



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

December 2023 Foundation Update

Why We Love December

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We love the month of December for so many reasons. It's a time for celebrating and spreading joy and good cheer to all those who make our lives brighter. We were delighted to celebrate the generosity of VHRC resident donors at our annual Holiday Donor Tea – and to thank our wonderful staff by contributing to the year-end bonus effort through the Vinson Hall Residents' Association's Employee Appreciation Fund. It is also a time to remember those less fortunate than we are, and it was our pleasure to facilitate the annual holiday drive to benefit Share, our local food bank. This month, we celebrated a new community connection we helped VHRC build with McLean Volunteer Fire Department, and savored some of our favorite long-time connections – with Madison High School, and with Eduardo Panyagua, an old friend and our very first Wounded Warrior who stopped by campus to visit! For more about what the Foundation has been up to lately, including gifting Arleigh Burke Pavilion with a new portable sound system, and producing another issue of our residents' remarkable stories in *Campus News & Views* magazine, please see the articles below. As always, thank you for your support! We wish you and yours a joyful, healthy holiday season!

Holiday Tea Thanks Our Resident Donors

On December 6, we hosted one of our favorite events of the year: NMCGRF's annual Holiday Donor Tea. This is our chance to say a special thank you to our resident Star Members for their support this year. More than 80 Star Members (those who gave a membership gift of \$250 or more) attended the festive

gathering in the Penthouse Lounge, where an assortment of holiday cookies and petit fours, egg nog, tea and coffee were served. Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement Michelle Crone said a few words of thanks, as did CEO Chip Warner. In the midst of the fellowship, laughter and good cheer, we raised a glass of champagne to make a bubbly toast to a great year. Thank you, Star Members!



NMCGRF Pitches in to Support Year-end Staff Bonuses



At VHRC, our residents so appreciate the staff who are the heart and soul of our community. To show their appreciation, the Vinson Hall Residents' Association (VHRA) – through its Employee Appreciation Fund (EAF) Committee, led by residents Lynne and Carl Schone – fundraises all year long to be able to award an

end-of-year bonus to every employee. At the Foundation, it is our honor to be able to partner with the VHRA on this effort, as we have done for the past four years.

This year, we were pleased to be able to contribute \$45,000 from the Employee Caring Fund to the EAF bonus pool, which totaled more than \$233,000! On December 15,

VHRA's EAF Committee members handed out about 250 checks to staff at a party in the Bistro. Residents and staff shared laughter, hugs and treats at the event, capping the most successful EAF fundraising drive to date! Thank you, VHRC staff!



Foundation Helps Residents Share With Neighbors in Need

A team of residents played Santa's helpers at a gift-bag assembly party organized by NMCGRF on December 1, capping off VHRC's holiday donation drive for Share. Share, a non-profit organization in McLean that provides food, clothing and household items to neighbors in need, is one of VHRC's community partners, and for the last five years we have held a holiday donation drive on campus to benefit them. This year, Share – which has no paid staff – asked us to provide gift bags for their 96 senior clients living in government-subsidized housing.





VHRC residents stepped in to help, donating items like hand lotion, lip balm, warm socks and tea bags in collection bins during November. The Office of Philanthropy & Engagement then supplemented what was collected, purchasing additional items and the reusable gift bags themselves. Sixteen residents and a handful of staff gathered in the Ballroom on December 1, forming an assembly line to fill the bags with personal

care items. Each bag also got a card on which the volunteers wrote personal messages and holiday greetings. As holiday music played, the participants worked quickly and were finished in less than 30 minutes, leaving plenty of time to enjoy the hot apple cider, fruit punch and Christmas cookies provided, as well as the pleasure of doing something for others. "This was senior to senior, and it was fantastic," said resident Ann Dietrich. "It was great to be able to do something cheerful and kind for people."



[Donate Today](#)

Building a New Community Partnership With McLean Volunteer Fire Department

Over the years, VHRC has been —

grateful for the support of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide high-quality fire, rescue and emergency medical services, and life/safety education to the McLean community. MVFD is often the first to respond to any emergency call from our campus, and our residents and staff so appreciate all that the MVFD does for our community.



So it was our pleasure to support MVFD's annual fundraising drive this fall with a grant from the Foundation. Building new community partnerships for VHRC is part of our mission at the Foundation, and we are delighted to add MVFD as a new partner this year. By way of thanks for our support, a firetruck from McLean Volunteer Fire Department visited campus on December 9 – with Santa! Sitting atop the firetruck festooned with red and green lights and a Christmas wreath, Santa arrived at the Vinson Hall entrance and delivered holiday greetings to everyone assembled there. Said MVFD president Patricia Moynihan, "We've been super lucky over the years to have such a wonderful relationship with Vinson Hall." The feeling is mutual!

Live Poinsettia Donation Spreads Cheer



For the fourth year in a row, VHRC received a lovely gift of large red, white and pink poinsettias from Madison High School swim team. This generous donation, made through the team's annual poinsettia fundraiser, came about through Maureen Kammerer, VHRC resident and NMCGRF donor. Maureen has a long-standing friendship with the mother and grandmother of a swim team member, and suggested any extra poinsettias from their fundraiser be donated to VHRC. This year, NMCGRF was pleased to accept 20 of these lovely plants, and Maureen and the Philanthropy & Engagement team purchased additional poinsettias to bring the total to 45. With help from Maureen and her husband Joe, the P&E team delivered the flowers to residents who have been coping with health issues or loss to offer them some special holiday cheer.

Foundation Grant Gives Arleigh Burke Residents the Gift of Sound

Like many older adults, a large number of our residents have hearing issues. Earlier this year, a generous grant from resident Bob Springer to NMCGRF's Innovation & Enhancement Fund enabled us to purchase a topnotch sound system in the Alford Auditorium for our independent living residents.



However, our residents in our assisted living community, Arleigh Burke Pavilion (ABP), did not have a community room with a similar sound system. When they gathered for Resident Council meetings, which are mandated by the state in assisted living communities, it was often difficult for them to hear and participate.

Analisse Vasquez Soto, Administrator of Arleigh Burke and The Sylvestery, submitted a proposal to NMCGRF for a portable sound system for ABP and TS – and we were happy to help. A \$6,103 grant from the Innovation & Enhancement Fund enabled the purchase of an audio system that includes two Bluetooth-enabled speakers, four microphones, and a protective rolling case for easy transport. The new system was quickly put to good use this fall at resident and family meetings, events and activities. "We're delighted to have an audio system for ABP and TS," said Analisse. "It will really enhance our residents' quality of life and help them stay engaged."

Wounded Warrior Visits VHRC a Decade Later



Last month, the Foundation welcomed an old friend back onto campus. Eduardo Panyagua, our very first resident to participate in NMCGRF's newly launched Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing program in 2013, stopped by Happy Hour at the Penthouse Lounge to reconnect with old friends, including his mentor, Glenn Bratcher. Now married and with a young daughter,

Eduardo was in town for training at the State Department for his work as a Vice Consul. He is still grateful to the Foundation's WWTH Fund all these years later for making it possible for him to live at VHRC at a critical juncture in his life. "At Vinson Hall, I received an instant family of support during one of the most important times of my life," said Eduardo, who appreciated "the welcoming environment and safe space it provided for my recovery. I hope my story helps shine a light on how amazing Vinson Hall was and is."



New Edition of Literary Magazine Just Out

The latest issue of *Campus News & Views*, Vinson Hall and Willow Oak's literary magazine, is hot off the press! You won't want to miss this engaging selection of resident articles and poems, which include a woman's story of her plane trip to South Africa to meet the fiancé she knew only by their correspondence, and a Peace Corps volunteer's touching memories of an elderly woman he befriended in a Colombian village. A CBS producer shares a humorous account of being mistaken for a terrorist in Canada in the 1960s, and a resident recalls the kindness of a stranger during her travels as a young woman in Indonesia. It is our privilege in the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement to edit and publish this magazine highlighting the remarkable residents of VHRC! Please click [here](#) to read the Fall 2023 issue of *Campus News & Views*.

VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
Campus News & Views
Fall 2023



Fall fun at VHRC included the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation's Gala, *An Evening in Casablanca*, the Halloween parade and costume contest, Yappy Hour at the Sports Park and a Veterans Day visit by VHRC residents to Chesterbrook Elementary School.

[Donate Today](#)

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

In 2023 NMCGRF received financial contributions totaling \$54,550 from 22 corporate sponsors. We are so very grateful for this support! Like our individual donors, these companies through their contributions support our mission and VHRC residents and staff. Many thanks to the following sponsors – we couldn't do our work without you!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 4-STAR, 3-STAR AND 2-STAR SPONSORS



We appreciate your support of the residents and staff of Vinson Hall Retirement Community!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 1-STAR SPONSORS



We appreciate your support of the residents and staff of Vinson Hall Retirement Community!

Your Planned Gift Today Can Make a Difference Tomorrow

You can leave a legacy that will last for years to come by designating Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation in your will or by making a planned gift. Some types of planned gifts can support our community and provide you with a charitable income tax deduction, minimize capital gains taxes, reduce estate taxes or provide you or others with an annual income for life. To learn more about these types of gifts, please see our [website](#) or contact Michelle Crone at michellec@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-3068.

Learn More about Planned
Giving

Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 2210
703-538-2970 | Philanthropy@vinsonhall.org
www.vinsonhall.org/Foundation



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation | 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22101

Unsubscribe_philanthropy@vinsonhall.org

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by philanthropy@vinsonhall.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!