

## Birthdays!

Happy birthday to our residents and staff celebrating in November and December.

## Residents:

**Rose Marie Griggs**, November 16

**Pat Encarnacion**, November 20

**Jenny Wagner**, December 22

**Millie Koch**, December 28

## Staff:

**November:** Darrell Phillips, 13th; Sandra Hughes, 21st; Angel Burchfield, 27th

**December:** Terry Beals, 4th; Frank Jackson, 11th

Over the past two months, we have enjoyed many festive and celebratory occasions, culminating in our Christmas parties for residents and employees.

My "Amy's Update" column will return in the January-February newsletter, but I wanted to turn over the November-December edition to the colorful photos of the joyful and smiling faces of our Mary Culver Home family.

Our goal every holiday season is for every person who enters our building not only to be in awe of our towering Christmas tree, but also to share in our enjoyment of the most wonderful time of year. I hope that as you look through these photos, you would agree that we succeeded.

Happy New Year!



### Amy's Updates

Amy

## Generosity of volunteers, donors highlights season of giving



The annual Volunteer Luncheon was held Nov. 18 to show gratitude to those who dedicate their time to enriching the lives of the ladies. Above left, volunteers Cheryl Willis, Robbie Reisinger, Bob Walter, Diane Schwartz, Barbara Carrow and Susan Goldstein discuss their involvement with The Mary Culver Home. Above right, Cathy deJong is the recipient of the 2025 Volunteer of the Year award. Cathy has been indispensable at the Strawberry Festival and Fall Tea.

Activity Director Brooke Lorenz, left, accepts a basket of donated penny auction items from Fox Rehab from physical therapist Amanda, right.



From left, Laurie Knies and Julia Gordon of the Fabulous Fedoras singing group join Eucharistic ministers Chris Mahoney and Sharon Hartman from St. Peter Catholic Church.

Cynthia Trujillo, second from left, is introduced to fellow volunteers Kathy Wilkerson, Sharon Speck and Nancy Thompson from the dog therapy group, Love on a Leash.

Douglas and Rose Brockhouse with the Kirkwood Lions Club present a donation to Executive Director Amy Lepper.

# Christmas 2025: Good times were had by all

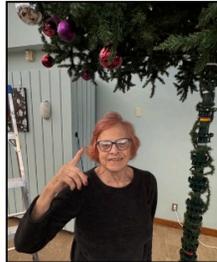
## Tree-trimming is team effort



Above, Robbie Reisinger, left, and Joe Wagner ascend ladders to hang ornaments. Below, Teresa Adams joins her mother, Bobbi, to fluff branches.



Connie Reisinger shows off her perfectly fluffed branch.



Jane, above, points to the ornament she added to the tree, while Donna, below, fluffs a branch.



## Sweetest sounds of season

Pajama-wearing children from the Kirkwood United Methodist Preschool line up to serenade the residents with Christmas carols.



Millie, above, kicks off the parade to start the party. Below, Susan enjoys the company of her daughter, Robin Caringer.



Santa's arrival at the **RESIDENT PARTY** is always a spectacle. This year, Santa, played by board member John Kovac, hobbled into the party using a walker after he was injured in a sledding accident. The residents merrily jingled their bells to perform a Christmas miracle, then Santa fell to the floor, performed a few pushups and sprung up to surprise the ladies and distribute their gifts.



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Sandra, right, shows Virginia how her new flashlight works.



Karen opens her gifts, including a padded lap table.



Willene and her daughter, Lana Schuessler, check out her perfume.

Scan the QR code using your phone's camera to see a video of the residents' Christmas parade!



Sandra, a day-shift CNA, claims her prize.



A highlight of the **EMPLOYEE PARTY** is Saran Wrap Ball, with employees racing to unwrap a ball of plastic wrap containing prizes before the next player rolls a pair using dice. Carol is scrambling to unwrap plastic as Terrence rolls the dice.



Employees enjoy lunch catered by Rich & Charlie's, thanks to the generosity of our grateful families and residents.

The Mary Culver Home  
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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.*

## Veterans Day salute: Two residents who served in U.S. Navy honored

In honor of Veterans Day on November 11, the Mary Culver Home was proud and eager to recognize residents **Virginia Toohey** and **Rose Marie Griggs**, both veterans of the U.S. Navy.

Virginia enlisted at the age of 20 during World War II and served from 1943 to 1945. During her service, she received training at Camp Lajeune in North Carolina to become a nurse.

Rose Marie enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1951 on her 21st birthday. She was trained as a storekeeper – her previous experience working at a shoe store helped to make her a standout – and ordered supplies for the San Diego naval base. Rose Marie was in the Navy for five years and met her husband while she was serving.

Remarkably, both Virginia, 102, and Rose Marie, 96, have vivid memories of their time in the Navy.

Thank you for your service, ladies!



Virginia Toohey, left, and Rose Marie Griggs, pictured with Gunner.

### Wish-List Items

- ◇ Birdseed
- ◇ New Christmas gift-wrapping supplies: wrapping paper, bows, tissue paper, gift boxes
- ◇ D batteries
- ◇ RITZ Bits Cheese Sandwich Crackers in single-serving pouches
- ◇ Fun-size candy bars