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.
**IMPORTANT FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE FLU SHOT**

*Health habits brought to you by PEOPLES HEALTH*

It’s a good idea to get your flu shot in September or as soon as the vaccine is available. It takes about two weeks after you get a shot for your body to develop the antibodies that protect you, so you want to get it early before the flu is widespread. Outbreaks can begin as early as October, with the season peaking in January.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone older than six months get a flu shot each year. The following groups of people especially should get a shot:

- Those with a high risk of developing pneumonia
- Those ages 65 and older
- Pregnant women
- Those with medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma and lung disease, and their caregivers

You can’t get the flu from the flu shot because the viruses in the serum are inactive, so they can’t infect you. But there are many strains of the flu, and you could be infected by one not covered by the shot. Even so, getting a shot can help lessen symptoms and decrease the amount of days you’re sick if you do get the flu.

Talk to your doctor if you have questions about the flu shot and your health. It could be the key to staying healthy this flu season.

**WYNHOVEN HEALTH & RESOURCE LUAU**

Wynhoven Senior Living in Marrero became a one-stop-shop for residents wanting more information about resources in the community. On August 17th the facility opened its doors to several different agencies, which included several home health providers, the Jefferson Council on Aging as well as New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries.

Booths lined the activity hall where residents were able to collect the many items given out by the vendors. Natasha Baxter, the service coordinator at Wynhoven, organized the event. She says that while a lot of work went into the health fair, it was worth it to have all of those resources in one place for her residents. Denise Batiste, Wynhoven’s activity coordinator, helped setup the luau themed decorations and take pictures of residents at a photo booth.

Door prizes, which were provided by some of the vendors, were also given out. Deacon Dennis Adams, Executive Director for Christopher Homes, was on hand to give out the big prize which was a flat screen television. Christopher Homes sponsored the main giveaway. Lunch was also provided by JenCare, Aetna and Pace.

**DR. COREY HEBERT VISITS RESIDENTS AT ANNUNCIATION INN**

Local physician and a medical editor with the local NBC TV news affiliate Dr. Corey Hebert made a stop to see some Christopher Homes residents at Annunciation Inn. Dr. Hebert stopped in to talk about the things people can do right now to improve their health.

1. Watch your water intake
2. Go to the doctor
3. Stop Smoking
4. Brush your teeth
5. Eat 5-7 servings of fruits and vegetables a day
On August 4th, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in New Orleans hosted an event aimed at educating the public about issues related to “Catholic Teaching and Practical Matters” pertaining to end-of-life decisions. Members of The Catholic Foundation were invited to speak on those issues. The Director of Communications for Christopher Homes, Marcy O’Leary, was also on hand to answer questions about the role that Christopher Homes plays in the lives of seniors across Southeast Louisiana. Health screenings were also offered by a health agency.

On August 8th, Deacon Dennis Adams, the Executive Director of Christopher Homes, could be heard across the soundwaves promoting Christopher Homes. Deacon Adams was invited to be a guest on Catholic Community Radio’s “Wake Up” edition on WQNO 690 am in New Orleans. He spoke about Christopher Homes and how our ministry reaches seniors across five parishes.


Annunciation Inn Community Manager DeChaun Hicks says, “Good management is what creates results.” To the Community Manager and team at Annunciation Inn, take a bow.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

“I feel that I am actually helping the residents. I see them every day and I see that my intervention is working for them.”

- Natasha Baxter, Service Coordinator, Wynhoven

Outside of Work - “I like to travel. My favorite place to travel is the Caribbean.”

WELCOME ABOARD

We want to welcome our new Human Resources Generalist, Madison Stein. Madison is a recent graduate of Louisiana State University. She was hired on August 1st. Welcome!

Nazareth Inn welcomed a new recertification clerk on July 30th. Joy Williams says she is happy to be here working with Christopher Homes and hopes to be here for a long time.

Villa St. Maurice in the Lower 9th Ward is welcoming a new maintenance tech to its staff. Terrance Robinson joined the Christopher Homes team on August 13th.

A new groundskeeper has joined the Christopher Homes staff at Wynhoven. Jonathan Franklin was hired on August 13th.

JOB OPENINGS

Please check www.christopherhomes.org and the Christopher Homes Facebook page for updates on job postings. There are several vacancies that need to be filled.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nominated as St. John Berchman’s resident of the month.

St. John Berchman’s would like to recognize Ms. Velma Eaglin for being one of the eldest residents in our community. Ms. Eaglin turned 94 years young July 16, 2018. She has lived in our community since December 16, 2009 which is when the building began reoccupying units from Hurricane Katrina’s devastation. Ms. Eaglin is always available to volunteer for our community.

She assists daily with the lunches, and with the chapel. Ms. Eaglin always has a great smile on her face, and it is a pleasure to have her as an active volunteer in our community. St. John Berchmam’s is very pleased you have chosen our community to call your home.
Rouquette Lodge Residents Participate in Music Therapy

Strumming on a guitar, singing along to some good tunes, that’s how residents at Rouquette Lodge spent a rainy July afternoon. The hour-long session was led by a guitarist and singer provided by ComForCare home care services. The music therapy instructor led the group with her rendition of “Walkin’ after Midnight” by Patsy Cline and “Proud Mary” by Tina Turner, among other popular songs. She encouraged the dozen or so residents in attendance to sing and “play” along. Each was given an instrument so they could keep the beat. A beat that some at Rouquette Lodge say helps them stay active in mind and spirit.

Mr. Bennett Morehead has spent the past few weeks creating a beautiful work of art. He is a 3 year resident of Villa St. Maurice, but he says he’s been creating things all his life.

“I never worried about playing with other kids. I was always working on something,” said Mr. Morehead. He went on to say, “I started on the age of five working on stuff, drawing things like that.” His lifelong talent has carried him well into his senior years.

He was given a piece of material by some of the other residents at Villa St. Maurice with the idea that the facility needed a cross. Mr. Morehead says, “I had a vision of how I would do this, and this is the way it came out.”

More than 1,000 stones were used to create the glittering dedication to Jesus Christ. Each piece symbolizing something different. Mr. Morehead says that some of the rocks represent the heart and others the human flesh, some take on the meaning of the human race. Each stone meaning something different to the artist who so carefully placed each where it was meant to be and securing it for eternity.

A beautiful tapestry of stone. Bit by bit, piece by piece, a creation of something that will live on at Villa St. Maurice for years to come. It will be prominently displayed in the dining area. A place where everyone can take in its beauty.

To hear Mr. Morehead as he talks about his beautiful work of art, please go to www.christopherhomes.org.
SAINT OF THE MONTH

Saint Raphael – Feast Day, September 29th

St. Raphael is one of the seven Archangels who stand before the throne of the Lord.

Prayer to St. Raphael

Glorious Archangel St. Raphael, great prince of the heavenly court, you are illustrious for your gifts of wisdom and grace. You are a guide of those who journey by land or sea or air, consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners. I beg you, assist me in all my needs and in all the sufferings of this life, as once you helped the young Tobias on his travels. Because you are the “medicine of God” I humbly pray you to heal the many infirmities of my soul and the ills that afflict my body. I especially ask of you the favor (here mention your special intention), and the great grace of purity to prepare me to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NEW ORLEANS TRICENTENNIAL

In many ways, it is the elements, the sinking ground and the stifling humidity, the endless cycle of decay and renewal, which gives an old place like New Orleans its unique feel. The uniqueness extends to our sacred Catholic Cemeteries; the preservation and upkeep of which, is a daunting task. Nevertheless, we are proud of our city, its strong Catholic heritage, and the work we do each day serving the burial needs of the Catholic community.

Our cemeteries are stronger when the families we serve share in the sense of pride we feel from the work that we do. Ongoing efforts to restore abandoned tombs and beautify cemetery grounds are just part of a larger effort launched by New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries in recent years to engage New Orleans Catholics. We want our families to feel connected to the cemeteries in which their loved ones are interred.

The beautiful Pieta statue, pictured here, serves as a testament to this notion. The statue, which depicts the body of Jesus on Mary’s lap after the Crucifixion, is a generous gift of the Michael Alvin Ribelin Family. Mrs. Ribelin interred her husband in St. Teresa Garden Mausoleum and wanted to donate a statue in his memory. After inquiring if we would allow a statue to be placed in the garden in front of the mausoleum, Mrs. Ribelin chose the Pieta. We are truly blessed to have this beautiful statue adorn St. Teresa Garden Mausoleum.

Perhaps more important than the donation itself, however, is the symbolism of the act. It serves as a reminder to our staff that the work we perform is appreciated by the families we serve. It also represents the shared sense of pride we want our Catholic families to feel upon entering our cemeteries. Most of all, it is an expression of our Faith.

Provided by Catholic Cemeteries
MAYOR LATOYA CANTRELL MEETS WITH RESIDENTS OF NAZARETH INN

“The heartbeat of the city is where our seniors are.” That was the opening statement from New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell as she addressed residents at Nazareth Inn. The Mayor made a stop at our New Orleans East property on August 7th. She was met with dozens of residents who peppered her with questions about the state of New Orleans. Nazareth Inn is located on Hayne Boulevard in New Orleans East. The two buildings at that location house about 270 people.

JCOA SENIOR MOMENTS GALA

Christopher Homes was a sponsor of the Jefferson Council on Aging’s Senior Moments Gala. The event was held on August 25th at Chateau Golf & Country Club in Kenner. The theme for the night was “Lost in the 60’s”. Representatives from Wynhoven and Metairie Manor attended the event.

Pictured from left to right - Marie Letellier, Metairie Manor Community Manager Antonio Dias, Executive Director PACE Tom Vaughn, Enrollment & Marketing manager PACE Nick Phillips, Wynhoven Community Manager
Dear Residents and Staff,

“For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

“Hope springs eternal in the human breast” is a verse from Alexander Pope’s poem An Essay on Man. It speaks to the optimistic attitude of humanity, the joy found even in the daily challenges we all face. Even in those persons who seemingly have a continuous negative outlook, we can find something that they look forward to participating in.

We often use the term hope and toss it about without thought of its deep meaning and purpose for the human condition. “I hope my favorite television show is not cancelled.” “Let’s hope that they don’t serve that for lunch again.” Even, “I hope the Saints win their preseason game tonight,” does not have the depth of purpose that this small word represents.

The Webster dictionary defines hope as “desire accompanied by the expectation of fulfillment.” Its definition has greater depth and purpose in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which has meaning for all persons who believe in the Creator, “the theological virtue by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it.”

We can hope for many things during our time on earth but our greatest hope, especially as we grow older, is that we are traveling this pilgrimage of life such that we will gain eternal life. We can take comfort in the gift of eternal life if we practice the other two theological virtues. First, faith, our belief in God and our practice of all that He has said and revealed to us. Also, charity, the virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God and we show our love by how we live and treat others.

Hope also plays a part in the challenges we face in our day-to-day lives. There remains a place for hope for those who believe that God is with us in our daily challenges and our expectation that difficulties will be resolved, if not to our complete satisfaction then certainly to the best extent possible.

Thirteen years ago at the end of August, the 29th to be exact, Christopher Homes, our management, staff, and especially our residents were presented with what appeared to be an insurmountable challenge, the recovery and reoccupancy of two-thirds of our apartments. While I have taken the position in the past few years not to return to that memory in my writings or discussions, this year is significantly different.

After Hurricane Katrina we had hope, the desire to replace our damaged apartments but our expectation of fulfillment of that desire was severely compromised. The funding just did not seem to be sufficient to rebuild. However, we continued to persevere. I recall while praying my Breviary one Thursday night after having faced a significant challenge in our rebuilding effort that day, I was presented with the antiphon, “He is my comfort and my refuge. In him I put my trust.” That became my prayer for the next several years.

This past August 29th, Christopher Homes achieved a milestone. It was on that day that I signed the documents for the refinancing of St. Teresa’s Villa, which was the property that replaced the 75 apartments of Villa Additions. This was the final transaction necessary for our complete recovery from that storm 13 years ago. Yes, hope springs eternal. More so, our God is good; always. It is in Him that we should place our trust.

With God’s Blessings,

Deacon Dennis F. Adams
Executive Director, Christopher Homes