



The Jenkins Senior Living Community Serves Seniors with Compassion, Excellence and Integrity



welcome winter! It's the time of year when both the Senior Prom and Valentine's Day are events to look forward to on the Jenkins campus. It's also a time to reflect and remember past winters – how much or how little snow there used to be compared to this year or how warm it was one winter compared to others.

Remembering the Christmas Concert at the Basilica in December brings to mind the beautiful music and wonderful food at the reception, as well as how hard it rained that evening, and how even the rain didn't dampen the spirits of the guests. As we celebrate the success of the concert we also look forward to this year's Catholic Charities Christmas Concert at the Basilica to be held on Thursday, December 10, 2009. The 2009 concert will benefit the Children's Division programs.

As we enjoy the warmth of friendship and hot chocolate, we also look forward to spring. Our trees will be eighteen months in the ground this spring and we're now planning a path through the emerging woods. We'll need lots of strong backs to help us spread wood chips through the trees. If you'd like to help with this please call or email Shikaro Philan 410-646-6570 sphilan@cc-md.org for details.

April is National Volunteer Month. We are very thankful to all those who come to our campus to help call bingo, work in the gardens, visit with residents, play games, help with crafts, read to residents, go on bus trips with residents, and help with all the activities that bring richness to the lives of the residents of the campus.

As you reflect and remember during the remainder of the winter, please don't forget the elders who live on the Jenkins campus. Come see us sometime. We'd love to see you!



Paul and Gloria Simmons

“Can’t you find my wife a job? She’s driving me nuts!”

Gloria Simmons had been without a job for only about a year. During that time she cleaned all the closets in the house and helped with her son’s wedding. But, shortly after the wedding there was nothing to do at home - except go through the closets again. All her friends were still working and she really needed to be around people.

Gloria’s husband Paul came to work at Joachim and De Paul Houses senior apartments thirteen years ago after his retirement from Baltimore City Public Schools. Paul worked for 33 years as a maintenance supervisor with the public schools. In fact Paul’s first day at DePaul House was the very next day after his last day with the school system. Paul now works with a much smaller crew of maintenance personnel in the 199 senior apartments under the supervision of Ed Organ.

Though no two work days are alike, three days each week the first thing that’s done is to get the trash out. The work crew does everything from cleaning and vacuuming to plumbing repairs and painting. Paul may be needed to simply un-stop a kitchen sink or to assure a resident that the noise her refrigerator’s makes when the compressor



Paul’s wife Gloria works at Caritas House.

turns on is normal. In preparation for new residents, Paul and his colleagues clean all of the

kitchen appliances, fixing broken window blinds, shampooing carpets, cleaning floors and bathrooms and repairing or replacing anything else that’s needed to make the apartment like new.



Paul Simmons is part of the maintenance staff at DePaul and Joachim Houses apartments.

Paul’s job also includes taking care of the common areas at the apartments in the two apartment buildings making sure the halls and elevators are clean and clear of things that may cause a fall, and keeping the buildings spic and span. In addition to these routines there is outside work – including vacuuming the parking lot, raking leaves, and caring for the gardens and the patios of the apartment buildings.

Paul performs all of his duties with efficiency and care. His work is always excellent. However, what the residents and other staff appreciate most about Paul is how he conducts himself while he works and how he interacts with them. Paul is always upbeat, always has time to listen, and always offers his help in any way needed to both the residents and the staff. His attitude is one of comfort and care. His demeanor seems to say, “It’s going to be alright. Don’t worry.” Paul really cares for each person.

When DePaul House celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary last fall, Paul was honored as the

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Catholic Charities' Christmas Festival at the Basilica 2008

Thank you to all who purchased tickets, placed ads, and were sponsors of the Christmas Concert in December. A special thanks to:

Committee Chairs

Jim and Bette O'Connor

Vice Chairs

Marc and Vicky Munafo

and all the committee members who made this event so special.



Plans are under way for the 2009 Christmas Concert to benefit the programs of the Children's Division of Catholic Charities.

Contact Carol Shear
410-252-4700
cshear@cc-md.org

Mark Your Calendars

December 10, 2009

Catholic Charities'
Christmas Concert at the Basilica

For tickets, sponsorships, contributions, program ad space: cshear@cc-md.org or 410-252-4700 ext. 133

employee who best represented *Cherishing the Divine Within* among the employees. In true Paul fashion, he refused to come forward to accept this honor, standing instead in the back of the dining room behind the seated residents and guests.

Giving so much of him self to his job and the residents Paul comes home pretty tired each day. Yet during that year when she wasn't working Gloria wanted to talk and talk when Paul returned home.

So when a Caritas employee came to DePaul House for a meeting Paul asked her if she could help him – by helping his wife get a job. As things turned out, Caritas House was looking for a part time receptionist a few days each week. After applying and interviewing Gloria joined the staff early in November of 2005.

Having worked all her life, with the exception of their son's "wedding year", Gloria has worked at only three places in her life. Now, working part-time allows her to go shopping, have lunch with a friend, or even clean a closet during the week. However the receptionist position was not quite enough to keep Gloria busy. She would ask for

something more to do often enough that when the administrative assistant position opened up, Gloria applied.

Barbara Pearce, Director of Caritas House, says that as the administrative assistant Gloria helps with everything – teas, reception desk, all the paperwork involved with an assisted living, tracking staff training, and keeping the facility in supplies of all types. But, perhaps the best thing about Gloria is the fact that she takes a personal interest in every resident. And Gloria loves the flexibility of working part-time.

Though Paul's question, "Can't you find my wife a job?" was one of feigned frustration, the result has been wonderful. When Paul came home having heard about the open receptionist position at Caritas House, he pitched it to Gloria and then added. "We can work at the same place, but we won't have to see each other at all during the day!"

When The Simmons' return home in the evening they chat about their day in the easy relaxed manner of good friends who have, in fact, been happily married for 49 years.

In My Own Words

by Mrs. Elsie Hartlove

I was born in March of 1926 and raised in South Baltimore. I graduated from the old Southern High School in 1944. We were the first class to have leather bound year books. Our twelfth grade prom was held at the Maryland Yacht Club on Hanover Street.

When my husband Charles and I were first married we lived on Warren Avenue across from Federal Hill Park. Later we bought a home in Morrell Park for \$7300.00 and raised our four children there.

I came to live at St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in the spring of 2000 after a series of health problems resulting in the loss of use of my legs.



Mrs. Elsie Hartlove, surrounded by pictures of her family.

I stay active at St. Elizabeth's by going on bus trips, participating in bingo and other recreational activities, and enjoying various entertainment provided by the staff. I'm the President of the Resident Council and belong to the Women's Club which sponsors a Native American child. I go to

my children's home for holidays, for special occasions, or just to visit. My children and my grand-children are all very good to me.

I'm quite content at St. Elizabeth's. I've made many friends here and I've lost many friends too. I'm cared for by a wonderful group of staff people, friends and family.

Senior Aides

Mrs. Florine McCoy is an on-call Program Assistant at St. Ann Adult Day Services. Working about sixteen hours a week, Mrs. McCoy started at St. Ann as a Senior Aide through Family & Children's Services. While serving at St. Ann as a senior aide, Mrs. McCoy was supervised and evaluated by the staff of St. Ann's and paid a small stipend by Family & Children's Services. This was an ideal situation for both Mrs. McCoy and St. Ann. St. Ann was afforded the services of Mrs. McCoy, and Mrs. McCoy was able to gain experience doing a job she had never done before.



Mrs. Florine McCoy leads a trivia game at St. Ann Adult Day Services.

Senior Aides serve with a program for a year, during which time they are also working toward securing paid employment. At the end of the year of service senior aides must leave their positions. If the program they have been serving with for the year is pleased with the work performed and is able to do so, they may hire the senior aide. Usually the aides move on to employment elsewhere and the programs take on other senior aides. It is only occasionally that an aide is hired by the program at which she or he has been. This was the case with Mrs. McCoy. St. Ann's is

currently supervising four senior aides, each of whom serves about nineteen hours a week.

Cherie Melton, Director of St. Ann, is very pleased with Mrs. McCoy, who has what Cherie describes as a "calming influence on the participants". Helen Moore, a participant at St. Ann's says of the senior aides, "They're fine! They take you to the bathroom, and they make sure to cut your food up at mealtime and they're real nice staff".

Jan Liddick, Senior Support Services Program Supervisor at Joachim and DePaul Houses senior apartments says she has had "great success with the senior aide program". She too has hired former senior aides. Verla Lemmon who is a resident associate working for Jan at the apartments was a senior aide at St. Ann. And Jan currently has two senior aides, Lafayette Williams and Florence Parker, who work with Verla and another resident associate, Sylvia Gray.

Seniors serving with programs for seniors bring with them valued experience, patience, and excellent work ethics to their volunteer positions. Cherie Melton and Jan Liddick have realized the benefits of seniors as volunteers and have been glad to be able to hire a few as part time and on-call employees.



Sylvia Gray, Senior Aide Lafayette Williams, and Verla Lemmon all enjoy working at the apartments.



**The Jenkins Senior
Living Community**

3320 Benson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21227



Catholic Charities

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Volunteers Are Needed

Volunteers are always needed to serve. Day and evening opportunities are available. Spend time with a resident, help at a party or event, go on trips, help with activities, read with a senior, share your talents! Come join the fun!

410-646-6570 ~ sphilan@cc-md.org

***New* Caregiver Support Group**

Second Mondays of each month beginning April 13th.
For details, call 410-646-0100.

Would you like to receive upcoming newsletters by email? sphilan@cc-md.org.