

Pilot Presents
VMC DUNKIN' DONUTS 5K
1-Mile Run/Walk
October 30, 2016 2:30 pm
Hardin Valley Elementary
For more info and to register
on line www.vmcinc.org

MEET MINVILLA RESIDENT JONATHAN PEAK



Jonathan Peak

The first thing you will notice about Jonathan Peak is his big smile and bright happy face. Jonathan is one of our youngest residents at Minvilla Manor. He moved into his apartment in 2011 and has been a model resident for five years. When you meet Jonathan you will easily get caught up in his energetic and warm personality.

Life has had its challenges for Jonathan, but in spite of the ups and downs he keeps on smiling and working hard to make something of himself. Jonathan was born in Oak Ridge and from the age of 5 until he was 11, he was in foster care. He was adopted by a family in Knoxville when he was 11. He went to Fulton High School where he played basketball. In his senior year, he received the Senior Superlative as Most Memorable Student, an honor he is most proud of, and graduated with a special education diploma. After that, Jonathan entered the Job Corps program and spent a year in Bristol, and in 2010 he returned to Knoxville. Because of his young age and his disability, he was eligible for the K-Town Youth Empowerment Program offered through Helen Ross McNabb. This program was designed to help youth accessing several community services to transition successfully into adulthood. Eager to get a job and as part of his program with K-Town, Jonathan completed a vocational rehab program in 2011. However, living arrangements were inconsistent and Jonathan was in desperate need of permanent supportive housing. Both K-Town Empowerment and Omni Visions worked together to secure housing for Jonathan at Minvilla Manor.

During his time living at Minvilla, Jonathan has worked regularly. He did seasonal work at Party City, worked for two years at Chucky Cheese, and currently is working at the Fieldhouse Social. Jonathan has high aspirations. He wants to go to college and someday get a job in sports management. He is saving his money so he can eventually move from Minvilla Manor to an independent living apartment.

Jonathan mentioned that living at Minvilla is safe and he enjoys the community activities offered there. He sings the praises for his case manager, Dustin Heffner, who has guided him and provided the mentoring he needed in his transition from youth to young adult.

Minvilla Manor has given Jonathan more than a home; it has given him a new lease on life, opened doors for new opportunities, and a life of fulfillment and growth.

By: Mary Beth Ramey

WORLD HOMELESS DAY

About the time you receive this newsletter, countries across the world will be recognizing homelessness as a world-wide issue. For you see, October 10th is World Homeless Day. It was birthed by aid workers around the world, all of whom were helping the homeless in their own countries. The aim is for locals to act locally on a global day with an emphasis on giving hands-on aid that is sensitive to local needs, while being aware of the global problem of homelessness. It is a day to raise awareness for the homeless in our own community and to educate the community on the infrastructure that already exists to help the homeless.

You, as a supporter of VMC, are aware of the issues of homelessness and somewhere in your big heart You have a special spot for VMC. You have read the numerous success stories and may even have met many of our neighbors through volunteering or serving a meal. So, when we share a story about one of our Minvilla residents, or a neighbor who for the first time in his life wanted to smile because his decayed teeth were replaced by a new set of dentures, You, more than likely, have met that person. You are the lifeline of helping us to change the landscape of homelessness in Knoxville. Without You, Emmet, Vicky, Matt, Andrew, Doris, Sharron, Teresa, Jonathan, Kelvin, Eugene, and the rest of our Minvilla residents would not have a home of their own. Without You, the hundreds of families receiving utility and rent assistance so they could stay in their homes, would be on the streets. Because of You, hundreds of homeless and poor received needed dental care, vision care, and other life sustaining services. And, because You care, over 850 formerly homeless individuals moved from the streets to a place of their own.

You are the difference between life on the streets or having a home for the neighbors VMC is assisting. So, on October 10th, World Homeless Day, we at VMC want to thank You for making a difference. We want You to know that You have changed the landscape of homelessness in Knoxville. We want You to know that You are the lifeblood of the Volunteer Ministry Center. You care when so many others do not. I ran across a quote that is so typical of most folks in our community, but certainly does not apply to You, our supporters. It goes like this:

“The more people we talk to who know homelessness first-hand – families, veterans, young adults – The more I realize that they live lives very similar to mine and yours. When I hear how they came to find themselves homeless, I know we could all be just a few missteps away from finding ourselves in the same situation. And, as they struggle to get out, the rest of society sees them as a nuisance or an eye-sore, if they even see them at all.”

Your eyes do not see our neighbors as a nuisance or an eye-sore. Instead, Your eyes see our neighbors with compassion and love. You don't ignore them; You care enough to help. The work of the Volunteer Ministry Center could not be done without You, your prayerful support, and generosity in sharing of your treasures. On World Homeless Day, we extend our thanks to You!

By Mary Beth Ramey

WE HAVE A HOME NOW!



Heather and Scottie show off the VMC key chains to their new apartments presented by case manager Opal King.

Jeff is so excited to open the door to his new apartment thanks to the assistance and guidance from his case manager Nancy Douglas.

VMC HAPPENINGS



Remote Area Medical (RAM) provides eye exams and glasses on a monthly basis at VMC.



Case managers and staff surprised Vicki, a resident at Minvilla Manor, with a 60th birthday celebration!



The first line dancing class at Minvilla Manor conducted by Jim Ford and Lee & Helen Grant from Second Presbyterian Church.



Minvilla Manor case managers Dustin and Megan celebrate Kevin's birthday at the monthly birthday lunch hosted by board members Martin Roberson and Robert DeNovo.

FROM THE CEO... THE STARE OF THE EXTRA MILE



Bruce W. Spangler, CEO

When television was just an emerging technology, a young boy was asked what he liked best, the radio or the television. Pausing to ponder the question, but sure of his response, the youngster replied innocently, "I like the radio because the pictures are better."

Our newsletter is filled with pictures of our "neighbors" and for a reason. We use "neighbor" intentionally to remind us of our connection. We are connected by our humanity in this human community. No person is a "project" or a "case." Each individual is unique with their own story. We are neighbors. Some pictures provide images of faces of satisfaction after completing a class that will enhance a housing opportunity. Or, examine the expression and posture of someone receiving their VMC key ring in celebration of their recent lease signing. This year, we have given 65 VMC key chains to individuals and families who are no longer experiencing homelessness.

What the pictures do not have the capability to do is display the travelled journey. Many have to stare down the extra mile to achieve their goal. As one participant once lamented, "I know I got one more relapse in me, but I don't know if I have another recovery." For many that we serve, the difference between despair and hope is not necessarily a thin line, but an extra mile. To stare down that extra mile seems endless and out of reach. The returning stare of the extra mile is menacing. Yet through the support of staff and volunteers, many find a way to navigate that extra mile.

I do not have a picture for this story, but imagine it as though you are listening to the radio, or in our case today, listening on an mp3 player or an iPod.

One of our case managers has been working with a neighbor who recently achieved housing and who had some severe and life threatening health issues. She had multiple appointments and therapies almost weekly. Shortly after moving into her apartment bed bugs were discovered. As a result, she lost her transportation service.

Seeing the need, the case manager offered to provide transportation necessary for her medical treatment.


Upon discovery of the bed bugs and her struggle to eliminate them, some medical providers needed to juggle her appointments in consideration of other patients. Sometimes she could not remain in the reception room but had to wait outside for a phone call when she was to be seen. The case manager was available any time and any day for all of the appointments, requiring frequent trips and long days. Whereas the case manager was going the extra mile with support and encouragement, it was the neighbor who was fighting to endure the extra mile that went on for a number of weeks.

It was just recently that the neighbor had her last treatment with the pronouncement that there was no evidence of cancer. Her bed bugs are retreating as well.

The enduring spirit of this neighbor and the patient persistence of her case manager are hard to capture in a picture. But imagine, such are the daily activities, the weekly celebrations, and monthly successes of neighbors through the support of staff and volunteers at the Volunteer Ministry Center. We have become "experts" with the stare of the extra mile. Yet that extra mile always leads home.

The journey home is one made by a willing effort and encouraging and compassionate voices along the way. You are part of that journey; you are part of those encouraging and compassionate voices when you support VMC. Thanks for going the extra mile with our neighbors.

Peace,


Rev. Bruce W. Spangler
Chief Executive Officer

MEAL GROUP SPOTLIGHT



Members of St. James Episcopal Church prepare a delicious meal for the VMC Resource Center.

ANGEL ORNAMENTS

The traditional VMC Angel ornament is once again available this holiday season. This small foil Angel is a lovely symbol which indicates that you have given a gift to VMC in honor of the recipient. The Angel is appropriate for use as an ornament or a gift enclosure and will provide a lasting remembrance of your thoughtfulness. This year's quote is: "Peace is the first thing the angels sang." —Leo the Great

Angels are the perfect gift for family, friends, as well as neighbors, service people and anyone whom you would like to recognize in a special way. Angels are also a touching way to honor the memory of a loved one. Angels are available on November 1st for any donation amount of \$5.00 or more and can be ordered by calling Nancy Bowen at 524-3926 ext 223, or by stopping by the VMC offices at 511 North Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917.

THE 2016 HOLIDAY STORE



For the 20th year, The Volunteer Ministry Center will host the Annual Holiday Store program. It is a remarkable effort to enable those without Christmas shopping money to “earn” gifts for their loved ones by using their time and muscle to complete community service work which pays in points, redeemable at the Holiday Store. Community service opportunities are completed at various sites.

Every year, VMC relies upon the community to “stock” the store with all new merchandise suitable for gift giving. Many young parents shop the store, delighted to have the opportunity to select a Barbie doll or a train set for their child. And while toys are certainly the most requested items, many shoppers are also interested in procuring gifts for adults they love as well.

The Holiday Store is always in need of donations of new items for stock. Items which are in particular demand are Barbie dolls, new sports balls and equipment and other toys. Adult items include fragrance sets, small kitchen appliances and tool sets. Any new item appropriate for gift giving will be gladly accepted at the VMC office at 511 North Broadway.

YEAR-END GIFTS & TAX SAVING IDEAS

As we approach the end of 2016, we hope you will consider making a year-end gift to VMC. Your generosity will provide needed support for the continuation of VMC’s programs and at the same time could reduce your income taxes.

Gifts of cash, as well as gifts of stock, are certainly appreciated. With gifts of stock, you might benefit by not having to pay any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Or you might be eligible to receive an income tax charitable deduction for the fair market value of the stock when you make the gift.

The end of the year is also a good time to weigh the benefits of long-term tax savings. A charitable bequest in your will to benefit VMC is another way to save estate tax dollars. Careful and advance planning of your estate with your attorney may result in a significant savings to you and your heirs.

Your faithful support is vital to the continuation and success of our programs, and we sincerely appreciate your thoughtful consideration of a year-end gift to VMC. In doing so, we do suggest you consult with your tax advisor or accountant for additional information on gifts you may be considering.



Volunteer Ministry Center

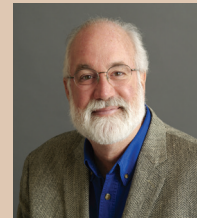
Welcomes

Jesuit Father Gregory J. Boyle

Featured speaker for

Carry the Torch
APRIL 12, 2017 KNOXVILLE

Featuring New York Times Best-Selling Author
and Founder of Home Boy Industries



Father Gregory J. Boyle

Father Gregory J. Boyle

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Knoxville Convention Center

Mission Fair 10:00 am - 11:45 am Lunch

and Program 11:45 am - 1:00 pm Book

Signing 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm



Honorary Chair
Knoxville Chief of Police
David Rausch

**For additional information contact Mary Beth Ramey at
524-3926 x 229 or visit carrythetorchknoxville.com.**

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