



The Campus Voice

July 1, 2020

Operation Well-Being Makes the Connection

As the campus closed to visitors in April and many residents opted to remain in their apartments, a concern arose that residents would be too isolated. Out of this concern, Operation Well-Being was created.

Operation Well-Being included the Marketing team, the Philanthropy & Engagement team, several Vinson Hall team members, and the nurses in Health & Wellness. Each of these team members called around 20 residents daily or more frequently. Now that family and friends are allowed on campus, these calls are scaling back to just twice a week. When we enter Phase 3 on July 13, the calls will cease all together.

"Some great relationships were established between residents and staff that wouldn't have occurred otherwise," said Stephanie Lawrence, Director of Marketing. "From talking to other communities, I learned they were not doing the same level of engagement. Where we were calling daily or multiple times a day, they were only checking a couple times per week. I think it was a good program and a great way to stay connected during this time."

Several of Stephanie's team members are new to VHRC. Operation Well-Being provided a wonderful way for them to get



Back row: Amiee Freeman, Mirna Fuentes, Stephanie Lawrence, Karishma Bindra, Scott Harrison, Michelle Crone. Front row: Taylor Altomare, Champella Brooks, Virginia Lonczak, and Kayla Bennett. Not pictured: Rachelle Robinson and Ivanka Guillen.

to know a few residents well.

"I only started a few months ago," said Kayla Bennett, Marketing Coordinator. "I loved having this opportunity to get to know a few residents."

"I met more residents in three months through Operation Well-Being than I did in six months of working here! There were some great connections created. I really enjoyed the calls," said Taylor Altomare, Marketing Counselor.

The Concierge staff called residents on weekends. Virginia Lonczak said she had some very nice conversations. "I really enjoyed it. Several residents even started asking me about my family and how I was doing!"

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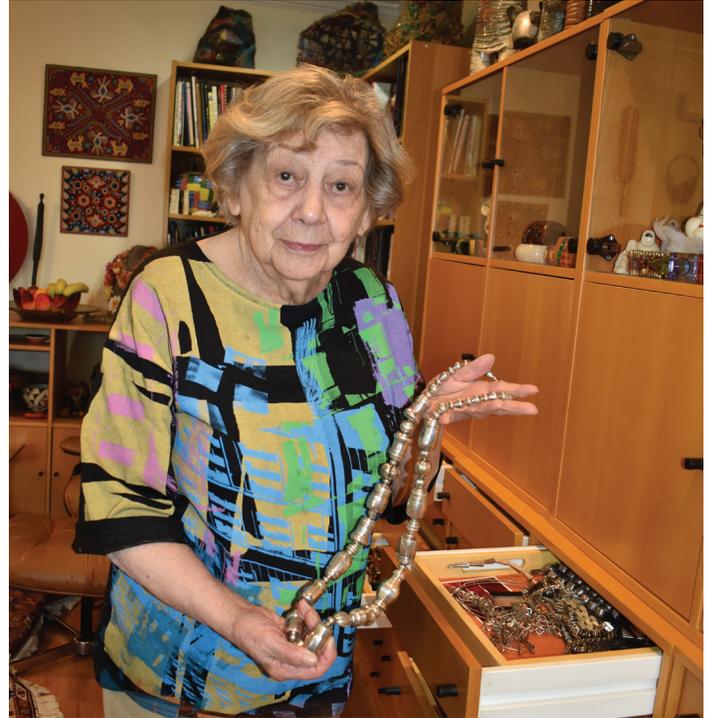
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The Art of Necklace Design

When you visit Grazia Zalfa's home, one thing is clear: making necklaces is her calling. "My apartment is only a studio," she says of the cabinetry along her living room wall with 48 drawers of necklaces, and of the bins in both bedrooms where millions of beads are stored. For Grazia, necklace design "is more than a hobby, it's a passion," and one that started in her hometown of Trieste, Italy in 1946, shortly after she met her husband Norman, an American serviceman stationed there. "I was making a nice dress and it needed something, a little chain didn't do it."

So began a lifetime of creating nearly a thousand one-of-a-kind necklaces, each one unique – and "big, it has to be seen." Her beads come from all over the world. Picking up just one necklace, she points out beads from Morocco, New Zealand, Ethiopia and the Baltic. "Each bead has its own personality," says Grazia, and they range from high-end materials like silver, coral and handmade art glass to unusual items like salt and pepper shakers, curtain rods and cigarette holders transformed into striking necklaces.

Grazia's artistry has been recognized in books, at the now-closed Bead Museum in Washington D.C. where she volunteered for 12 years, and by the Smithsonian, which commissioned her to do a necklace inspired by MacBeth's witches for an exhibit marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Her neighbors at Vinson Hall are also in awe of her creations. "Her necklaces are



Grazia Zalfa displays one of the nearly thousand necklaces she has made.

gorgeous, they're collectors pieces," says Maureen Kammerer, who owns a few. Adds Anna Coutlakis, "Grazia has fantastic ideas and designs, they're one of a kind."

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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.

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