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.
If your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, you could be at risk for diabetes. Knowing the warning signs and making healthy choices can help you prevent or control it.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of the condition. It happens when the body doesn’t use insulin properly. This makes it hard for the body to turn food into energy. Over time, the body can’t make enough insulin to keep up, and blood sugar rises. High blood sugar damages nerves and blood vessels, which can lead to heart disease, stroke and other health problems.

Watch for these warning signs:
- Increased thirst, urination and tiredness
- Sores or cuts that don’t heal
- Blurred vision
- Tingling or loss of feeling in hands or feet

Some people with diabetes don’t have any symptoms, so it’s important to talk with your doctor about your health history and risk factors.

You may be able to prevent diabetes with lifestyle changes. These include having a healthy weight, staying active, eating a balanced diet and quitting smoking.

If you do get diabetes, it’s a lifelong condition, but these changes can help you avoid other health problems it can cause. And if lifestyle changes aren’t enough to control it, your doctor can recommend medications or insulin replacement therapy to help. You can live a full, active life with diabetes by taking charge of your health.

CHRISTOPHER HOMES SPONSORS ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCE

Christopher Homes was a sponsor of the Gulf Coast Elder Abuse Conference. The conference was held at the Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell on June 25th and 26th. Several Christopher Homes employees also participated in continuing education and received credits at the conference. The Gulf Coast Elder Abuse Conference was sponsored by the St. Tammany SALT Council.
ST. BERNARD MANOR RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HURRICANE EVACUATION DRILL

More than half of the residents at St. Bernard Manor took part in a parish-wide hurricane evacuation exercise on May 30th.

Early Wednesday morning the residents lined up be taken on a parish bus to the civic center. It was there that they were met by National Guard as well as emergency operations managers from a across St. Bernard parish.

All residents who participated were checked in, just as they would be if there were a real emergency. Director of Homeland Security for St. Bernard Parish, John Rahaim, Jr., was on hand to explain that the evacuation procedure has many layers and could eventually end up with residents being taken to North Louisiana in the case of a severe emergency.

Once the residents were transported back to St. Bernard Manor Community Manager Wanda Robertson and Service Coordinator Babette Charbonnet raffled off many storm-related necessities.

Director of Homeland Security for St. Bernard Parish, John Rahaim, Jr., was on hand to explain that the evacuation procedure has many layers and could eventually end up with residents being taken to North Louisiana in the case of a severe emergency.

For more information on what St. Bernard Parish Government is doing this hurricane season you can go to www.sbpg.net or follow them on Facebook.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS

Representatives from the City of New Orleans, the Department of Health, as well as Transdev, the private operating partner of the RTA, were on hand at St. Martin Manor to give residents the crucial information they would need in the case of a storm. Around 75 people participated in this event.

A representative from the RTA also attended events at several other properties including St. John Berchman’s. About 20 people were in attendance at this event.

For more information on routes and how you can let the RTA know what you think head on over to www.norta.com.
HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

Several Christopher Homes properties organized events in honor of Father’s Day. Donna Prevost the activity coordinator for St. John Berchman’s and Annunciation Inn organized celebrations at each of the properties.

On June 11, 2018, St. Martin’s Manor had their Father’s Day Celebration Luncheon. There were more than fifty male residents in attendance. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The meal was prepared by Ms. Lynn Johnson which consisted of baked chicken, baked macaroni and cheese, vegetables, garlic bread, tossed salad along with a special ordered Father’s Day cake for desert. Ms. Jontell Miles topping it off with a special homemade fruit drink which was a great hit.

Mr. Melvin Hogan blessed the food with his grace and thanked the Lord for allowing all of the fathers to be together on this beautiful occasion. They were especially glad to have the St. Martin’s Manor male staff (Mr. Charles and Mr. Huu) in attendance. The oldest father of the property, Mr. Harold Everage, was acknowledged.

LUNCH OUTING TO POPULAR MANCHAC RESTAURANT

Wynhoven and Rouquette residents meet up for lunch at Middendorf’s. The restaurant in Manchac, which is popular for its thin-fried catfish and hush puppies, was packed with Christopher Homes residents on June 1st.

Wynhoven activity coordinator, Denise Batiste helped organize the events. The lunch came complete with a craft. The outings are a regular thing for those who live at Wynhoven.

METAIRIE MANOR HOSTS CRAWFISH BOIL

Residents and staff were invited to a crawfish boil at Metairie Manor. Hundreds of the mudbugs were boiled up for the annual feast. The two pots tasked with boiling up all of the crawfish could hold hundreds of pounds each.
Saint Bonaventure
Feast Day: July 15th

Prayer to St. Bonaventure

Pierce, O most sweet Lord Jesus, my inmost soul with the most joyous and healthful wound of Thy love, and with true, calm and most holy apostolic charity, that my soul may ever languish and melt with entire love and longing for Thee, may yearn for Thee and for thy courts, may long to be dissolved and to be with Thee.

Grant that my soul may hunger after Thee, the Bread of Angels, the refreshment of holy souls, our daily and super substantial bread, having all sweetness and savor and every delightful taste.

May my heart ever hunger after and feed upon Thee, Whom the angels desire to look upon, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of Thy savor; may it ever thirst for Thee, the fountain of life, the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of eternal light, the torrent of pleasure, the fullness of the house of God; may it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee, come up to Thee, meditate on Thee, speak of Thee, and do all for the praise and glory of Thy name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with ease and affection, with perseverance to the end; and be Thou alone ever my hope, my entire confidence, my riches, my delight, my pleasure, my joy, my rest and tranquility, my peace, my sweetness, my food, my refreshment, my refuge, my help, my wisdom, my portion, my possession, my treasure; in Whom may my mind and my heart be ever fixed and firm and rooted immovably. Amen.

SAINT SPOTLIGHT

Zina Smith

“I enjoy everything the residents do. They’re fun!” – Zina Smith

Zina has worked at Christopher Homes for almost 3 years as the activity coordinator for Metairie Manor.

Outside of work Zina enjoys being with her grandchildren, fishing and spending time with her family.

We thank Zina for her continued efforts with our seniors.

WELCOME ABOARD

Christopher Homes has hired a new property accountant. Charleen Steinkamp joined the Christopher Homes team on May 30th, 2018.

Patricia Jones has joined our team as the wellness coordinator for Metairie Manor. Ms. Jones was hired in June.

WE’RE HIRING

Christopher Homes has several job vacancies. Please take a look at the career section on our website for more information on the application process. www.christopherhomes.org
The oldest cemetery in New Orleans is St. Louis Cemetery #1 from 1789. It was started the year after the great fire of New Orleans in the area we now know as the French Quarter.

While burials are still presently occurring in St. Louis #1, the vast majority of the tombs have little to no activity.

The other New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries which are all still active include St. Louis #2 & #3, St. Roch #1 & #2, St. Patrick #1, #2 & #3, St. Joseph #1 & #2, St. Vincent #1 & #2 on Soniat Street, and St. Charles Cemetery in Luling.

A few of these cemeteries offer new mausoleum crypts and family tombs. The only New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries currently offering niches for cremated remains are St. Roch #2 and St. Louis #3.

According to the Cremation Association of North America, the cremation percentage for Louisiana is only 27%, however in the New Orleans area it is closer to 50%. The current cremation inurnment percentage in New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries is 40%.

For Catholics not fully aware of the cremation guidelines according to the Code of Canon Law, in 1963, the Vatican began accepting cremation as an alternative providing the cremated remains are still treated with the same respect as the human body and the cremated remains are interred in a cemetery. The cremated remains can be present in the Catholic Church for the Funeral Liturgy.

With the rise in cremation, it was decided that the green space in St. Patrick #3 would be best served as a beautiful, sacred cremation garden.

Ground breaking on Queen of All Saints Cremation Garden has started and the granite delivery is expected later in July. The garden will include various styles of cremation niches, benches and stone boulders. There will be two water features including a grotto area with an Our Lady of Lourdes statue; a Holy Family statue will adorn another columbarium, and there will be a gazebo surrounded by 14 columbaria with each having a carved Saint on the side.

Queen of All Saints Garden will be the only Catholic cremation garden in the greater New Orleans area. New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries is blessed to offer this modern feature to all families. For more information about pre-planning, please call 504-488-5200, or visit the website at www.NolaCatholicCem.org
97-YEAR-OLD WYNHOVEN RESIDENT CONTINUES TO GIVE BACK

He is a World War II veteran who continues to serve others. Mr. Sam Cooper is 97 years old, but you wouldn’t know it. He spends several days a week volunteering. Two days a week he helps residents at Wynhoven Health. It’s right in the backyard of Wynhoven, the place he’s called home for the past few years. “I help push them in the wheelchair, so the nurse can give her full attention,” says Mr. Cooper.

Wynhoven is a place for seniors to live independently. Mr. Cooper sure does that. He’s as independent as they come. Along with being a World War II veteran, Mr. Cooper is a cancer survivor. All of that has given Mr. Cooper a different perspective on life. He says he doesn’t feel 97.

The staff at Wynhoven Health says that Mr. Cooper is a big help and that he always brings a great sense of humor with him.

SOCIAL MEDIA 101

Christopher Homes is active on social media and CHI’s Director of Communications started making the rounds to make sure residents and staff are able to follow along. Marcy O’Leary held 12 informational sessions to explain the uses of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Each of these platforms has many tools that can help residents feel less isolated and feel like they’re part of a community group.

These pictures are from the presentation at Metairie Manor.
Dear Residents and Staff,

“Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.” Dt 10:19

I have always thought of July as a special time for family. July 4th BBQ’s, reunions, vacations, swimming, the beach, and relaxation. Yes, July is a time for family and for this reason, we have scheduled our first annual Christopher Homes staff family picnic in appreciation of all that you do to serve our seniors and the certain sacrifices your families must make as you fulfill this ministry of service.

We hope that each of our Christopher Homes staff will be able to come out to Audubon Zoo on July 28th to enjoy the food, the fun, the Zoo exhibits, and the camaraderie and fellowship.

As we celebrate family, we should consider those that are less fortunate. While we are able to enjoy the freedom and opportunity in this country, not everyone can. Most, if not all of us, come from ancestors that migrated here for the chance of a better life. Our country benefitted tremendously from the immigration of peoples who brought talents, skills, knowledge, and desire with them.

In recent weeks, we have experienced much controversy concerning the immigration issues on our southern border. Of the many concerns, the greatest is the separation of children from their parents. This is an issue of moral concern and a violation against the dignity of the person. Our Archbishop Gregory Aymond recently issued the following statement regarding immigration.

“In the last 6 weeks, nearly 2,000 children have been separated from their parents at the Texas border. Separating children from their parents often leads to long-term emotional scarring. Particularly for these families who are already in a state of anxiety and fear, the impact on both the children and the parents, will no doubt be long-lasting. As a people of faith, we must speak out for these children.

The teaching of the Catholic Church is that if a person is experiencing injustice, persecution, or danger, they have a human right to find a place of security in which to begin a new life. We believe in the dignity of the human person and the preservation of the family. Nations are encouraged to create laws that will allow legal immigration in a just way. As a church we have never suggested, “Open our borders – all are welcome”, yet countries must regulate their borders with justice and mercy. We believe immigration should be guided by laws that show charity while providing safety and security. Our current immigration laws are not guided by these principles and are not fair or just.

Let us recall the principle in Jewish law and the teaching of Jesus, “Do to others what you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). We are called to pray for those unjustly treated and to be a voice for them. I invite all people of good will to join me in prayer for our sisters and brothers and to act on their behalf by contacting our government officials and urging them to stop these dehumanizing practices and make a sincere effort towards comprehensive immigration.

We are told efforts are now in place to resolve the issue of separation of children from their family. For this, we are grateful. As the Archbishop suggests we should offer prayers and advocate for a comprehensive immigration policy that is just, effective, and protective of both our country and immigrants. This is the way to live the Gospel message of Christ and that greatest of commandments to love our neighbor as ourselves.

See you at the Zoo!

May God bless each of you and your families with a safe and joyful summer.

With God’s Blessings,

Deacon Dennis F. Adams
Executive Director, Christopher Homes