



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

August 2023 Foundation Update

At Summer's End

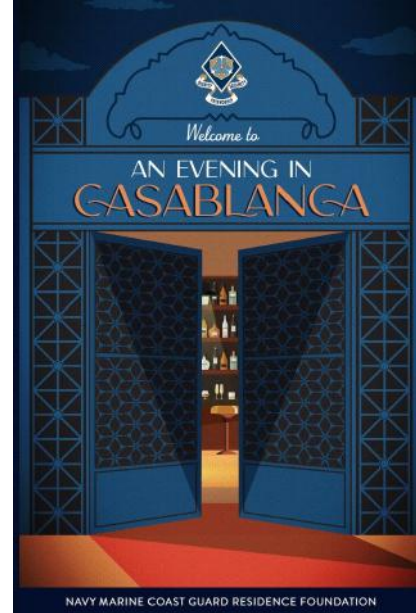
As August comes to a close, we are taking a moment here in the Foundation to look back at a wonderful summer marked by a few fun events and some new toys on campus. This month, we welcomed some four-legged visitors at a Canines and Cocktails event we hosted with our longtime community partner, Veterans Moving Forward. We also celebrated our four-year-old friends – and one of our newest community partnerships – at a graduation ceremony we held for Homestretch’s Kidstretch Preschool. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were pleased to purchase some new equipment for our residents through the Innovation & Enhancement Fund: outdoor cornhole boards for Corn Bag Toss players at the Sports Park, and a new computer and printer for residents to use in the Library. Of course, no August is ever complete without a good summer read, and our residents provided that by sharing their own wonderful stories in the latest issue of *Campus News & Views*. Even as we say good-bye to the summer, we are already looking forward to the fall – starting with the Gala! Many thanks to all those who have purchased tickets to *An Evening in Casablanca*, NMCGRF’s annual fundraiser, coming up on September 16! We can’t wait! We hope you enjoy reading all about these stories below!

An Evening in Casablanca – Annual Gala Coming Soon!

NMCGRF’s Annual Gala is just two weeks away! Many thanks to those who have purchased tickets to join us on September 16 for *An Evening in Casablanca* – where anything can happen at Rick’s Café! The sold-out event starts at 5 p.m. in the Casablanca Casino (Fred Johnson’s Bistro), where guests can try their hand at blackjack

tables or the roulette wheel for a chance to win prizes – or just mingle and savor the glamour of a bygone era. The evening will continue at Rick's Café Americain (The Ballroom) with live music, a delicious three-course meal, and dancing. And we are also delighted to welcome a very special guest: Frank Kendall, U.S. Secretary of the Air Force.

The Gala is the Foundation's only major annual fundraiser, and proceeds from ticket sales go toward supporting the residents and staff of VHRC. We so appreciate your support and look forward to bringing you a night to remember!



NMCGRF Funds Outdoor Game for Sports Park



Our residents love a good game of Corn Bag Toss! About twice a year, VHRC holds a Corn Bag Toss tournament, either indoors or outdoors, and it always brings out a crowd. This summer, residents asked Mirna Fuentes, VHRC's Special Events Coordinator, if the cornhole boards, which are usually stored away, could be left outdoors in the Sport Park so that people could play the popular game whenever they wanted to. However, because the boards are not weatherproof and would warp and crack if exposed to the elements, this was not possible.

Mirna reached out to the Foundation, and we were happy to help! NMCGRF stepped in with a grant from the Innovation & Enhancement Fund to purchase two outdoor, weatherproof cornhole board sets that are made of Trex as well as eight all-weather bags. This equipment will remain outdoors at the Sport Park for all to use. Corn Bag Toss, anyone?



Canines and Cocktails Event Hosted by Foundation

VHRC welcomed some very special guests this month – the four-legged kind. Vincent, Bentley and SealGaire were greeted with pats, hugs, smiles and cuddles on August 9, when they stopped by our Penthouse Lounge. Our canine visitors – a golden retriever, black lab and yellow lab – came from Veterans Moving Forward (VMF), a nonprofit organization based in Dulles that provides service and therapy dogs to veterans with physical or mental health challenges. They had brought along some humans, but the dogs were clearly the stars of our Canines and Cocktails event, organized by Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation.



—It takes about a year and a half for VMF to train a dog for service. The dog is then matched with a particular veteran at no cost to the veteran. “Veterans Moving Forward trains a dog to work with the needs of a specific individual, which is great,” said resident Donna Hall, who had raised Jug, one of VMF’s first service dogs, in 2011. “They really care for their teams of veterans and dogs.”

With our similar missions in support of veterans, VMF and NMCGRF have been



community partners since 2017. "Working with a partner like Vinson Hall means the world to us," said Kerri Kline, President and CEO of VMF. "We truly appreciate your support of what we do. And we loved seeing how the dogs impacted your resident veterans!"



*Donate to NMCGRF
Today*

The Gift of a New Library Computer



The Vinson Hall Library has a new computer and printer, thanks to a gift to the Innovation & Enhancement Fund from resident Stephanie Kitchen. A popular destination on campus, the Library is not only the place where

residents go to find their next great book but also where they can use a computer and printer if need be. As a member of the Vinson Hall Resident Association's IT Committee, Stephanie regularly uses the library computer when working on campus projects. "I heard several people complaining about how slow the library computer was, so I thought we could do something about it," she said.

Stephanie asked the Foundation if she could make a donation specifically to replace the existing library computer and printer with newer equipment, and we were delighted to help. Working with VHRC Librarian Mary Blair and Parasol IT provider Josh Simpson, we were able to buy and install a new computer in a matter of days. "Since then, it has been a pleasure to see residents smiling while using the new computer," she said. "For many of us, Vinson Hall is our last abode, so let's make it the best it can be!" Thank you for your gift, Stephanie!

Celebrating the Kids of Kidstretch, NMCGRF's New Community Partner

This month, the Foundation hosted a graduation ceremony for our littlest friends: Kidstretch Preschool's four-year-olds! The students of Kidstretch Preschool in Falls Church have been regular visitors to VHRC over the past year, and we wanted to help our young friends mark this milestone as they moved on to Kindergarten next year.



At the graduation ceremony, which was held in our Ballroom, the teachers first presented a slide show full of happy memories of the six intergenerational playdates that their kids and our residents have had on campus. Then the preschoolers each came up on stage to receive their diploma, the entire class performed a song for residents, and everyone enjoyed popcorn, lemonade and a movie.

Kidstretch Preschool is run by Homestretch, a nonprofit organization that helps homeless families rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient. NMCGRF is proud to have built this new partnership with our neighbors in Falls Church, and we look forward to starting up another great year of intergenerational playdates this fall!



Latest Issue of Literary Magazine is Hot Off the Press!

VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
Campus News & Views
 Summer 2023



Spring and summer fun at VHRC included the grand opening of the Sport Park Fire Pit, June Art Show, a Walk to End Alzheimer's around campus, and a Throw for Show, Putt for Dough putting contest on the VHRC green.

There are so many fascinating people at VHRC – with fascinating stories to tell! The latest edition of *Campus News & Views*, Vinson Hall and Willow Oak's quarterly literary magazine, is brimming with wonderful stories, remembrances and poems. Highlights include a resident's recollections of his father's role in laying Al Capone to rest, and a young GI's terror after being recruited to join an Army jazz quartet and play an instrument he had never touched. Another resident recalls her tender encounter with an orphan elephant in Sri Lanka, while an ambassador shares a speech she gave in Papua New Guinea in memory of the Battle of Guadalcanal, followed

afterwards by a baseball game that brought together American and Japanese veterans groups.

This issue has it all, from history – VHRC Chaplain Scott Harrison shares the origins of our Chapel's unique wood carvings – to campus news from CEO Chip Warner and Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement Michelle Crone. It is our privilege in the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement to edit and publish this magazine in support of the remarkable residents of VHRC! Please click [here](#) to read the Summer 2023 issue of *Campus News & Views*.

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
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