



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

January 2024 Foundation Update

A Look Back at a Great Year!

Like you, we have our 2024 calendars out and are already filling them with exciting plans for the year ahead! But before we say goodbye to 2023, we wanted to share with you a look back at all the accomplishments of last year – and thanks to your generosity, there were many. We hope you enjoy reading about the Foundation's work, and how your donations – which totaled more than \$425,000! – made a difference for the residents and staff of Vinson Hall Retirement Community in 2023. This month, we also wrapped up the holiday season by hosting a Happy Hour to thank the team of residents who transformed our campus into a festive winter wonderland in December. In other holiday wrap-ups, we are passing along the thanks of one of our community partners, Share of McLean, for the contributions our residents made to their holiday drive benefiting their elderly clients in need. All in all, last year was a great year – and now it's on to 2024! More news to come soon on Foundation plans. And as always, we thank you for your continued support!

Thank you, Holiday Decorators!

Organizing the holiday decorating effort on campus each year is a labor of love for the Philanthropy & Engagement team. It's great fun to see so many residents transform our community and make it festive in the blink of an eye! So we always feel a little sad when January rolls around and it's time to put away the decorations. But we were happy to have one last chance to celebrate and thank our decorators at a Happy Hour we hosted this week.



About 50 residents who had helped decorate VHRC joined us at Fred

Johnson's Bistro on January 30 to enjoy appetizers and drinks, mingle and reminisce about the fun they had hanging hundreds of balls, ribbons and garlands on 23 trees across campus. "I've done a lot of tree decorating over the years, and I've never seen so many decorations before!" said new resident John McNerney of his first experience as a VHRC decorator. "I thought it was extremely well organized. Everything turned out well, and I was very happy to be a part of it."

At the event, Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, and Chip Warner, CEO, thanked everyone for their efforts. Guests lingered, laughing and enjoying each other's company. "It was a lovely buffet and great to talk to people. What a nice treat!" said Margurette Norris, adding, "I think even more people will volunteer next year!" We hope so. The more the merrier!



Donate Today

A Year to Remember!

We are delighted to share —
that in 2023 the Foundation
raised a total of **\$425,715**,
thanks to your generosity!
These donations came from
344 individual donors, 201
of which were [Star](#)
[Members](#) – individuals who
donated \$250 or more last
year. In addition, our
community had 22 generous
[Corporate Donors](#). We are
grateful to report that last
year the Foundation had
more donors and more

corporate sponsors than ever before.

For us, it's all about using the funds we raise to support VHRC residents and staff in any way that we can. In 2023, through the **Resident Assistance Fund**, we were able to provide financial support to four residents when they depleted their resources, ensuring that they would not have to leave their home at VHRC. We awarded \$111,512 to our dedicated staff throughout the year to help them weather financial hardships, cover the costs of citizenship application, or be rewarded for their above-and-beyond efforts in support of our community. All totaled, we made 285 financial awards to staff last year out of the **Employee Caring Fund**!

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS IN REVIEW		<i>Thank you for supporting NMCGRF in 2023!</i>	
Through the Resident Assistance Fund, enabled 4 residents to continue to live at VHRC when their resources were depleted. 		Total dollars raised in 2023: \$425,715	
Awarded \$111,512 to VHRC staff through the Employee Caring Fund. 			
Funded a new sound system for VHRC's Alford Auditorium, along with other campus innovations and enhancements, including a library computer, portable speakers and outdoor furniture. 		CASABLANCA Held our Gala, An Evening in Casablanca, and raised a record \$99,800 to support the Foundation. 	
Continued to bring young warriors to campus through the Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing Fund, to help them restart their lives. 		Kept you abreast of community news through The Beacon, our monthly Foundation e-newsletter, Campus News & Views literary magazine, and VHRC's website and Facebook page. 	
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We also supported on-campus tech improvements for our residents by funding a state-of-the-art sound system in the Alford Auditorium, portable speakers and microphones, and a new computer for the library. The **Innovation & Enhancement Fund** also financed a set of Trex all-weather benches and table for campus grounds, and an outdoor corn hole set for the Sports Park. And we were pleased to provide two warriors with housing on our campus through the **Wounded Warrior Fund** at no cost to them, while they transition to the next chapter in their lives.

—Engagement is also part of our mission at the Foundation, and last year it was our pleasure to organize a number of fun events on campus. First and foremost, we were excited to bring **An Evening in Casablanca** to campus! At our annual Gala, we celebrated the glamour of the movie at Rick's Café Americain complete with casino. The sold-out event raised \$99,800 – a new record! Other highlights we hosted included the Evening with the Stars, our Holiday Donor Thank You Tea, the Paul Peak Resident of the Year Award



Ceremony, and VHRC's 54th birthday party.

We are also dedicated to making a difference in the greater community on behalf of Vinson Hall Retirement Community, and last year we found many ways to do just that. The list of examples is long, but here are some of our favorites. We continued our **partnership** with Homestretch – an organization that gives homeless families the tools and resources they need to become self-sufficient – through an intergenerational playdate series with our residents and their preschoolers. We partnered with Chesterbrook Elementary School next door when a group of our residents spoke to their classes on Veterans Day. We organized a holiday donation drive for Share of McLean, our local food bank. And we built a new relationship with McLean Volunteer Fire Department, our local first responders who meet resident needs all year.



Last but not least, the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement continues to serve as **VHRC's communications hub**. Last year, we kept residents informed of the latest campus news each week through *The Beacon* newsletter that we produce. We showcased our residents' stories through the *Campus News and Views* literary magazine we put together. And we kept all VHRC supporters in the loop through this e-newsletter, Facebook posts, the Annual Report, VHRC's website, videos and more. So as we gear up for another wonderful year ahead, we are taking a moment to celebrate the achievements of the past year – with gratitude to all of our supporters. YOU are the ones that enable us to achieve our mission at VHRC of enriching the lives of those around us! Many thanks to all!

Heartfelt Thanks from Share



Each holiday season, we host a donation drive for our community partner Share of McLean, a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing and household items to neighbors in need. In December, thanks to generous donations from our community, a team of our residents

created 96 gift bags filled with donated items such as hand lotion, lip balm, toiletry essentials and warm socks for their senior clients. We are pleased to share this message that we received this month from a Share volunteer: "Our seniors were very excited about getting something extra for the holiday season and loved showing off the items to the volunteers in the pantry. Please extend our thanks again to everyone at Vinson Hall for their very generous contributions. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2024." We in the Foundation, second that message – Here's to a great 2024!

Your Planned Gift Today Can Make a Difference Tomorrow

Donate Today

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
Giving

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