many Homes, and now comes to Chicago from Kansas City, where she worked as the administrator. She believes her task here is to better the lives of Residents by "improving food services and recognizing the evolution of their dietary needs."

Sr. Francis John is no stranger to our Home. Originally from Northern California, she joined the Little Sisters in 1980. As a postulant, she was living in suburban Palatine when our Home moved down the street a few blocks from its location on Sheffield Avenue



New begging Sister, Sr. Maria Francis, with Resident Jacob Stein



Doreen Feehrer, one of our new receptionists to Lakewood Avenue. This is her third time in St. Mary's Home but the first time caring for our Residents on the second floor. She has always enjoyed interacting on a more personal level with Residents. "It's like Saint Jeanne Jugan has said," she points out, "we see Christ in each one of the Residents."



Sr. Paul Mary, Sr. Francis John, and our new dog, Lincoln

New faces can also be seen in Housekeeping, Nursing, Administration, and more, including in Development, whose staff stands ready to help you support St. Mary's Home.

WAYS TO GIVE

Recurring Gifts: If you donate online, you can choose to schedule donations to repeat automatically at a frequency that works best for you.

Matching Gift: To make your donation go even further, check to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

AmazonSmile: Sign up for AmazonSmile and designate Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago as your charity, and a portion of your purchases will be donated to us.

Gifts of Stocks, Bonds, and Other Contact dvchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org for information on how to make a transfer.

Planned Giving: Consider leaving a legacy of providing for the elderly by choosing Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago as a beneficiary of your will or trust.

Honorariums or Memorials: Give a donation to honor a special person in your life, to recognize a significant achievement or anniversary, or to remember a loved one.

For more information, contact dvchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Serving the elderly poor in Chicago since 1876.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone connected to St. Mary's Home and Jugan Terrace for the warm welcome I received upon my arrival at the end of June. It was a short trip from the Northwest Suburbs into the city, but it has been a whole new adventure getting to know everyone and beginning to share your lives.

We celebrate the feast of Saint Jeanne Jugan at the end of August every year. This year, at the beginning of August, one of Jeanne's faithful daughters, Sr. Monique, completed her earthly mission and left us for the Father's house. Sr. Monique had lived our vocation of Little Sister of the Poor for 70 years and embodied our core values of reverence for life, family spirit, humble service, compassion and stewardship.

As we thank God for the life and ministry of Sr. Monique, we ask her to intercede for our family here in Lincoln Park, that we may always keep the spirit of Saint Jeanne Jugan in our Home. Sr. Monique and Saint Jeanne Jugan, pray for us!

God bless,

Mother Julie



We thank God for the life and ministry of Sr. Monique

A Taste of France



Thursday, September 19

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

St. Mary's Home, 2325 N. Lakewood Ave., Chicago
Sponsored by The House of Glunz

Come support St. Mary's Home while savoring exquisite wines from the major regions of France and fabulous cuisine.
All proceeds benefit the Little Sisters of the Poor.



Sisters, I want to support your wine tasting fundraiser!

Name: _____

Company: _____

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Tickets \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door.

I cannot attend, but I would like to support your effort with a donation of \$ _____

Donations can also be made online
www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org.
Click "donate."