MISSION STATEMENT
Responding to the call of the Gospel, Christopher Homes, Inc. strives to provide decent, affordable housing to vulnerable members of our community.
All who are associated with Christopher Homes, Inc. have the right to respect, dignity and a sense of well being. Therefore, through the service and commitment of our staff and volunteers, we will enable our residents to grow spiritually, socially, and intellectually, empowering them to develop their optimal potential.
Christopher Homes is a senior living ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

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In just a few weeks Christopher Homes was able to raise for #iGIVECATHOLIC $121,944 with 68 donors!

Thank you to all who donated. Your donations are very special to our Christopher Homes residents.
FOCUSING ON EMOTIONAL WELLNESS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Health habits brought to you by Peoples Health

We all feel down-in-the-dumps or sad sometimes. Those feelings may last a few days, and some may even say they feel “depressed.” Usually we can lift our spirits by doing things we enjoy or spending time with someone we care about.

Depression, on the other hand, is a medical condition. It causes continued sadness that affects your daily life. These feelings can get worse during the holidays. Depression is highly treatable, but many people with the condition don’t seek help.

Emotional wellness is key to staying healthy. When you feel worried or downhearted for long periods of time, the whole body suffers. There are many signs of depression, and each person can feel them differently. You may be dealing with depression if you have several of the following symptoms for two weeks or more:

• Feeling sad, hopeless, tired, irritable or restless
• Having less interest in favorite activities
• Withdrawing from social activities
• Overeating or losing appetite
• Sleeping too little or too much
• Having trouble focusing or making decisions
• Having repeated thoughts of suicide or death

Depression can affect anyone, but you can get ahead of it by telling your doctor about any feelings or concerns. Your doctor can help you find ways to manage depression and get back to living your life.

To follow the Health Habits blog online head to www.christopherhomes.org.

You’ll find this article as well as previous health-related articles.

Also, follow Christopher Homes on:
Facebook: @christopherhomesano
Twitter: @chi_archno
Instagram: @christopherhomesinc
These are the top three for fundraising for the 2018 #iGiveCatholic

1st Place
St. Martin Manor

2nd Place
Villa St. Maurice

3rd Place
St. Bernard Manor

THANK YOU to all of our donors!

Automatic Access Solutions
Access Lock & Security
Faia Construction
The Satellite Center
IMC Consulting Engineers
Coleman Partners Architects
Lakeside Hospice

Seaside Behavioral Healthcare
Heritage Electrical
Paramount Pest Management
Safeway Security Agency
Associated Waterproofing
Bill & Julia Soniat
Cort Boltman

Charlie Fontenelle
Joey Zuppardo
Dave Waltemath
Debra Stepter
Ruth Adams
Deacon Dennis Adams
Rick Redmann

CONGRATULATIONS

Executive Director, Deacon Dennis Adams received a community partner award through Giving Hope.

Through a partnership with Christopher Homes, Giving Hope provides meals to our some of our residents at no cost to them.

2018 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FELLOWS

A select group of participants met throughout the year to explore diverse perspectives from aging services leaders, learn from innovative care and service models, enhance their leadership skills and core competencies and advance person-centered programming in aging services. Congratulations to our very own Marie Letellier, Community Manager at Metairie Manor for being a part of the 2018 Fellows. Part of this experience is identifying a gap that exist in the senior sector and to showcase this in a video for invited guests to view. Marie’s video filmed residents at Metairie Manor and the importance of touch and engagement among the staff and the residents.
THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

Many Christopher Homes residents gathered for lunches and dinners to celebrate the holiday.

An event was held by the resident council at Mater Dolorosa on November 15th. Turkey was served with all the fixings and dessert. An entire turkey was also donated to Ozanam Inn by the residents of Mater Dolorosa.

St. Bernard Manor’s Thanksgiving dinner was celebrated on November 27th. Residents and staff were treated to all the fixings.

And at Annunciation Inn residents also enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast. Residents at Annunciation Inn had a great time dancing and receiving Turkey giveaways from Beacon Light Ministries. The residents were extremely grateful for staff and the Turkeys they received.

Thanksgiving Celebration 2018 at ST. John Berchmans was very nice. Residents came out to celebrate a time to give thanks to GOD. They also received Turkey giveaways at the end of the celebration. Compliments of Beacon Light Ministries.

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

Several Christopher Homes properties got into the Halloween spirit at the end of October by having parties. Rouquette Lodge hosted pre-schoolers from Mary Queen of Peace for trick-or-treating, then later in the day had a party for residents and staff.

Wynhoven also celebrated Halloween. They had a party complete with a DJ and some great food.
CROCHETING FOR BABIES

A group of crocheting women has sprung up at Rouquette Lodge. The women meet up just about every day to create warm works of art.

Pam Marshall, the woman leading the charge, says that she’s been crocheting since she was about 8 years old.

The women gather in community spaces at the Mandeville property to make blankets and hats. Some of the materials are donated to the group and others are purchased by the women themselves. “We are accepting donations,” says Pam.

Some in the group are more experienced than others, but they all agree that creating something for others brings “peace, joy and harmony.” Pam Marshall says that, “She’s willing to teach anyone who wants to join.” Others in the group chimed in that she’s a great instructor.

Fingers turn the pastel pieces of fabric into meaningful items that will keep newborn babies warm. They are donated to the Northlake pregnancy crisis center as well as St. Tammany Parish Hospital. The items are all washed and sterilized before being given out.

GREAT JOB!

Here’s a “congratulations” to the staff of Christopher Inn. Christopher Inn received an Above Average rating for their HUD, Management and Occupancy Review conducted in September, 2018. Christopher Inn received an average rating in six categories, General Appearance & Security, Follow-Up Project Inspection, Maintenance/ Operating Procedures, Leasing & Occupancy, Tenant/ Management Relations & Overall Rating. To the Community Manager and team at Christopher Inn, we are proud of you.

Back row left to right: Ryan Funches, Leydi Rodriguez, Jerome Dilling
Front row left to right: Dionne Collins, Mildred Florent, Mary Marks, Deacon Graylin Miller

NAZARETH INN TAILGATE

Even though the New Orleans Saints lost to the Dallas Cowboys on November 29th, some true Saints fans turned out for a tailgate at Nazareth Inn.
 Members from several Christopher Homes properties participated in walks to end Alzheimer’s disease. The walks happened on November 3rd and on November 10th on both sides of the lake. We want to thanks all of the Christopher Homes staff and residents who supported this worthwhile cause.

WELCOME ABOARD

Wynhoven has two new employees. Both started 10/29/2018

Nichol Robertson  
Recertification Clerk  

Rodney Hebert  
Receptionist/Secretary

EMPLEYEE OF THE MONTH

Spotlight on Success – December 2018

Denise Batiste  
Activity Coordinator, Wynhoven

“I like the way residents respond to the events I give for them.”
- Denise Batiste

Outside of Work: Denise enjoys being in her backyard having a girls night.  
Favorite Food: Smothered Okra & Boiled Crawfish
All Saints Day blessings in New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries and families visiting their loved one's grave are long standing traditions in New Orleans. Every year many families show their dedication and love by cleaning their graves and placing flowers.

This year severe weather warnings led us to move All Saints Day mass from outside at St. Louis Cemetery #3 to inside Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Archbishop Aymond celebrated the annual All Saints Day mass assisted by Fr. Jonathan Hemelt, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Fortunately, the skies cleared and everyone was able to proceed after mass to St. Louis Cemetery for the blessing of the graves. Archbishop Aymond walked the entire 3/4 of a mile cemetery blessing graves and pausing where family members stood or knelt before their tombs.

Next year the annual All Saints Day mass will be celebrated at St Roch Cemetery in the newly renovated St. Roch Chapel.

With Christmas fast approaching, starting December 1st, there will be two In Memory Christmas trees – one at St. Louis Cemetery #3 on Esplanade Avenue and one at St. Patrick Cemetery #3 on City Park Avenue. Complimentary ornaments are available to write your loved one's name on. For more information on any events or services, please call 504-596-3050.
Dear Residents and Staff,

“A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God” (Is 40:3)

How well we know the meaning of preparation in New Orleans. As we enter this Advent season, we say a grateful farewell to the hurricane season. We continue prayers for the Florida panhandle and the Carolinas as they continue their recovery. Preparation must remain a part of our life.

As Christians we are called to a specific form of preparation during Advent, that four-week liturgical season we set aside to prepare ourselves for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered. Advent is also a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await His Second Coming at the end of time. Christ also comes to us each day and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthens us to face our daily challenges. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

The verse above and the following two verses from the beginning of Chapter 40 of the Prophet Isaiah gives a figurative description of the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem. The Lord will lead them, so their way will lie straight across the wilderness rather than along a well-watered but circuitous route usually followed to Jerusalem. It denotes the trust of the Jewish nation that Yahweh will provide a Messiah who will lead them back to the glory they once knew as a nation.

It is no small wonder then that each of the Gospels use this verse from Isaiah at their beginning to describe the proclamation of John the Baptist of the coming of the Christ; Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4, and John 1:23. The Evangelists are writing to the first century Jews and Gentiles and to each of us that the Lord will come to lead us to the glory of eternal life if we but follow him and abide by his teaching in our daily life.

Today our Advent season has been commandeered by the retail merchandising industry as a long Christmas buying season. A time to convince us that we need to buy the latest in toys for our children or grandchildren, that we need a new television or cell phone or computer, or that last year’s holiday dress or suit is no longer stylish and we need new clothes. While there is nothing wrong with the business of merchandising and retail sales, when it becomes “the reason for the season” and replaces the true meaning of this time to prepare for the coming of the Messiah into our lives and our need to make him the King of our personal universe, we need to take a step back.

In the words of our Archbishop Gregory Aymond in his recent Advent Reflections, “The whole idea of gift-giving on Christmas began because it is on Christmas that we remember the greatest gift that God has given us - his Son. So, we exchange gifts with two meanings: When we give a gift, we remember that the greatest gift ever given was Christ himself, and we share a gift with others out of charity. Gift-giving also symbolizes what the three Magi did for Christ, coming to him bearing their gifts. So, we bear gifts to those whom we care about.”

In November, Christopher Homes and each of our properties participated in the #iGiveCatholic campaign. We came in second place on the national leaderboard with total funds raised of nearly $122,000. This year’s national total for all participants was over $5.6 million. This is an example of Christ-like charity at its best and many needs will be filled as a result. I could not be more proud of our Christopher Homes’ residents and staff for the great work you did in this cause. The light of Christ shines through each of you.

May the love and blessing of the Christ child be with you this day, this season, and throughout the year!

With God’s Blessings,

Deacon Dennis F. Adams
Executive Director, Christopher Homes