

Employee Caring Fund Assists After Surgery



When residents need assistance at the Vinson Hall front desk, they often ask for Chris McGinn, a Concierge team member since 2020. "I love helping them out," said Chris, who is quick to step in to carry packages, deliver groceries or just listen to residents' stories. "When I walk onto campus, I feel like I'm walking into someone's home. If my Mom lived there, I'd want to help fix her TV or do anything I could to help her. I respect these people, the residents are amazing." Said his coworker Carolyn Stevens, "Chris goes way beyond for the residents, and he always does it with a smile."

Having grown up in McLean as the youngest of nine children, Chris has always known about Vinson Hall. After getting his degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, he returned to his hometown, got married and raised four children just down the street from campus. He worked in customer service for associations for many years until his job was outsourced. While between jobs, he spent a lot of time at Cherrydale Rehabilitation Center helping one of his brothers recuperate from cancer, and enjoyed the people there. "My wife said, 'Why don't you do that?'" said Chris. So, he applied to Vinson Hall and never looked back. "It's the perfect fit for me."

Then earlier this year, Chris ended up in the emergency room. "I'd had my right knee replaced – twice – a few years ago, and it never took. It was painful and I was constantly getting it drained, but I decided I'd just live with it," he said. But when the knee joint became infected in January, he was rushed into emergency surgery. Four weeks later, he went back to work, only to learn at the end of February that the infection had spread. "That's when they took out the whole prosthetic knee to fight the infection with antibiotics."

"The importance of the Fund speaks volumes about Vinson Hall...I am so appreciative of the support."

Chris heard about the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation's Employee Caring Fund from his supervisor, Senior Director of Property Management Denese Arnold. He applied for assistance with his medical and hospital bills, and received it. "The Fund has helped out a lot to relieve the financial burden. I'm on a pick line for antibiotics, for example, and it's paid for a nurse to come to my home once a week."

Chris, who will wear a leg brace for the next six months or more until his next surgery to put in a new knee, keeps a positive attitude. "I still have a leg – that's my mindset. It could be worse." He is very happy to be back at work at Vinson Hall, saying simply, "I feel blessed going up there every day." And he is thankful for the Employee Caring Fund's assistance. "The importance of the Fund speaks volumes about Vinson Hall. I'm humbled by the generosity of those who donated, and I am so appreciative of the support."

