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4TH QUARTER NEWSLETTER



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THE MARIAN CENTER
NEWSLETTER • 4TH QUARTER

Dear Friends & Family of The Marian Center

As we welcome the new year, we do so with grateful hearts and a deep appreciation for the many ways our Marian Center community continues to grow On Good Ground. This past quarter reminded us that when students are supported by a strong foundation—one rooted in care, dignity, and opportunity—they flourish in remarkable ways.

Thanks to the generous support of our benefactors, important campus improvements took shape, ensuring our students learn in spaces that reflect the respect they deserve. We were also blessed by meaningful visits from community leaders, joyful celebrations like our Halloween party and Christmas show, and moments of connection during our Volunteer Luncheon and the annual Claws for Celebration at Joe's Stone Crab. Each experience reinforced the power of partnership in nurturing our students' growth.

As we step into 2026, we are filled with hope and gratitude for the good ground we continue to cultivate together. Thank you for being an essential part of our Marian Center family and for helping our students grow, learn, and thrive.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sister Lidia Valli
Executive Director



Celebrating our Volunteers on MC Flavor Street

Our culinary class led by Ms. Maite brought extra creativity to the **Volunteer Luncheon** with an original theme: **Marian Center (MC) Flavor Street**, inspired by food trucks! Each truck showcased the students' passions—some celebrated their home countries, others highlighted causes close to their hearts, and a few were pure whimsy and fun.

The five standout food trucks included **Alex's Wok & Roll**, **Bernie's Peace Love & Pasta**, **Steve's Dude Food**, **The Taste of Childhood Memories**, **Gary's Shish Kabob**, and **Nutella Good Humor Cookies**. Bursting with personality and flavor, the food trucks on MC Flavor Street provided a joyful celebration of imagination, culture, and community. It was the perfect way to honor our incredible volunteers who support our students every day!





Trick, Treats, and Togetherness

The Marian Center was filled with laughter, costumes, and plenty of Halloween spirit during our annual Halloween Party, held on Friday, October 31st in the multipurpose building. From 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., our school students, Adult Day Training participants, and Marian Center Cottage residents came together for a joyful day of celebration. Nearly 90 participants joined the festivities, along with about 40 dedicated staff members who helped make the day special. A surprise highlight of the celebration was a visit from a celebrity farmer, which delighted attendees and added an extra touch of fun to an already unforgettable day. The party was a wonderful opportunity for our community to connect, celebrate, and enjoy the season together.





15th Annual Claws for Celebration Luncheon

On November 3, friends and supporters gathered at Joe's Stone Crab in Miami Beach for the Marian Center School and Services' 15th annual Claws for Celebration luncheon. The event brought together about 245 guests, including Archbishop Thomas Wenski, and raised more than **\$100,000** to support children and adults with special needs. Funds will also be used to purchase new golf carts to help transport students and clients across the Marian Center campus.





Bathroom Transformation Complete

The women in our Adult Day Training program are enjoying a fresh new space with the recent renovation of their bathroom! After months of dedicated work, the transformation is complete and the results are beautiful yet functional.

This special project was made possible through the generous support of The Batchelor Foundation, whose commitment to enhancing our campus ensures that our students have the dignity, comfort, and welcoming environment they deserve. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in helping us make The Marian Center not just a place of learning, but a true home of care and respect.



Original bathroom



Demolition of bathroom



Renovated bathroom (middle view)



Renovated bathroom (front view)

FL House of Representatives Tour Our Campus

In December, The Marian Center was honored to welcome not one, but two members of the Florida House of Representatives—Wallace Aristide and Mike Redondo. Both Miami natives and longtime advocates for education, they toured our campus and enjoyed a special performance by our bell choir.



Two Christmas Shows – Twice the Holiday Cheer!

Our Annual Christmas Program is a cherished holiday tradition that brings our community together to celebrate the birth of Christ and the joy of the season. Our families and friends had the opportunity to enjoy festive music and joyful presentations by our students, Adult Day Training participants, and Cottage residents. This tradition is a joyful reminder of the talents, growth, and togetherness that make The Marian Center so special!





“Every time a human being does something to improve another human being, we really do something good for all of humanity.”
-Sister Lucia -

Get involved

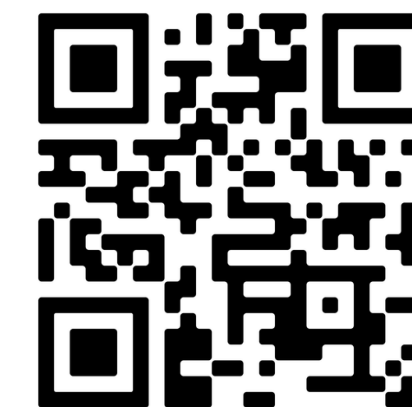
Join us in our Mission: to educate and empower persons with diverse abilities, and nurture them to wholeness, following the Gospel and the Church's call to love, charity and justice.

Request a Tour Contact us to find ways to help.

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