

THE VILLAGE VOICE

ISSUE 3. FALL 2020



ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE
A Senior Care Community

A MESSAGE FROM AMY



Amy Shields, CEO

to see what the New Year has in store.

As Thanksgiving draws near, I hope we are all able to take the time to reflect on all that we are most grateful for. While COVID-19 has brought about struggles for St. Dominic Village, it has given me the ability to be reminded once again of the amazing team that we have here. Over the last 250+ days, the staff at SDV have done an incredible job in doing our best to care for our residents during truly unprecedented times. And while we unfortunately have had some COVID-19 positive residents and staff, we have constantly adapted to the ever changing landscape of this disease, and will continue to remain vigilant as we move forward. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to the staff here and all that they have done and continue to do.

Normally, this is the time of year that I would be reminding all of you to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas parties. Unfortunately, this year those parties will NOT be possible. We will do our best to spread joy and cheer throughout our campus, and I encourage all of you to send Christmas cards for the staff to pass out to residents this year! They love to get mail and I know this would brighten their spirits!

Visitation is starting to change across our campus. Please read the article on page 5 for more information. Realizing too, that it will continue to change and we will keep you updated as we

know the changes and how they will affect our community.

Project Renovaré is our campus improvement project, and I am happy to report that we are moving forward with construction and you will start to see the excitement on campus in the new year! We are still in need of donations to take the project to completion and I am happy to announce that our End-of-the-Year Campaign will support Project Renovare, and will hopefully get us to the finish line with fundraising!

Lastly, I want to remind all of you that I am ALWAYS available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. I am happy to talk to you about anything that may be on your mind related to St. Dominic Village.

I hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Sincerely,

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

713-741-8701

ashields@stdominicvillage.org



RNC resident about to receive her COVID test.

A WONDERFUL LIFE

By Monica Snell

Ms. Williams has been an Independent Living resident at St. Dominic Village for over four years. During her time here, Ms. Williams has formed a tight-knit family within our vastly supportive community. She spends her days socializing with friends, and always looking for opportunities to be better.

Born in Louisiana, she moved to the Beaumont area when she was about five years old. She is a life-long Catholic whose unwaivering faith and trust in God has carried her through almost 83 wonderfully blessed years.

"My parents taught me that you can't wait on people to give you anything. If you want something you have to get it for yourself. We didn't have much, but we were always proud of what we had," she says. This is a life lesson that she has passed on to her three children.

Although she only had three children of her own, Ms. Williams calls those who she taught her kids as well. Her passion for service and education led her to a very successful career in education working as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, principal, and district administrator.

Once she retired, she remained active in her community, and joined the St. Monica Catholic Church senior group where she first heard about St. Dominic Village. "I knew when I first heard about this, that this was the place for me," she remembers. "I tell people all the time that this is a place where you can be independent, but still enjoy the care of those around you. I love the mission statement - Caring for Our Elders with the Compassion of Christ - because staff here really live up to that."

Our community is lucky to have residents like Ms. Williams who enjoy all that our community has to offer. For more information on admissions at St. Dominic Village, please contact Valene Charles at 713-440-3413 or vcharles@stdominicvillage.org.



Ms. Williams with her dear friend, Mr. Adolfo.



Ms. Williams celebrating Sept. birthdays in Independent Living.



Ms. Williams stopping to say "hello" to Ms. Kitty.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

By Amir Tariq

Name: Santiago Martinez

Admitting Diagnosis: Surgical Aftercare

Admission Date: 08.12.2020

Discharge Date: 10.09.2020

Discharge Location: Home

Mr. Martinez arrived to St. Dominic Village after undergoing surgery due to stenosis of his cervical spine. He had a cervical collar prescribed for 6-12 weeks and was a fall risk. He also had multiple new precautions and was unable to perform ADL's, bed mobility, walking, or propel his wheelchair without assistance from a therapist or nursing staff.

Mr. Martinez showed motivation to return home while maintaining a positive attitude towards his recovery, and made great progress while at St. Dominic Village. At the time of his discharge back home, where he lives alone, Mr. Martinez was able to complete all ADLs and bed mobility

at a supervision level, stand for 10 minutes at a time, and walk using a walker.

Mr. Martinez is now a retired retail manager, after 24 years in the retail industry. He also served as a U.S. Army helicopter co-pilot in Vietnam for 3 years.



Mr. Martinez with his therapist.

He has 6 grandchildren that he looks forward to spending time with and lots of family support in the community. He is also looking forward to watching all his favorite sports teams- especially the Dodgers- and is ready to regularly attend church again. We wish Mr. Martinez well with his continued progress at home and we feel delighted to share his success story.

PASSING THE TORCH

By Monica Snell

This summer we celebrated the many years of service that Lynn Gillespie, our Independent and Assisted Living Administrator, gave to St. Dominic Village. As we wished her well in her retirement we also congratulated our former Marketing and Admissions Coordinator, Tanya Owens, on assuming the new Independent and Assisted Living Administrator role!

When asked to share a few words with our community, Tanya said, "I would like to thank each one of you for your continued kindness and support throughout my transition as Administrator of Independent and Assisted Living. It is a challenge that I am excited and ready for. In addition, I would also like to thank Lynn Gillespie and send her the best of wishes as she heads into the next phase of her life - retirement! We look forward to having her back as a volunteer in the future."



Tanya Owens with Lynn Gillespie.

VISITATION AT SDV

By Amy Shields

Early in March of this year we had to make the incredibly difficult decision to stop visitation to St Dominic Village. This was done out of an abundance of caution, and guidance from the Texas Health and Human Service Commission (HHSC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Both of these agencies provide guidance and mandates on how our campus is regulated and must operate.

While they are primarily responsible for guidance associated with Assisted Living and the Nursing Center, we chose to have many of these rules and guidelines apply to all areas of our campus, in an effort to keep everyone safe. The last 8 months have been incredibly hard on both families and residents.

On September 25, guidance was given on how visitation could resume, and on October 1st we were able to start having essential visitors back in on our campus. HHSC and CMS outlined rules as to how these visitations can occur. These are a few of the current requirements:

ASSISTED LIVING AND NURSING CENTER:

- COVID Positive residents cannot have visitors of any kind.
- Only Essential Caregivers are allowed to visit inside the facility.
- Each resident can only have two essential visitors assigned to them.
- These essential caregivers must make an appointment to visit, go through visitation training before their first visit, and can only visit one at a time for no more than 2 hours per visit.
- Visitors must have a negative COVID test within the last 14 days, present ID, go through the facility checkpoint, and wear proper PPE.
- Closed window visits are also allowed at this time.

INDEPENDENT LIVING:

- Each resident is allowed 2 visitors.

- Visitors must go through checkpoint, and wear proper PPE as defined by the facility.
- The visit must take place in the residents room.

If you are a resident's responsible party, or have been deemed an Essential Caregiver, please call our front desk to book your visitation appointment.

For visitation in the **Nursing Center** call Shonda at **713-741-8701**.

For an appointment in **Assisted Living**, please contact Yolanda at **713-741-8700**.

Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate this virus.



Mr. Thomas on a Zoom call with his family.



Ms. Kiatowski enjoying a window visit with her grandchildren.

VILLAGE HAPPENINGS



Socially distant Mass in Warren Chapel



Dorothia's Farmer's Market Cart



Ms. Kitty peacefully sleeping in the auditorium.



Fr. Roy praying for better days.



Ms. Emily playing balloon badminton.



Mr. Southern at Lynn's socially distant retirement party.
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IL Resident selecting an item from our Prince of Peace donations.



Val checking staff in at checkpoint.



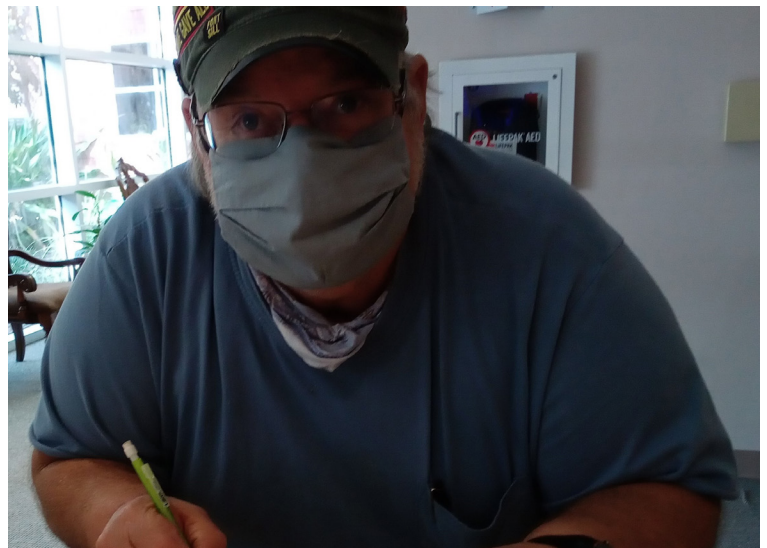
Spiritual Dir., Patricia, giving communion to AL Resident.



Mr. Jolivette taking a break after volunteering to clean our statues.



Tanya handing Ms. Cashiola a snack from the activities cart.



Mr. Hebert filling out his absentee voting ballot.

FEAST DAY IN THE TIME OF COVID

By Monica Snell

On August 8, 2020, we hosted our first virtual event! The St. Dominic Feast Day Celebration kicked off with an introductory video of how our campus is coping with the pandemic, a welcome message from Amy Shields, and an update from our Director of Nursing, Robbie Bradford. We then broadcasted a few of our residents' testimonials, and successfully live-streamed our Feast Day Mass officiated by Dominican Priest Fr. Marty Iott. The event ended when two of our lovely independent living residents drew winners for our very successful Feast Day Raffle.

Although we couldn't gather due to COVID-19 restrictions, we sought to maintain the spirit of our annual event by taking the celebration into the comfort of viewers' homes. In addition to this, we also hosted a Feast Day fundraiser in efforts to offset some of the revenue loss that we've acquired due to the cancelation of our biggest fundraisers of the year.

With your generous participation we were able to raise almost \$30,000, and vastly surpassed our initial goal of \$10,000! We can't thank you enough for all of your individual donations and raffle ticket purchases. Your support means the world to us, especially during this difficult time. Please know that every cent counts, and we could not fulfill our mission without you.



Mr. Cancienne giving his SDV testimonial.



Fr. Marty Iott officiating Mass in Warren Chapel.



Robbie sharing COVID updates.



Ms. Shakelford drawing raffle winners.
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NURSE'S STATION

By Robbie Bradford

DEALING WITH STRESS AND OUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID 19

This year has certainly turned everything upside down. With this crisis we are now wearing masks, practicing social distancing, etc. This virus has the ability to shake us from the foundations of our identity. We are so use to routines and nothing currently seems normal. Covid-19 is forcing many changes in our lives which can lead to stress, anxiety, fear and strong emotions.

It's very important to recognize what stress looks like and do our best to have things that help us cope. **Some of the symptoms you could be experiencing are: irritation, anger, anxiety, nervousness, helplessness, lack of motivation, fatigue, sadness, trouble sleeping, and feeling overwhelmed.**

Talk about what you are feeling and discuss

it at work or home with others. Remember that everyone is in unusual situation and accept those things which we cannot control. Do your best to keep a daily routine.

Our residents are also experiencing some of the same feelings and emotions. Not being able to see loved ones for over 8 months, no group activities, no communal dining, and spending a great deal of their days in their rooms have taken a toll.

We make a point as staff to have contact with our residents in the Nursing Center frequently and to talk with them throughout the day. We observe them for signs and symptoms of stress and intervene.

We must remember this too will pass, and hopefully we will have learned valuable lessons to help us in the future.

PRINCE OF PEACE DONATIONS

By Patricia Egerman

Several years ago we were blessed to be a recipient of the Prince of Peace Lenten Service Project. At that time we received an amazing donation of many useful items for our Nursing Center residents.

While 2020 is a difficult year in many ways, Prince of Peace is making it a little better for our residents by having selected us as Lenten Service Project recipients again! St. Dominic Village is truly blessed by their generosity.

When the coronavirus disrupted everyone's lives the project was delayed, but we were not forgotten. This year's donation was received mid-summer and was even more amazing than the last.

Residents in our Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and Independent and Assisted Living are now enjoying the kindness and generosity of Prince of Peace. We'd like to send a big "Thank You" to all of the parishoners, from the bottom of our hearts.



RNC Activity Director, Ms. Ashley, selecting items for RNC residents.

PROJECT *Renovaré*

END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN

We are so excited to announce that we're only \$229,000 away from our \$1.2M fundraising goal for Project Renovaré!

With your help, along with some generous foundation contributions, we raised over \$970K.

As 2020 comes to a close, we are again focusing our end-of-year campaign on Project Renovaré. This project will bring a much needed renovation to our campus, and much joy to all of our residents. We prayerfully request that you consider supporting this project.

Together we can finish SDV strong!

You can **mail a check** for Project Renovaré to:
c/o Development Dept.
2401 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77021

Or **donate online** at:
<https://stdominicvillage.org/renovare-donation>

*See more on tax giving advantages below.



*The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was passed in March 2020 as an economic stimulus. It provided support to individuals and businesses affected by Covid-19 but also included the following charitable giving incentives: 1) If you do not itemize deductions on your tax return, you can take the standard deduction and still claim up to \$300 in cash charitable contributions to qualified charities, such as St. Dominic Village; 2) If you do itemize deductions, cash contributions to qualified charities like SDV can be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income; and 3) The IRA required minimum distributions were suspended for this year, but if you are 70 ½ or older you can still donate up to \$100,000 directly from you IRA to qualified charities like SDV. Such a direct transfer from you IRA generates no taxable income, but may reduce your annual income and also you Medicare premium. If you have any questions, please contact your tax advisor.

Thank You

FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION, FROM JUL TO OCT. 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*