



# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

## St. Augustine Home for the Elderly

*Serving the Elderly Poor in Indianapolis since 1873*

### Mission Statement

*Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, 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.*

### Save the Dates:

- **May 7, 2014**  
**Hats Off to Spring**  
Ritz Charles, Carmel
- **June 13, 2014**  
**Car Raffle Drawing**  
*Early Bird: May 30, 2014*
- **July 11, 2014**  
**Swing Fore Seniors**  
Ironwood Golf Club
- **October 3, 2014**  
**Bingo Extravaganza**  
Knights of Columbus Hall
- **November 15, 2014**  
**Harvest Dinner**  
(Tentative)

### ST. AUGUSTINE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

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[www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org)

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*Resident Janet McShane*

## Coming Home

Our "Coming Home" stories are all different, but each ends with new residency at St. Augustine Home.

Janet McShane's story began with little Mattie, the boy whose yard backed up to hers. The youngest of six, little Mattie sometimes took refuge among the seven McShane kids. Many years later, now living alone in her 150-year-old farmhouse, and not feeling well, Janet was relieved that her daughter Maggie spoke to no-longer-little Mattie, now Matt McLaughlin, about the place he had adopted for service, St. Augustine Home. And the former administrative assistant to Indiana governors found herself far from the frightening creaks and groans of the farmhouse, living in a comfortable, safe room of her own. "I have never regretted one moment of being here. I love it here. I love the employees. They are so good I

can't even imagine where they come from. How do you find wonderful people like these?" Janet's biggest surprise was that "They always have time to listen, and they'll do their best to provide anything you need, even feeding you and washing and curling your hair when you are sick." Janet's recovery from a heart valve replacement showed her the most caring side of the employees. "Everything that happened that was not fun [in her life] was for the best. Something good has always come of it."

Asked what has meant the most to her about St. Augustine, Janet said, "It's personal. I have a much better relationship with God. I was brought up and educated in the Catholic Church, but I never got to know God personally like I have here." "This is a holy place. It just rubs off on me and other people."

"You can tell the Sisters anything. I wish

# Little Sisters of the Poor

## Coming Home (Cont.)

I had grown up that way!”

The Home’s peace, security, privacy, and respect all make the place what it is. “Not many days go by that something happy doesn’t happen here.” Favorites are the employee Halloween party, when “so many delightful children play and dance and give out candy and receive candy” (and Janet puts her witch’s hat into service), and the annual trip to Weaver’s farm and the hayride the Weavers set up on the grounds of the Home. “There was one extra seat the second time, so I rode again. It was a blast.”



*Maddie’s Creations: Mickey Mouse and a Minion.*



*Maddie made this substantial bracelet using 300 separate rubber bands.*

## Keeping Home



There are hundreds of stories about how St. Augustine Home is maintained through the love and prayers, the work and generosity of volunteers, our Residents, the Sisters, and employees. Maddie is one of them.

Eleven-year-old Maddie loves making Rainbow Loom® bracelets. She loves it so much she has mastered the patterns found on YouTube and has designed her own.

Maddie’s grandmother, Therese Loureiro is a long-time volunteer at St. Augustine Home. She recently began taking homemade crafts to a farmers’ market, giving her profits to the Little Sisters.

Maddie has given away her bracelets to good friends, but hasn’t felt comfortable selling them ... until she realized that, like her grandmother, she could donate her profits to the Little Sisters, too; Maddie joined her at the farmers’ market.

But no one bought her work, and she was discouraged. “Pray to St. Jeanne Jugan,” advised her grandmother, “St. Jeanne will want to provide for the Residents in the Home.” One customer appeared, but only one. “Keep praying, Maddie.”

Suddenly, a line of customers appeared, and Maddie sold her entire inventory.

As Jeanne Jugan would say, “If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is his.” God’s hands take many forms – including small, nimble hands. The Little Sisters are grateful for them all.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Donating online is simple and secure.  
Just go to St. Augustine’s website and  
click “Donation/ Event”

[www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org)



## Many Hands

We are blessed with the time, love, and donations of many people who are willing to support the work of St. Jeanne Jugan and her Little Sisters of the Poor. Our benefactors have many talents and interests which they contribute generously in the care of the elderly poor.

Last year, volunteers donated 23,000 hours of effort, from leading the choir or Ensemble to gardening to changing sheets and chopping vegetables. Others chaired or played critical supporting roles to provide the Home with successful fundraising events. Still others donated time and care to working with the elderly, providing manicures, visiting, or providing critical transportation for those who no longer drive.

These demonstrate the wide variety of ways in which our loving volunteers and benefactors help us to provide the level of care and personal attention to our Residents that is so important to them and to the Little Sisters. We gratefully remember your intentions during our weekly Mass.



*Bedmakers Donna O'Donnell and Eleanor Seaver with Resident Catherine Morrow.*



*Guild bedmakers Catarina Ghetti and Pat Newman*



*The annual dinner fundraiser was enhanced by Archbishop Tobin's involvement. Rita and Jim Zink co-chaired the elegant event*

## The Blizzard of 2014

The kitchen freezer went on strike on New Year's Eve. While St. Joseph has been known to answer many prayers, the freezer could not be repaired until a new part arrived, and the part was delayed due to the holiday. Yet St. Joseph still provided: Brebeuf Jesuit HS President Fr. Jack Dennis, S.J., welcomed our use of their freezer. Thank you for your freezer-pitality *and* for working with us on transferring food.

Just a few days later, with treacherous roads and temperatures running at -15 degrees, employees already onsite camped out in the parlors, working for those who could not get to the Home. Staff worked extra shifts or covered other areas, such as serving meals. Other employees began to fight their ways to work while the rest of the city stayed securely shut down. Thank you to our dedicated employees!



## Home for the Holidays

Christmas. The long-awaited day comes with the hush of new birth. Christmas hymns float on the air, and school students of all ages sing carols and bring cards for the Residents. A handsome stable and Nativity scene welcome visitors as they drive onto our campus. The halls are decked as never before, with collections of Nativity sets as well as festive trees, door wreaths and hangings, and fresh poinsettias.

Benefactors remembered our Home with special events, gifts for our Residents and with donations that will begin to address our needs for 2014. For these we are so grateful! Surrounded here by a peace

beyond our understanding, we pray such peace will envelop our friends and spread throughout our troubled world.

[View more photos from the holidays on the back page](#)



## A Note from Mother Mary Vincent



**Mother Mary Vincent with Resident Virginia Culbertson.**

As we reluctantly packed away our Christmas decorations, and tried to enter gently, yet swiftly into the year 2014, this Christmas song kept popping into my head — “I’ll be Home for Christmas.” While humming this tune, I muse — “It is so much nicer to be HOME every day!” For those of us who live at St. Augustine, that’s what it is!

St. Jeanne Jugan, our saintly Foundress, wanted all of our Homes to be modeled after the Holy Family! “See how Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved one another,” she would tell the novices. “In our family it must be the same.”

The saying “Home is where your heart is” explains what St. Jeanne Jugan meant by family. It is a place where all are loved, accepted, esteemed, and cared for.

Our newsletter captures some of the many events that take place in our life together. While we savor each event, and live it to the full, we come to recognize how large our family really is. Each of you, who reads this newsletter, or helps us in any way, comprises our extended family. Together, you help us make our house, HOME. Thank you for being “One of Us.” Whether you live, work, volunteer or visit here it is good to have you Home!

United in Love and Prayers,  
Sr. Mary Vincent, I.S.P.  
*Superior and Administrator*

## Making a Home for Others

Sr. Alexis was professed as a Little Sister of the Poor in 1943, having entered several years beforehand. When the Sisters renewed their vows near the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Sister Alexis renewed hers for the 69<sup>th</sup> time. That’s right; Sr. Alexis celebrated 70 years of profession in December, 2013.

At about the same time that Sr. Alexis became a Little Sister, Levitt and Sons was building thousands of homes in Long Island. “Levittown” became known for its affordable houses for returning GIs during and after World War II. They built houses for thousands of people; Sr. Alexis has been creating homes for thousands of Residents, loving homes. “My family lived in Lafayette, Indiana. I learned about the Little Sisters of the Poor when I was 15. I visited my aunt, a Little Sister, at St. Augustine Home in Indianapolis,” where she subsequently entered the order. Then off to Queens, NY, for her postulancy and novitiate, profession at La Tour, and service to the Poor in Pittsburgh, Germantown, Baltimore and Evansville, where Sister served for 40 years.

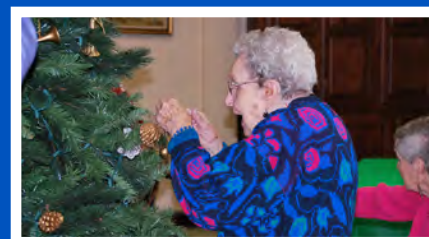
Sister noted that while there are more government requirements for licensing and certifications today, the spirit of work of the Little Sisters has not changed at all. “It was a blessing that St. Jeanne



Jugan lived among the novices. She was able to share her call and spirit with them all.” This firm foundation of the Little Sisters of the Poor continues to this day. Sr. Alexis says that Jeanne Jugan’s teaching to “Love the poor. They are Our Lord” resonates closely and feeds her joy of service.

We are delighted that Sr. Alexis has joined our Home, where she entered over 70 years ago.

### MORE PHOTOS: Home for the Holidays



**Resident Sophie Bodovetz joins in at the Tree Trimming Party in Lanagan Hall.**



**Resident Pat Behan opens the Ensemble’s Christmas program with song.**



**Daisies and Brownies from Sycamore school entertain.**

Catch up on all the action at St. Augustine Home on our Blog  
[www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org/blog](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org/blog)