



Serving the elderly poor in Delaware since 1903.

The Journey Continues

By: Joan Colatrisano

How do I impart a legacy of caring to my children and grandchildren? From the day my mother, (Thelma) became a Resident of Jeanne Jugan Residence, she spoke of her new place as home. From that point on, our family embraced Mom's new family (Little Sisters, Nurses, CNA's, Dietary Aids, Housekeeping, Administrative Staff and Volunteers).

With every visit we made to JJR, my family developed friendships and learned compassion and caring through the example of others. Prior to my mom's

passing in 2014, she left an indelible mark on an annual fundraising event, (Rockathon). She was tenacious with her fundraising skills and was notorious with her ability to not accept "No" when soliciting for sponsorship dollars. For several years, she was the top sponsor participant and was awarded a unique "rocking chair" to celebrate her major accomplishment. Our family continued her legacy in 2014 by raising funds in her memory; thus the legacy continues.

After witnessing the exceptional and most comforting care she received

during her final weeks, I was drawn to the peaceful transition from life to death. This experience allowed me to appreciate a happy death into the arms of God. My mom's journey is over but my journey continues with my involvement with fundraising events at Jeanne Jugan Residence and frequent visits to Residents who may not have immediate family nearby. And yes, my children and grandchildren are still part of the family at Jeanne Jugan Residence and hopefully, they too can pass on a legacy of caring!



"My mom's journey is over but my journey continues with my involvement..."

Little Sisters of the Poor

“The Lady with the Lamp”

An excerpt from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Melinda (“Mindy”) Reichert had to shift her sleep pattern to attend a special celebration in her honor in order to accept the 2015 St. Jeanne Jugan Award (during daylight hours). Mindy is one of the many nocturnal gems who work the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift, where she cares for the needs of our elderly family throughout the night. During her “other daylight hours” Mindy is mom to 4-year old Carmella and 5-month old Michael. Reflecting on her interaction with the Residents, Mindy says, “They have lived the most interesting lives! Every one of the Residents is like your wise and loving mom-mom or pop-pop!”

The fast-paced work environment of the day shift is obviously less chaotic at night but the unpredictable nature of the evening

shift allows for a more quiet and controlled atmosphere. Following the vision of St. Jeanne Jugan, Mindy demonstrates patience and compassion while administering to the Residents and this commitment is shared with her co-workers as well. We are truly blessed to have one of our “nightingales” receive such recognition for her unselfish commitment to our family members in the darkest hours. Thank you, Mindy, for being our “lady with the lamp.”

An excerpt from Longfellow poem,
“Santa Filomena”

*Lo! in that house of misery
A lady with a lamp I see
Pass through the glimmering gloom,
And flit from room to room.
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



Pennies From Heaven



To benefit...



LITTLE SISTERS of the POOR

Youth at their Best

During the Lenten season, two youth groups adopted the Little Sisters of the Poor for their Lenten service to the community. Mary Kirk, who heads the religious education program at St. Joseph Church in Middletown, orchestrated a food drive with her 1st through 8th grade students to benefit our home and we were delighted with the response from some of the 750 students who collected an array of non-perishable

food products and personal care items.

St. Mary Magdalen School also engaged their student body through their Helping Hands Outreach program to participate in a “Pennies from Heaven” fundraiser. Over the course of several weeks in March, students were encouraged to collect and deposit their spare change in their designated homeroom containers. As an added incentive, the homeroom who collected the most money

won a “Free Tag Day”. We were notified by Mary Jane Kealy that the Little Sisters would be receiving a check in the amount of \$1,748.05 and an additional \$635.00 from the pre-kindergarten classes who raised funds from pizza sales.

We are delighted for the participation of our younger generation as they carry out the example of Christ through their service to those in need.

Our Prayers Are Answered!

With a wonderful charitable gift from the New Century Club of Newark, we will be updating our bathing area in the St. Joseph wing. This kind and generous grant from our neighbors in Newark will allow us to procure a new bariatric side-entry therapeutic bathing tub with an ergonomically designed transfer seat. The upgrade will eliminate the need to lift our residents into the air in order to get them in and out of the tub; thereby, reducing the anxiety experienced during bath time.

The New Century Club and the Little Sisters have made Delaware their home since 1893 and 1903 respectively and we both share in similar visions — responding to the needs of the community, caring for the elderly and a variety of civic issues. The members of the New Century Club

adopted “Non nobis solum” (Not for ourselves alone) as their club motto, emphasizing their passion and zeal for helping others in need.

Recently the New Century Club was faced with the sale and demolition of their original building and facility, which was just shy of its 100th birthday. Although the building site is no longer in existence, their mission continues, as noted by one of the members of the Club: “Just because we sold the clubhouse, doesn’t mean we will die . . . We are very much alive and now that we have money, we can continue to provide for the



Newark community.” Our Home is truly blessed to be a recipient of the generosity of this very special group of women who share in their passion of caring for each other.

Making a Difference

Providing an opportunity to work in an environment that echoes the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan is a mainstay for all of our employees at Jeanne Jugan Residence. Partnering with various community organizations such as Service Source Delaware and Christina School District’s Networks Co-operative Program makes our home unique. Working with Service Source and Networks has proven a success story with four unique individuals who are now members of our staff and family.

Both of these organizations have trained and mentored Britnie, DeAsia, Brandon and Christi with the proper skills to better serve the needs of the home. Britnie Stokes, a student of the Networks program was hired as an assistant cook in the dietary department after extensive new hire training with our kitchen staff. Also in the kitchen, we have the support of Brandon Thompson from Networks and Christi Theron from Service Source, both of whom share the duties of dishwasher

in a fast-paced and very detailed work environment. Lastly, DeAsia Walker has found her niche as a dietary aide in our St. Joseph unit working with a team of CNA’s serving enjoyable meals to our elderly family members in the evening.

We are very proud to have engaged the services of these community organizations by providing an opportunity to make a difference in the support of our home as we fulfill the vision of caring for our elderly family.



Mother Jeanne's Greeting:



With the arrival of spring comes a sense of renewal — not only of our faith, but also our thankfulness to the community — YOU — who have allowed us to plant the seeds of love, compassion and spiritual growth!

The Little Sisters and our family of employees and volunteers have learned much from our Residents as they bring inspiration and hope to our home. Every day we are reminded of their inherent and inviolable dignity, especially in their weakest moments. A delightful smile as we assist them when they are challenged, a soft-spoken thank you for a kind gesture and more importantly, a gentle embrace to express their happiness reinforces the importance of sharing in the care of our elderly family in the journey of their lives.

Please join us in celebrating the enormous contributions of the elderly during the month of May, designated as Older Americans Month. Learn from their example as they continue to enrich our lives at Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Thank you abundantly for your continued support and may God's blessings shower you and your families.

Psalm 71:9.18....."Cast me not off in my old age; as my strength fails, forsake me not. Now that I am old and gray, O God forsake me not till I proclaim your strength to every generation that is to come."

Sister Jeanne Mary, lsp

Golden Opportunities Our 10-Week Raffle

Starting on June 26th, our 10-week raffle drawing allows you the opportunity to be a winner each week through August 28th. You can purchase one ticket for \$25 or increase your chances by purchasing all six for \$100. That is 40 opportunities to win! The prizes range from \$50 to \$500 with the grand prize final drawing of \$5,000. The revenue from this raffle will be used to offset the cost of air-conditioning to provide comfortable environment for our Residents during the hot summer months. The raffle tickets will be mailed in late May.

Cooks for a Cause (Feby's Fishery) Thank You to the DiFebo Family!



Upcoming Events

8th Annual "Swing Fore Little Sisters" Charity Golf Outing

July 30

Please join us at the Cavaliers Country Club



Nun Run

September 12

The Little Sisters invite you to our 5k race/walk.
www.nunrun5k.org

