

# SUNNYSIDE **COMMUNITY** SERVICES

## Shared Spaces Presentation

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**43-31 39<sup>th</sup> Street Sunnyside NY, 11104**

April 4, 2023

# Who Are We?

Sunnyside Community Services (SCS) is a nonprofit that provides diverse programs to support struggling families and individuals of all ethnicities and income levels in Queens since 1974. Our services range from pre-K to college and career readiness, home care, Beacon and Cornerstone community centers, an older adult center, and supportive services for at-risk older adults and their caregivers.



# Our Goal

- To promote and implement intergenerational connections and understanding through diverse activities and initiatives, with support from the UNH Strengthening Older Adults program.
- To create a nurturing environment that encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and knowledge.



# Our Values

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Community members of all ages are:

- Fully integrated in the broader community and are connected.
- Are seen as important and valued resources for the greater good, addressing community issues in ways that strengthen civic and community life.
- Are recognized and respected for their skills, knowledge, experience and interests.
- Have numerous opportunities to work together to contribute to their communities in ways that are meaningful and impactful.



# What Makes Our Work Unique?

- Intergenerational programming in Queens:
  1. Positives: Cross-cultural connections, empathy, and community.
  2. Challenges: Cultural differences can cause conflict, language barriers can hinder communication, and accessibility can be an issue.
- Culturally responsive approach needed:
  1. Sensitivity to participants' diverse backgrounds and needs.
  2. Translation services offered.
  3. Activities cater to different cultural traditions.



**Queens, NY is one of the most diverse counties in the United States with a population of over 2.3 million people from more than 100 different countries. The most significant ethnic groups are Hispanic/Latino, Asian, African American, and White. The borough's diversity is reflected in its varied cuisine, shops, and cultural events.**

# The Space itself

- Older adult center offers:
  - Health and wellness programs
  - Social activities
  - Educational opportunities
  - Adult day services
- Previously successful Middle School program
- Currently offers Universal Pre-Kindergarten program
- Youth services programs positively impact over 2,500 youth annually
- ESOL program helps individuals improve English language skills
- Home care services, support for family caregivers, and social adult day program for people with cognitive and physical impairments available.



# Sharing Spaces

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- From the outset, we leveraged our older adult and middle school programs situated at the center to foster intergenerational interactions. We are expanding this to our Pre-K programs and ESOL programs.
- We established clear expectations and provided guidance for both parties.
- We introduced a self-guided program for older adults, aimed at enhancing their experience.
- We expanded our co-leading opportunities through our "I Teach You, You Teach Me" initiative.
- We created safe, neutral spaces to encourage positive interactions.
- We ensured that each shared space was equally valued and respected.





# The Steps We Took

1. Establishing Key Personnel for Enhanced Work and Collaboration.
2. Creating a Secure and Safe Environment for Productive Engagement Preparing for Successful Engagement.
3. We scheduled meetings with staff, older adults, and youth to discuss activities in advance, so we can ensure that everyone is on the same page and ready to contribute.



# Challenges We Faced

1. Enhancing Intergenerational Scheduling: Promoting Activities for Older Adults and Youth Together
2. Empowering Self-guided Older Adults to Participate More Fully in Programs
3. Strengthening Staffing Resources to Support Program Participants
4. Adapting to Program Restrictions and Regulations Pre- and Post-Pandemic
5. Ensuring Adequate and Safe Space for Program Activities
6. Creating Concrete Strategies for Sustainable Program Continuity



## Solutions To Building Program Opportunities

- Collaborate with other community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in intergenerational work for greater impact.
- Identify and utilize opportunities for intergenerational activities during school breaks and holidays.
- Create a persuasive elevator pitch to communicate the value of intergenerational work to staff and participants and gain support.
- Develop a clear and easy-to-understand system for implementing intergenerational work, including the Co-led Model, Co-educational Model, and Service Model.



# How We Build Connections

1. Create shared activities
2. Encourage mentoring and learning
3. Foster inclusivity and respect
4. Provide opportunities for community involvement
5. Celebrate diversity



# Our Intergenerational Work Today

- 12 high school students and 50 older adults participated in intergenerational activities during the summer.
- Created a co-educational Chess program.
- Partnered with the American Folk Art Museum for interactive programs on-site and at the museum.
- Older adults and youth audited the 3G Sesame Initiative.
- Youth helped older adults access food programs through service model activities.
- Implemented engaging activities during Mid Winter break and added new key staff members to support the work.



# Future plans

- Implement a self care cosmetology intergenerational program.
- Outreach to High School cheerleaders to support intergenerational programs.
- Collaborate our popular chess activity with other organizations doing intergenerational work.
- Work with more key staff to develop program opportunities.
- We want to establish an intergenerational choir.



THANK YOU!

— SUNNYSIDE  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES



Q&A TIME!



**SUNNYSIDE**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**SERVICES**



# Vincentian's Intergenerational Intentionality: Past, Present & Future

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April 4, 2023

vincentian





# Who is Vincentian

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# Pittsburgh-based 501(c)3 Nonprofit Human Services Organization

- Established in 1924 by Vincentian Sisters as the “Home for the Incurables”
- Grown to include multiple campuses across Pittsburgh offering various levels of senior care (independent living, personal care, skilled nursing), along with two childcare facilities, a catering arm, and an educational conference center

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Vincentian is an organization rooted in **progressive humanitarianism**; a **fearless** willingness to **evolve** to meet the needs of a **diverse** and **changing** society.

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# Vincentian Campuses



vincentian



# Our Past

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# Steadfast History of Proactive Responsiveness to Community Needs

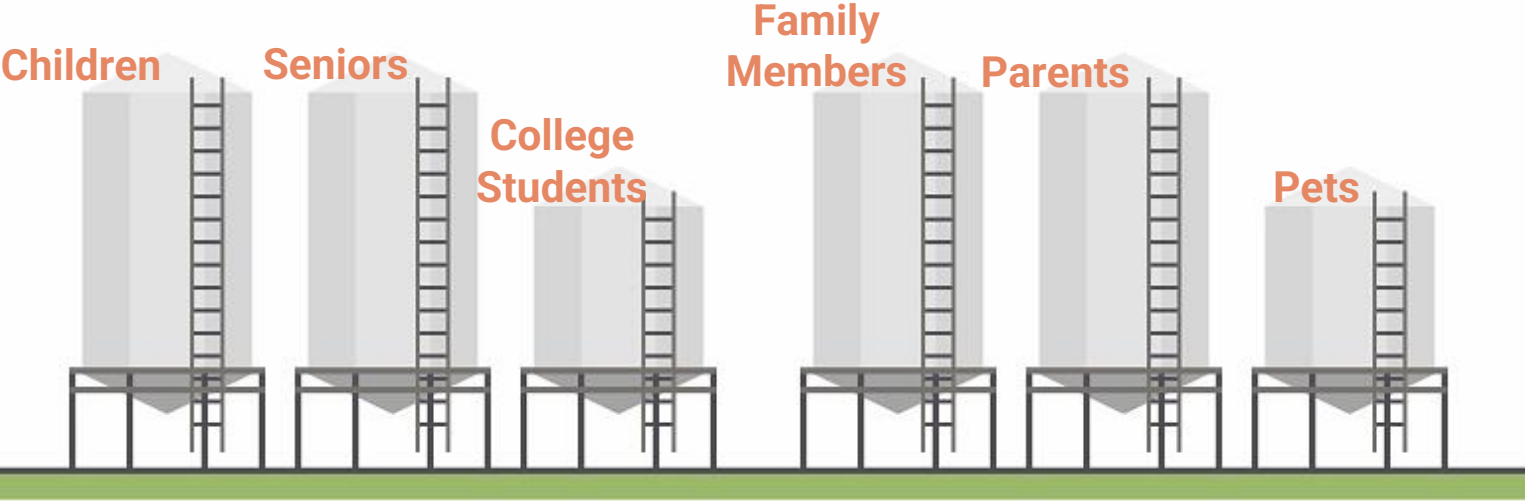




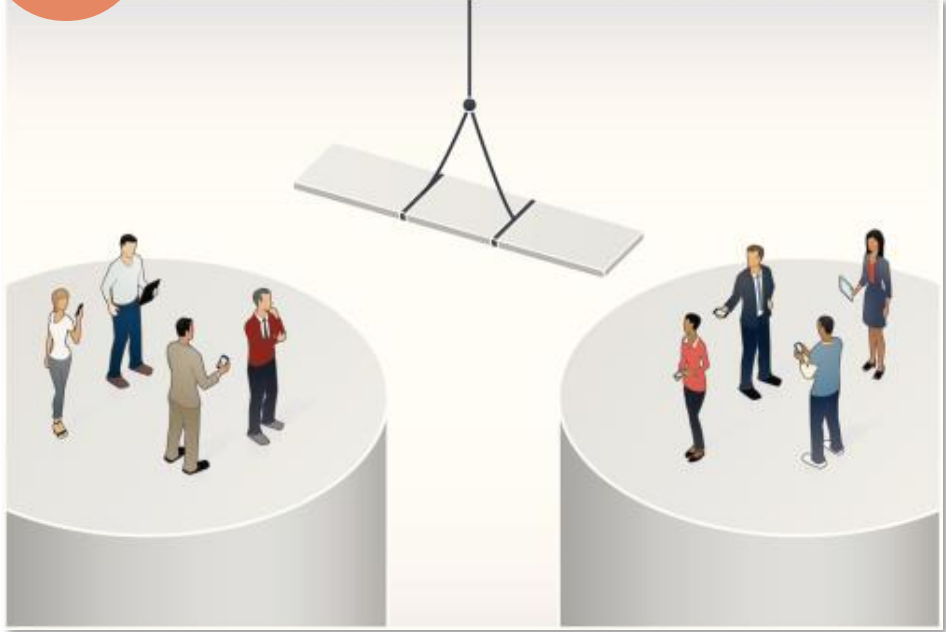
**The Road We've Traveled**

# Evolution of Intergenerational Living at Vincentian

1



2



# Evolution of Intergenerational Living at Vincentian

3



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# Our Present

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# **Terrace Place at Vincentian** (an independent living community)

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# Successful Design of an Intentional Intergenerational Community

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# Intergenerational Interactions



# Terrace Place at Vincentian: Present

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## Terrace Place at Vincentian



Opened Spring 2019

- ✓ Senior Living (Independent Living)
- ✓ College Student Apartments (LaRoche University undergraduates)
- ✗ On-campus Childcare
- ✗ Public-welcoming Dining (Grab 'n Go closed to public)

# Vincentian Marian Manor

(a skilled nursing care community)

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vincentian **Child**  
**Discovery**  
CENTER



# Marian Manor Renovated Community Spaces





# Vincentian Marian Manor: Present

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## Marian Manor (Building C)



### Post-Renovation Reopening 2021

- ✓ Senior Living (Skilled Nursing)
- ✗ College Student Apartments
- ✓ On-campus Childcare
- ✓ Public-welcoming Dining  
(Unconventional Bistro open to public)

# Vincentian Schenley Gardens

(a personal care community)

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# Schenley Gardens Students in Residence

chatham  
UNIVERSITY



# Attributes: Outdoor Spaces



# Location: Urban Hub within Eds & Meds Corridor

Home to some of the world's top research, educational, medical, and cultural institutions, Oakland is "where eds and meds intersect with culture and heritage."  
*(Visit Pittsburgh/Oakland Neighborhood)*



# Comparison: Intergenerational Vincentian Campuses as of March 2023

## Terrace Place at Vincentian



Opened Spring 2019

- ✓ Senior Living (Independent Living)
- ✓ College Student Apartments (LaRoche University undergraduates)
- ✗ On-campus Childcare
- ✗ Public-welcoming Dining (Grab 'n Go closed to public)

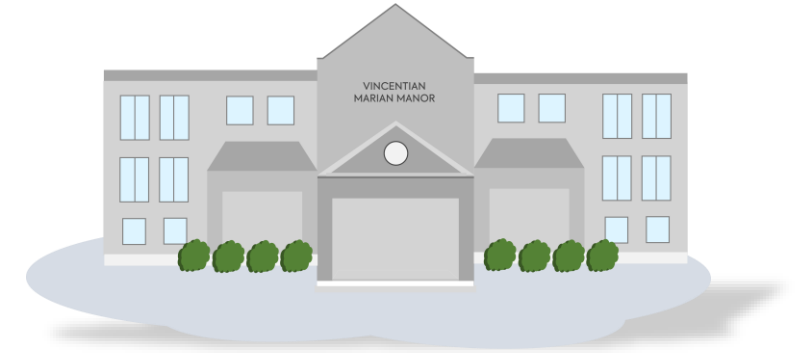
## Schenley Gardens



Acquired Summer 2019

- ✓ Senior Living (Personal care)
- ✓ College Student Apartments (2020) (Chatham University graduate students)
- ✗ On-campus Childcare
- ✗ Public-welcoming Dining (Dining Room closed to public)

## Marian Manor (Building C)



Post-Renovation Reopening 2021

- ✓ Senior Living (Skilled Nursing)
- ✗ College Student Apartments
- ✓ On-campus Childcare
- ✓ Public-welcoming Dining (Unconventional Bistro open to public)

# Our Future

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# Vincentian Schenley Gardens Will Be...

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A dynamic living, visiting, and working environment that honors individual preferences, inspires and fosters **organic** connections between residents, families, children, students, staff, the community, and the planet







# Schenley Gardens Renovation Goals

- Create unique **catered city-living**
- Celebrate **intergenerational** opportunities
- Foster meaningful **connections**
- Support **holistic wellness**
- Preserve and incorporate **nature and sustainability**

# Location: Neighbors



- Adjacent building originally a Marriott Hotel
- In May 2022, University of Pittsburgh purchased the hotel for graduate student housing use
- Buildings share a 222-space parking garage and adjacent connecting patios

# Vincentian Schenley Gardens Intergenerational Future



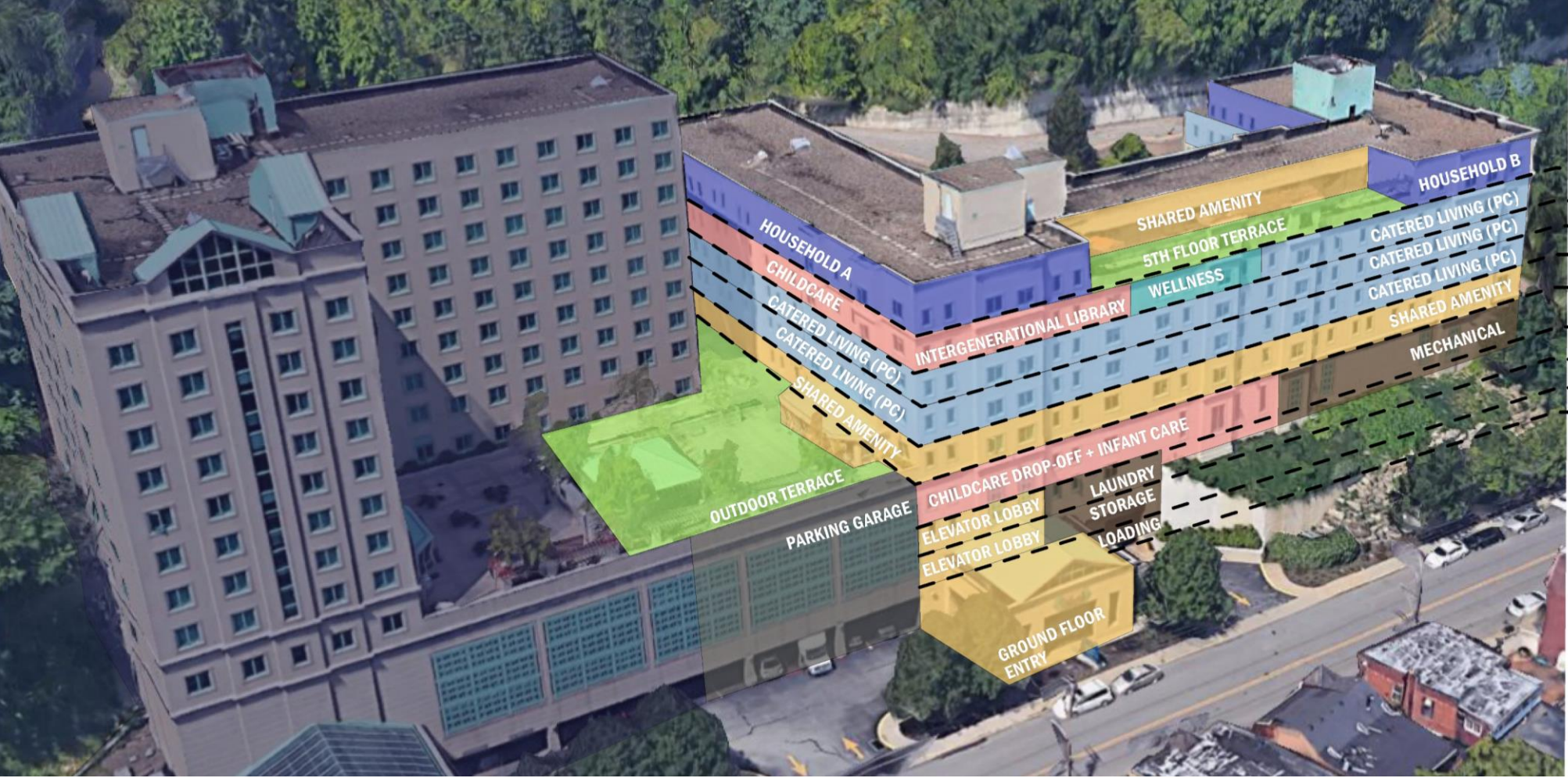
## AS OF MARCH 2023:

- ✓ Senior Living (Personal care)
- ✓ College Student Apartments (Chatham University graduate students)
- ✓ Adjacent Shared Patio with 150+ University of Pittsburgh Graduate Students

## POST-RENOVATION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ On-campus Childcare
- ✓ Intergenerational Library
- ✓ Wellness Studio
- ✓ All-Ages Salon & Spa
- ✓ Creative and Expressive Arts Studio
- ✓ Multimedia Theater
- ✓ All-Ages Outdoor Interaction Zones
- ✓ Public-welcoming Dining (Opening 2025)
  - ✓ Restaurant
  - ✓ Bistro

# Schematic Design Overview



- FIFTH FLOOR
- FOURTH FLOOR
- THIRD FLOOR
- SECOND FLOOR
- FIRST FLOOR
- G4 FLOOR
- G3 FLOOR
- G2 FLOOR
- GROUND FLOOR

# VINCENTIAN SCHENLEY GARDENS COLLECTIVE LOOK



# Intentionality for the Future

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- Infusion of evidence-based practices from intergenerational, wellness, and sustainability fields
- Intergenerational practices and programs designed with the whole-person wellbeing of each individual at the center, acknowledging and celebrating the benefits of bringing all generations together for both planned programs and designing to support spontaneous interactions
- Legacy-building: impacting every person, increasing belonging and connection with others of different stages and increased acceptance of people who are different from themselves

# Thank You

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