

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

ISSUE 1. WINTER 2019

WELCOME  
HUNTER!

CHRISTMAS AT  
THE VILLAGE

PREVENTING FALLS



ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE  
*A Senior Care Community*

Cover: Ms. Beatrice praying the rosary in Warren Chapel



# A MESSAGE FROM AMY...



Amy Shields, CEO

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a very joyous Christmas, and that you have started 2019 refreshed and excited about all the year has in store.

The new year here at St. Dominic Village is an exciting time to think about all the residents that we continue to serve, as well as the new residents that we will come to serve in 2019. Being able to provide care to so many that are in need is a true blessing.

Of course, we could not do what we do without the help of our generous donors. Whether it is a gift to the SDV Fund, attending an event, participating in a raffle, or remembering St. Dominic Village as a part of estate planning, each and every dollar given goes directly towards supporting the residents that we serve.

We want to continue to encourage people to support St. Dominic Village in any way that they can. Our campus and facilities are aging, but the need for the services that we provide continues to increase each year, and we need your support!

Please reach out if you have any questions about how you can make a direct impact in helping us carry out our Mission of "Caring for Our Elders with the Compassion of Christ". Your kindness and generosity DOES make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Shields".

- Amy Shields, LNFA  
Chief Executive Officer  
713-741-8701  
[ashields@stdominicvillage.org](mailto:ashields@stdominicvillage.org)

## WELCOME HUNTER!

We are very happy to announce that Hunter has officially moved to St. Dominic Village! He is a two year old white labrador, and will be our campus dog. His purpose is to provide calming, therapeutic interactions to our residents and staff.

Hunter's home is predominantly in the RNC. If you're coming by for a visit, don't forget to stop by the front desk and introduce yourself. He loves the attention!

Staff is encouraged to come by and take him to visit all residents and common areas around campus. Most of our residents have already fallen in love with him, and with his help, we seem to have added a new level of energy to our campus.



Hunter getting some loving head scratches from Ms. Lois

# A WORD FROM OUR FAMILIES

December 24, 2018

St Dominic Village

Houston, TX

St. Dominic Village,

My mother, Mary, is an independent living resident at St. Dominic. I speak to her daily but most enjoy our morning "visits". These telephone visits are filled with news about her daily activities which ALWAYS begins with attending Mass. She SO enjoys starting her day attending Mass!

Even though I'm far away living in NY, I am grateful of the warmth, kindness & compassion she has/is experiencing at St. Dominic Village. She refers St. Dominic Village as her family. Awwwww. My mom tells me daily how much she enjoys the atmosphere there with fellow residents and accommodating staff who seem to care and listen to her when she has an issue, which rarely happens. I am thankful she is happy, content, and living independently as she desires.

Thanks to the wonderful staff and residents that have made my mom's life SO fulfilled and happy.



- Melanie



*St. Dominic Village Resident, Ms. Mary, enjoying various activities around campus.*



# COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

By Monica Snell



St. Dominic Village Resident, Ann

Many years ago, Ann was an undergrad student at the University of Houston, working as a secretary for then Fr. Vincent Rizzotto.

The young Fr. Rizzotto had just been assigned to serve as “Officialis” of the Tribunal, and had recently graduated from

Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. with a JCL in Canon Law.

“This was shortly after Vatican II and the Church was coping with all the changes,” Ann remembers. “At the same time, the Civil Rights Movement was in full force.”

Although she only worked with Bishop Rizzotto for seven years, Ann kept in touch with him after she left the Tribunal. When she went back to school for her masters in social work, she decided to reach out to him for help with her thesis in Social Policy: “Efforts of the Catholic Church in Civil Rights in Houston.”

As part of her research, she sat down with Bishop Rizzotto to discuss the events that had taken place in the 60s and 70s, and to better understand his involvement in them.

“I learned then that there were four Houston priests that marched in Selma. Bishop Rizzotto and Archbishop Fiorenza were two of them,” Ann shares.

“Aside from marching in Selma, Bishop Rizzotto became involved with other priests in the formation of the Catholic Interracial Council in Houston, after receiving permission from Bishop Morkovsky. Then, out of his effort grew Project Equality, put under Bishop Rizzotto’s responsibility. He spoke to Catholic and non-

Catholic churches alike, asking them to consider using their buying power with merchants by having them sign a contract agreeing to hire African-Americans. He basically advocated for Equal Employment Opportunity at a time when it was not so popular to do so, and before it was passed as legislation. He did meet some resistance, but had success in some parishes. He said that his aim at that time was to get the churches to coalesce, and use their divine power for justice.”

Ann also remembers young Bishop Rizzotto as someone who was very athletic. “He’s always loved baseball, and on his days off he liked to go play golf or tennis,” she says.

It’s no surprise that even now, Bishop Rizzotto continues advocating for the people who need it most. The upcoming Bishop Rizzotto Golf Classic raises funds to help subsidize the cost of care for Medicaid residents at St. Dominic Village, where both he and Ann now live.

“I came here because I like being able to go to the Chapel whenever I want. Before, when I was unable to attend mass, someone would bring me communion, but I missed participating in mass.”

She still remains friends with Bishop Rizzotto today, and visits with him at St. Dominic Village Activities.



Bishop Rizzotto enjoying the Golf Classic with friends in 2016.





# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual

## BISHOP RIZZOTTO GOLF CLASSIC

ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE  
A Senior Care Community

March  
**7<sup>TH</sup>**  
2019

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11:00 AM**  
**SHOTGUN STARTS AT 12:30 PM**  
**AWARDS DINNER AT 5:30 PM**

**\$250 PER PLAYER**

**\$1K PER FOURSOME**

To register or make a donation visit:  
[stdominicvillage.org/bishop-rizzotto-golf-classic](http://stdominicvillage.org/bishop-rizzotto-golf-classic)

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# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Monica Snell

St. Dominic Village is home to many residents that come from places far and wide. One of those residents is Ms. Laura.

Ms. Laura was born in Scotland in 1927, and grew up in Glasgow. She is the oldest of 11 children. When WWII started, her family moved to Girvan, where her father purchased a 30-room hotel. There, Ms. Laura and her siblings all came to help with the family business.

"We were very blessed and very lucky," she recalls.

"Dad ran the hotel, and Laura was the head cook," adds her sister, Joy, who is in town visiting from New York.

Laura and her sister both traveled home to Scotland in October, and stayed for almost five weeks! When asked about the difficulties of traveling at 92, Laura shared, "The trip wasn't so bad. We flew from here to New York, and then From New York to Scotland."

Laura makes the effort to visit home at least once a year so that she can spend time with her four remaining siblings. "It's always good to go back home and be with family," she says.

When asked about her decision to stay in Texas she answers without hesitation, "When I first came to the U.S. I only planned on staying for a year, but then I got a job with Shell in New York. Years later, Shell moved from New York to Texas, and I came with them. This is where I met my husband. He was a WWII Veteran, and when he passed, I decided to stay here so that I could be buried with him."

Laura chose St. Dominic Village as her home because she wanted to be close to mass every day. She is a devout Catholic, and a firm believer in The Holy Mother Mary. She credits The Holy Mother with helping her meet her husband all those years ago.

"I was part of a group called the Legion of Mary, and so was my husband. He was from Louisiana, and had French ancestry. We were very blessed for many years."

Laura credits her worldiness to growing up in the hotel that her family owned.

"Because of the hotel we had a very interesting life, meeting many people from many different places."

Laura is happy to be at St. Dominic Village surrounded by people who she considers family. She still has friends that come to visit, and her sister, Joy, makes the trip from New York about five times a year.



Laura (right) with sister Joy.



Laura (bottom left) with her 10 siblings and parents.



# A LEGACY OF CARING

By Monica Snell

St. Dominic Village Resident, Ms. Rose Mary, has lived a lifetime of service to the poor. She is the founder of Magnificat House, which is a Houston-area nonprofit organization that currently consists of 16 homes, a soup kitchen, and a clubhouse for the mentally ill.

Having Ms. Rosemary here is a huge blessing to our community. Even at 95, she maintains a strong presence, and a dignified demeanor. When asked about her life-long project, she was very gracious, and very eager to share her story.

She starts by recalling that when her father had a hard time finding work in Houston, he moved his family to Denison Texas so that they could stay with her grandmother. This is where she first experienced helping the poor.

"My grandmother was a good Italian woman. She spoke to people on the streets every day, on her way to mass. She would sometimes bring them back to the house for supper and a shower. Her daughters would have a fit every time she brought someone in, but she didn't seem to care. I was maybe about nine or ten years old at the time, and I think that's where I learned to help other people. I was never afraid of the strangers coming into the house. I didn't see the poor as someone to be feared, I saw them as someone to be helped."

Once she got older, Rose Mary continued her Grandmother's tradition of helping others. "I would see people on the street and ask them if they needed help. I was surprised by how many of them would say yes."

Inspired by her grandmother's teachings, the Holy Spirit, and other activists such as Dorothy Day, Rose Mary set forth with a lifelong mission to help as many Houston Homeless as she could. "I enjoyed helping people the most when I started to see results," she shares.

She began picking up people from the streets, and inviting them back to the very first Magnificat House, which was purchased in 1968. "I always made sure to have someone with me when I picked someone up. The people who came to the house were happy to take part in what went on. They didn't just sit and do nothing. We all worked together to make it work."

When asked about her time at St. Dominic Village, Rose Mary said, "I like that we have mass almost every day."

*"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me."  
- Matthew 25:40*



St. Dominic Village Resident, Ms. Rose Mary



# CHRISTMAS AT THE VILLAGE

By Monica Snell

Christmas festivities brought joy to many of our residents, families, and friends. The holiday fun started in the Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center (RNC) on December 10 and continued with our Independent and Assisted Living Residents (IL and AL) on December 12.

In the RNC, the evening started with families taking group pictures in front of our Christmas backdrop. Many large families with multiple generations in attendance made sure to stop and pose for a special keepsake. Seeing so many cheerful interactions among our residents and guests was a true blessing. Everyone celebrated together, enjoyed the band, and had a great time.

A few days later, AL and IL Residents had their party in the auditorium. Many of them wore festive vests and sweaters, perfect for the occasion. The DJ was able to get everyone on their feet, and our guests danced the night away going down a soul train line that spontaneously formed. Everyone enjoyed each other's company, and had so much fun. The loving essence of our community was felt in the air.

Both evenings were catered by Luby's Etc. in a buffet style spread that included fabulous appetizers, main courses, and a phenomenal desert table. Beverages were provided by St. Dominic Village.

A huge, heartfelt 'Thank You' goes out to our staff for making both of these nights possible. Due to everyone's hard work with decorating, serving, and cleaning up, we were able to provide our residents with this fun, exciting experience, which in turn enhances their quality of life.



Eleanor with her family.



Beatrice with her family.



St. Dominic Village Staff



*“Caring for Our Elders with the Compassion of Christ”*



*Delfina and her daughter dancing.*



*Cora with her two daughters.*



*Goldie with her son, daughter-in-law, and niece.*



*Elvira with her family.*



*Rita dancing with her grandson.*



*Mary with friends.*



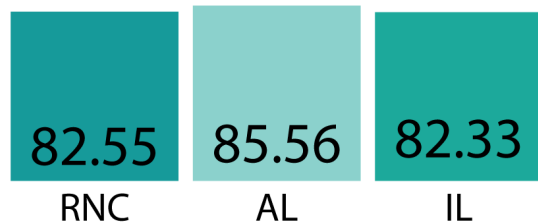


ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE  
A Senior Care Community

# 2018 FUN FACTS

## RESIDENTS

Average Age



Oldest



Total Number Served



RNC Residents on Medicaid

**59.84%**

RNC average length of stay

**3 YEARS**

RNC Residents that have been here over 5 years

**12.5%**

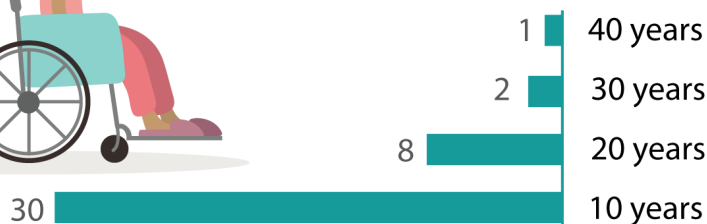


## STAFF

**124**

Full-time Employees

Employees stay with us longer than



## DONORS

**597** Donations Received

Individual Donations as a Percentage of Revenue **2.5%**

Foundation Gifts as a Percentage of Revenue **2.7%**

**28** Residents Made Donations

Campus-wide Strategic Improvements

**9 Projects | \$476,889**



## VOLUNTEERS



**8,250**  
Hours

**637**  
Volunteers

## VISITORS

**40,124**  
Warren Chapel

**426**  
Angel House





# NURSE'S STATION

By Heather Wilson

## PREVENTING FALLS

At some point, your aging loved one may experience a decline in mobility. Nursing staff may ask them how well they can move around, and it's very important for them to answer that question honestly so that staff can take extra steps to keep them safe. Here are some tips to help prevent falls.

### KEEP THINGS WITHIN REACH

- Help them keep the things that they use most often within easy reach, like: tissues, water, remote controls, and the light cord.
- With a nurse present, have your loved one practice using the call button. It should always be kept close by so that they can use it when they need to.

### GET HELP MOVING AROUND

- If your loved one is feeling weak, make sure they call for help. Have them sit up slowly and

with the help of a staff member.

- Ensure that they are using their walking aid or wheelchair as instructed, and holding on to handrails in the bathrooms and hallways.
- Have them use a Gait Belt when needed. Gait Belts snuggle around the waist and allow someone else to support the patient and walk together.
- Make sure they are always wearing sturdy footwear!

When directing a loved one, keep it simple. Go one step at a time, and notify staff about any mental or physical changes you notice in your loved one.

### PREVENTING FALLS IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

— PLEASE HELP US HELP YOUR LOVED ONE STAY SAFE.

## EMPLOYEE *of the Month*



**MARIA ASHLEY HENSON**  
**ACTIVITY COORDINATOR, RNC**  
**OCTOBER 2018**



**JULENE PECOO**  
**CNA, STATION 1**  
**NOVEMBER 2018**

# HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

**ALL SERVICES ARE IN WARREN CHAPEL**

**April 14th—***Palm Sunday*

**Passion of Our Lord at 9:45 a.m.**

**April 18th—***Holy Thursday*

**Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.**

**April 19th—***Good Friday*

**Passion and Death of the Lord at 3:00 p.m.**

**April 20th—***Holy Saturday*

**Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m.**

**April 21st—***Easter Sunday*

**Resurrection of the Lord at 10:00 a.m.**



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*By Patricia Eggerman*

### **Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing Center.**

We need people to spend time with our residents. Some examples of ways to help are to read to them, take them for walks, talk to them, watch TV with them, or help them participate in scheduled activities.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.**

While we have some very faithful volunteers, we need more who have this special qualification. Some of our residents are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion as often as possible. If you are an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at your parish, please consider giving some of your time to our bedbound residents.

### **Transporting Residents from the Nursing Center and Assisted Living to Warren Chapel.**

This is an every Sunday need as our only Sunday Mass is at 10:00 a.m. You can provide this service and attend Mass for yourself!

### **Saturday Afternoon Bingo in Assisted Living.**

We need a volunteer for Bingo in AL. This involves setting up and calling the game. Our residents love this activity because it's fun for everyone involved!

### **Cleaning Nursing Center Patios.**

The winter is taking a toll on our patios and they need to be cleaned up and given a fresh cheerful look to get us through to spring. They are meant to be a window to God's creation for the residents to enjoy!

**If you are able and willing to donate your time, please call 713-741-8718 or email [peggerman@stdominicvillage.org](mailto:peggerman@stdominicvillage.org).**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Valentine's Day Dance

FEBRUARY 7, 2019 | 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM | SDV AUDITORIUM

## Bingo!

FEBRUARY 26, 2019 | 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM | SDV AUDITORIUM

## The Bishop Rizzotto Golf Classic

MARCH 7, 2019 | REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11:00 AM | WILDCAT GOLF CLUB

## The St. Dominic Village Spring Luncheon

APRIL 11, 2019 | 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM | SDV AUDITORIUM

## Easter Sunday

APRIL 21, 2019 | MASS AT 10:00 AM | WARREN CHAPEL

# AROUND THE VILLAGE



*New Resident, Mr. Marino, enjoyed going out to sweep leaves from our front area this fall.*



*The SDV Choir put on the performance of a lifetime for our RNC residents this past Holiday Season.*





# Please join us for our very first Spring Luncheon



**ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE**  
*A Senior Care Community*

**FEATURING SARAH HARMYER FROM NEIGHBOR'S TABLE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019**

*St. Dominic Village Auditorium*  
**11 AM to 1 PM**

**GATHER WITH US FOR A LOVELY AFTERNOON WITH A  
FABULOUS RAFFLE, FOOD, WINE, AND FUN. COME LEARN  
ABOUT CREATING A SPACE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS.**

**Purchase a table for ten for \$500  
Individual tickets are \$50**

RSVP to Monica Snell by April 4, 2019.  
[msnell@stdominicvillage.org](mailto:msnell@stdominicvillage.org) | 713-391-2685

To purchase tickets visit [stdominicvillage.org/spring-luncheon](http://stdominicvillage.org/spring-luncheon)





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### **Note from the St. Dominic Village Newsletter Team:**

*\*We sincerely regret any misprints; please contact Kimberly Elliott for retractions at 713.741.8722 or [kelliott@stdominicvillage.org](mailto:kelliott@stdominicvillage.org)*