

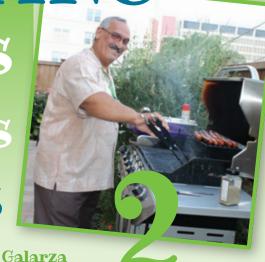
UPDate

GIFT OF LIFE FAMILY HOUSE

CELEBRATING

This year, we're using our birthday to say thank you to you, our supporters. Without you, we wouldn't be seven years old. In honor of the community's commitment to helping us provide a "home away from home" to transplant patients and their families traveling to Philadelphia for transplantrelated care, we're giving shout-outs to seven groups whose dedication and contributions have helped us in various ways to provide 50,000 room nights to transplant families.

Tyears with Tstories of Thanks





HOME COOK HEROES | Rutgers Gang

Our Home Cook Heroes volunteers are essential to helping us ensure all transplant families come back to a home-cooked meal after a long day at the hospital. Each night, they prepare and serve a meal for up to 60 people.

The women of Rutgers Gang have been cooking dinners for Family House guests since August of 2011. Not only is it a way for these long-time college friends to get together, but it's a way for them to honor several friends of theirs who have embarked on the transplant journey.

"People don't realize the stress on caregivers during this time," Barbara Prestianne, a member of the group, says. "We all love cooking and it's something we can do to help other people."

These ladies come in once a month to cook a warm meal for our guests. Thank you for your continued commitment!

VOLUNTEER | Ed Galarza

Ed Galarza has been a volunteer with *Gift of Life Donor Program* since he received a life-saving liver transplant in 2003. When the Family House opened, he began volunteering with us, too. Seven years later, Ed's still hanging out with us. He volunteers twice a week assisting with upkeep around the facility, performing maintenance work, and is a back-up shuttle driver.

"I volunteer here to give back to the wonderful people who work for this organization, for my second chance at life, and for those who worked their butts off to help me get where I am today," he says. "I get more than I give when I'm here. Being in the Family House makes me feel better."

Thank you so much, Ed! We love your presence in the House!

FAMILY CIRCLE MEMBERS | Analise & Americo Santos

Analise Santos received a heart transplant in 2010. She was born with a congenital heart defect and had been sick for most of her life,



but now she's feeling healthy and strong. She learned about the Family House through a heart transplant support group. Since then, she and her husband donate as often as they can to

continued on Family House page 2

the Family House, earning a spot in our Family Circle, a group of contributors who support our annual fund.

"I'm lucky enough to have lived close enough to the hospital during my transplant journey," Analise says. "Not having to worry about travel and cost is a big burden lifted off your shoulders. I can't imagine how I would've done it if I didn't live so close to my hospital. To have a place like the Family House is amazing and it's so meaningful to support a place like this."

We are so thankful for your support!

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE MEMBERS | Sam & Jean Jones

During her son's organ transplant recovery, Jean Jones lived in a hotel for an entire summer because there was no Family House. Understanding what it's like to be so far from home during such a difficult time, Jean and her husband, Sam, are especially interested in helping the Family House provide affordable lodging and services. Their contributions place them in our Founders' Circle, a group for those who contribute major gifts to support the Family House.

"It takes a lot to keep the Family House running, and to be able to provide rooms for people who otherwise wouldn't have a place to stay," Jean says. "I think it's very important that this continue. The more I can help them to do that, the better."



Thank you, Jean and Sam, for supporting our mission and our transplant families!



WISH LIST DRIVES | Ryan's Shamrocks

Carol McCloud is a donor mom—her son, Rvan, saved four lives when she and her family made the brave decision to donate his organs. On the first anniversary of his passing, she and her family decided they'd host a wish list drive to support the Family House. They reached out to family and community members to collect donations, and they've been hosting one ever since. Carol and her family also participate in our Home Cook Heroes program twice a year.

"Volunteering and spending time at the Family House allows me to see first-hand what they do for families and allows me to celebrate my son and spread his story," Carol says. "It's just a wonderful place and I'm glad I can help contribute to making people's stay a little easier."

We're honored you find strength in celebrating your son within your community and here at the Family House, Carol. Thank you for thinking of us and our transplant families!

We're excited to invite you to join our



a new monthly giving program!

Giving a little each month-a small commitment from you-makes a big difference!

As a member of the Welcome Home Club, you'll be a part of an important group of monthly contributors who help our guests navigate the transplant journey with less worry. Members of this program can help fund more than just one room night for a family, but also a ride to and from the hospital, our full-service kitchen, and a caregiver support group. Because you'll be helping take care of these needs for them, our transplant families will have more time and energy to focus on what's most important—taking care of themselves and their loved ones.

The Welcome Home Club has several giving options:

\$10 supports the costs of a shuttle ride to and from the hospital

\$21 helps provide a family use of our full-service kitchen for one week

\$40 houses a family for one night

\$100 helps cover the cost of running a transplant support group

Join us as a Welcome Home Club Heart Member for only \$21 a month. When you give \$21 or more monthly, you'll be eligible for several benefits including name recognition on our Primary Contributors wall, an invitation to our annual President's Reception, and more!

Joining is easy and fast. Register at GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org

Please consider joining this special group of monthly contributors. The first 21 people to sign up online for the Welcome Home Club will receive a custom Family House drawstring bag.

A little bit goes such a long way, and with your help, we can welcome our transplant families to a place of comfort and hope.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS | Pat & Jay Souder

Pat and Jay Souder are past Family House guests, and because they've decided to leave the Family House in their will, they're Legacy Society members.

"The service that the Family House provides is desperately needed by so many people at what is often the most difficult time in their lives," Pat says. "That's the most important reason that we decided to make this bequest...naming Gift of Life Family House as our beneficiary was really easy. It was a lot easier than doing our taxes!"

Thank you so much, Pat and Jay, for your commitment to ensure we can provide our services for years to come!







MONTHLY GIVING SUPPORT | Larry & Diane Beard

Since 2002, Diane and Larry Beard have been cheering for their son Barry, a kidney recipient, as he plays basketball, badminton, and runs in the Transplant Games. When Barry was undergoing his transplant journey, his family traveled from Harrisburg to Philadelphia once a month. There was no Family House for them to stay in.

"It was very inconvenient to constantly travel from so far," Diane says. Barry told them about the Family House, and ever since, they've been monthly contributors to our mission.

"It's nice to be a part of this and help others," Larry says. "The assistance the Family House provides—the comfort, the food it's so helpful. We're grateful to be able to support."

Diane and Larry now donate to the Family House on a monthly basis.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions, Diane and Larry! People like you help us create a "home away from home" for families during such a difficult time.

New shuttle arriving this fall.

Braking News:

SHUTTLE CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE GIFT OF LIFE COMMUNITY, we've reached our goal of raising over \$50,000 for a new vehicle to transport our Family House guests back and forth from area hospitals.

Our new shuttle will seat 11 passengers, ensuring we can accommodate more people on each ride. It also has a larger cargo area for supplies like oxygen tanks and wheelchairs. A bus-style door and raised roof will make it easier for guests to get on and off. We couldn't have done this without generous contributors like you.

BUT PLEASE DON'T PUT THE BRAKES ON YOUR SUPPORT. There is so much hope to shuttle around! Visit www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org



Gift of Life Family House is proud to spotlight members of the Legacy Society who have made planned gifts to support the future of the Family House.

David and Elizabeth are leaving a legacy of love and caring.

Twenty-five years ago, David and Elizabeth Kennedy lost their eldest son in a car accident. The couple made the brave decision to donate their son's tissue, a decision that helped 45 other people.

Shortly after her son's passing, Elizabeth joined the Lehigh Valley Ambassadors for Organ and Tissue

Donation to help spread awareness about organ and tissue donation. She also became involved with *Gift of Life,* and she and her husband began to attend volunteer meetings. They've also attended the Transplant Games since 2004.

When the Family House opened in 2011, David and Elizabeth began to financially support our mission too, by becoming Family Circle members. They attended our President's Reception, an event to honor our Family and Founders' Circle members, and became interested in Gift of Life Family House's Legacy Society for Planned Giving. Both were thinking about redoing their wills and generously decided to include the Family House in them.

"The Family House gives patients one less thing to worry about," David says. "What the staff does is absolutely amazing. It's a great feeling to support it. We're able to be a part of the Legacy Society, so why wouldn't we?"

The Kennedys' decision to join our Legacy Society and make a planned gift ensures that they will help families staying with us years from now, and that their values will live on in the future at the Family House.



"We were thinking about what could be possible for the families who will stay at the house," Elizabeth says. "We knew they'd need a place to go. We knew what we went through as a donor family and we can only imagine how difficult it must be for those on the waiting list. We understand how important it is for them to have their families close by."

Are you also considering drafting or redoing your will?

You, too, can join Gift of Life Family House's Legacy Society for Planned Giving and ensure the love and care transplant families need.

Have you already included the Family House in your will?

Let us know so we can celebrate with you now! Enjoy recognition today as a Legacy Society member.

Supporters who notify us that they have made arrangements for planned gifts will be recognized as members of our prestigious Legacy Society. Members who have made bequests of \$10,000 or more will have their names added to the special Legacy Society Wall in the Family House living room.

Visit www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org for more information.

To discuss making a planned gift to Gift of Life Family House, or if you have already named us in your will, please contact Sara Cohen, Development Manager, at 267-546-9812 or email scohen@giftoflifefamilyhouse.org. Please consult your attorney, tax advisor, or financial advisor before

making a bequest or updating your estate plan.

Hang in-liver Things will get better, Never give up Your constant support Atmos and accordancy will make a difference! Mark D. Months and Afference! Mark D. Months and Mark D. Months and Months and Months Shannon K.

WELCOME THEM HOME

Last fall, during our Welcome Them Home campaign, we set out to collect 1,000 encouraging messages from caring people like you to transplant patients and their families. We had these notes sewn together into a beautiful banner that is now hanging in our dining room to welcome our transplant families home after long, hard days at the hospital.



It is our hope that these words of encouragement, wisdom, and strength will bring hope to our guests during a difficult journey and that support from our community will bring them joy and peace. Some of the notes read:

"Welcome to warm hospitality, a comfy bed, warm meals, and a listening ear." —Lorraine

"You are strong and courageous."—Anonymous

"Hang in there. Things will get better. Never lose hope." —Mary Ellen

Thanks to you, we can remind our transplant families of the support they have. No one's transplant journey will be exactly the same, but finding ways to support one another is a crucial part of helping our families feel comfortable, safe, and supported.

THANK YOU for being part of such an inspiring project!

Dedicate a **Tree** at Gift of Life Family House

Did you know you can dedicate a tree on the Family House campus in honor or memory of someone? This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one or celebrate a special occasion while supporting the mission of the Family House. Tree dedications are \$10,000 each and can be paid over time through an individual or team pledge. There are only 14 trees available, so reserve yours today!

To learn more or review other naming opportunities at the Family House, visit www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org or email us at info@giftoflifefamilyhouse.org.

Beautiful tree options available throughout campus perimeter of Gift of Life Family House that



Caregiver *Life*line **Spotlight**

by Laura Giannotti, MSW, LSW
Former Gift of Life Family House Social Worker

Understanding Changes in Mood Post-Transplant

Transplant can bring about a variety of emotions for both patients and caregivers, including changes in mood. Mood changes can vary from person to person and may be a medical or emotional response to the transplant.

What Causes Post-Transplant Mood Changes in Patients?

According to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), patients may experience mood changes throughout the transplant journey. These changes may be a result of side-effects to some medication. Doctors Warrington and Bostwick (2006) from the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine state changes in mood may be a side-effect of common immunosuppressants prescribed after transplant, such as Prednisone. Other common immunosuppressants such as Cyclosporine A, Tacrolimus, and Sirolimus may play a role in changes in mood as well. Please note that everyone will respond to medication differently. It is important to talk to your transplant team with any concerns you might have.

Walgreens Community/Specialty pharmacist manager, Sejal Thanicatt, agrees some medication can alter a patient's mood. Thanicatt adds changes in mood might be due to medication, but "sometimes the transplant process itself causes patients to be overwhelmed and feel depressed." Patients' moods may shift because of changes in speed of recovery, relationships, amount of contact with the medical team, and new limitations to what the patient can or cannot do as a result of his or her transplant.

Tips for Caregivers When Dealing with a Patient's Mood Changes

1. Talk to the transplant team

If you see changes in your loved one's mood, it is important to talk to the transplant team. The transplant team will be able to help figure out if changes in mood are due to medication. The team might be able to help manage the changes in mood by altering medications. (Do not change medication dosages without talking to your loved one's transplant team first.)

2. Talk to the patient

After talking to the transplant team about these mood changes, talk to your loved one. It might be helpful to ask your loved one, "What are you feeling?" and "How has your mood/attitude/emotions changed since the transplant?" Sometimes just offering to listen to the patient's feelings about his or her new transplant can be extremely helpful for everyone.

3. Be patient with the transplant process

Maybe your loved one is still getting used to their transplant physically and emotionally. It can take some time to adjust—and that is okay. Remember that the mood changes likely do not have anything to do with you. Try not to take these mood changes personally. Try to find some time for yourself and others you can vent to when things are difficult for you.

4. Find support

You and your loved one are not alone. Experiencing changes in mood after transplant is common. Find support from your transplant team, family, friends, and support groups. Consider joining our Facebook support group (facebook.com/groups/caregiverlifeline).

Contact our social workers for more support or with questions: 267-546-9800 or caregiverlifeline@giftoflifefamilyhouse.org

References: UNOS Transplant Living. (2018). Caring for patients. Retrieved from https://transplantliving.org/before-the-transplant/caring-for-transplant-patients/.

Warrington, T.P. & Bostwick, J.M. (October 2006). Psychiatric adverse effects of corticosteroids. Mayo Clinic Proceedings, 81 (10), 1361-1367. Doi: https://doi.org/10.4065/81.10.1361\



"On November 1, 2013 we lost our angel, Isaiah. That day has changed our lives forever. However, due to the gifts that Isaiah was able to provide through organ and tissue donation, the lives of others have also changed. As always we are committed to remembering the wonderful moments his life provided to so many. In Isaiah's memory, we support Gift of Life Family House, which ensures that families who need to stay in the Philadelphia area during the transplant process will always have a comfortable, affordable place to stay. The Gift of Life Family House is a home away from home for families during a difficult time."

Making a Difference **ONE MEAL AT A TIME!**

Thank you to all the Home Cook Heroes program volunteers who prepared healthy, home-cooked meals each night to support transplant patients and their families at Gift of Life Family House.

We are proud to recognize Home Cook Heroes volunteer groups from January-March 2018

AmeriHealth Caritas Care Crew APhA - ASP Operation Diabetes Artisans Order of Mutual Protection **AtlantiCare Bailkin Family**

Breaths for Brooke **CB Community Schoo** CHOP 5 South **CHOP Rehab**

Christ Lutheran Church Comhar Congregation M'Kor Shalom

CSL Behring

Downingtown West Cross Country Team **Dragons for Donation**

Family House Advisory Board

Four Ladies and Friends Gamma Iota Sigma -

Giangiulio Cousins

Jefferson Endoscopy Group Jefferson Health Jefferson Health at Washington Township Jefferson Respiratory Krista Pironti and Friends La Famiglia Dei Fratelli Lankenau Kidney Transplant Laura and Friends Love in Action Compassion Ministries Mare & Flizabeth **Maven Communications** Medtronic

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Independence Blue Cross

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Natalie Rowan and Friends National Charity League Valley Forge

Nazareth Hospital ICU **New Vision Pioneers**

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Penn Presbyterian ER Nurses Phi Sigma Pi AE

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Phoenixville Area High School Poplawski Family **Puliti Family**

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Royal Disturbance Sinful Beautiezz Rutgers Gang Satyra Oberfrank

Sherron Moore & Family Sonny Days Southeast Ambassadors

St. Augustine Parish St. Clair CPA Solutions Starr Family

Team Conver **Temple Transplant**

Temple University Hospital The Episcopal Academy The Marion Luckers Kidney Foundation

at least 12 times in a calendar year. Thank you to our generous community partner for their ongoing food donations Starbucks at the Bellevue

BOLD = Home Cook Hero All Star

Class of 2020

University City Kiwanis

Villanova SRNA

TU Bels

Thomas Jefferson University IS&T

Villanova's Initiative for Engaging Women Widener University Phi Sigma Pi

All-Stars are committed volunteer groups

through the Home Cook Heroes program

who provide a meal to Family House quests

Home Cook Heroes team photos are available to view on the Family House's Facebook page at Facebook.com/GiftofLifeFamilyHouse. While you're there, don't forget to like our Facebook page, tag yourself and your teammates, and share your photo - in doing so, you're helping spread awareness about the Family House mission!

TO OUR MOST GRACIOUS CONTRIBUTORS:

Thank You

for your loyal support and continued generosity in helping us care for transplant patients and families at Gift of Life Family House.

Joy Spiotta

Kathryn & Timothy Stonie

Philip Stonie

Gerald F. Swanson

Raymond P. Sweitzer

Zachary Sweitzer

Dane Tourscher

William and Amanda Sickler

Dean Ustaszewsk

Contributions of \$50 or more received between JANUARY 2018 – MARCH 2018

Founders' Circle [GIFTS of \$10,000+

AMBASSADOR OF GENEROSITY [\$100,000+] The Gitlin Foundation ITALIC = upgraded member

2018 Family Circle [GIFTS OF \$250+] to support the annual fund

HONOR IN PLATINUM [\$5,000+] Thomas and Dehorah Stalsitz Jean and Sam Jones Diane Stewart Lehigh Valley Plastics, Inc. Sunbury Motor Co. The United States Junior

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Scott Michael

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John Rodrigue

Jay and Pat Souder

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ITALIC = upgraded member

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Aimee Zaremba and Michael Lyon: The Legacy Garden

Meg and Kirk Spring **Paver Program** William Tashiian Thank you to those who dedicated an engraved paver

Community Tissue Services Bancker Construction Corp Howard Klein The Patients & Caregivers HUP Lung Transplant Support Group John and Roberta Cole Nicole Seefeldt Barbara Fitzgerald-Turner Thomas and Sheila Williams Paul Metzger

> We applicate for any errors or omissions and ask that you contact Samantha Oliphani at soliphant@giftoflifefamilyhouse.org

thank in the community for coordinating fundraising events, wish list drives, and online fundraisers to support the mission of Gift of Life Family House.

Fundraising Events

Dress Down Day coordinated by Christopher Columbus Charter School Smyrna High School Softball Fundraiser in Memory of Donnie Shane

Wish List Drives coordinated by:

215 Mona Mr. Consalvo Davita Franklin at Home Daniel and Linda Giangiulio **Grand Chapter of Delaware** Order of the Eastern Star In honor of Willow Short & Family John McGinty **Team Fritz**

To make a contribution to Gift of Life Family House, please visit www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org or use the enclosed envelope.

The official registration and financial information of Transplant House d/b/a Gift of Life Family House may be obtained from PA Dept. of State by calling toll free 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. United Way #48974 | Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) #28458



