



NAVY MARINE COAST GUARD  
RESIDENCE FOUNDATION

## January 2026 Foundation Update

### Bidding a Fond Farewell to 2025

Our January update is just a wee bit late, thanks to last week’s snowstorm. But while the icy weather lingers, our hearts are warm with gratitude for the amazing year the Foundation had, thanks to all of you. In this issue, we take one last look back at NMCGRF’s work in 2025, and how your donations – which totaled a record \$690,900! – made a difference for the residents and staff of Vinson Hall. In January, we also wrapped up the holidays by hosting a Happy Hour to thank the team of residents who made our campus sparkle for the holidays! And we recently published the Fall issue of *Campus News & Views* literary magazine, chock full of our residents’ amazing stories. Read all about these topics and more below. To all our supporters, we thank you for all you do for our community, and wish you a very Happy New Year!

### A Year to Remember

We are delighted to share that in 2025 the Foundation raised a total of **\$690,900**, thanks to your generosity! Last year, we had 387 individual donors, 236 of which were [Star Members](#) – individuals who made a membership gift of \$250 or more last year. In addition, our community had 26 generous [Corporate Donors](#) who contributed a total of \$76,000 – more than ever before.

Thanks to this generosity, we were able to support Vinson Hall residents and staff in so many ways. In 2025, through the **Resident Assistance Fund**, we provided \$127,560 in resident assistance, ensuring that no

<h1>2025</h1> <p><b>ACHIEVEMENTS IN REVIEW</b></p>		<p>Thank you for supporting NMCGRF in 2025!</p>
<p>Provided <b>\$127,560</b> in resident assistance, ensuring that no resident had to leave our community when their resources were depleted.</p> 	<p>Awarded <b>\$202,197</b> to Vinson Hall staff through the <b>Employee Caring Fund</b>.</p> 	<p><b>Total dollars raised in 2025:</b></p> <p><b>\$690,900</b></p>
<p>Kept you abreast of community news through <b>The Beacon</b>, our monthly Foundation e-newsletter, <i>Campus News &amp; Views</i> literary magazine, and communications about the <b>RISE project</b>.</p> 	<p>Funded campus innovations and enhancements, including a new videoconferencing system, Art Show easels, outdoor benches, and a White Oak tabletop.</p> 	
<p>Through the <b>Warrior Transition Fund</b>, provided <b>\$62,380</b> to allow three wounded warriors to live at Vinson Hall while they restarted their lives.</p> 	<p>Held an annual Gala, <i>Silver Spurs Soirée</i>, which sold out and raised a record <b>\$121,300</b> to support the Foundation.</p> 	
 <p>NAVY MARINE COAST GUARD RESIDENCE FOUNDATION</p>		

resident had to leave our community when their resources were depleted. Your support of the **Employee Caring Fund** enabled us to award \$202,197 to our dedicated staff throughout the year to help them weather financial hardships or be rewarded for their commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents. At the end of the year, we had made a total of 208 financial awards to staff in 2025!

Last year, we also supported several on-campus improvements funded by the **Innovation & Enhancement Fund**. These included a state-of-the-art videoconferencing system in the Penthouse Conference Room, easels, judges' honoraria and a student award for the Art Show, supplies for an Eagle Scout project (building planters for ABP), woodworker's fees to build a table from a section of a historic White Oak on campus, and recliners and rugs for ABP staff break rooms.



Meanwhile, through the **Warrior Transition Fund**, we were delighted to be able to provide three warriors with housing on campus last year at no cost to them, while they transitioned 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 for residents! First and foremost, we were excited to bring **Silver Spurs Soirée**

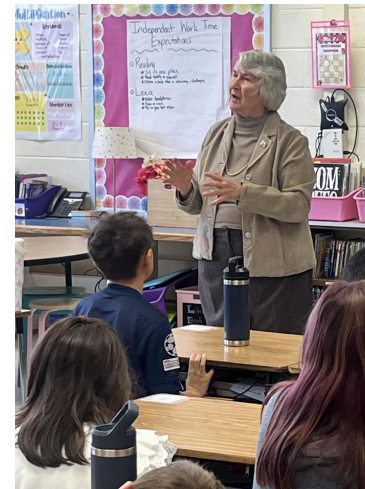


to campus – which raised \$121,300, a new record! Other long-held Vinson Hall traditions that we hosted included the *Evening with the Stars*, Paul Peak Resident of the Year Award ceremony, the Holiday Decorating effort, and the Holiday Donor Thank You Tea.

Finding ways to help Vinson Hall engage with our broader community is also part of our mission. Last year, we were pleased to **build partnerships** on behalf of Vinson Hall with a number of community organizations and schools. We connected with students from The Potomac School for our second annual Earth Day celebration, and for service projects on our campus last fall.



We continued our series of intergenerational playdates with Homestretch, pairing their preschoolers from homeless families with our residents for playtime. And we partnered with Chesterbrook Elementary School next door in a number of ways, including having our resident veterans speak to their classes on Veterans Day and inviting their students to help residents put together gift bags during our holiday drive to help SHARE's elderly clients. To name just a few!



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## The Beacon

Events and News for the Week of February 1, 2026



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This weekly newsletter is a joint effort between the Vinson Hall Administrative Team and the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement. Editor: Debbie Blome, ext 3069 or DBlome@vinsonhall.org.

### Winter Storm Wallops Vinson Hall

An expansive winter snow and ice storm, unofficially named Winter Storm Fern, affected much of the United States on the weekend of January 24. At Vinson Hall and the surrounding area, the snow that started to fall on Saturday turned to sleet by mid-morning on Sunday. Sleet continued throughout the day and early evening, accumulating to about 4 inches of sleet on top of about 4 to 7 inches of snow. "This frozen concoction consolidated to a depth of 6 to 9 inches," wrote *The Washington Post*. "But this was no ordinary 6 to 9 inches. The water packed inside was comparable to the contents of a 20-inch blizzard."

While the storm was unusual, Vinson Hall was ready for it. Storm preparation efforts were led by Senior Director of Property Management Denise Arnold and involved the entire community of staff and contractors. Planning began well before the storm. Generators were primed and transportation was cancelled. Commercial grade heaters were rented, in case the power went out. Dining Services switched to pick-up or delivery meals only during the storm and special events were cancelled. Essential staff who were required to be on site were identified and offered lodging on campus in various locations, including the Convenience Store, KMCB Boardroom, Ballroom, Studio D, so they wouldn't have to drive on treacherous roads. Lift rides were also arranged during the storm and the days following. In all, 73 staff stayed overnight during the storm and upwards of 200 lift rides were ordered. "I'm extraordinarily proud of the efforts of our staff during this storm," Denise said. "They worked hard through difficult conditions to make sure our residents were safe and cared for."



Getting the roadways, parking lots and sidewalks cleaned of snow and packed ice has been a high priority.

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Last but not least, the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement continued to serve as Vinson Hall's **communications hub**. Last year, we kept residents informed of the latest campus news through *The Beacon* – our fifth year of publishing this weekly newsletter! We shared our residents' own writings each quarter through the *Campus News & Views* literary magazine (see article below for latest issue). We kept Vinson Hall supporters in the loop through this monthly e-newsletter, the Annual Report, and Vinson Hall's website and Facebook

page. And we lent our communications expertise to Vinson Hall's Project RISE (Redevelop, Inspire, Strengthen, Evolve), by helping to prepare presentations, FAQs, emails, articles and other communications.

So as we gear up for another great year ahead, we wanted to take this moment to celebrate the achievements of the past year – and to share our immense gratitude to all of you for your support. Without you, none of this would have been possible!

## Thank You Holiday Decorators



Organizing the holiday decorating effort on campus every December is a labor of love for the Philanthropy & Engagement team. Each year, we look forward to working with our residents – and this year, the senior leadership team as well – to transform our campus

into a winter wonderland of trees, lights, ornaments and bows! So we always feel rather reluctant to have to pack up the holiday decor when January rolls around. But on January 29, we were delighted to have one last chance to come together again with our decorators to thank them for a job well done.

About 50 residents who had helped decorate the trees – and then undecorate them in mid-January – joined us in the Kathy Martin Community Building Ballroom to share appetizers and drinks and reminisce about their decoration adventures. Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, thanked



everyone for making the magic happen again this year, despite ongoing CARE renovations in Vinson Hall. “At one point, I worried that we’d have to cancel the holiday decorating due to the renovations,” said Michelle, “But then Rob said, ‘We can’t cancel Christmas!’ And you all made it happen, quickly and easily!”

CEO Rob Roe also spoke and thanked the residents along with the Philanthropy & Engagement team, which has coordinated the decorating effort for seven years. “I look forward to this every year because it’s a real community builder, a chance for our entire campus



to come together," said Rob. Thank you to all who made our campus sparkle!

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## Fall Issue of Literary Magazine Published

Have you seen the Fall issue of *Campus News & Views*, Vinson Hall's literary magazine? It is full of our residents' wonderful stories, remembrances and poems. One resident tells a harrowing tale of being charged by a mama bear while hunting in Alaska, another shares how persistence paid off for him as a young man determined to get past a college dean's rejection letter. Memories of a young officer's Navy prank, an engineer's speculations on the future of AI, a newspaper columnist's musings on strategies for communicating with adult children and grandchildren – these stories and more are all here.



We can't get enough of our residents' tales, and invite you to enjoy them too. It is our pleasure in the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement to edit and publish this magazine! Please click [here](#) to read the Fall 2025 issue of *Campus News & Views*.

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## Your Planned Gift Today Can Make a Difference Tomorrow

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](mailto:michellec@vinsonhall.org) or 703-538-3068.

[Learn More about Planned Giving](#)

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