

## Birthdays!

Happy birthday to our residents and staff celebrating in January and February.

## Residents:

**Linda Weimann**, January 12

**Willene Hennemann**, February 23

## Staff:

**January:** Jane Thiongo (1st), Hafsa Ali (1st), Amy Lepper (20th), Brinica Harris (20th)

**February:** Doris Albanese (1st), Mary Williams (11), Terrence Crump (15th), Kathy King (24th), Annette Webb (29th)



## Magnificent Milestones!

Resident **Willene Hennemann** will be marking her 100th birthday on February 23, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate with this lifelong Cardinals fan.

Willene's favorite dessert is pie, especially pecan and pumpkin, so of course we'll have a plethora of pies at her party. There also will be a reading of 100 Wishes for Willene, contributed by Mary Culver Home employees and volunteers.

Every four years, employee **Annette Webb** gets to celebrate her birthday on the actual date of her birth: Leap Day. Annette usually celebrates her birthday on March 1, but this year she will go bowling with family on February 29.

Author Melody Beattie once said, "The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." I certainly am excited to see what the year 2024 has in store for us here at MCH; if it is anything like 2023, I think we are in for a treat. Make sure to check out the "Scenes from 2023" on page 2 to see some of the fun we had over the past year.

Activity Director Brooke Lorenz has lots of exciting activities planned for us in the coming months. February is exceptionally busy with Chinese New Year, Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, Valentine's Day and Armchair Travels to Chicago and China ... and those are just a few of the events we have going on this month! We also will be hosting a Family Soup Night on Wednesday, February 28, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. We hope current families and friends can join us for an evening of hot soups, yummy desserts and good company. Please RSVP by email at [amy@maryculverhome.org](mailto:amy@maryculverhome.org), or call The Home if you plan to attend.

Did you know we have many volunteer opportunities at MCH? You don't even have to know how to sing or play the piano! We are always looking for volunteers to help with the newsletter, mailings, gardening, bingo or sitting with the ladies. We have many options, and we are flexible about the amount of time you have to volunteer. Only have an hour a month? No problem! We would love to have you for that hour.

Take a look at page 3 to see some of our amazing volunteers and how they make a difference in the lives of our residents. One of our special volunteers is Dianne Wilcox. She has volunteered here since 2008 when she found The Home and began teaching Bible lessons and singing hymns with the ladies. Dianne has been enriching the lives of the ladies every Wednesday morning for more than 14 years. "I have met so many wonderful ladies who love hearing God's word and Christian music," Dianne said. "I have been blessed to do this for so long."

If volunteering is something you are interested in, you can reach me at [amy@maryculverhome.org](mailto:amy@maryculverhome.org) or Brooke at [brooke@maryculverhome.org](mailto:brooke@maryculverhome.org). Or give either of us a call at 314-966-6034 to set up a time to chat about how you can get involved!



*Amy's*  
**Updates**



*"I have been blessed to do this for so long."*

Dianne Wilcox  
Volunteer

**Amy**



Fredbird shows Linda his special skill: beaking. Right, Ruth, left, and her friend, RuthAnn, enjoy the food at Fall Tea. Far right, tea's on for a bonnet-wearing Mary.

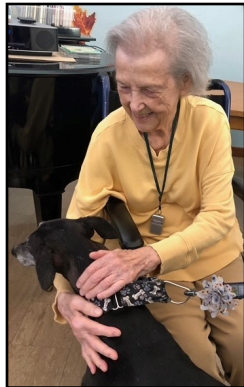


The shaded area along the sidewalk has become a favorite spot for residents in the summer.



# Scenes From 2023

From Fredbird to Fall Tea, Here's Our Year in Review



Pet therapy gets a big smile from Shirley.



Above, Sue, right, and her visitor, Diane, chat during the Chili Cook-off. Left, the ladies are seeing green for St. Patrick's Day.



Marilyn, center, and her sisters, Peggy, left, and Sharon catch up at Fall Tea.



Looking fancy at Fall Tea are Eleanor, front, and her family: Le-nora, Mark and their sons, William and Matthew.



# Volunteer Appreciation

Love of The Home, the ladies inspires their dedication

When youth groups descend on The Home to spend time with the ladies, the entire building is energized. Over the last year, we welcomed student groups from Clayton High School, above, and Cor Jesu Academy, below, as well as the Kirkwood United Methodist Children's and Youth Choir led by Cathy White, right.



Ursuline Academy students Joie King, from left, Kaitlyn Stremiau and Meredith Goff first came for a school service project, but returned to spend time with Janet and other residents.



Judy Beckwith, left, plays the piano every week. Above left, Love On A Leash volunteer Nancy Thompson, right, and her dog, Colby, greet Marie. Above right, "Bingo Bob" Walter is the bingo-caller, and Karen Smith assists, from left, Sue, Mary and Connie.

- ◆ **Bob Walter** spent time at The Home playing bingo with his sister, resident Doris Skaar. He stayed as a volunteer bingo-caller after she passed away in 2015.
- ◆ **Nancy Thompson** has been visiting residents since 2013 with Love On A Leash, a pet-therapy organization. Her current companion is her dog, Colby.
- ◆ **Maggie Pozzo** and **Brianna Esswein**, students at Cor Jesu Academy, selected The Home for their senior project this past summer. Luckily for us, they often return during their free time to visit with the ladies.
- ◆ **Karen Smith** got to know many of the residents during her daily visits with her mother, Marie Smith. Her affection for them motivated her to stay on as a volunteer after Marie passed away last year.



Clockwise from above left, Cor Jesu students Maggie Pozzo and Brianna Esswein visit with Pat and Willene.

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

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*The mission of The Mary Culver Home is to provide visually impaired women with dignified, compassionate, holistic nursing care in a warm family atmosphere, as well as to promote security, confidence, and an excellent quality of life.*

## Staff spotlight



Keeping a 60-year-old building looking nice and in good working order can be a challenging task ... just ask our maintenance and housekeeping team. Pictured from left are Nicole Little, Jane Thiongo, Terrence Crump, housekeeping supervisor Annette Webb and Marie Brooks. The housekeeping department also takes care of laundry.

### Wish-List Items

- Body lotion, body soap and body spray
- Individually wrapped hard candy
- Cookies and cupcakes
- Plastic shoeboxes with lids for craft organization
- Festive napkins
- Andes Mints
- Snack cart items such as miniature candy bars (Hershey's Milk Chocolate and Krackel are favorites); individual servings of potato chips, popcorn and pretzels; packages of miniature sandwich cookies; Nutri-Grain and Nature Valley cereal bars