



connecting COMMUNITIES

integrity | excellence | creativity | advocacy | respect | empowerment

As stewards of the Vincentian spirit, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services is committed to strengthening and empowering those most in need to reach their greatest potential

It's Gonna Take Love

In September 2014, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services welcomed elected officials, religious leaders, and members of the community, to the Marillac Social Center Centennial Reunion Celebration and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The event was held at our brand new, state-of-the-art, Vince and Pat Foglia Family and Youth Center, named for our generous benefactors and long-time partners.

Marillac staff, decked out in bright yellow t-shirts printed with "1914", ushered guests in by the hundreds to gather in the new gymnasium. Precious archival photographs and memorabilia were displayed. The display boards added to the atmosphere of joy and celebration as many attendees became emotional reuniting with old friends, teachers, and administrators.



The event was kicked off by a former Detroit Piston and NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas who gave a touching tribute detailing

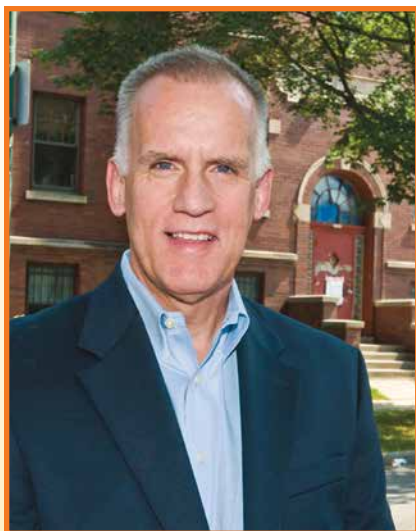


his experience as an adolescent at Marillac House. His speech was followed by a performance from "The Triad," a trio comprised of former Marillac staff members Bessie Houston, Viola Floyd and Barbara Bonner, who sang their soulful original song, Blessings, a cappella. Afterward, there was a series of speakers including US Senator Dick Durbin, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Michael Madigan, 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, and Bishop Alberto Rojas – who blessed



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excellence



Dear Friends,

There is an air of great joy in our halls and in our classrooms right now. We have been collectively steeped in reflection since the Marillac Centennial Celebration last fall, and we look forward to the same for St. Vincent de Paul Center later this year. When we consider what 100 years of supporting those most in need in our communities looks like, we remember the tears, triumphs, and transformations; the faces of hurt turned into the faces of healing. We become overwhelmed with a sense of humility that can only come from the weight of a full century of service.

The passionate and determined founders of The Catholic Social Center in 1914, and The de Paul Day Nursery and Social Center in 1915, could not have imagined that their efforts would evolve to meet the demands of the working poor on the scale that they have today at Marillac St. Vincent Family Services. What is even harder to fathom, is that the figures themselves of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, had any expectation that their real-life partnership in service would continue in such a direct way. But yet, here we are, walking in their footsteps.

It is important to reflect on our history so that we do not forget the many challenges we've had to overcome to reach this important milestone. But, today, we are looking to the future. With increased structural capacity brought on by the completion of the Vince and Pat Foglia Family and Youth Center in 2014, we are opening the door to a better tomorrow for children and families. In neighborhoods that are darkened by relentless violence, low-wages, and diminishing resources, our centers must continue to light the path towards revitalization for the populations we serve.

Over the years, we have fostered a culture of self-evaluation and reflection to ensure that our staff is committed to our mission, because we believe in the power of that mission to make a difference. By employing new technologies that track the outcomes of our efforts, we will finally have the raw data to help us better understand our clients' histories, relationships, and environments – an initiative centered on our core value of excellence.

Thank you for helping us carry out our mission to change lives.

Sincerely,

Bart Winters
President/CEO
Marillac St. Vincent
Family Services

We are social!

Did you know? By following us on social media, you are helping to support our mission in a big way!



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Family



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org



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A view from the inside! Isaiah Thomas is pictured here distributing toys to the children from the Marillac Child Development Program in the new gymnasium. Toys were also distributed to the children and teens from Hope Junior

When Dreams Become Reality

Where It All Started

In June 2013, we celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Vince and Pat Foglia Family and Youth Center at Marillac Social Center.

And, in September we opened the doors of the beautiful new facility to the community, converting the building into a multi-purpose space, complete with a full-sized gym. Our programs have grown and evolved to include a wide range of services for children and their families, and a major component of our programmatic capacity and positive impact relies on our physical presence as a refuge from violence and a provider of support and resources. This new building serves that purpose and so much more.

The former “Nifty Thrifty” building was originally created to house our thrift store and food pantry. However, the original layout of the structure limited our ability to fully maximize the space and continue to expand our programs without renovations.

Our vision of re-purposing the building began to take shape when we received financial support from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Daughters of Charity, and other generous friends of the Center, especially Vince and Pat Foglia, for whom the building is named.

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Full Sized Gymnasium and Fitness Room: Not only does the gym provide new opportunities for children and young adults to participate in positive, healthy activities, it also serves as a resource to attract new people to the Center and our programs. The gym includes a raised stage, complete with curtains, sound system and lighting, where our kids and young adults can showcase their theatrical and musical talents. A fitness room is accessible through the gym which provides our staff and families the opportunity to exercise, a resource that is severely lacking on Chicago’s West Side.

Food Pantry: The campus expansion

has doubled the space of our food pantry, enhancing our ability to serve food to families.

Classrooms: With six well-equipped rooms of varying sizes, including one large computer lab, we will be able to offer the community additional services such as employment resources, skills training and government assistance application processing, all in the same building.

Hope Junior & Project Hope: Other portions of the building are already being used to cultivate the emotional and intellectual well-being of our families and young people in Hope Junior and Project Hope and provide them with opportunities to build character and develop life skills.

The Impact: Our families now have access to a computer lab, an arts and crafts room, and a grand multi-purpose space that can be converted on an as-needed basis. The facility also has developmentally-appropriate activity areas for children and spaces for smaller groups for mental health services, mentoring, and tutoring.

(It's Gonna Take Love Cont. from page 1)

the new building and served as ribbon cutter.

The stretch of road in front of the main Marillac building and the Foglia Center was renamed "Marillac Way," with an exciting announcement from Alderman Burnett, who revealed the new street sign during the ceremony.



At the conclusion of the ceremony, Director of Hope Junior, Deanna Hallagan, led the children in singing an original song she wrote with several of the children, It's Gonna Take Love, just as they had sung 14 months earlier at the groundbreaking for the new building -- a fitting end to this moving inaugural event, after which lunch was served. The Marillac staff helped to prepare and serve over 500 meals for the attendees.

The organization's centennial festivities have only just begun as St. Vincent de Paul Center will celebrate its 100-year anniversary in the fall. Make plans to attend our final event, a reunion ceremony set for September 19, 2015. Through the continued support of our Board of Trustees, Associate Board, Administration and strong donor base, we look forward to serving Chicago families for another 100 years.



There was a lot of hand shaking and connection making in the new Vince and Pat Foglia Family and Youth Center gymnasium on Marillac's campus the first week in December. Alderman Walter Burnett's office partnered with Marillac and Service Works, a workforce development agency specializing in the hospitality and retail industries, to put on an employment opportunity and resource fair for residents of the 27th Ward.

said with enthusiasm. Callazo also attended the job readiness course yesterday and said, "It was very informative. A lot of human resources and job-readiness coaches came and gave me some amazing tips. I received a ton of really vital info and I felt like that's what helped me be successful with the employers I met at the fair."

This was the first event of its kind in the newly opened Foglia Center. The

Jobs Fair for West Side Residence

From the Marillac St. Vincent blog! MSVChicago.tumblr.com

The event was kicked off with a job readiness course held in advance of the actual job fair, where nearly 70 West Side residents were in attendance. The executive director for Service Works, Iris Calloway, stated that, "this is a common practice for Service Works job fairs as resume building, on-the-job etiquette, and interviewing practice sessions help to ensure the success of the job seekers before meeting with the various vendors the following day at the fair."

Twenty-one vendors were present ready to hire qualified candidates. Representatives from the Chicago Transit Authority indicated that East Garfield residents are, "uniquely qualified for the jobs we're looking to fill, particularly at entry-level in administrative roles and, especially, as part-time bus drivers." She went on to say, "these kinds of jobs are perfect for people just starting out in the work force because they don't need prior experience or commercial licenses—and we fully train our workforce to be successful on the job."

Rockell Callazo is an East Garfield resident with experience in customer service, administration, clerical, and banking, and she is looking for work. "There were a lot of opportunities here today, opportunities I never would've been aware of had I not attended the fair today," Callazo



West Side Resident and job-seeker, Rockell Callazo, attended the job fair at the Foglia Center today. She said she was introduced to opportunities that she never would've been aware of it weren't for the event.

Service Works staff, vendors, and job seekers were all very enthusiastic about the impact the space is going to have on the community. Ms. Callazo commented, "It's a comfortable environment, good people, a good vibe flowing through the atmosphere, as well as the space being adequate for the event. I go to a lot of events and it's always, there's not enough space, there's not enough seats, you have long lines, and long

waits – I just felt really accommodated today."

Judging from the success of the December job fair, Marillac St. Vincent hopes to continue to be a resource for organizations that are doing meaningful work for our West Side communities like Service Works. Follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/chicagoserviceworks and visit their website for more information, www.chicago-serviceworks.com.

I volunteered last November for the Marillac St. Vincent Family Services Homeless Outreach Luncheon. I was assigned to serve as an escort, accompanying a guest through a series of stations designed to provide needed items and services, and a coincidental respite from the early winter chill. I met *Max at the entrance and introduced myself.

find warm clothes and a hot meal. Okay, my thoughts were beginning to track what I heard.

I returned to the program card and highlighted what I considered to be relevant stations...thermal underwear, sleeping bags and coats. Max shook his head affirmatively, enthusiastically. I told him that in addition, if he wanted, he could get a haircut,

vited him to tell me more about himself. He did so articulately, with no hint of shame or embarrassment, but rather with a tone of determination. He made mistakes he explained, involving alcohol and drugs. He has paid for them and learned from them, and knows that he will not return to prison.

Max grew up in Evanston and gradu-

Homeless Outreach Luncheon and Resource Fair:

A Reflection by one of our Board members

Max was maybe mid-50s, around six feet, 2 inches with medium build, bright eyes...sharp looking. I had been given a card with the day's program, describing the purpose and location of each station that I began to share with Max. Station 1 was dedicated to parental resources for guests with children. Max said he didn't need that one. I mentioned that Station 2 was Medical Checkup-blood pressure, flu shot. Max dismissively said nope, he was cold and needed some warm clothes. Only then did I notice that he had come in from the 30 degree temperature dressed in sweatpants and a sweat-shirt. He was shivering and blowing on his hands.

Where was my head? I had been so focused on the available offerings and my role in their delivery that I forgot that this day was for Max and the other homeless guests, and their needs. Max went on to explain that he had been released from prison yesterday and arrived last night in Chicago via train from southern Illinois, dressed as he is today. He had been fortunate to find a shelter with a bed for the night. Someone there told him about the event at St. Vincent de Paul Center, where he could

his feet checked at the podiatry station and/or consult with an attorney at the legal services station. He grunted noncommittally. Thanksgiving dinner would be of course a definite stop.

As we climbed the stairs to the second floor and the thermal underwear station, Max began to share his story. He had been in prison for eleven years, three months. He said that he had learned his lesson and put himself in the Lord's hands. During the next hour while we were together, Max referred frequently to his good fortune and his belief, his faith that God was looking out for him. As evidence he offered with a confident smile that he had arrived on a train last night in a cold Chicago with \$10.00 in his pocket (a departing gift from the state of Illinois), found a shelter and learned about this event. I listened in silent amazement.

Max picked up a package of thermal underwear and a sleeping bag, placing them in an oversize plastic bag that each guest received as he entered the center. I was eager to learn more about this man, close to my age, whose life had taken a course so foreign to me. I acknowledged to Max my ignorance of prison and in-

ated from Evanston Township High School. He finished two years at a community college and earned a welding certification. He held good jobs in body and fender shops, and earned enough to buy a home in Evanston. Max's problems with alcohol and drugs commenced with his brother's return from Vietnam. We stopped at the haircut station, and I watched as Max sat in the barber chair, eyes closed and for now, relaxed.

Our next station was dinner, and Max enjoyed a hearty meal of turkey with all the trimmings. As we sat together while he ate, Max continued with his story. He talked about prison, the 23 and 1 days...one hour outside the cell and twenty-three hours of lock down. In response to my question, he explained that with two men in a small cell there was little opportunity for exercise. Sometimes there were extended lockdowns, possibly a week or more, with no time outside the cell due to staff shortage or some official's whim. Max read voraciously, anything he could get his hands on. Meals were meager, and unappetizing. There was a soybean plant near the prison, so meals always seemed to be some

form of soybean combination. I listened attentively, and detected no bitterness. When I offered this observation to Max, he replied that there was no place in his life for bitterness. He believed in God and he believed in himself. He knew, he said, that he had strengths to offer and he would find opportunities to apply them.

Finishing his meal, Max said that he had to get moving, that he had an appointment to meet a man about

a job. It wasn't a body shop job. It involved cleaning a kitchen in a restaurant, but it was a start, something to get him on his feet while he searched for that body shop job. We moved on to the coat station, where after trying on a couple of options, Max found a good fitting warm winter coat. He was thrilled. We spoke with a St. Vincent staff member to learn how Max could get help from the center's outreach program, then moved to the exit.

As he was leaving, Max again expressed gratitude to the center and he thanked me. I told him that I knew that things would work out well for him. He appreciated that, he said, but I sensed that he had no doubt that good fortune awaited him.

The subject's name was changed to protect the client's identity.



Subscribe to our YouTube channel for fun and informative videos like this one from our Homeless Outreach Luncheon. Watching and sharing our videos with your friends and family is a fast and easy way to support our efforts! youtube.com/MarillacStVincent

"A letter of gratitude from a senior client to Sister Mary Rita McSweeney"



Sister Mary Rita McSweeney is the Manager of the Senior Services Program which provides comprehensive services for low-income seniors who are either homebound and/or at-risk on the west side of Chicago.

"Dear Sister Mary Rita,

Thank you for being such a great support of mine - being here for my paperwork such as my gas and my light bills down through the years. Thank you for my meals each and every month and for my thanksgiving bag with all the nuggets in it for thanksgiving meals.

And I'll never forget you for calling me up early each December and asking me what I want for a Christmas present. Whatever I need, Sister Rita, you will see to it that I get it just in time for Christmas in a beautifully wrapped box.

I thank you oh so very much, Sister Rita. For doing this for me and being there for me for many years.

May the good Lord bless you forever, I pray.

Sincerely,

Ms. Annie Woods"

Ms. Woods is 85 years old, a 51-year resident of East Garfield and long-time client and friend of Marillac Social Center. In 2013 Ms. Wood's house was severely damaged from a fire that nearly burned her home to the ground. Though the damage was not irreparable, she was displaced for two years while the rehabilitation of her home took place. During that time, Sr. Mary Rita McSweeney and Sister Kathy Overmann, saw to it that Ms. Woods still received her home meals and continued to check on her well-being. "Come, rain, snow, or sunshine, Sister Kathy gets to my house and oh - how she makes me laugh with her beautiful smile and warmth!" - Ms. Woods.

2014 Remembrances



Don Hamilton,
Director of the
Child Development Program
at
St. Vincent's

Don worked at St. Vincent's for 35 years, becoming Director of Child Development in 2002. During his time at St. Vincent's, Don touched the lives of our staff, children and families. His presence is missed, but not forgotten. Don always had a kind word to share and a smile on his face. He was

a pleasure to be around and served as a role model to children and adults alike. He truly was a beacon of hope for our community.



Gwen Horton,
Program
Director of Project Hope
at Marillac

Gwen worked at Marillac for over 35 years, and was passionate about

helping others. Gwen started out at Marillac House as a preschool teacher, ran an afterschool program in Rockwell Garden's Housing Project, and became Director of Project Hope in 2004, where she quickly became dedicated to strengthening young parents and their children. Gwen impacted thousands of people over the years: staff, children and families. Her generous spirit and loving nature will live on in so many.

A Different Take on Volunteering

From the Marillac St. Vincent blog! MSVChicago.tumblr.com

By Sarah Delisi

My entire life my parents made sure that I was active in volunteer work. To me, that always meant working at a soup kitchen, collecting canned goods, or working at large dinner functions – being on the “front lines” of volunteering. So when I was inquiring about some additional work over winter break to add to my resume, my mom e-mailed me about volunteering at Marillac St. Vincent Family Services. As a junior at the University of Iowa studying communications, journalism and entrepreneurship, I had no idea how my skills could be applied to an organization like this. But, sure enough, there were plenty of opportunities and learning experiences to be had at MSV.

As I began my volunteering, I saw my time as less of volunteer work, and more as an internship. As I worked with Stephen Barker, Associate Director of Development Marketing and Communication, we created



Volunteer, Sarah Delisi

a position that helped me use and develop my skills in the most effective way possible. I was only at the office two times a week, but the time I spent was very valuable.

I was working with things that really interested me, like their database, website and social media accounts. It was a completely different kind of volunteering experience than my past ones. Not only was I helping a great cause, but I got to use my skills in a professional setting.

My colleagues at MSV could not have been more encouraging or excited that I had volunteered. This was so motivating, and made my experience a truly positive one and something I would recommend to anyone. Not only was it an awesome professional experience, but it was great knowing I was contributing to a great cause.

Thanks to Board Member, JoAnn Kunkel, for putting our team in contact with Ms. Delisi!



Eric Lentz, husband of Hope
Junior Director
Deanna
Hallagan

Eric was a close friend of Marillac St. Vincent Family Services, and he was passionate about the kids at Marillac. After being diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in 2005, he built Rustic Falls Camp in Wisconsin where the children could spend weekends reading, cooking, and hiking nature

trails. He did a lot of the manual labor himself despite the rigors of his treatment. Rustic Falls Nature Camp has since hosted hundreds of our kids in tough situations, offering a few hours or days of peace, quiet and restoration.



Trishauna
Thompson, Pre-
school Teacher
at
St. Vincent's

Trishauna “Monique” Thompson was

a student at Chicago State University, where she was studying Early Childhood Education and gained some very valuable knowledge as a preschool teacher at St. Vincent's. She was the mother of five and had a deep love and passion for children.

Holiday Highlights

The holidays are an especially eventful time for the children and families we serve. From the individual program holiday parties held for clients in Project Hope, Hope Junior, and the Take Charge Seniors, to the countless gift distribution efforts by local civic organizations, corporations, and churches, there was never a dull moment! There really are too many acts of

and friends were busy planning a day of toy distribution for the children of St. Vincent's Child Development Program. Each child got a chance to sit on Santa's lap, take a photo, receive a gift, and whisper to Santa what they wanted on Christmas morning. But the fun wasn't over yet. Later in the evening, St. Vincent's welcomed its seniors for a night of dinner, dancing, deluxe gifts, and wine. A DJ kept the party going with fun holiday tunes and the seniors showed everyone how to really cut a rug. In addition to the



kindness and support for our clients to name, but we've put together a few highlights:

Santa Mike

After a successful Homeless Outreach Luncheon and Resource Fair in November, "Santa Mike" Sturch

toys, parties, and homeless outreach, our hardworking, dedicated staff was able to enjoy a catered holiday appreciation dinner and gift card raffle as well. These events were all made possible by generous gifts to the Santa Mike Fund.



Weber - Stephen Holiday Party

Our friends at Weber-Stephen continued their decades-long tradition of throwing a holiday blow-out party for the Marillac Social Center School-Age children. With large inflatable play spaces, DJ and dancing, delicious lunch, and a special visit from Santa on his sleigh, the children's eyes were aglow with genuine excitement. For the Marillac staff in attendance, it was easy to see the impact this event has on the kids. The chance to let loose and be a kid, despite the circumstances they are faced with each day, is a joy to see for those who work with the children. We appreciate the great team of volunteers from Weber Grills and the Stephen family for their continued generosity.



Isiah Thomas and the Mary's Court Foundation

Mary's Court is the family foundation of Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas. Mary's Court commemorates the life and legacy of Isiah's mother, Mary Thomas, as a transformational agent of service to the economically disadvantaged. Among their many initiatives, they

hold a toy drive for the children of Marillac Social Center, and, once again, they did not disappoint! Mr. Thomas was on hand for the event, distributing the countless number of toys, clothing items, and even tablets, bringing so much joy to the children's faces.

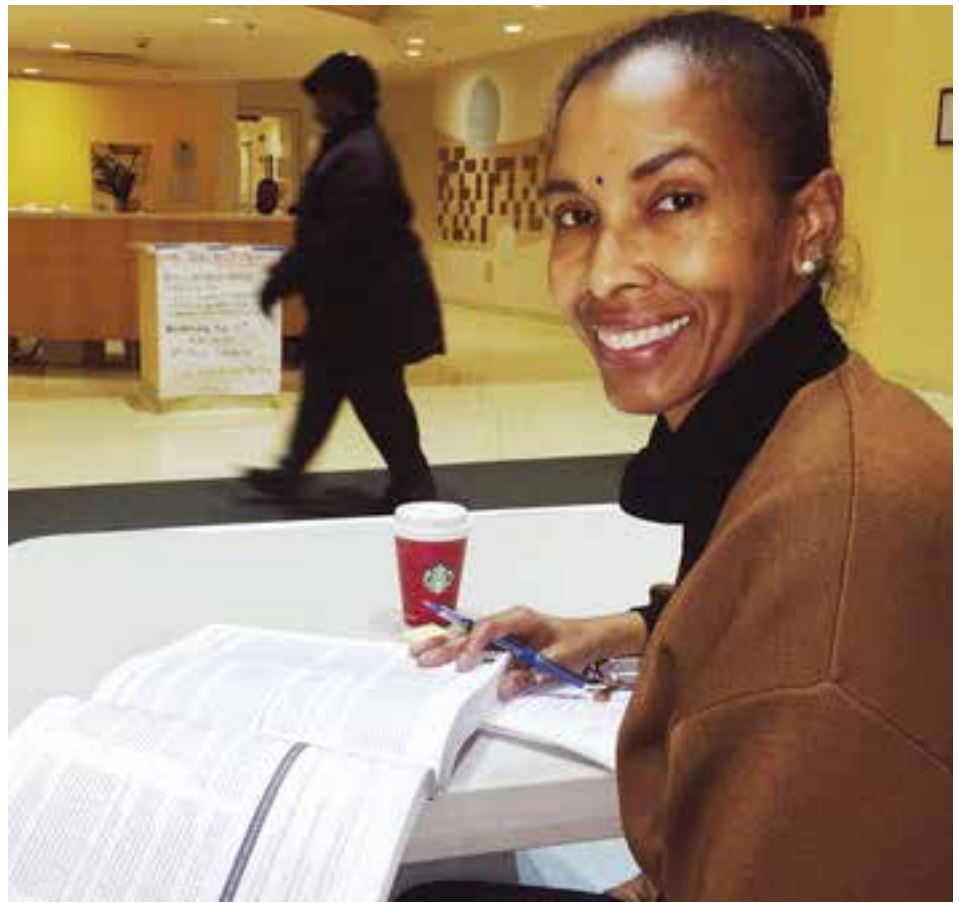


Marillac House "Christmas Store"

The families who participated in the Christmas Store received a turkey and other groceries that they could use to make a special Christmas dinner. Every family got an opportunity to pick out toys, garments, and stocking stuffers for each of their children. The Store opened its doors to 240 families, distributing hundreds of gifts, sports equipment, board games, clothing, and stuffed animals for nearly 800 children. The staff, volunteers, and clients all had an awesome time picking through toys and singing along to the Christmas music.

Community Generosity

We are incredibly fortunate to have our generous donors, local parishes and businesses to make the holiday season extra special for our children and families at both Centers. We received and distributed over \$20,000 in gift cards, in addition to toys, clothing, shoes and toiletries. On behalf of all those we serve, we thank everyone who took the time to make the lives of our children and families a little bit brighter this holiday



Attorney at law, Max Elliott is pictured here in the entryway of St. Vincent de Paul Center, to catch clients as they pass by in the evening.

Free Legal Advice for St. Vincent de Paul Center Clients

From the Marillac St. Vincent blog! MSVChicago.tumblr.com

Attorney at law, Max Elliott, volunteers her time on the third Tuesday of every month from 3-6 p.m., to provide free professional legal advice for the clients at St. Vincent de Paul Center. As a DePaul University College of Law grad herself, and native Chicagoan, Elliott finds great value in empowering our clients with information they might not have access to otherwise.

Elliott specializes in estate planning, matters regarding power of attorney, guardianship, income tax delinquency, second parent adoption, and much more. "One client had a family member in a nursing home and didn't have authority to assist with payments and they needed power of attorney. I was able to walk them

through the steps necessary. I don't know, there have been so many [clients] I can't even remember them all!"

We are so grateful to Ms. Elliott for the time she spends at our Center. For clients who need assistance that falls outside of Elliott's area of expertise, she is still able to help by providing referrals and other resources when necessary. For more information on how to retain Max Elliott visit <http://www.maxelliottlaw.com/>



The Associate Board of the Marillac St. Vincent Family Services Center Presents

HOUSE OF CARDS

Saturday April 18 | Chop Shop

6 - 7 PM VIP Cocktail Hour

7 - 11 PM Event

Live Music & Hors d'Oeuvres Served

General Admission Tickets:

\$85 single/ \$160 couple before March 15th

VIP Tickets: \$110

Includes VIP Cocktail Hour & Reserved Gaming Tables

For more information regarding tickets & the event visit:

tinyurl.com/houseofcards2015



MARILLAC
St VINCENT
Family Services



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