



1257 Marywood Lane • Richmond, Virginia 23229 • stmaryswoods.com • 804-741-8624

The Art of Door Decorating

Challenging times can help creativity flourish. This was the case during the pandemic, when Helen Clayton's family took a plain door and turned it into a canvas for cheer and happiness!

It started at Christmas, when reindeer antlers and stockings turned Helen's apartment door into a festive work of art. The response was so positive, her family decided to decorate her door each month, with each design surpassing the previous.

From a mermaid in June to a tiki bar in July, the creativity began to inspire other residents to join the fun and led to our door decorating contest. As team member Roslyn Oliveri said, "It's like sunshine even on a rainy day. Our staff, residents, and visitors all love to walk the halls looking at the cutely decorated doors!"

> Our team was willing to do anything for a treat from Helen's tropical tiki bar!

DAWN

2022/2

The Gingerbread City of Richmond

You've surely heard of a gingerbread house—but have you ever seen a gingerbread city? For two months, Food Service Director Erin Kelly and Assistant Food Service Director David Thomas worked tirelessly to create a replica of the City of Richmond's most famous buildings out of gingerbread!

Seventy-five pounds of gingerbread, 30 pounds of pretzels, 20 pounds of sugar, and countless hours later, their feat was complete.

> Team members David Thomas and Erin Kelly make a great team!

Chef David (left) gets a helping hand from Cook Charles Shaffer.

Some of Richmond's most recognizable landmarks were created, including the Monroe Building, the Science Museum, the CSX railroad bridge crossing, and even the mighty James River. One of the most striking features was the Main Street Train Station clock tower, which David meticulously hand piped. Over 30 sugar cookie trees and 1,000 twinkling lights brought the city to life. The result was truly magical!



A beautiful, blue quilt set – one of countless that she's created – adorns Natalie's bed.

Natalie with her brother and friend, Mike.

Happy 99th Birthday, Natalie!

As an active and independent 89-year-old, Natalie Johnson chose St. Mary's Woods as her new home. A decade later, Natalie was thrilled to celebrate her 99th birthday on Christmas Day!

One of nine children, Natalie recalls pushing her younger brother, Mike Pastore, in a baby carriage. Now, the two are neighbors at St. Mary's Woods! As a homemaker, Natalie was an expert cook, baker, quilter, and canned her own vegetables. She is most proud of her time working for the Hill Directory—a phone directory where she supervised over 50 other women.

These are just a few things that make Natalie such a unique individual and a valued member of our community! The Coordinated Services Management **Community** Family

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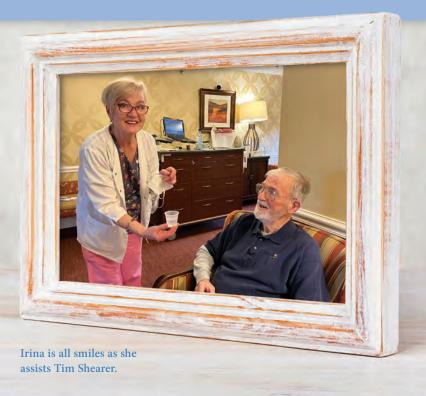


Team Member Spotlight

Irina Cesario

Many things make our community great, but none are more special than the people. For nearly 20 years, Irina Cesario has been a shining light at St. Mary's Woods. Originally from Ukraine, Irina immigrated to the U.S. with her American husband in 1998. Despite having a master's degree in music, conducting, and directing, she had trouble finding work in the field. A family member encouraged her to apply to work at St. Mary's Woods. Irina began as a Personal Care Assistant, but with training, she became a medication technician and then a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Today, she shares her musical talents with residents during Friday evening hymn sings and enjoys being in the choir at her church. Irina truly loves and cares about the residents of St. Mary's Woods—and the feeling is mutual!





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