



Connecting Communities

News from Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

Breaking New Ground



In late June, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services broke ground for our new family and youth center at Marillac Social Center. We celebrated the beginning of the renovation with support from staff, community members, donors, clients, volunteers, and our

Board of Trustees. In order to better accommodate the clients we serve through our programs and services, we are expanding the existing building into a multi-purpose space including a gymnasium and performing arts stage.

The day began with speeches from several members of our community. Sr. Patricia



Dunne, D.C., Vice President of Mission Integration for Marillac St. Vincent's, kicked off the celebration with an introduction and brief history of the Daughters of Charity, their impact on the city of Chicago, and their work through the organization. Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, C.M., President of DePaul University, then delivered the invocation that asked

for prayers and blessings for the building and all those who work in and utilize the space. Maureen Hallagan, Executive Director of Marillac Social Center, welcomed and thanked the guests for their continued support in helping make this vision come true.

John Rowan, Board Chair, spoke about the services Marillac St. Vincent offers and the additional programs and needs it will be able to provide with completion of the new family and youth center. Finally, Alderman Walter Burnett, State Senator Patricia Van Pelt, and State Representative Derrick Smith discussed the impact and legacy of Marillac in the community.

(continued on page 2)

“You are well aware that changes are always difficult, and that it takes time to learn new ways of serving the poor skillfully and well.”

– St. Louise de Marillac



Dear Friends,

For almost 100 years, the Daughters of Charity have worked in Chicago, dedicating themselves to those most in need. The Daughters of Charity and their myriad services have continuously evolved to support the ever-changing socio-economic demo-

graphics and ethnic diversity in the many neighborhoods that the Daughters have served and continue to serve today.

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services has strived to carry out its services and programs in the Vincentian tradition of compassionate care, while serving the community with dignity and respect. Soon, we will celebrate our centennial anniversary: Marillac Social Center in 2014 and St. Vincent de Paul Center in 2015. As we reach this historic milestone, we reflect on our past as well as look ahead to the future of Marillac St. Vincent Family Services, and the example set forth by the Daughters of Charity to adapt our programs and services to most effectively serve those most in need.

In this edition of our Newsletter, you will find stories that highlight the past successes, as well as the bright future of Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

Sincerely,

Bart Winters
President/CEO
Marillac St. Vincent
Family Services



Breaking New Ground

(continued from front)

Following the speeches, attendees proceeded outside, where long-time staff, leaders, and Sean Walsh, a representative of Walsh Construction, joined the group for a ceremonial groundbreaking. Fr. Holschneider blessed the ground before shovels broke the surface.

Following the groundbreaking ceremony, children from the Hope Junior and Child Development programs performed, drawing thunderous applause for their rousing performance.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and generosity as we see the realization of our dream to provide increased services in a better space for those most in need to reach their greatest potential. We also invite everyone to check our website for updates on construction and progress on the new building.

In this issue:

Breaking New Ground	1
Letter from Bart Winters	2
A Smart Partnership	2
Notes from the Associate Board	3
Heating Up the Ice.....	3
Blessings in a Backpack.....	4
Leave a Lasting Legacy.....	4
Feeding the Need	5
Shopping for a Cause.....	6
Taking Charge	6
Live and Learn.....	7
Fleur de Lis Ball.....	8

A Smart Partnership

St. Vincent de Paul Center’s partnership with Tutoring Chicago continues to prove successful. Operating after our Child Development program ends for the day, Tutoring Chicago utilizes classrooms three nights a week, serving over 200 children from 1st to 6th grade, providing one-on-one tutoring. Children receive general homework help, as well as the option to enroll in a literacy enrichment program. Students also have access to the computer lab, well-stocked resource room, and additional spaces for meeting and events. Over 60 St. Vincent’s School–Age children participate in the program. For more information, please visit www.tutoringchicago.org.



Notes from the Associate Board

Throughout the year, the Marillac St. Vincent Family Services' Associate Board performs service projects and organizes events to raise awareness and funds. The junior board, comprised of young professionals, has grown in size and stature. Last year's Associate Board raised over \$40,000 for Marillac St.

Vincent Family Services, with over 40 active members. Along with their House of Cards casino night signature event, the members put together a Flip Cup Tournament, the Fall Affair cocktail party, and a trolley crawl. In addition to fundraising activities, members volunteered at special events throughout the year,

raised money for our food pantries by serving at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and organized a dodgeball team to compete against other local charity teams.

We would like to thank all the members of the Associate Board for their continued commitment and dedication to our mission.

Heating Up the Ice

As part of the National Hockey League's Streethawks program, the Blackhawks visit youth and community organizations to teach children and teens about hockey. Prior to winning the Stanley Cup, the Chicago Blackhawks organization took time to visit St. Vincent de Paul Center last spring. Children from the School-Age Program participated in a hockey clinic with Blackhawks forward Jimmy Hayes and U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley. Hayes and Congressman Quigley, as well as Blackhawks' youth hockey staff, demonstrated basic drills and ball-handling skills for the children.

In addition to leading practice drills, Jimmy Hayes and Congressman



Quigley took pictures, autographed T-shirts, and met with all the children. The organization also provided Blackhawks' T-shirts for everyone, as well as hockey sticks, pucks, and protective gear for the children to practice their newfound skills.

Congressman Quigley shared his love of hockey with the crowd. He also noted that he has played with fellow politicians and spoke

about conversations he has had with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama about his love for the sport. He shares their belief that exercise is an important part of daily life, especially for youth.

We are thankful to the National Hockey League, the Streethawks program, the Chicago Blackhawks, and Congressman Quigley for making this dream come true.

Blessings in a Backpack



According to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, more than 1 in 6 people in Chicago are food insecure, unsure of where their next meal will come from.

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services' clients remain vulnerable to issues of hunger and food insecurity. Recognizing the need to provide additional assistance, Michele Berrington, a volunteer in St. Vincent's Child Development program, decided to take action. Michele, along with her husband, Phillip Goldberg, approached our staff with the idea to launch the Blessings in a Backpack program. Phillip's law firm, Foley & Lardner, is sponsoring this program, stuffing the bags and delivering them weekly to 160 children in our Pre-Kindergarten program.

The Blessings in a Backpack program provides school children who are on the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program with a backpack of food to take home for 38 weekends during the school year. The food includes easy-to-prepare, ready-to-eat foods, like granola bars, juice boxes, macaroni and cheese, and oatmeal. St. Vincent's Pre-Kindergarten has appreciated the assistance and the children look forward to receiving their bags each week.

You can read more about Blessings in a Backpack at www.blessingsinabackpack.org.

We are thankful to Michele, Phillip, and the staff at Foley & Lardner for their support and dedication to helping our children reach their greatest potential.

Leave a lasting legacy

Learn about planned giving

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services programs and services are made possible through the generosity and commitment of people like you. A planned gift helps us secure our future, enabling us to expand our services to meet increased demand in these difficult times. These very important gifts frequently provide the financial difference in our ability to achieve our Mission of serving the poor.

Planned gifts to Marillac St. Vincent Family Services can bring immediate financial benefits and tax advantages to the donor, while also providing opportunities to assist our clients. Gifts can be structured through your will, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, gifts of stocks and bonds, gifts of life insurance, gifts linked to your retirement plans, gifts of real property or artwork, etc.

Please visit our new Planned Giving website, which provides helpful tools and tips to set up your planned gift: www.marillacstvincentgift.org.

AmeriCorps is a federal program that places citizens in volunteer positions to perform community service with organizations across the nation in areas such as education, community development, and health care. Since its inception in 1994, the program now annually engages 80,000 Americans in service with community partner agencies throughout the country. In collaboration with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Marillac's food pantry hosted two AmeriCorps members this past year, Keshia Hawkins and Austin Bloomberg. As their year of service came to an end, Keshia and Austin reflected on their experiences with Marillac Social Center.

Keshia Hawkins is a Chicago native from the Lawndale neighborhood. She first came to Marillac as a volunteer in the food pantry to fulfill a community service requirement for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to help support her two children. However, her supervisor saw something more in Keshia and encouraged her to apply for the AmeriCorps program. Soon after, Keshia returned as a volunteer coordinator through the AmeriCorps program.

Austin Bloomberg hails from La-Crosse, Wisconsin. After a job working as a college dormitory supervisor, Austin felt a direct call to service and decided to apply for the AmeriCorps program to give him more exposure to different areas of community development. This led him to Chicago's West Side and Marillac's food pantry as a volunteer coordinator, an opportunity that allowed him to gain new experiences.

During their tenures, Keshia and Austin oversaw the food pantry operations and volunteers. Managing a crew of 15 volunteers, they helped distribute food three times a week to

families and individuals. In the past year, the average number of people the food pantry served jumped from 50-70 households each session up to 100-150. In addition to overseeing the operations and food distribution, Austin and Keshia recruited, trained, and managed the volunteers in the food pantry. Keshia and Austin also provided clients with information and assistance in receiving other resources – such as employment opportunities and nutritional education.

teers, and staff and how everyone reflects a deep commitment to its mission and to each other.

Keshia earned an education award, which she is utilizing as she works toward a business degree at East-West University. She hopes to someday open her own food pantry or homeless shelter with the help of her mother, who also volunteers at the food pantry. Keshia remarked that the biggest impact Marillac had on her was the feeling that she truly



Even though Keshia and Austin recently ended their time at Marillac's food pantry, their impact will last much longer. They both plan to continue to volunteer at Marillac once they complete their AmeriCorps term of service. Austin started a graduate program this summer at Loyola University to receive a Masters in Social Justice and Community Development. He felt that the greatest lesson he learned during his time at Marillac involved understanding the importance of this type of work and also gaining the opportunity to learn about each person as an individual, not just as a client. He cherished Marillac because it gave him an opportunity to immerse himself in another culture and different situations. Overall, Austin appreciated how Marillac truly builds a sense of community with its clients, volun-

helped someone on a daily basis. Keshia also appreciated how Marillac exposed her to so many different people and issues, such as hunger. It first surprised her how widespread hunger is, especially in her own city and neighborhood. Overall, Keshia believes that Marillac Social Center is a terrific organization that truly lives out its mission to “strengthen and empower those most in need to reach their greatest potential.”

We would like to thank Keshia and Austin for their hard work, dedication, and commitment over the past year. We would also like to thank the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the AmeriCorps program for partnering us with such bright and supportive workers. We wish Keshia and Austin the best of luck in their future endeavors and cannot wait to see what the future holds for them!



The Nearly New Thrift Store, an extension of St. Vincent de Paul Center, offers everything from clothing to household items, with proceeds directly benefitting our programs. The Nearly New Thrift Store offers retail items at wholesale prices. The store runs exclusively on donations, which are accepted during store hours and are tax-deductible. The store is open Monday and Friday from 10am to 5pm and Tuesday through Thursday from 10am to 4pm. If you would like more information on how to donate items, please contact the store at 312.278.4133.

Shopping for a Cause

Come shop 'til you drop while supporting a good cause!

The Senior Services program at Marillac Social Center is dedicated to promoting the emotional, social and physical well-being of older adults. The program provides comprehensive services for low-income seniors who are either homebound or at-risk on the West Side of Chicago.

In addition to providing services at home and in the community, the Senior Services staff organizes a senior group known as Take Charge.

Take Charge is a group of active seniors over the age of 60 who meet on a monthly basis. The meetings provide social interaction, educational opportunities, a supportive environment and recreational activities for its members. Marillac's

Senior Services department organizes get-togethers that include guest lectures, field trips, and holiday parties. In addition, members take active leadership roles and provide help and companionship for each other and other seniors who are home-bound. Members help prepare meals,

arrange carpools, deliver meals and holiday gifts, and facilitate well-being checks and phone calls, as well as organize porch repairs

for homebound senior clients. During the summer, Take Charge took a trolley tour throughout downtown Chicago. Under the guidance of Sr. Rita McSweeney, the group keeps busy throughout the year, proving age is only a number!

Taking Charge

We are social!



Find us on Facebook!

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services



Follow us on Twitter!

MSVChicago
NearlyNewThrift



<http://www.youtube.com/user/MarillacStVincent>

LinkedIn® professional networking services

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

Live & Learn

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services prides itself on developing and cultivating deep and long-term relationships with our employees. Staff members enjoy a welcoming atmosphere with opportunities for professional development and personal growth. Teachers bear the responsibility for molding the minds of the young children and teenagers at our Centers, and many of them show their commitment by pursuing continued studies of their own.

In the past year, a number of teachers have accomplished impressive achievements. At St. Vincent's, School-Age teachers Makeba Wesley and Steve Harris received their Bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Inner Studies, respectively. Jasmine Wilson, in the Pre-Kindergarten section, completed an Advanced Certificate in Child Development – Preschool Education, while Zelma Wilson finished her Associate's degree and Mary Grady her Bachelor's degree, both in Early Childhood Education. In addition, Maril-

lac teachers, Albert Richardson and Othena Jeffers, graduated with their Bachelor's degrees.

In late August, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services celebrated the start of another school year with a staff in-service day. As part of the agenda, both Centers recognized milestone anniversaries for long-term employees and presented Commitment to Excellence awards to outstanding staff members. Nominated by colleagues for their hard work and dedication, this year's winners were Dee Asel, Mary Grady, Ronald Hargrave, and Miguel Idefonso at St. Vincent's and Ora Lomack, Barbara Garland, and Cindia Grant at Marillac.

Employees were asked to nominate co-workers who exemplified steady determination, perseverance, and hard work. The following co-workers were recognized:

- Dee Asel was recognized for her compassion, organization, and positive attitude during her first year as nurse at St. Vincent's.

- Mary Grady inspires her fellow Birth-to-Three teachers at St. Vincent's with her tireless efforts and her willingness to be a role model of professional conduct.
- Ronald Hargrave demonstrates respect, loyalty, and dedication to his clients in the St. Vincent's Outreach program, always with a smile.
- Miguel Idefonso works hard in St. Vincent's Dietary department, setting a professional example and always ensuring everyone has something to eat.
- Ora Lomack is a School-Age teacher at Marillac, where she is a great team player and support system for families.
- Barbara Garland has an amazing talent for developing trusting relationships with Marillac's senior clients, showing tremendous patience and kindness.
- Cindia Grant has worked in Hope Junior for almost two decades, where she offers just the right mixture of kindness, nurturing and tough love to children at Marillac.

We are so proud of the amazing feats that our staff accomplishes each day and the wonderful examples they continue to set for our clients.



Marillac's Hope Jr. and After School Matters programs hosted an anti-violence forum featuring artistic collaborations from teen groups to speak out against violence. Children and teens from five West Side After School Matters groups, as well as staff and other performers, treated the audience to performances focused on finding their voices.



St. Vincent's enjoyed the renovations of the Early Childhood Development program playgrounds!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 22, 2014

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