

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in San Francisco since 1901.

Spring, 2014

ST. ANNE'S HOME
300 Lake Street
San Francisco, CA



ST. ANNE'S HOME

Our Advisory Board

By: Maria Cunningham

St. Anne's Home is governed by a Board of Directors, which consists solely of Little Sisters, but behind the scenes and by our side stands our Advisory Board, which was formed several decades ago to partner with the Little Sisters and help them to maintain a life-long home care residence for the aged poor. Through the years, our Advisory Board has provided support to St. Anne's Home in the areas of finance, development, maintenance and operations, as well as with a variety of special projects.

The Board is comprised of top business and professional persons, who lend their expertise and experience to help fulfill the

aims and goals of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents at St. Anne's Home. However, these men and women go beyond just lending their expertise. They open their hearts to the mission of care and embrace the philosophy that old age is a stage of life – not an illness. It is not uncommon to find members of the Advisory Board at strategy sessions to address the prospects of non-profits in a down economy one day, and serving “happy hour” cocktails on Sunday evenings, or even taking it upon themselves to surprise the Home with a full Thanksgiving Dinner that includes all the trimmings.

Most recently our Advisory Board has

been instrumental in assisting us with projects that include our security system upgrade, the evaluation of our structural repairs, as well as hosting small fundraisers at their homes. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to the work of the Little Sisters and feel blessed to have them as part of the St. Anne's family. Thank you one and all!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rummage Sale

Friday, April 4 & Saturday, April 5

St. Anne's Home

See back page for details

A Swing and a Prayer 5th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, April 11

Presidio Golf Course

San Francisco

Spring Luncheon

Details to be announced

Invitations forthcoming



Advisory Board Members, back row: Richard Hunt, John Warda, William Terheyden, Joanne Hayes White, Antonio Sanchez-Corea III, Joseph Toboni, Anthony Passanisi, Barbara Anderson. Front row: Sr. Margaret Lennon, Laura Bertone, Joanne Murphy, Meagan Levitan, Sr. Agnes Clare, Sr. Elizabeth Mary. Not pictured: Jeannie McCullough Stiles, Joseph Parente, William Rauch, James Sangiacomo, and Maureen Wright

Youth for Elders



Waldorf School students working on their weekly garden projects

The Garden Program

**By: Amy Belkora,
San Francisco Waldorf School**

If you've spent time at St. Anne's Home, you've likely noticed children singing in the hallways, passing tastes of fresh food in the dining rooms and working enthusiastically in the backyard of the Home. These children, aging from five to nine, from the San Francisco Waldorf School visit St. Anne's every week during the school year. Waldorf students have been coming to St. Anne's Home since 2006 to grow vegetables, fruits, herbs, grains and flowers in the Home's backyard.

I lead the Waldorf School Garden Program and oversee the garden project as a four season farm. The children grow sweet peas, tulips, roses, and small edibles, like strawberries for the Residents. The young gardeners care for an expanding collection of herbs, perennial flowers, berries, and apple trees, and vegetables.

Each day when the children come to work, they hear a story that previews some aspect of their day's task, and at each visit, they taste something in season from the

garden. The children share the fresh herbs with Residents in the assisted living corridors, and the smells of oregano, fennel and rosemary offer the Residents therapeutic sensory stimulation which often inspires vivid memories. The children enjoy hearing the Residents share stories of food, cooking or work on farms that they suddenly recall thanks to the scent of the herbs.

Garden visits are posted on the bulletin board by the Resident dining room so Residents can come out to join in the work, lessons or garden stories.

Resident Marie Callas frequently joins the story circles, while Residents Edith Hartnett and Margaret Hagman provide horticultural advice and supplies. Resident Anne Price carefully waters and looks after the patio plants. The kitchen staff even harvests some of the herbs for their meal preparation.

The Waldorf Garden Program is grateful to find its home at St. Anne's and strives to serve the St. Anne's family through the children's loving care for the Home's back yard.

Ageless Learning

By: Maria Cunningham

Our most recent afternoon trivia group represented an average of 81 years among them. The Star of the Sea School sixth grade class and the Residents of St. Anne's Home may have bridged several decades between them, but they shared the same level of enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in the first St. Anne's Youth for Elders Trivia Challenge.

The teams consisted of an equal number of students and young at heart Residents on four teams, and the questions covered a variety of topics, including math, history, sports and entertainment. St. Anne's hosts a variety of activities that encourage mental stimulation and exercise cognitive abilities. This group, however,

went beyond the standard. The students as well as the Residents showed a sincere interest in trying to get each other to come up with answers to questions directed to their specific age groups. There was a great degree of shared encouragement and deductive reasoning.

The teams shared laughter, worked together to think through each question and relied on each other to defeat their opponents. The room was ageless as they sought to identify a picture of the pop star, Bruno Mars, and recall who was president during World War I. This activity was proof positive that learning is a lifelong pursuit that transcends age, that healthy competition invigorates the senses and that team work bridges diversity.



Star of the Sea students working with Resident Mary Mullen to come up with the winning answers for the Trivia Challenge.



Resident Elizabeth Herrera working against the clock with her sixth grade partner to find the answers before their opponents.



The Story of Our Newest Little Sister

By: Maria Cunningham

Sr. Elizabeth joined St. Anne's Home immediately after making her first vows in June 2013. Since then, she has brought immeasurable joy and warmth to the Residents in her skilled nursing unit, as well as to all of us at St. Anne's. Her story is one that inspires and can convince even the most doubtful in us that her vocation is a direct call from God.

It was not until the 7th grade that Sr. Elizabeth first attended Catholic school and was introduced to women religious. Being one of them was not something that she had even considered. However, one particular Sister did inspire her and started her thinking about religious life. She knew she wanted to work with the elderly, and wanted to do "more" with her life, but didn't really know what that was.

On her road of discernment, she remembers an unanticipated yet pivotal experience at a Youth Group Holy Hour. She attended the Holy Hour because she wanted to be with her friends, and because she wanted the ice cream they served. But, she remembers being captivated by the presence of Jesus during the Eucharistic Adoration. It was then, at age 12, that she realized she wanted to give her life to Jesus. That was the "more" she was looking for.

The only nuns she knew were teachers and she was certain she was not called to teach, so she still did not know how she would do it. It was not until she was 16 that she got her answer, when she attended a week-long service retreat. She fervently asked God for direction, "I want to give my life to you, and I want to serve the elderly, please show me how I can do this and I will do it."

At the close of the retreat, she met two Little Sisters of the Poor. She knew nothing about them, but as fate would have it, she was seated with them for lunch. Early in the conversation, one of the Little Sisters asked her if she was interested in being a religious. Surprised by the directness of the question,

she answered quite directly herself, saying, "I want to work with the elderly, so only if that is what you do."

Following that retreat, Sr. Elizabeth's focus intensified. She knew from her first visit to the Little Sisters' Home that she would be a Little Sister. It felt like home to her from the moment she entered. That was the beginning of many years of volunteering for the Little Sisters. After completing one semester of college, she approached them to see if she could join. They recommended that she continue her nursing studies. Upon getting her nursing degree, she approached them again about joining. This time they said yes, but she needed to pay her student loans first.

She took a job as nurse at the Home in the Bronx, and again asked, "God, if you really want me – give me a sign." A Resident at the Home, who knew Sr. Elizabeth, was working to pay off her loans, suggested they have a bake sale to raise money. The outpour of support was astounding. The entire community became involved in the cause.

At the end of the day, only \$2,000 was made from the bake sale, but money poured in from donors to the exact dollar amount that she needed. One benefactor, who had been saving to get his doctorate, came by with a check for \$40,000. He had received a scholarship for his studies and said he wanted to do something good with the money that he no longer needed. Similar stories filled the day, including that of Cardinal Dolan of New York, who knowing of Sr. Elizabeth's long devotion to the work of the Little Sisters, independently raised money on her behalf.

Sr. Elizabeth made her first vows at the Mass of Religious Profession presided by Cardinal Dolan in June 2013. After almost eight months at St. Anne's Home, Sr. Elizabeth says, "I love being a Little Sister, living in community, and working in the infirmary. The more help I can give to Residents, the happier I am. I love my life."



Sr. Elizabeth Mary, Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, and Sr. Rosario Delaney, RSM following the Mass of Religious Profession in June 2013. Sr. Rosario is the Principal at Holy Infant School where both Sr. Elizabeth and Cardinal Dolan attended.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a Home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to Himself.

JOIN OUR E-COMMUNITY

In an effort to reduce mailing costs, we would like to increase our electronic communications with our community. Please share your email address with us by going to our website and clicking on "Register Here." Please be assured that we never share your information with anyone.

A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorsanfrancisco.org



Mother Margaret and Resident Ginny DeSauliner

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the time of year when everything begins to renew itself and open itself to new life, may God fill your hearts with peace and strength as we journey together during the season of Lent. In the words of Pope Francis, "The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of his message of mercy and hope. It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness."

Our prayer for you and your loved ones is that you experience the magnificent gift of Christ's love and of the redemption He earned for us. May you have a blessed Lenten Season and a very Happy Easter.

With sincere gratitude for your love and support,

Sr. Margaret, lsp

Ways to Help

We are very grateful to all of our loyal benefactors who help us keep our mission alive. Many of our benefactors say they get great satisfaction from their generosity and would like to do more. Here are a few creative ways that you might not have considered.

- **Bequests:** You can make provisions to have the Little Sisters of the Poor included in your will.
- **Life Insurance:** The Little Sisters of the Poor can be named as beneficiaries in your policy.
- **Securities:** Stocks and publicly traded securities are easy to donate.

As you look ahead, please consider the variety of gift-giving options and the ways that you can easily incorporate them into your estate plans. For additional information, please contact our Development Office at 415-751-6510 or dvsanfran@littlesistersofthepoor.org

Donate your Vehicle

All Cars are Accepted, Running or Not



Free Pick Up

800-937-7837 | www.yes-svdp.com

Help the Little Sisters of the Poor and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Your donation will help both of these organizations. Simply indicate online or by telephone that you want your donation to be shared equally.

FANTASTIC RUMMAGE SALE COME AND BRING A FRIEND

Little Sisters of the Poor St. Anne's Home
Friday, April 4 & Saturday, April 5, 2014
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donations gladly accepted now through March 31, 2014
Drop-offs welcome at St. Anne's Home
Tuesday – Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WANTED

Clean, gently used women's, men's and children's clothing, antiques, jewelry, art, home accessories and small furniture.

Large pieces of furniture that cannot be accommodated by St. Anne's Home can be donated to:
Community Thrift Store (415) 861- 4910
on behalf of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

**To assure credit to Little Sisters of the Poor, don't forget to mention
Charity Code Number 139!**