

Annual Decorating Contest

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011, Cusack held its Annual Department Decorating Contest. What a difficult task for the judges (Sr. Cecilia King, Tom Sheehy, and Emanuel Comandatore) this year as everyone had done an amazing job. There were two first place winners- The 4th Floor Nursing Unit and 3rd Floor Activities, Maintenance and Housekeeping Departments. The 3rd floor Nursing Unit was crowned runner ups. Winners were announced at the Staff Christmas party held later that evening.

A huge thank you to every department that participated in the contest! And, a special thank you to the Activities Department for their talented efforts in making the entire Center look and feel festive.

First Place Winners



4th Floor Nursing Unit



Activities, Housekeeping & Maintenance

Runner Ups



3rd Floor Nursing Unit

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Don't forget to



New Year Blessings

*Bless us Gracious God,
And bless the time and
seasons of this New Year.*

*Bless us with joy in your
presence.*

*Bless us with gratitude for
life and the wonders of your
creation.*

*Bless us with hope that all
will be well.*

*Bless us with courage to
meet the challenges of this
year.*

*Bless us with hearts longing
to walk in the way of peace.*

*Bless us with love for all
people and all creation.*

Amen

Gail DeVito, CSJP-A
Pastoral Care Director

inside cusack

for the employees, residents & friends of the cusack care center

Happy New Year to All our Readers

As we welcome in yet another New Year, we hope the year ahead will bring peace, good health and happiness into everyone's lives. And, as we move forward into 2012, we want to thank everyone who helped us celebrate the 120th Anniversary of our founding last year. It was a special year. One that gave us pause to not only celebrate our history and our accomplishments, but to honor the legacy of those Sisters whose vision led us to where we are today.

As you know there were many special activities for our staff and our residents and for our many friends in the community and beyond. Whether you participated in our Annual 50/50 Raffle, or found some hidden treasures at our What Not Sale, or joined in our Generations Celebration; or maybe you visited one of our residents or joined in one of our holiday parties; or sent us a donation in memory of a loved one – for all that you did and continue to do – thank you. No matter what or how small, your support in all its forms brings joy to our residents and helps us continue to provide care with love and dignity and respect.

In recognition of **National Activity Professionals Week** (January 22 – 28), we thank Jeff Semel and Michele Roche and their wonderful staff for all that they do for our residents. When you think of them, you might think Bingo or parties or decorations, but what you might not know is that they provide a full roster of individual and group activities for our residents designed to keep bodies healthy and minds active and engaged. We salute them all for their creativity, energy and dedication.

Similarly, in recognition of **Pride in Food Service Week** (February 6 – 10), we thank Jack Berg, Bertha Davis, Chef Michael and the entire United Dietary team for all that they do for our residents and our staff. We take pride in honoring you all for not only delicious meals and friendly service, but for your commitment and caring concern.

January

National Volunteer Blood
Donor Month

National Healthy Weight
Week

January 15-21

Dr. MLK Birthday
January 16

National Activity
Professionals Week
January 22-28

February

Black History Month

American Heart Month

20th World Day of the Sick
February 9

Pride in Food Service Week
February 6-10

Valentine's Day
February 14

Ash Wednesday
February 22



News and Tidbits With Heartfelt Thanks



We are so very grateful to all those who shared their blessings with us this past holiday season by placing a star on our Blessing Tree in honor or in memory of a loved one. We are truly thankful that you chose to think of us and want you to know that over \$25,000 was raised which will go a long way in helping us provide loving care to our residents, enabling them to live life in all its fullness. Thank you.

Pastoral Care Corner

In the month of December a Mass was offered in Appreciation for the Cusack Care Center Staff. Fr. Felix Ugwuozor was the celebrant and several staff members contributed to the richness of the liturgy by serving as cantors, lectors, Special Ministers of Holy Communion and by bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. This was a wonderful opportunity to share in the Christmas spirit of appreciation and gratitude for our staff and the tremendous dedication and love they share with our residents every day.

On **Thursday, February 9, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.**, there will be a mass to acknowledge the "20th World Day of the Sick" followed by Anointing of the Sick and Blessing to Caregivers after mass for residents, family and staff. At Cusack we stand with healers and those in need of healing and we confirm our commitment to be of help for the sick and hope for all who suffer in any way.

Also, in the month of February we enter the Church Season of Lent beginning with **Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2011**. Ashes will be available at the 10:30 a.m. mass and after administered to residents, family members and staff unable to attend.

Thank You: A very special thank you to the Mastrangelo Family for donating an altar chalice and wine/water cruet set for our chapel in memory of their grandmother, Angela Cevetello.

2012 What Not Sale

You've probably seen 'Coming Soon' flyers around the Center for the next sale. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends Committee, the one-day sale is scheduled for Friday, May 4, 2012.

Start gathering your treasures and be sure to check postings around the Center for details on when to start dropping off your new or gently used items. For more information please contact Melanie McLaurin, at ext. 2454.

A Few Of Our Own to be Honored

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Father James Pagnotta, Pastor at St. Joseph's Parish and Sue Sims, Director of Development at Cusack Care Center and several other community members will be honored at the Rotary Club of Jersey City/Daybreak's 8th Annual Dinner/Awards Night. Father Pagnotta, a member of the Center's Board of Trustees and Sue will receive the "Good Neighbor Community Service" award for their selfless contribution to the Jersey City community, making it a "better place to live and work."

For more information on advertising opportunities and tickets, please contact Michael Ricciardone at 201.653.0545.

Santa Came to Town



L to R: Mrs. Claus, resident, Wilton Bridgeforth, and Santa

During a seasonally winter's day in December, Santa and Mrs. Claus and their helpers arrived at Cusack to hand out gifts and take pictures with our residents.

We are happy to announce that all of our residents were "good" this year! Thanks Santa for bringing so much pleasure to our residents!

We Wish Them Well

In January, Cusack residents and staff said goodbye to Night Nurse Supervisor, **Erlinda Paulo** who retired after 29 years at the Center, and to **Carol Carlson**, who had worked in the Activities Department for 5 years. We thank you both for your years of dedication and service to our residents!

Resident Birthdays

Congratulations to our friends who celebrate birthdays in January and February!

JANUARY

Stuart Valentien—January 2nd
Vera Dibiase—January 3rd
Florence Nydick—January 4th
Anna Jenssen—January 5th
Mary Kadian—January 5th
Elba Pitchford—January 7th
Mildred Hansman—January 12th
Josephine DiCristo—January 20th
Mary Collins—January 21st
Madelin Calton—January 24th
Lydia Cepeda—January 30th
Mary Kelly—January 31st

FEBRUARY

Gary Borntrager—February 1st
Patricia Haley—February 4th
Estelle Szersin—February 5th
Madeline Wilkey—February 5th
Rose Manzo—February 9th
John Higginbotham—February 10th
Rose Jackson—February 10th
Adeline Galasso—February 12th
Leonor Embuscado—February 16th
Kathleen Smith—February 16th
Catherine Kenny—February 17th
John McDonald—February 18th
Nancy Vitale—February 18th
Mary Avato—February 20th
Julia Wright—February 20th
Lena Costa—February 21st
Bhoobmatee Harbhajan—February 21st
Catherine Finzi—February 22nd
Stanley Goldman—February 25th
Phynner Payton—February 25th
Anna Stypulkowska—February 25th
Jan Skros—February 27th

Special congratulations to **Julia Wright** who will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 20th! And also to Vera DiBiase and Catherine Finzi who turn 101!

Mission Statement

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, the Margaret Anna Cusack Care Center's caring community offers the frail and infirm elderly, persons of all faiths, and the poor, a healing ministry based on gospel values, our Catholic heritage and our commitment to "Peace through Justice."

Our central belief in the sacredness of life and the dignity of each person prompts us to promote, nurture and sustain quality of care, enabling our residents to live out their days in comfort, compassion and peace.

Vision Statement

Margaret Anna Cusack Care Center will...

- Provide a broad array of continuing care programs and services that are self-sustaining, financially viable and mission-driven
- Understand its community and strive to address their care needs by being responsive and flexible
- Provide quality care in a person-centered environment, offer the least restrictive setting to those it cares for and embrace culture change in all activities
- Value its employees and reflect the diversity of its Jersey City community in its delivery system
- Collaborate within the corporate health care system and with other partners to further mission and business goals

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