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.
The start of a new year is a great time to plan and set goals. This year, be sure to put your health at the top of your list. Choosing to eat healthier and exercise are great goals, but you should also make routine health care part of your plan. A good place to start is to schedule a yearly checkup with your doctor.

During your checkup, your doctor may suggest that you get certain screenings. These can help your doctor find health concerns early, when treatment is easier. There are screenings to check blood pressure and cholesterol, as well as to test for conditions like osteoporosis, glaucoma and some types of cancer. Talk to your doctor about which ones are right for you.

Making a plan for your health this year will help you stick to your goals. Set up visits or screenings in advance to make sure to set aside time for them. Use a small appointment book or journal to keep track of your appointments.

REMEmber: It's not about finding time to take care of your health, it's about making time. Schedule a screening or checkup today and get your new year off to a great start.

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

New Year’s Resolutions

“In 2019 I would like to make more time for my family and really get to spend quality time with my children, husband, parents and other loved ones.”

Marcy O’Leary, Director of Communications, Christopher Homes

“My goal is to lose 40 pounds.”

Denise Batiste, Activity Coordinator, Wynhoven
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Several Christopher Homes properties held their celebrations in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

The Real Sista and Magnificent Men Social and Aid Pleasure Club Shows out with lots of Love and Joy at St. Martin's Manor!!!!

The residents of St. Martin's Manor were royally treated to a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15, 2018 by the “Real Sista and Magnificent Men Social and Aid Pleasure Club”. These organizations are community oriented and seek out ways to bring joy to others. The residents were very happy to be a part of such a great event. They danced, sang and did lots of laughing. The food was also prepared by the members of these groups. Our very own residents, Ms. Linda Garrison and Mr. Theodore Dubuciet provided the music. The residents personally thanked the members for caring and sharing their time with them this Holiday Season. Mr. Al Hanson, on behalf of all residents and staff, wished them a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Ms. Jontell Miles (Service Coordinator) and Ms. Lynn Johnson (Resident Coordinator) supervised the event.

Santa Claus Arrives at St. Martin's Manor

Santa Claus arrives at St. Martin's Manor bringing Cheers to all. Our Santa was Mr. Byron Thomas, a resident and elected King for the 2019 Carnival Mardi Gras Ball. Residents were allowed to take their personal picture with Santa as he presented each with a candy cane. As an addition to Santa being present, United Healthcare held their monthly birthday celebration and residents were updated important information in regards the new healthcare changes. At the end of the activity there was an “ugly sweater” contest with 5 participants- Christine Hingle, Edna Smith, Patricia Womack, Ricarda Drewey and Lillie Cheri an elected Queen for the 2019 Carnival Mardi Gras Ball. The audience was the judge and the winner was Ms. Edna Smith. Everyone had a great time!!!

St. Martin's Manor Holiday Concert

St. Martin's Manor Choir held a Holiday Concert for the residents in the Chapel. The Choir was directed by Ms. Albertine Rhyans who had a vision to have such a performance. They sang beautifully and allowed the residents to join in.

Some Rouquette residents and staff also took a holiday field trip to the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. We took the residents to Fulton Street in New Orleans to see the Christmas decorations. We had lunch at Mannings then to The Roosevelt Hotel to view the beautiful decorations.

The luncheon at Rouquette in Mandeville was held on December 13th. All employees serve the residents a full course Christmas meal. Door prizes, great food and fellowship.

St. John Berchman’s residents participated in a Christmas luncheon on December 21st. The resident council at the site hosted the luncheon. And a few days earlier on December 19th, the pre-k students from Langston Hughes Elementary sang Christmas carols to the residents.

Annunciation Inn residents were also treated to a Christmas luncheon. That event was held on December 18th.

Nazareth Inn, in New Orleans East, also held a Christmas celebration that included caroling. Everyone got into the holiday spirit.

The Christopher Homes “home office” staff attended a Christmas luncheon at Superior Seafood. Along with a gift exchange attendees also competed for the “most festively dressed”. The prize went to Madison Stein, HR Generalist.
“To create a bucket list and do it. I’ll take suggestions. I did 2 last year I did goat yoga and went to an opera.”

Debra Stepter, Contract Administrator Christopher Homes

“In 2019 I want to work out more and eat better.”

Madison Stein, HR Generalist

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS JANUARY 2019

DeChaun Hicks-Robinson
Community Manager, St. John Berchman's & Annunciation Inn

DeChaun wanted to be photographed with her teams from both properties. She says, “Without God and her teams, none of this is possible.”

NEW HIRE

Codi Hunt
Start date: 12/6/2018
Position: Activity Coordinator
Locations: SBM, CI, MD

LIFESTYLES HEALTH & WEALTH

Christopher Homes participated in the event in Abita Springs on Saturday, December 1st. There were several other organizations there educating the public about healthy lifestyle choices.

Director of Communications, Marcy O’Leary was on hand at the event to speak with those in attendance about what Christopher Homes has to offer.

NEW ORLEANS SENIOR CHRISTMAS “SHINNDIG”

George Shinn Foundation held a luncheon the Pontchartrain Center on December 13th and many Christopher Homes residents were in attendance.

Residents from Metairie Manor, St. Teresa’s Villa, St. John Berchman’s, St. Martin’s Manor and Villa St. Maurice attended the event. Those in attendance were served a turkey dinner with all the fixings and were entertained by the Victory Belles who put on a special holiday performance for the seniors in attendance.

The seniors from Christopher Homes were among hundreds of area seniors to attend the event.
The year was 1985, Ronald Reagan was President, Philip Hannan was Archbishop of New Orleans and the Saints had never won a Super Bowl. It was also the year that Mrs. Willie McPherson came to work at Christopher Homes.

Mrs. Willie, as she's called, was hired to work as a cook at Monsignor Wynhoven senior living facility 33 years ago. She's retiring this month. During that time she transitioned from cook to housekeeper. Wynhoven was a relatively young property in 1985. It was named after Catholic priest Peter Wynhoven. Along with Christopher Inn on Royal Street, Wynhoven in Marrero, became one of the first Christopher Homes sites to open back in the 1970's. The mission statement for Christopher Homes is to provide “safe, affordable and decent housing to the vulnerable in our community”. As a 33 year employee of Christopher Homes, Mrs. Willie is a large reason that mission statement holds true today.

Christopher Homes now manages 16 properties across 5 parishes. Our agency, a senior living ministry with the Archdiocese of New Orleans, houses more than 2,400 seniors in affordable, independent homes.

Mrs. Willie says, “I had good days and I had bad days. My advice is just to keep going.”

Along with Mrs. Willie, Ms. Genevieve Thibodeaux, has also spent many years at Wynhoven in Marrero. For the past 15 years, she's working alongside Mrs. Willie and the others at our Marrero site. Mrs. Willie and Ms. Gennie, as she's called, are the reason why Christopher Homes continues to do what it does. There are about 140 employees who walk through the doors of our 16 facilities spread out across Southeast Louisiana, and they are the reason why we’re able to provide housing to all of our seniors.

Ms. Gennie is the face that has greeted hundreds, of people year after year along 4600 Tenth Street in Marrero. She's the receptionist for the 350 person site. As for what she says she'll do in her retirement, she says she'll hang out with Mrs. Willie more.

Nick Phillips, Community Manager at Wynhoven says, “I wish Ms. Gennie and Ms. Willie all the best in their retirement. Their dedication and many years of service to Wynhoven will forever be appreciated. They are two of the most generous employees I have ever had the pleasure of working beside.”

Christopher Homes would like to thank Ms. Gennie and Mrs. Willie for their years of service.

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**New Year’s Resolutions**

“I will be grateful for all that this year has given me, including the lessons that I learned. 2019 I will be kinder and more compassionate to myself. I will stop being so hard on me. I will make the time to connect with my inner spirit. I will let go of the small stuff. I will surround myself with uplifting people and do more activities.”

Tanisha Goodman, Community Manager at Villa St. Maurice & St. Martin’s Manor

“Continuing on my journey of self-care; going to the gym, eating better, drinking more water, and finding ways to take more time for ‘ME.’ Also, finding time to get my house organized!”

Mackie Taylor, Human Resources Director

“To spend more time with family and my dogs.”

Nick Phillips, Community Manager at Wynhoven
UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 16, 2019
St. John Paul II Foundation
Converging Roads: A conference that equips health care professionals to practice the highest ethical and medical standards
Notre Dame Seminary

JANUARY 8TH
Feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor
O Mary, Mother of God, who amid the tribulations of the world, watch over us and over the Church of your Son, be to us and to the Church, truly Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Make haste to help us all in our necessities, that in this fleeting life you may be our succor and obtain for us (here as the particular favor you desire). As you once saved our beloved city from ravaging flames and our country from an invading army, have pity on us and obtain for us protection from hurricanes and all other disasters. Be to us truly Our Lady of Prompt Succor now and especially at the hour of our death. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Hasten to Help Us.

#iGIVECATHOLIC
Kendra Scott Giveaway winner

The winner for the Kendra Scott giveaway was Bridget Fontenelle. Christopher Homes Director of Communications dropped the gift bag off. It consisted of a bracelet, earrings and nail polish.
Thank you to Mrs. Bridget and to all of our donors.

THANK YOU

These are the donors who wanted to be publicly identified:

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

New Year’s Resolutions

“To eat more Healthy and put away the excessive Junk food!!!!”
Lynn Johnson
Resident Coordinator,
St. Martin’s Manor

“I want to travel more.”
Natasha Baxter
Service Coordinator,
Wynhoven
On January 22, 2019, at Noon, Archbishop Aymond will preside over the Memorial Service for the Unborn in St. Patrick Cemetery #1, located in the Holy Innocents Prayer Garden.

Last January, the newly opened Holy Innocents Prayer Garden was dedicated in memory to all babies lost to miscarriage, abortion or stillbirth. The garden is adorned by a marble weeping Rachel statue. “A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children. She refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more” Jeremiah 31:15 Any family who has not had the chance to memorialize their unborn baby, can do so with a plaque in the prayer garden.

On January 22nd, a new tomb “All God’s Babies”, located next to Holy Innocents Prayer Garden, will be dedicated for all babies up to one year old. The tomb was the vision of the Monday Night Disciples. Their generosity for sponsoring the construction will offer a sacred space for all babies and offer some relief to grieving parents.

The Monday Night Disciples also construct baby caskets and baby burial gowns (made from wedding dresses) at no charge to families. Anyone wishing to donate a wedding dress can do so through the Monday Night Disciples or at any Catholic Cemetery office.

As we continue to pray for an end to abortion and for all grieving parents, let’s rejoice in knowing God’s presence can lift us and heal our hearts.
Dear Residents and Staff,

“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope”
Psalm 130:5

I write this month’s Deacon’s Corner during this Third Week of Advent due to our publisher and printer’s holiday schedules and my thoughts turn to anticipation.

Last Sunday evening our grandson came over for a visit, full of anticipation of his fourth birthday on the 23rd and Santa Claus coming the next night. Earlier in the day at our 9:30 Mass on Gaudete Sunday at St. Peter Church we ended Mass with a Blessing of the Baby Jesus. Literally hundreds of children approached Fr. Colm Cahill and myself before the Altar with a tiny baby Jesus in their hands brought from their home nativity crèche to receive this traditional of blessings on what is known as Bambinelli Sunday in Rome. We could see the anticipation in the eyes of these children as they await the coming Emmanuel and, of course, Santa. It was a great blessing for all of us.

Certainly, the New Year brings with it much anticipation. The hope of a new start whether that be a refreshed plan for exercise and diet for a better health regime. The expectancy of joyful relationships with family and neighbors or a coming addition to the family. The eagerness of planned trips to visit places or people we have not seen for some time. Or looking forward to the springtime and the planting of flower or vegetable gardens to provide beauty to our homes and fresh foods for our table. Yes, the New Year has great promise, much anticipation.

We often plan New Year’s resolutions and if so, we should be realistic, keeping in mind that simplicity makes them much easier to achieve and thereby providing us accomplishment and a feeling of success. Planning resolutions in common with neighbors and friends and working on them in groups are always helpful to attain our goal and add fun and competitive spirit to the goal. Making multiple resolutions can be good but we should not let ourselves be overwhelmed. In addition, adding one resolution that is a real stretch to accomplish will push us to greater anticipation of success.

We must always hold the greatest anticipation for our Lord. For it is he who most anticipates a relationship with us. Our Lord is the Hound of Heaven pursuing us as we often run away toward what we think we want most in life. “I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; I fled Him, down the arches of the years.” Christ will never abandon his pursuit of us and we will never find true happiness nor peace until we turn to him and give ourselves fully over to him.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27

And so I pray, that in this New Year of anticipation we are able to find the peace that only comes from a knowledge and faithful relationship with the Christ. Blessings upon each of you and your loved ones.

Deacon Dennis F. Adams
Executive Director, Christopher Homes

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‘The Hound of Heaven, Francis Thompson.”