

# The Grapevine



*I am the vine, ye are the branches . . . (John 15:1)*



## 2015—The Year Of Miracles

How do you know when you've witnessed a miracle? First, you must define 'miracle'. According to Webster's Dictionary, miracle is defined as an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs. The year 2015 was jammed packed with extraordinary people whose actions in the lives of SJH residents and staff mirrored the Divine One.



Reliving a memory of the past when so many of them can't be remembered is truly a divine moment—in one dance!



God parting the Red Sea was an act of unconditional love and to think we can give it with just one look!



Our independent living resident, Ms. Billings brought the gift of creativity to the table with skilled nursing residents as they made Christmas cards.



The gift of one-on-one time.



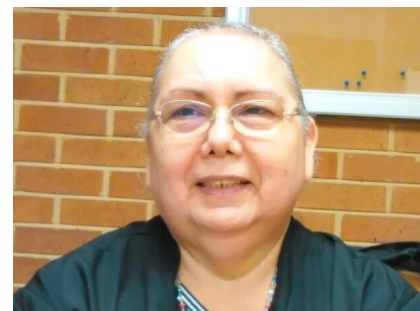
Celebrating 55 years of divinely intervening in the lives of older adults!



The extraordinary art of giving of time and money made a divine difference in the lives of our residents and we sincerely thank The Guild Shop and their faithful volunteers.



Family love and support is truly divine intervention.



Dora, SJH's own angel who cares for residents because it is a calling. ✦

# The Community Embraces St. James House In 2015



From preschool to high school, area youth came out to entertain, bring gifts and visit with our residents.



Residents got their groove on with the Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir.



Exxon Mobil volunteers brought out the creative side of SJH residents.



Chevron volunteers lend a helping hand.



We love volunteers!  
Thank you Jan, Gary, Susan and The Guild Shop volunteers. There are many more not pictured but greatly appreciated just the same.



# From His Heart To Yours: *Rev. Micki Rios*



Blessing the home on or near the feast of Epiphany (January 6, 2016) is a tradition that dates from

the middle ages. In some parts of the world, there is a custom of gathering in places of residence or work to ask God's blessings on those dwellings and upon all who live, work, and visit there.

I hope those of you with family here at St James House will come by my office (right outside the chapel), pick up a piece of chalk that has been blessed, use the prayer below and chalk your loved one's room/home. Chalk is used because it is a substance made of common elements of the earth; using an ordinary substance for a holy use reminds us of our own bodies made from an ordinary substance (dirt) for a holy purpose.

Using chalk, we mark our doorways with the inscription 20+C+M+B+16 (numbers for the year and letters for the wise men), calling to mind the (3) wise ones, traditionally named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, who journeyed far from their homes to Bethlehem in search of Jesus. The letters also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house).

### Chalking the Door—a service of home blessing



Standing on your doorstep:  
*The Lord be with you  
And also with you  
The wise ones followed God's star to  
Bethlehem, seeking the Saviour.*

*Let us follow the star.  
They found Jesus in Bethlehem and  
knew they had found the one they were  
seeking.*

*Let us recognize Jesus.  
They fell down and worshipped him,  
offering him gifts of gold, frankin-  
cense, and myrrh.*

*Let us offer our gifts to the Lord.  
The door is marked 20+C+M+B+16  
while you say:*

*Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar fol-  
lowed the star of God's son who be-  
came human two thousand and four-  
teen years ago. May Christ bless our  
home and each person who lives in it  
or who visits us.*

You may go inside to say this prayer  
or stay outside.

Holy God, watch over our going out  
and our coming in and fill us with the  
light of Christ, that we may grow in  
love, in wisdom, and in faith. Amen. ✚



*Top/seated l to r:*  
Sheree and Tiyanna  
  
*Front l to r:*  
Lavarrick, Andrea (Dir.) and  
Katherine



**National Life  
Engagement Activities  
Week, Jan. 18th-24th**

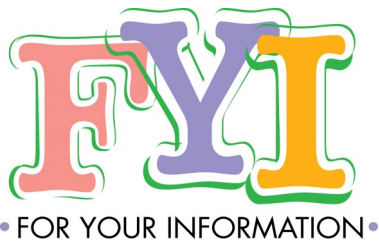
**Please let them know  
how much we appreciate  
them!**



St. James House  
 5800 W. Baker Road  
 Baytown, TX 77520

*Choice Matters.*

*Life always offers you a second chance. It's called tomorrow.  
 —Unknown*



**St. James House Is Hiring**

CNAs

LVNs

RNs

*Apply online at [stjameshouse.org](http://stjameshouse.org)*

**\*\*\*Great staff referral bonus!\*\*\***



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Articles, suggestions and other noteworthy submissions are due by the 20th of each month for the upcoming issue of The Grapevine. Please send via email to Melba Hamilton at [melba@stjameshouse.org](mailto:melba@stjameshouse.org). We reserve the right to edit for content and/or length.

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