

THE VILLAGE VOICE

ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2020



ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE
A Senior Care Community

A MESSAGE FROM AMY



Amy Shields, CEO

"THANK YOU"

There is no other way to start this article except by saying "Thank You." Everyone involved with St. Dominic Village deserves enormous thanks!

SDV Residents, thank you for your patience

in this unprecedented time. Everything that happens at SDV is done differently these days, and you have been so gracious in your response to these changes. These changes have included masks, dining in your rooms, having activities separated in the hall, closing our beloved Warren Chapel, and probably the hardest part was being separated from your family and friends. You have continued to smile, pray for our campus, be thankful, and see the positives in each and every day.

SDV Families, thank you for trusting us to care for your loved ones, now more than ever. It has been over 140 days since you have been able to walk in and visit your spouse, mom, dad, grandparent, sister, brother, or friend. I cannot imagine how hard this must be on each of you. Thank you for the appreciation and understanding that you have shown. We are doing our best to keep everyone safe.

SDV Staff, thank you for everything that you do each day to take care of and love our residents. Your dedication to our facility and the residents that we care for makes me immensely proud. You are the faces that our residents see each day and you are the reason that they are continuing to do so well despite being separated from their friends and families.

SDV Board of Directors and Donors, thank you for your prayers, donations of funds, food

for staff, flowers for Warren Chapel, homemade masks for residents, and PPE for staff. We miss seeing all of you on campus, but we appreciate all that you have done from afar.

Many of you have asked when all of this is going to change and get back to normal. My honest response to this is that I do not have an answer, and I realize that that is frustrating.

Some of our internal policies and procedures are specific to our campus, but the majority of what we do comes from the direction of the Texas Health and Human Service Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These organizations are putting together the plan for how to re-open senior living and we will NOT be able to open on our own, but only with the guidance and direction of these organizations. I can assure you that as the plans are released, and when I know what it looks like for SDV, I will communicate this to all of you.

In the meantime, continue to call the facility if you have any questions, or if you want to schedule a phone call or window visit with your loved one. You also can continue to drop off things at the checkpoint in front of the nursing center for any resident anywhere on campus.

Please remember SDV in your prayers during this difficult time. We will get through this together. Feel free to call or email me with any specific questions, comments, or concerns. We will continue to stay vigilant here at St. Dominic Village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Shields". The script is fluid and cursive.

713-741-8701

ashields@stdominicvillage.org

FAMILY MATTERS IN A PANDEMIC

By Monica Snell



Mrs. Cantu, RNC Resident.

Mrs. Cantu has been a resident in our Nursing Center for almost a year. Since her arrival, her family has been incredibly involved in her care, visiting as often as they can.

She and her late husband, who was also a resident at St. Dominic Village, emigrated to the U.S. in 1957. They started their family in Chicago, but moved to Houston as their family grew. Her eight children, 29 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren all enjoy spending time together, especially with their *abuelita*.

"Well, there are a lot of us," shares Letica Ramirez, Mrs. Cantu's oldest daughter.

"My parents definitely taught us that family is the most important thing, after God. Growing up our Catholic faith was very important. We even have a brother that's a priest. They did a great job at instilling good values and a strong work ethic in us. They sacrificed a lot so that we understood the value of education."

Up until the start of the pandemic, Mrs. Cantu had a sitter to help her get around campus, and transition from her home to our facility. When we stopped allowing visitors Mrs. Cantu's family was concerned due to her limited mobility. They assumed that she'd be confined to her room, and wouldn't be able to get far on her own. Little did they know that the pandemic would actually provide an opportunity for Mrs. Cantu to turn things around. Shortly after she lost her sitter, she began using the hallway railing to transport herself back and forth between different nursing stations!

"When the nurses called and told me she was in the hallway, I couldn't believe it! I had forgotten

what a strong woman she is. Maybe in all that caretaking we didn't realize how much she was capable of doing on her own," Ramirez says.

Although this unprecedented situation has been difficult for everyone, it's inspiring to see how resilient our residents and families have been. Through FaceTime calls and window visits, the Cantus have found ways to stay in touch.

"The transition wasn't easy for any of us," reveals Ramirez. "In the beginning, she would often say that she wanted to go home. Now when we ask her how she's doing, she always says they're taking good care of her. My Family has a long standing relationship with St. Dominic Village as far as taking care of our parents."



Mrs. Cantu posing with a message for her family.



Mrs. Cantu smiles from ear-to-ear for Mother's Day window visit.

CELEBRATING OUR HEROES

By Monica Snell



HR Director, Docker, distributing meals during nurses week.



CEO, Amy Shields helping hand out lunch to one of our CNAs.



Nursing and administrative staff.

This year, employee appreciation took on a whole new meaning. From May 6 - May 12, we celebrated National Nurses Week by providing our nursing staff with cake, ice cream, and other delicious treats. Then, from June 18 - June 25 we provided box lunches and snacks to our CNAs and CMAs for National Nursing Assistants Week.

These small tokens of appreciation don't even begin to express the gratitude that we have for our essential staff. Since early March, things have looked very different here, yet our staff continues to bring their unwavering upbeat hearts to work every day. We can't thank them enough for their hard work!

"I love listening to residents' stories, and becoming their extended family," shares our Director of Nursing, Robbie Bradford. "You have to always care and be willing to listen. Long term care is a true commitment."

From going through a checkpoint at the start of every shift to helping residents with meals in rooms, COVID-19 has definitely changed some things at St. Dominic Village, yet our commitment to delivering high-quality senior care has remained the same. Now more than ever, we strive to fulfil our mission of "Caring for Our Elders with the Compassion of Christ."



Marketing Coordinator, Val, wearing her Essential Caregiver t-shirt.

St. Dominic Feast Day

Raffle Benefiting



ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE
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Golf Push Cart (\$749 Value)

Bat-Caddy X3R Electric Golf Caddy + Accessory Pack.

Yeti Rolling Cooler / Picnic Basket / Picnic Blanket (\$535 Value)

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Texans Football / Texans Crockpot / Texans Koozies (\$550 Value)

JJ Watt Autographed Football, 6 Quart Crockpot, 4 Texans Koozies.

iPad Pro Tablet (\$1099 Value)

12.9 in. display, 256 GB, Space Gray.



SCAN ME

Tickets available online and in person

(1) ticket \$25 | (5) tickets \$60 | (10) tickets \$100 | (25) tickets \$200

Contact Monica Snell at 713-391-2685 or msnell@stdominicvillage.org, scan QR code, or visit <https://secure.givelively.org/event/st-dominic-village/st-dominic-feast-day-2020/feast-day-2020>

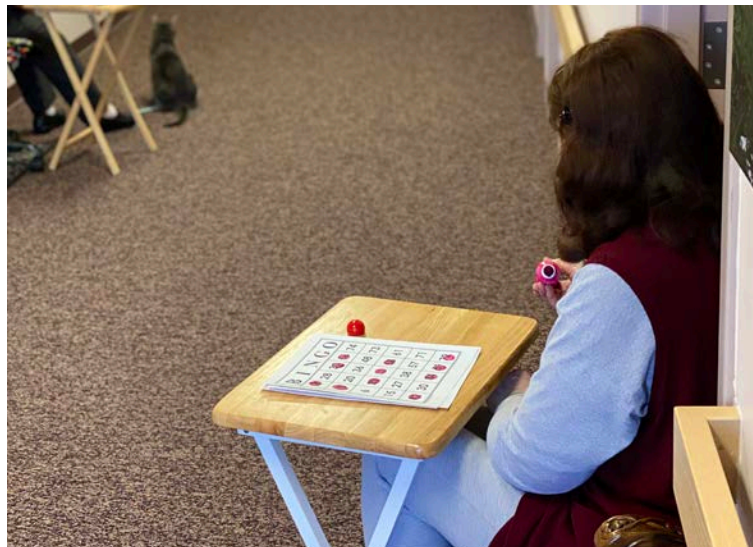
The drawing will be held on August 8, 2020. You do not have to be present to win.

All winners will be contacted no later than 5:00 PM on August 10, 2020.

VILLAGE HAPPENINGS



Ms. Brumbaugh celebrates her 90th birthday with a family concert.



Ms. Mary playing hallway bingo.



Hallway dance party!



National Guard soldiers tested everyone on campus.



Ms. Dolores FaceTiming with her family.



Ms. Martinez enjoying a window visit with her sons.



Ms. Grahmann celebrates her 101 birthday!



Ms. Nelson sharing a moment with Miss Kitty.



Ms. Kaffenberger social distancing in the library.



Ms. Cunningham taking a beverage from our happy hour cart.



Ms. Sortin with a letter from her penpal.
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CFO, Grady Mullins, ready to screen staff as they come in.

NURSE'S STATION

By Monica Snell

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19.

KNOW HOW IT SPREADS

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another and through respiratory droplets.
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

EVERYONE SHOULD

- Wash your hands often - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Avoid close contact - Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home. Stay at least 6 ft (about 2 arms length) apart.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a face cover.
- Cover coughs and sneezes, and immediately wash your hands with soap and water.
- Clean and disinfect - Especially frequently touched surfaces like tables, doorknobs, light switches, counter tops, phones, etc.
- Monitor your health! - Be alert for symptoms like fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and take your temperature if symptoms develop.

Together we can help flatten the curve, and protect our elderly. For more information regarding COVID-19 recommendations and guidelines please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

By Patricia Eggerman

COVID-19 PRAYER

O Loving God teach us what it means to have faith in silence. When we face trials that are beyond our understanding, help us to find peace. Help us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. You set all things in accordance to your time. Remind us to wait patiently and find peace in your plan. Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As the days pass into weeks and months, our residents are showing the depth of their faith. They are shining examples of patience, perseverance, and joy in the face of challenge. We wait in hopeful anticipation for the opening of Warren Chapel, knowing that it is in God's hands. Meantime we console ourselves with scripture, prayer and song. One of the new songs we have learned was written for this time of pandemic by well know composer John Bell.

WE WILL MEET

We will meet; when the danger is over,
We will meet when the sad days are done;
We will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.
We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
We will join to break bread and share wine,
And the peace that we pass to each other
Will be more that a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise
That when all we've come through is behind,
We will share what we missed and find meaning
In the things that once troubled our mind.
Until then may we always discover
Faith and love to determine our way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
For our lives and for every new day.

A CAR PARADE FOR THE AGES

On May 21, 2020, our campus welcomed over 101 vehicles, filled with our residents' family and friends, for a much anticipated, no-contact car parade! We originally expected 30 - 50 vehicles to participate, but once the invitations went out our RSVP list just kept growing.

Both our residents and staff greatly enjoyed the fun-filled day, waving at all of our honored guests as they circled our 27-acre campus. "It was so nice to see all the happy faces and meet my friends families," shared independent living resident Patricia LeBlanc. "A car would go by with a sign for someone and I'd say 'I know them!' It was the most fun, loving, family event that we've had in a long time."

When we began implementing social distancing on campus, there was a palpable sense of gloom amongst our community. The success of our parade was instrumental in lightening the load for many whose hearts were starting to feel heavy. "I didn't know how much I needed this," said Marketing and Admissions Coordinator, Val.

We'd like to thank all of our families and friends who were able to make it out to participate. This wouldn't have been possible without you. Visit our website to see what the Texas Medical Center News had to say about our uplifting event.



Mr. Hernandez's family riding in style!



Ms. Jean's family came from far and wide to participate in our parade.



Ms. Palmeira's family was all smiles as they waited to start.



*Furry friend, Doodles, was happy to see Grandma.
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PROJECT *Renovaré*



We're almost there! You can help us reach our fundraising goal for Project Renovaré, our campus renovation project which will update the Nursing Center, Charlotte Hall, and the Tower. These much needed improvements will help create a more loving, home-like environment for current and future residents, allowing us to continue working towards our mission of "Caring for Our Elders with the Compassion of Christ."

We humbly ask that you give to make this project a success!

Send your donation by mailing a check to:

c/o Development Dept.

2401 Holcombe Blvd. | Houston, TX 77021

You can also text "HELPSDV" to 44-321 or visit

stdominicvillage.org/project-renovare

MEET THE STAFF



"I do my job professionally, joyfully, and in my own style. The highlight of my day is walking through the front door and saying good morning to my residents."

- Veronica, CNA



"All day every day is the highlight of my day! I'd rather be at work than at home because I have no family here. All of my family is in Philippines, so I feel like SDV is my family."

- Maria, CMA



"My favorite part of being a nurse here is working with residents, making their day better, and helping them in any way I can."

- Susan, AL Nurse Manager



"I love helping residents and being a resource for other nurses. You have to enjoy what you do, and do what you can with what you have available."

- Josephine, RNC Weekend Nurse Manager

HEROES THAT WORK HERE

Thank You

FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION, FROM JAN TO JUN 2020

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Note from the St. Dominic Village Newsletter Team:

**We sincerely regret any misprints; please contact Monica Snell for retractions at 713.391.2685 or msnell@stdominicvillage.org*