



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

November 2023 Foundation Update

We are Grateful for You!

November is a time to give thanks for the many things in our lives that we are grateful for. Here at the Foundation, we are thankful above all for *you* – our wonderful donors and supporters! Earlier this month, we were delighted to be able to thank many of you in person at our annual *Evening with the Stars* event. Without your support, we couldn't do the work we have been able to do in 2023. For Veterans Day, it was our honor to help facilitate talks by some of our residents at Chesterbrook Elementary School, and bring history to life for their 4th, 5th and 6th graders. We are truly grateful for the sacrifices of those in our community who have served our country. We also loved helping to organize the annual holiday decorating effort at VHRC! In just two days, the campus was transformed after Thanksgiving, thanks to our residents! Finally, we invite you to take a look back at 2022 – a year of transition at Vinson Hall Retirement Community – through our recently published NMCGRF Annual Report. Read all about these events and activities in the articles below!

Evening with the Stars Celebrates This Year's Star Members

The stars shone brightly on November 2, when NMCGRF held its annual *Evening with the Stars* event. About 120 of the Foundation's 2023 Star Members – those who have given a membership gift this year of \$250 or more – gathered in the Ballroom for a festive evening of appetizers, drinks, fellowship and fun. "Each year, this event is our chance to thank our Star Members, the generous donors that make the things we do for our community



possible,” said Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement. “We are so grateful to you for the difference you make in people’s lives here at Vinson Hall Retirement Community.”



—What kinds of things have you helped us accomplish this year? Well, through the Resident Assistance Fund, five residents were able to stay in their homes when they ran out of financial resources. The Employee Caring Fund helped staff weather financial crises when they needed help with things like medical bills and car repair; since

2020, the fund has awarded more than \$280,000 to staff for financial emergencies or above-and-beyond performance. The Innovation & Enhancement Fund has brought new additions to campus such as benches and corn bag sets to the Sports Park, a new sound system to the Alford Auditorium, and frames for resident art to be hung all over campus. And through the Wounded Warrior Fund, the community continues to honor our military heritage by offering temporary housing on campus to warriors transitioning to the next chapter in their lives.

These accomplishments are only possible thanks to all our donors and especially our Star Members – so thank you again for your continued support!



NMGRF Celebrates Our Veterans And Builds Connections with Kids

Our residents share service-driven backgrounds in the military or federal service and, even in retirement, are eager to give back to the broader community. To commemorate Veterans Day, the Foundation was honored to arrange talks by eight

VHRC residents to the 4th, 5th and 6th graders at Chesterbrook Elementary School on November 10. The students were riveted by their stories and peppered them with questions. Why did you join the military? Which weapons did you carry? What did you like best about the military, and what was the most difficult part?



Admiral Bill Morris described how he found it very rewarding to be given big responsibilities at a young age. He described following a Russian ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and being the officer on deck for a night watch, knowing he had to keep the 300 people sleeping on board safe. "Being responsible for doing this is heavy stuff," he said. "The Navy gave me the opportunity to do very interesting things." Colonel Mike Cluff discussed camaraderie in the Marine Corps. "I liked it because of the challenge, physically and mentally. I stayed in the Marines because of the camaraderie. You develop relationships that last your lifetime."

General Dale Vesser took a moment to honor those in the military who did not come home. "I think the greatest tribute to those who served is found in the Gettysburg Address," he said. And then, as the students listened in respectful silence, he read: "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty..."



We at the Foundation, thank all our veterans for their sacrifices for our country, and are honored to help share their experiences with the next generation of young people.



'Tis the Season! Foundation Coordinates Holiday Decorating Effort

The holiday season is upon us, and you only need to look around the lobbies and common areas at VHRC for proof! For the fifth year, the Foundation coordinated the annual decorating effort at VHRC, bringing about 60 residents together to spend a festive few days transforming the campus. The action began just before Thanksgiving, when Facilities team members delivered the 23 trees and their matching bins full of decorations to the halls, lounges, and lobbies of VHRC. Residents then spread out across campus to hang hundreds of glittering balls and festive garlands, fluff and affix countless ribbon streamers and bows, and set out the garlands, berries, wreaths, and winter village scenes that turn our community into a glittering winter wonderland.



“This is a great way to get in the holiday spirit and get things going, and having residents participate was terrific,” said resident Emmy Simmons, who decorated trees at the Community Building. Florence Hall, who led the team decorating the trees at Arleigh Burke Pavilion, found much to enjoy in the process. “It is a

joy to decorate not only my own apartment but the rest of the campus to bring pleasure to others, too.”

Many thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who pitched in this year to make the VHRC campus sparkle!



Donate Today

NMCGRF Welcomes Year-End Charitable Gifts

At this time every year, many of our friends and supporters ask for information about making an end-of-year gift to support Vinson Hall Retirement Community. If you are considering making a year-end, tax-deductible charitable donation, please keep us in mind!

Gifts to the Foundation can be made by check or credit card to NMCGRF. They may also include an IRA rollover or appreciated stock. To learn more about the Foundation's work in 2023, click [here](#) to see the short video shown at our annual Gala in September. And if you have any questions about making a year-end donation, please do not hesitate to contact Clara Orrell at correll@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-2970.

From all of us at the Foundation, thank you for helping us to support our incredible VHRC family!

Donate Today

2022 Annual Report Reflects on A Year of Transition

We recently released our Annual Report —

for 2022, a year of transition in our community. As the year began, our focus shifted away from the pandemic and toward the kinds of things that make life at VHRC so rewarding. We celebrated everything from birthdays to holidays to the return of the Gala, a special *Evening in the Caribbean*. Residents showcased their talents at art shows, spelling bees, putting contests and cornbag toss tournaments, making the most of every opportunity to come together again and move forward in our lives.

**NAVY MARINE COAST
GUARD RESIDENCE
FOUNDATION**



2022 Annual Report



Through it all, NMCGRF continued to help plan engaging events and raise funds to support the residents and staff of VHRC. We also made connections with our greater community, including the preschoolers at Homestretch, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in McLean, and the servicewomen at the Women's Military Memorial's 25th anniversary celebration, when one of our residents, a 101-year-old WAVE, was honored. Last year also brought us a leadership transition, when CEO Libby Bush bid us good-bye and we welcomed CEO Chip Warner.

As 2022 wound to a close, we raised our glasses at our holiday donor tea to toast new beginnings and the next chapter in VHRC's illustrious ever-evolving story. We hope you will appreciate this look back at a memorable year. Click [here](#) to read the 2022 Annual Report.

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.

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