



VILLA VOICES

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

Celebrating 175 Years of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

A Legacy of Faith, Compassion and Service that has Transformed Countless Lives Since 1851



For 175 years, our founders—the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA)—have lived a powerful calling: To bring healing, hope and compassionate care to all, especially those most in need. This year, Light of Hearts Villa proudly joined fellow ministries in the Sisters of Charities Health System who hosted prayer services and celebrations in Cleveland, Canton and South Carolina. These celebrations marked the 175th anniversary and honored a legacy of faith, compassion and service that has transformed countless lives since 1851.

For generations, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine have answered the call to serve with courage and love, founding hospitals, schools, outreach ministries and communities of care rooted in the dignity of every person. Their enduring mission continues today through the ministries of the Sisters of Charity Health System, including Light of Hearts Villa.

:: OUR MISSION

We are devoted to providing premier senior residential living and community outreach services. Through our faith-based values, we affirm the integrity of each person and encourage them on their journey of aging.

Lighting the way for senior care.



Michael Goar, Sr. Anita Maroun, SC (LOHV board president), Breanne Cavileer, Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, Sr. Kathy Andrews, CSA, and Sr. Jane Lab, CSA

On April 29, residents, staff, Sisters, supporters and friends of the Villa gathered in the chapel for a special prayer service commemorating this historic milestone. The meaningful afternoon invited attendees into a time of reflection, gratitude and celebration of the Sisters' unwavering commitment to serving others.

Following the prayer service, guests enjoyed a short program and fellowship reception where stories were shared about the Villa's deep connection to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. In 2001, the Sisters entered into a partnership with Light of Hearts Villa, and in 2015, the Health System became the Villa's sole sponsor, helping strengthen and sustain the mission that continues today.

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LIGHT of HEARTS VILLA

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Filled with Life,
Love and Celebrations



Dear Friends of Light of Hearts Villa,

As summer begins to settle in around the Villa, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the many moments of joy, connection and community we have already shared this year. From our annual Eggstravaganza and Join Hands Day to festive celebrations, family gatherings and everyday moments of laughter throughout the halls, the Villa continues to be a place filled with life and love because of the people who make up this special community.

This season has also been one of growth and meaningful celebration. In April, we were honored to host a special prayer service commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Gathering alongside residents, staff, Sisters, supporters and friends to reflect on the enduring legacy of faith, compassion and service that continues to guide our ministry was truly a special moment for our community.

Personally, celebrating this milestone brought back a very special memory for me. I vividly remember meeting with Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, during the interview process for my role at the Villa and immediately knowing there was something incredibly special about her and this ministry. Working within one of the Sisters’ ministries has been such a blessing in my life, both professionally and personally, and I remain deeply grateful to be part of carrying forward their mission of love and service each day.

We also proudly celebrate our own Rob Walker, who was recognized earlier this year with the Making God’s Love Visible Award. Rob’s compassion, dedication and servant-hearted approach embody the mission and values of Light of Hearts Villa in countless ways. We are so grateful for the impact he has on our residents, families and team members each day and are thrilled to see him honored in such a meaningful way.

Another exciting new chapter for the Villa this year has been welcoming Kate Mach as our new director of admissions and community relations. Kate brings not only extensive experience in senior living, but also a deep compassion for older adults and families navigating important transitions. We are excited for our residents, staff and supporters to get to know her in the months ahead.

As always, I remain deeply grateful for the compassion and dedication shown each day by our staff, volunteers, donors and friends. Whether you support the Villa through prayer, volunteer service, attending events, making gifts or simply sharing our story with others, you are part of what makes this community so special.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us in our mission of providing compassionate, faith-filled care to older adults. We hope you enjoy this edition of *Villa Voices* and the many memories and moments captured within its pages.

With gratitude,


Breanne Cavileer, LNHA, CDP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Sisters of Charity Health System:
Listening, Leading and Serving
An Update from Our Parent Organization

One of the benefits of being a ministry with many other ministries, programs and foundations across Canton, Cleveland and South Carolina is the opportunity to come together to reflect on who we are, why we serve and how we are called to lead.

Recently, members of the Sisters of Charity Health System family gathered for a special leadership retreat centered around the theme, “Caritas in Action: Leading with Courage, Humility and Sacred Presence.” It was a meaningful opportunity to reground everyone in one shared mission and values while reflecting on the evolving needs of the communities being served.

What made the retreat especially powerful was the diversity of perspectives that came from participants across ministries, regions and roles, including Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Health System leadership, ministry leadership and board members.

“Everyone was united by a common commitment to compassionate service and faith-filled leadership. Throughout our conversations, we were reminded that leadership is not simply about strategy or operations. It is about presence. It is about listening deeply, leading courageously, serving humbly and recognizing the dignity of every person we encounter.”

— Health System President & CEO Michael Goar



Executive Director Breanne Cavileer speaks at the leadership retreat

That spirit is reflected throughout the Health System and in the work happening across its ministries every day. Some highlights of recent work include:

St. Augustine Legacy Society — this new giving society honors the generosity of donors who have given endowment contributions of \$10,000 or more; made bequests in a will or trust; or are providing life income gifts to at least one Health System ministry, which includes Light of Hearts Villa.

175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine — throughout 2026, the Health System and its ministries continue to celebrate and honor a legacy that continues to guide work today.

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland — relaunched the Foundation in early 2026 with a renewed focus of investing in long-term community impact, particularly in Cleveland’s Central neighborhood.

St. Vincent Charity Health & Healing Hub — momentum continues to build, especially with Goodwill’s recent launch of a \$40 million campaign to build an Opportunity Center on the grounds of the former St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. The Opportunity Center will be a one-stop hub for employment services, career programming, groceries, nonprofit partners and more.

By continuing to listen, lead and serve, the Sisters of Charity Health System and its multiple ministries will keep advancing the important and inspiring work being done together each day. ♦

 The Sisters of Charity Health System is the parent organization for Light of Hearts Villa. Guided by faith and compassion, the Health System integrates grantmaking foundations, elder care ministries, outreach ministries and neighborhood initiatives to advance health, healing and well-being in a holistic way across Cleveland, Canton and South Carolina.



As part of the celebration, Light of Hearts Villa was honored to present a special framed artwork to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine titled *Faces of the Poor* by Sister Ellen LaCapria, DC. The moving piece, inspired by the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and the call to serve those most in need, served as a meaningful symbol of the shared mission and values that continue to unite our ministries today.

The celebration also served as a reminder that the legacy of the Sisters is not only something to honor from the past, but something actively lived each day

within the Light of Hearts Villa community. Through compassionate care, service to older adults, outreach to those in need, and a steadfast commitment to dignity and faith, the spirit of the Sisters continues to guide the work happening at the Villa every day. ♦

We are deeply grateful to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine for 175 years of ministry, leadership and love, and for the many ways their mission continues to light the way forward for our residents, staff and community.

Reflecting on the Compassion of Sister Miriam Erb

JENNIFER GROGAN'S CSA STORY



For Jennifer Grogan, assistant dietary director at Light of Hearts Villa, witnessing the mission of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA) in action has been a defining part of her journey. Jennifer began her work within the ministry in 2012 at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center as a patient services manager. During that time, she came to know Sister Miriam Erb, CSA, whose compassionate presence touched countless patients and staff.

“Patients would ask for Sr. Miriam by name,” Jennifer said. “They loved her company and always spoke about how caring and compassionate she was.”

Sr. Miriam’s commitment extended far beyond the hospital floors. Through her work with community outreach efforts—including school visits, the men’s shelter and Mission Meals—she embodied the Sisters’ mission of serving those most in need. During the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, when much of the hospital shut down, Sr. Miriam remained determined to support the community, especially those facing food insecurity. She helped bring Mission Meals to the hospital cafeteria and spent countless hours organizing the “Jesus Room,” a space filled with donated clothing and shoes carefully arranged for those who needed them.

“Sr. Miriam never tired,” Jennifer said. “She always went out of her way to ensure the community and employees had what they needed. She always smiled and had the most positive attitude.” Today, Jennifer continues her work at Light of Hearts Villa and said the same spirit she witnessed at the hospital lives on.

“The Sisters here are just as welcoming, and the atmosphere at Light of Hearts Villa feels the same,” she said. “The Sisters have always stood up for the underdog. They continue their mission with grace and integrity, and I’m grateful to be a small part of that journey.” ♦



Assistant Dietary Director Jennifer Grogan



Rob Walker and his friends and family; Rob pictured with Executive Director Breanne Cavileer (left) and Dir. of Pastoral & Special Ministries Sister Regina Kusnir, SC

Making God’s Love Visible Award

Rob Walker Receives Highest Staff Honor for Kindness, Humility and Genuine Care for Others

Light of Hearts Villa is blessed to be surrounded by team members who live out the mission each and every day. This year, we are proud to honor Rob Walker as the recipient of the 2025 Making God’s Love Visible Award.

Rob has been part of the Villa family for eight years. He first joined the housekeeping team after being referred by fellow team member and neighbor, Marie Usko, and was also encouraged to apply by his neighbor and friend, Laura Stoffl. At the time, the Villa was under the leadership of Executive Director Betty Hickle, and Rob remains especially grateful to her for giving him the opportunity to join the team. From the very beginning, he brought with him a strong work ethic and a genuine warmth that residents and coworkers notice immediately.

People Over Tasks

A typical day for Rob is a busy one. The housekeeping team works together to manage laundry, carpet cleaning, room calls and restocking supplies throughout the building. There is always something to be done. Yet for Rob, the work has always been about much more than completing tasks. It is about people.

“The residents are like family to me,” he said. “Getting to see them every day is what I enjoy most.”

That sense of connection is what makes Rob such a special part of the Villa community. He takes time to get to know residents and build relationships with them. Over

the years, those everyday interactions have turned into meaningful memories. He fondly recalls conversations with residents like Andy Hocesvar about tomato plants and their joking “business” called Andy’s Candies, or chats with others about classic Western movies. These moments may seem small, but they reflect the care and attention Rob brings to everyone he encounters.

To Rob, the residents are never simply people he serves through his job. “They’re not just a number,” he said. “They’re a loved one.” This mindset reflects the spirit behind the Making God’s Love Visible Award. When asked what the phrase means to him, Rob points to the everyday actions that demonstrate kindness and respect.

Kindness and Respect for Everyone

“I think the work and actions you do during the day reflect making His love visible,” he said. “Showing kindness and respect to everyone comes back to you, and it comes back even greater.” Rob credits his Catholic values with guiding the way he approaches his work each day. Treating others with love and kindness is something he believes deeply in, and it shapes how he interacts with resident families and fellow staff members.

For Rob, working at the Villa feels different from other jobs he has held. There is a strong sense of community and closeness among residents and staff. “It’s not like working at a corporate place,” he explained. “It’s so much more. It feels like family. When a resident passes, it’s like losing a family member.”

Coworkers often describe Rob as humble and dependable, someone who approaches every task with a positive attitude. Rather than focusing on frustrations, he prefers to focus on solutions. “When there are complaints, let’s come up with an answer,” he said. “Instead of grumbling about it, let’s work on it.”

Being there to Help

Much of the pride he takes in his work comes from the reactions of residents themselves. Seeing their smiles and hearing their gratitude reminds him that the work he does matters. Residents trust him, and know he is there to help.

Even routine tasks become opportunities to show care. Rob admits that one of his favorite duties is laundry because he has developed a system that works well. He enjoys making sure everything is cleaned, folded and put away properly for residents who want that extra help.

Although he has been nominated for the Making God’s Love Visible Award many times over the years, Rob was still surprised to learn that he had been selected this year. “It was wonderful. I was surprised,” he said. “It means a lot to me.”

Outside of work, Rob enjoys hobbies like watching movies, stargazing and gardening. Before coming to the Villa, he worked in landscaping, which helped spark his love for being outdoors. He also enjoys going out to eat and spending time relaxing. A Bedford native and graduate of Chanel High School, he remains deeply connected to the community.

When asked what keeps him coming back each day with the same positive spirit, his answer once again points to the people around him. “The closeness with everyone,” he said. “The residents brighten you up, and when they need some sunshine, I can cheer them up too.”

Through his kindness, humility and genuine care for others, Rob reminds all of us what it truly means to live out the mission at Light of Hearts Villa. We are grateful for the way he serves residents and strengthens our community each day.

Congratulations, Rob, and thank you for helping make God’s love visible at Light of Hearts Villa. ♦

“The residents are like family to me. Getting to see them every day is what I enjoy most.”





Inductee Phyllis Barone (right) with friend Frank Rossi

With Gratitude to Our Light the Way Legacy Society Members

Current members include:

- Phyllis A. Barone
• James A. Beres*
• Stanley Caplinsky*
• Victor J. DeMarco, M.D. and Roberta DeMarco
• Patricia Ann Schneller Domenico
• Elizabeth J. Hickle
• Russell R. and Barbara Konst*
• Margaret E. O'Brien*
• Garay J. and Albertina Simon
• Diana and Wayne Simsic

We are deeply grateful to each member for helping light the way forward for our residents and mission.

*Member of the Legacy Society who is deceased

lighting the way for Future Generations

LIGHT THE WAY LEGACY SOCIETY HONORS DONORS USING ESTATE PLANNING TOOLS

At Light of Hearts Villa, some gifts provide support for today while others help ensure our mission continues far into the future. The Light the Way Legacy Society honors those special individuals and families who have chosen to include the Villa in their long-term plans through planned and estate gifts.

Members of the Light the Way Legacy Society are helping secure a bright future for residents by making provisions through tools such as bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, IRA beneficiary designations, life insurance gifts and other planned giving options. These thoughtful commitments ensure future generations of older adults will continue to receive compassionate, faith-filled care at the Villa, regardless of financial circumstances.

Patricia Ann Schneller Domenico became the newest member of the Light the Way Legacy Society this year. Her commitment joins a growing community of supporters whose generosity will leave a lasting impact for years to come.

The New St. Augustine Legacy Society

In April, several members of the Villa's Light the Way Legacy Society were also formally inducted into the inaugural St. Augustine Legacy Society at a luncheon hosted by the Sisters of Charity Health System. The St. Augustine Legacy Society recognizes planned giving supporters across all ministries of the Health System and celebrates individuals whose vision and generosity strengthen the future of Catholic health care, senior living and community outreach services throughout the region.

It was an afternoon of gratitude, storytelling and fellowship with several Light of Hearts Villa supporters there, including Elizabeth "Betty" Hickle, Phyllis Barone and Dr. Victor DeMarco, with Roberta DeMarco also recognized as an inductee. Dr. DeMarco shared heartfelt remarks about the power of charitable gift annuities and the meaningful impact planned giving can have both for donors and for the organizations they cherish.



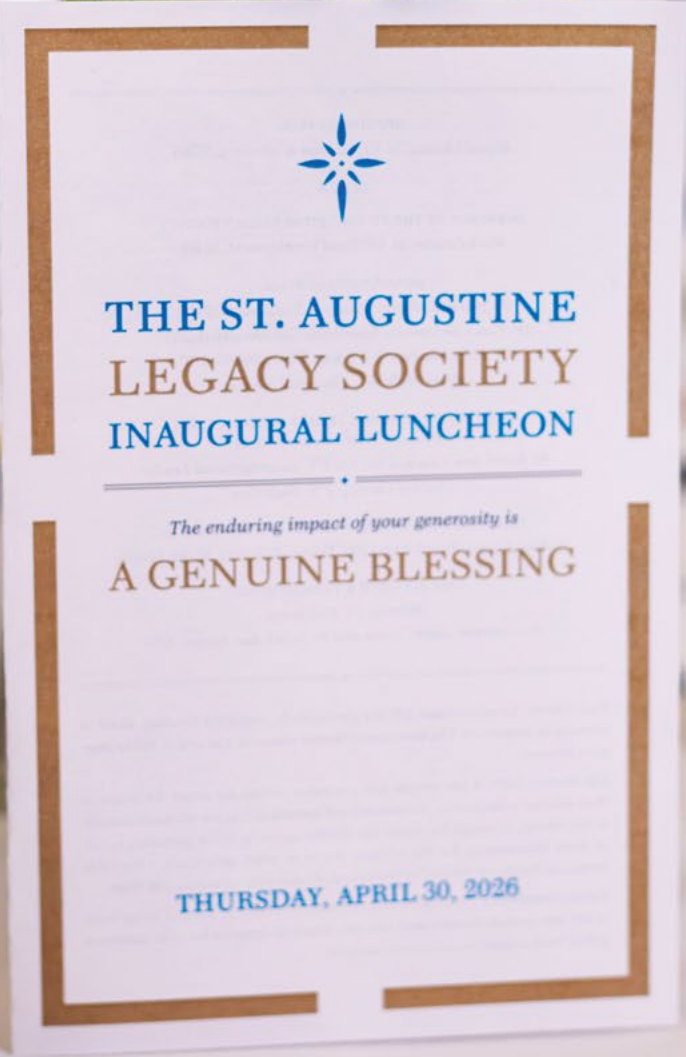
Inductee Betty Hickle (center) with Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA (left) and Health System President & CEO Michael Goar

Leaving a Legacy of Love

Joining the Light the Way Legacy Society is simple and can often be accomplished through a will, trust, retirement account designation or charitable gift annuity. Many planned gifts cost nothing during a donor's lifetime while creating a lasting legacy of compassion and care.

In 2026, the goal is to welcome at least another two new members into the Light the Way Legacy Society. We invite you to prayerfully consider how your own legacy might help ensure Light of Hearts Villa continues to be a place of comfort, dignity and faith for generations to come.

Those interested in learning more can contact Director of Mission Advancement & Communications Amy Huntley at 440.232.1991 ext. 524 or amy.huntley@lightofheartsvilla.org. Additional information and an Estate Provision Intention form can also be found on our website by scanning the QR code here:



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT ::

Celebrating Barbara Brett’s 95th Birthday



This summer, the Light of Hearts Villa community is celebrating a very special milestone: Barbara Brett’s 95th birthday!

Born and raised in Cleveland Heights, Barbara attended St. Anne Parish

and graduated from Beaumont High School in 1949. Her children lovingly describe her as witty, upbeat and endlessly creative, someone who has always found beauty and joy in the world around her.

Barbara’s greatest life work was her family. A devoted wife to her late husband, John, and proud mother of 10 children, she spent decades creating a home filled with love, imagination and adventure. Her children also describe the magical experiences she created for them growing up, from handmade clothing and elaborate Christmas traditions to imaginative backyard adventures.

Wonderful Adventures

One favorite childhood memory shared by her family was of Barbara packing imaginative little adventure lunches for her children when they were young. She would tie lunches into colorful bandanas, fasten them to sticks and send them out into the backyard for a day of “adventure,” encouraging them with the words, “Go have a wonderful adventure!”

Creativity has always been woven into Barbara’s life. She made floral arrangements for St. Anselm Church for many years and later started her own flower arrangement business, Cottonwood Creek Farms. Gardening, flowers and birds remain some of her greatest joys. Her children shared stories of painted mailboxes covered in flowers, handmade cloth dolls and even a portrait of St. Francis created entirely from birdseed.

Barbara is also known for her wonderful sense of humor and memorable sayings. Her family said she has always been quick with a witty remark or playful pun, bringing smiles to everyone around her. One of her children lovingly described her as “the most gregarious introvert we know.”

Throughout her life, Barbara has passed along important values of generosity, kindness, thoughtfulness and loyalty. Her family said she has a special way of making every child, grandchild and great grandchild feel deeply loved and uniquely special. In addition to her own 10 children, Barbara’s family includes 22 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Making the Best Possible Decision

When it came time to transition to assisted living, Barbara’s family thoughtfully explored many options and carefully weighed what environment would feel most like home for her. One of Barbara’s sons even created detailed spreadsheets to help compare communities and ensure the family made the best possible decision.

Interestingly, one of the people who made a lasting impression during that search was Kate Mach, who at the time was working at another senior living community. During one of the family’s tours, Kate shared a phrase that deeply resonated with them: “They don’t come here to die. They come here to live.”

“That has really stayed with us,” her family shared. “And we found it to be so true.” In a meaningful full circle moment, Kate would later join the Light of Hearts Villa team as director of admissions and community relations.

Within just a short time of moving to the Villa, Barbara began reconnecting socially and embracing a renewed sense of community. Her family quickly noticed her becoming more engaged, more active and more herself again. She especially enjoyed sharing meals and laughter with her new lunch buddies, Helen and Louise.



Happy 95th, Barbara!

Peace of Mind

For Barbara’s family, knowing she is surrounded by compassionate people who genuinely care about her well-being, has brought tremendous peace of mind. “Knowing that mom is safe and cared for by people who truly want the best for her has meant so much to us,” her family shared. “We are thrilled about the overwhelmingly welcoming vibe we experience at Light of Hearts Villa.”

Barbara herself said what she loves most about living at the Villa is “The people.... the community is calming, I feel safe here and the food is amazing.” Barbara especially enjoys sharing meals with friends, spending time with fellow residents, and appreciating the care and kindness of the Villa team. After cooking for a family of 12 for much of her life, her family jokes that she now happily enjoys meals she doesn’t have to prepare herself!

As Barbara celebrates 95 years young, her family said the secret may simply be this: never stop learning, keep your sense of humor and always remember to breathe. We are so grateful to celebrate Barbara and the joy, creativity and warmth she brings to our Villa family. ♦



Vincentian Pathways Continues to Grow

As the seasons change and the grounds around Light of Hearts Villa come back to life, exciting progress continues with Vincentian Pathways—our long-term effort to restore, preserve and celebrate the historic gardens and green spaces surrounding the Villa.

A group of Bedford High School students spent time at the Vincentian Pathways site behind the Villa this spring helping with planting, weeding and beautification projects throughout the grounds. Their energy, hard work and willingness to serve made a tremendous impact and served as a reminder of how meaningful intergenerational connections can be.

We are also incredibly thankful for our small but mighty group of local volunteers who faithfully come out week after week to help maintain portions of the upper garden areas. Their dedication and love for the project continue to move Vincentian Pathways forward in beautiful ways.

We look forward to continuing to grow this beautiful project together, rooted in history, faith and community. Learn more at lightofheartsvilla.org/vincentian-pathways or scan the QR code below. ♦



save the date

#weGIVECATHOLIC 2026 is December 1

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 1, 2026, as Light of Hearts Villa once again joins the incredible day of generosity known as #weGIVECATHOLIC 2026.

Last year, our community came together in a truly extraordinary way, raising more than \$420,000 to support the residents of Light of Hearts Villa through the Sister Helen T. Scasny, SC Benevolent Fund. The generosity, prayers and love shown through that campaign were nothing short of remarkable.

“This year, we are prayerfully setting our hearts on an even bigger goal: \$500,000. Honestly, it feels a little wild to even

type those words—but we have seen firsthand what God can do through this community when people come together in faith, compassion and love for our residents,” said Director of Mission Advancement & Communications Amy Huntley.

While the big day is December 1, our fundraising efforts and campaign planning will begin this fall, with much more information to come in the months ahead.

In the meantime, we humbly ask:

- Please begin praying over your contribution this year
- Pray for the success of the campaign

- Pray that significant matching gift donors step forward once again to inspire generosity and multiply impact
- And most importantly, pray for the residents whose lives are touched every day through this mission

Thank you for believing in Light of Hearts Villa and for continuing to help ensure that no resident is ever asked to leave because they have outlived their financial resources. Together, we are truly lighting the way for so many.



Remembering Sister Christine Rody, SC

Lovingly prepared with reflections and historical context by Sister Regina Kusnir, SC



There are some people whose presence quietly shapes generations. Sister Christine Rody, SC, was one of those people.

A woman deeply rooted in prayer, compassion and service, Sr. Christine, lived her life with remarkable balance and purpose. In every chapter of her journey, she had a gift for drawing people together—

listening carefully, encouraging growth in others and creatively finding ways to respond to the needs of the time. Those qualities became woven throughout her ministry and remain part of the lasting spirit of both Light of Hearts Villa and Lumen Cordium High School.

Sr. Christine taught at Lumen Cordium from 1969–1975, where she became deeply loved by students and the school community. In 1975, she felt called to join the Diocesan Mission Team in El Salvador, an experience that profoundly shaped her commitment to social justice.



Sr. Christine Rody, SC (right) with Sr. Anita Maroun, SC (left) and Sister Regina Kusnir, SC (center)

When she returned, she brought those lessons and perspectives back to her students, helping young people better understand faith through the lens of compassion, justice and service to others. Even years later, she remained closely connected to the Lumen community and enjoyed attending many alumni reunions.

When Lumen Cordium closed in 1987 and the building was transformed into Light of Hearts Villa in 1989, Sr. Christine was serving as president of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity. At the dedication of the Villa, she spoke honestly about the fears, risks and hopes that came with closing a beloved high school and reimagining it into a place devoted to caring for older adults. She reflected that such a transformation was only possible because of the dedication, talents and intertwined lives of so many people working together in service of others.

Her leadership helped guide Light of Hearts Villa into a new era of growth and collaboration. In 2001, Sr. Christine, alongside Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, helped establish a 50-50 partnership between Light of Hearts Villa and the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. That partnership ensured residents would receive priority access to services at Regina Health Center and strengthened the Villa’s long-term mission of compassionate care.

She also played an important role in nurturing the 2004 merger between the Vincentian Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati—a historic transition that helped preserve and continue the Vincentian legacy of service into the future.

A lifelong learner, Sr. Christine used her many gifts in countless ministries throughout her life. She served as Vicar for Religious in Cleveland, worked as a canon lawyer in the Diocesan Tribunal from 2004–2011, and offered



Pictured at the Memorial Mass honoring the life and legacy of Sister Christine Rody, SC, held at Light of Hearts Villa in May are (left to right) Sr. Sheila Marie Toby, OSU, Sr. Lisa Beltz, OSU, Fr. Mark Riley, Fr. Steve Vallenga, Sr. Anita Maroun, SC, Sr. Martha Owen, OSU, Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC, Bob Rody, Sr. Helen Scasny, SC, Sr. Margaret Mach, SC, and Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, SC. Several pictured were fellow missionaries and dear friends who served alongside Sr. Christine throughout her years of ministry and service.

Spanish translation support for both canon law casework and the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy in Cincinnati, assisting immigrant clients and medical personnel alike. She served as a spiritual director for the Ladies of Charity, participated on numerous boards and remained deeply engaged in community life through both large and small acts of care.

Those who knew her also remember the joy and creativity she brought into everyday life, whether organizing quilted purse projects, decorating gingerbread houses or simply gathering people together in meaningful ways.

When once asked about the future, Sr. Christine humbly responded: “I would like to continue being of service in whatever way I can. I hope we can continue to make a difference in the lives of the people and in the places we serve.”

Sister Christine Rody, SC, died peacefully on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. Her legacy lives on in the halls of Light of Hearts Villa, in the memories of Lumen Cordium alumnae, in the countless lives she touched and in the enduring mission of service she helped shape with such faithfulness and grace. ♦



Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, and Sr. Christine establishing a 50-50 partnership between Light of Hearts Villa and the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in 2001.

A scenic view of Villa Community. In the foreground, a white statue of a person in a robe stands on the left. A pond with lily pads and a white swan is in the center. A gazebo with a tiered roof is on the right. The background is filled with dense green trees under a blue sky with clouds. A dark blue banner with white text is at the top.

To help make this process easier, we've partnered with FreeWill so you have complimentary access to a secure estate planning tool. By dedicating just 20 minutes to their guided process, you can create or update your will and gain:

- As you plan ahead, we invite you to consider including a future gift to Light of Hearts Villa so future generations can continue to access these life-changing services. ♦



Making Memories at the Villa

There is never a dull moment at Light of Hearts Villa! So far this year, residents have enjoyed a variety of festive celebrations, creative arts and crafts, themed parties, and special gatherings that continue to bring joy, laughter and connection. From Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day fun to birthday bashes, Cinco de Mayo festivities and everyday moments of creativity, these photos capture just a small glimpse of the vibrant life shared at the Villa each day.

There is never a dull moment at Light of Hearts Villa! So far this year, residents have enjoyed a variety of festive celebrations, creative arts and crafts, themed parties, and special gatherings that continue to bring joy, laughter and connection. From Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day fun to birthday bashes, Cinco de Mayo festivities and everyday moments of creativity, these photos capture just a small glimpse of the vibrant life shared at the Villa each day.



NEWS *and* NOTES



Join Hands Day Blooms at the Villa

Light of Hearts Villa was blessed to once again host our annual Join Hands Day this spring. Volunteers, friends of the Villa and supporters, including our wonderful friends from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), came together to plant flowers, beautify our grounds and prepare our outdoor spaces for the summer season ahead. We are so grateful to everyone who donated to the flower fund, brought plants or spent the day digging, planting and lending helping hands. The Villa is blooming beautifully thanks to their generosity and care!



Eggstravaganza Brings Family Fun

Our annual Eggstravaganza welcomed children, families and community members to the Villa for a joyful morning of springtime fun. With hundreds of eggs scattered across the grounds, along with face painting, balloon twisting, crafts and games, there was excitement around every corner. It was a beautiful opportunity to bring generations together and welcome the community to the Villa. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make the event such a success!

Save These Dates!

Be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming events at the Villa!

July 23

Summer at the Villa Family Social: Thursday, July 23
4:30–6:00 p.m.

Oct. 27

Villa Trick-or-Treat: Tuesday, October 27
4–5:30 p.m.

Nov. 7

Mass of Remembrance for Lumen Cordium Alum: Saturday, November 7
Doors open 5:00 p.m.
Optional guided tour 5:15 p.m.
Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 1

#WeGIVECATHOLIC: Tuesday, December 1
ALL DAY

Dec. 15

Holiday Open House: Tuesday, December 15
1–3:00 p.m.

Welcoming Kate Mach to Light of Hearts Villa



Light of Hearts Villa is pleased to officially welcome Kate Mach as the new director of admissions and community relations. Kate brings more than eight years of experience in senior living, most recently serving as

director of community relations at Jennings at Notre Dame Village. Throughout her career, she has guided countless families through important life transitions with compassion, clarity and care.

For Kate, senior living work is deeply personal.

“I was raised by my grandparents until the age of 10 and have always felt very comfortable in a multigenerational environment. Having lost my parents at an early age, I get a lot from helping other people and supporting families in their desire to make loving decisions for their life.”

Kate said continuing her work within a Catholic community was especially important to her when considering her next step professionally. “Having been part of a Catholic community prior to joining Light of Hearts Villa, it was very important for me to continue that mission,” she said.

Since joining the Villa, she has already been inspired

by the dedication she sees throughout the community. “Everyone is very dedicated to this building and serving the residents. That is wonderful to see.”

When asked what compassionate care means to her personally, Kate simply said: “Respect of others as #1—and with that, everything else falls into place.”

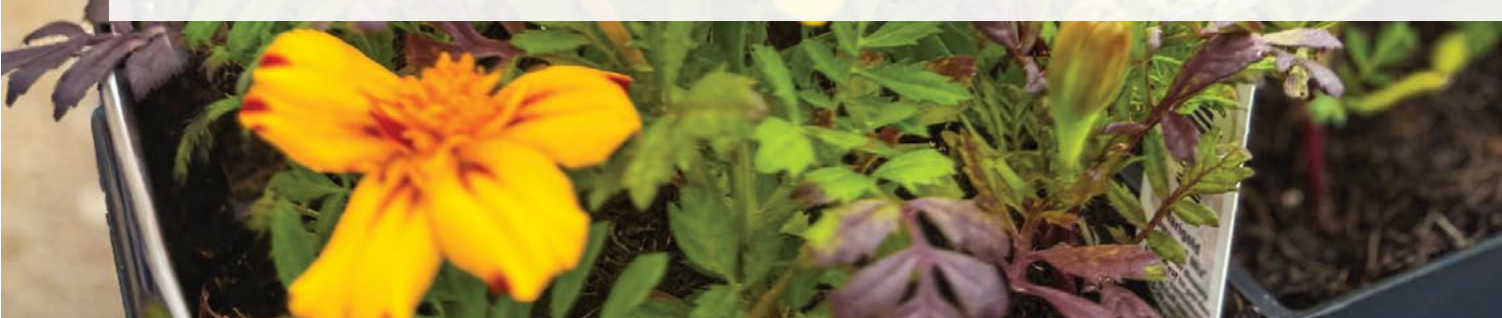
Her faith also plays a meaningful role in how she approaches her work each day. “I pause and ask for guidance in all my decisions and how I approach situations,” she said.

As she begins welcoming new residents and families into the Villa community, Kate hopes each person who walks through the doors feels a true sense of belonging. “I pray they feel a sense of welcoming warmth and that we are here to understand and really listen and get to know them.”

Outside of work, Kate is a devoted mom who spends much of her free time cheering on her two sporty children and volunteering where she can. She also enjoys sunshine, nature, live music, visiting art museums and discovering new places with her family.

One of her favorite pieces of advice reflects the thoughtful and compassionate spirit she brings to her role: “Don’t go into a situation with your spurs on. Cloak yourself with diplomacy and wear a vest of patience.”

We are grateful to welcome Kate to the Light of Hearts Villa family and look forward to the care, warmth and guidance she will continue to bring to residents, families and our community. ♦





LIGHT of HEARTS VILLA

A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System



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WISHlist

One of the questions we hear most often from supporters is, "What does the Villa need?" We are so grateful for the many individuals, families and friends who are always looking for meaningful ways to help. From resident comfort items to tools that support daily care, each gift helps us continue creating a warm, faith-filled home for those we serve.

CURRENT NEEDS INCLUDE:

- Twin sheet sets
- Bath towels and wash cloths
- Combs and hairbrushes
- Shampoo and body wash
- Nail clippers and nail polish remover
- Banker's boxes
- Wrist blood pressure monitors
- Temporal digital thermometers
- Desk fans

We also invite supporters to sponsor an appreciation lunch for one of our hardworking teams, such as Wellness, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance or Activities, as a special way to thank those who care for our residents each day with compassion and dedication.

Items may be purchased and dropped off at the Villa, or monetary donations may be made with a note specifying which wish list item or team appreciation initiative you would like to support.

Thank you for helping us care for our residents, staff and community with compassion and love.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

We frequently share resident events and photos, organizational news and employee recognitions!

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Light of Hearts Villa has chosen to print responsibly on paper containing post-consumer recycled fiber.

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Villa Voices is published to keep our supporters and residents updated on the many wonderful people and things that take place here every day.

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