



## Supporting the Mind, Body, and Spirit of Staff

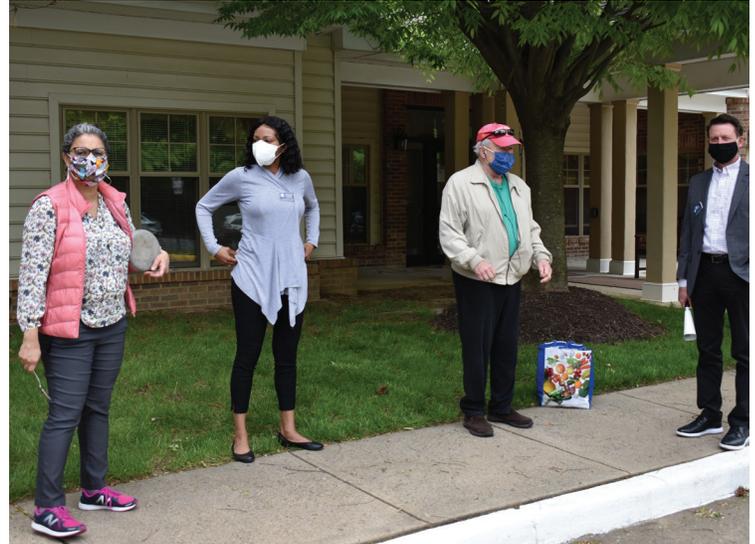
The goal of Operation Employee Wellness, which started when COVID-19 infections began to occur in our surrounding community in early March, is to support the mind, body, and spirit of 300-plus employees and contract staff who have worked through the pandemic while managing their own fears and concerns.

Winoka Clements, Human Resources Director, outlined Operation Employee Wellness (OEW) in a video aired on Monday on Channel 1970. The overarching theme of OEW is that "we are all in this together," she said.

"We are surrounded by amazingly diverse people who support seniors. Each day these people bring their amazingness to VHRC and we are better for it," said Winoka.

OEW started by making check-in phone calls to staff but has expanded into a host of initiatives, including:

- As many employees rely on public transportation, VHRC created a Lyft business account to help ensure employees could get to work when the buses and Metro suspended or limited their service.
- To limit the amount of non-direct care staff coming to work each day,



Winoka, left, along with others, greets staff as they arrive at work at a "Thank You Thursday" event last month.

telework was offered to these staff members.

- In partnership with dining, VHRC has been offering free meals to all staff.
- In partnership with the clinical team and a local doctor, VHRC has been offering on-site testing. So far, more than 100 staff members have been tested.
- VHRC has provided appreciation and shift bonuses as well as provided financial support to employees who have been impacted by COVID-19.

"As the banner says on Kirby Road, 'Heroes Work Here' and we thankful they choose VHRC!" said Winoka.

## Is There a Philatelist in the House?

Did you know that one in 10 American households will inherit a stamp or coin collection that they don't know what to do with? This happened a few months ago at Vinson Hall. "Analisse and Mirna discovered a box of worldwide stamps at the front desk and had no idea where they came from," says Bill Clair. Most collections are found after someone passes. "Many a relative or friend has been left with a stamp collection that had been built over the years with no clue how to proceed. That's when they contact me."

For a good 50 years, Bill has been a member of the American Philatelic Society, and is frequently called in to evaluate collections in our area. He himself owns hundreds of thousands of stamps, and keeps adding to them, especially nowadays. "Fortunately, the mail continues" even during COVID-19, he says. "I bid on stamps at online auctions, they ship it out and it comes to the mailroom at Vinson Hall. It's incredible!"

Bill's interest in stamps started in grammar school but took off when he and his wife Judy lived in Kenya in the 1970s. "Since then, I've collected stamps of the countries where we lived – Kenya, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Eritrea." What draws him to the hobby? Not the money. The market price a dealer pays for U.S. mint



*Bill Clair reviews one of his many albums of stamps. Bill has been collecting stamps since his grammar school days.*

stamps is usually just 60 percent of its face value, says Bill. "People collect for the pleasure of pursuing the hobby, not to make a profit," he explains. "For me, it's the geography, the strange places, the postal history, putting things in order – and the great feeling of finding the needle in a haystack."

### *The Campus Voice*

This publication is created for Vinson Hall Retirement Community in an effort to inform and delight. This publication is produced by the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement, but attempts to reflect the work and efforts of all VHRC residents and staff.

Please direct inquiries, corrections, suggestions, or brief submissions to Amiee Freeman, Communications and Public Relations Specialist, [amieef@vinsonhall.org](mailto:amieef@vinsonhall.org) or 703-538-3069.