



Our Journey – Our Future

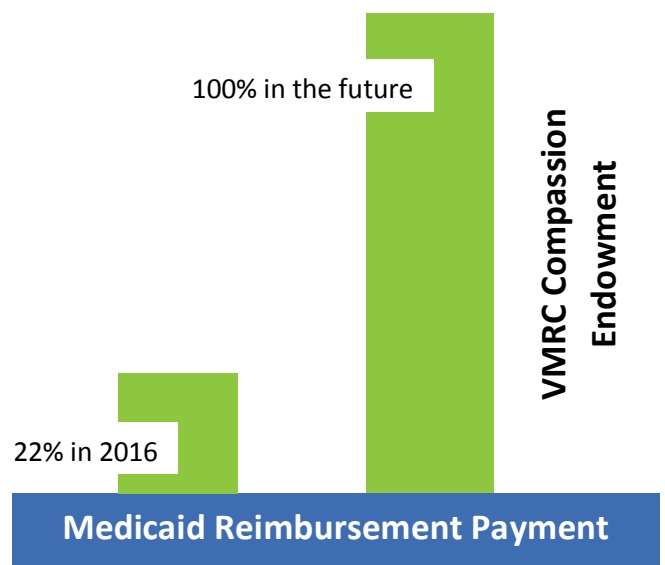
Reinvesting in Our Community

Reinvesting in Our Community is VMRC’s current campaign initiative to provide innovative, compassionate care, rooted in our Mennonite heritage and values. One of the primary components of this campaign is to significantly increase the Compassion Endowment to better serve VMRC residents in Complete Living Care and Assisted Living who have outlived their financial resources.

The VMRC Foundation currently covers approximately 22 percent of the cost of care for 31 residents in Complete Living Care and eight residents in Assisted Living. Our goal is to cover 100 percent of their costs above Medicaid reimbursement. Achieving this goal will require a substantial increase in the Compassion Endowment and Good Samaritan Fund.

The other priorities of the campaign include:

- *Transitional Care:* Thirty-five private rooms and a new rehab gym in Oak Lea to improve the experience and outcomes of short-term rehab patients.
- *Nurse Education Endowment:* We value the contributions of all VMRC employees and provide opportunities through our staff development endowment. This special nursing endowment is a critical part of growing our nursing staff.
- *Connections to Woodland Park:* A community center, an elevator addition at the back of Crestwood, and expanded shuttle service, along with five additional homes will complete the Woodland Park community.



For information about the Campaign, contact Les Helmuth, executive director, VMRC Foundation, 540-564-6556 or lhelmuth@vmrc.org.

Flavor or Daily Life

Mrs. Mabelle Blosser grew up outside of Harrisonburg on a farm where her father raised strawberries. She graduated from high school as the class salutatorian and trained to become a nurse. After marrying her husband, Sanford, she joined him on his farm where she “drove a tractor a bit, grew a big garden, and got the cows out of the corn.” One summer they accepted a “Fresh Air” girl into their home from New York City; Mabelle is still regularly in touch with her. When Sanford was assigned to a base in Iowa for his wartime service, she worked as a housekeeper for a local family so she could be with him. She remains in touch with the two young girls she helped raise during those years as well.

Mabelle is a gracious, faithful and modest woman who now lives in Woodland Park. She moved there in March from her Crestwood neighborhood. Buffy, a Shahbaz working in Warsack House where Mabelle lives, has a close relationship with her. When Buffy is there, Mabelle says, “I was hoping you’d come in today,” and invites Buffy into her room where they sit and chat or look at Mabelle’s photos together. Mabelle has become close to another resident of the house; they sit together at the table and often are visiting in each other’s rooms. “I am thankful,” she says. “I love to read, I have a friend here, and they take such good care of me here.”

Buffy, who knew Mabelle for several years as a resident in Crestwood, has noticed that Mabelle has found a meaningful role in Warsack House. She likes to help the house at mealtimes with the cleanup, and she enjoys folding the table linens as well. Mabelle herself says she loves the sunlight in the house and finds satisfaction in being useful. Buffy thinks Mabelle has blossomed at Warsack House. She notes that Mabelle spends more time outside of her room and embraces the meaningful role she has found within the house. Mabelle has also increased her mobility and is more functionally independent. She continues to share gardening tips with Buffy, and Buffy has finally been able to introduce Mabelle to her pet cockatoo, a character she’s been telling Mabelle about for years.

“Lord help me,” Mabelle prays, “to live day-to-day in such a self-forgetful way that I think of others. I hope that when I am gone they can say I left some happy tracks.” Those who know her affirm that her prayer has been answered, as she shows us every day.

