



**GIFT of LIFE**  
Family House

www.GiftOfLifeFamilyHouse.org

# UPDATE

## 4 Years and Counting!

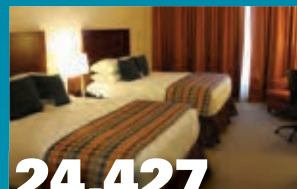
**ON JULY 18TH, THE FAMILY HOUSE CELEBRATED ITS 4TH BIRTHDAY**  
and we want to thank you for helping us to provide  
**a caring and bright "home away from home" for our transplant families!**

For four years, Gift of Life Family House has been a source of comfort and support to families traveling to Philadelphia for transplant care. It's a place where families not only find comfortable beds and home-cooked meals, but also a community of other caring families who understand the ups and downs of the transplant journey. This is their "home away from home" – and the Family House would not be possible without all of our dedicated volunteers and contributors who offer their time, resources and energy to supporting families in their time of need.

*continued on Family House page 2*

### *Celebrating* THE STATS!

**4 years, 4 exciting stats – only made possible by our community's incredible commitment to the Family House mission.**  
Since opening our doors on July 18, 2011, the Family House is proud to share its support in numbers:



**24,427**

**Lodging Nights of Care**  
provided to transplant patients  
and their families



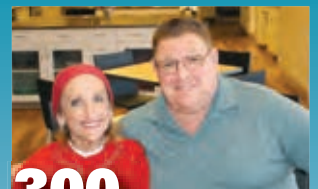
**92,072**

**Meals Served** through our  
Home Cook Heroes Program



**42,245**

**Miles Driven** while making  
4,719 trips to and from area  
hospitals



**300**

**Transplant Caregivers and  
Professionals Supported**  
through our Caregiver Lifeline  
Program

Non-profit Org.  
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Philadelphia, PA 19123-4101



# Celebrating OUR

4 YEARS, continued from Family House page 1

Our guests are so grateful for all of the volunteers who have supported the Family House over the past four years. They offer far more than their time and skills – they also bring a warmth and kindness that everyone appreciates. They are part of what makes the Family House a true home for transplant patients and their families.

The passion of our volunteers is one of the reasons why the Family House is able to provide exceptional care to our guests, maintain the House's operations and support the programs offered to our transplant families. Some of our volunteers were kind enough to share their stories about why they volunteer at the Family House and why it is meaningful to them. We've highlighted four stories in honor of our 4th birthday. Be sure to visit our website to read the rest of our volunteer spotlights!

## GINNEH, Administrative Support and Kitchen Specialist

"It's important to do something for someone else if you're able. I live in the neighborhood. I looked up the Family House online after passing by many times. I thought it was something unique and special. Something so helpful to transplant families in their time of need. I wanted to contribute at least my time. I have no direct connection to the transplant community. I just want to help if I can."



Ginneh Earle



Liz Nathan

Rosie Lemansky

## LIZ & ROSIE, "Chicks in the Pantry"

"I got involved after my brother passed away and donated his organs. After my first donor recognition ceremony, I decided that when I retire I would volunteer at the Family House. I feel such a strong connection. We feel the work we do is very valuable and we look forward to our Tuesdays. Liz and I are truly a team." —Rosie

"I think it's a wonderful way to show appreciation for donors and their families for their commitment and the decision they made to save someone else's life. If I can help make transplant families feel like they have a warm and comfortable place, that's a gift and a no-brainer." —Liz

## CELEBRATING

Thank you for being a community we can count on and for helping

Volunteer, Janice Schwartz Donahue



Volunteer, George Arroyo



Volunteers, J. Kate Stickles and Brad Baldus

**TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION**  
of the Family House volunteers and to  
celebrate our 4th Birthday, the Family House Team  
hosted a **Birthday BBQ** followed by a trip  
to the **Phillies baseball game** for the annual  
"Gift of Life Night" at the Phillies.



# VOLUNTEERS!

## JOHN, Family House Shuttle Driver

"People were very supportive of me when I was sick and now I want to give back. I want to help at the Family House because I stayed at a transplant house in Rochester, Minnesota when I received my transplant care. I know what it's like to be away from home and my family – and I understand what they are going through. I was sick for two years and so many people were there for me and my family. I'm now ten years out from my transplant and it's my turn to help people. It's a debt you can't pay back."



John Brown



Maureen Bowie and Joan Spiers

## TEAM SPIERS, Home Cook Hero All-Stars

It makes us feel good to be able to help out. We're a donor family and we understand what it's like to be in an overwhelming situation. Gift of Life Family House is a great place and the people who work here do amazing things. From the early years when Howard Nathan [President and CEO] would speak [of the Family House] to now, the growth is amazing."

The Family House's commitment to transplant families extends far beyond providing a place to sleep, and our volunteers truly help make a difference in their lives each and every day. Our mission is that much stronger with the help of our wonderful volunteers.

*You!* .....  
us provide this truly incredible resource to our transplant families!



**DECEMBER 1ST IS NATIONAL GIVING TUESDAY** and the Family House's 2nd Annual 40 Hours for the Family House challenge! Kick off the 2015 holiday season by doing what you do best – giving back in support of transplant families!

**SIGN UP TODAY** for this fast-paced, unique & FUN challenge; it only takes a few minutes! As December 1st draws near, spread the word to everyone you know so that they can support you! Then, when the clock strikes 8:00 AM on December 1st, encourage your friends, family, coworkers and classmates to donate to your page to help you reach your fundraising goal! **TO GET STARTED VISIT:** [GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org/40hours2015](http://GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org/40hours2015)



Last year, 50 team members collectively raised more than \$27,000 to support the Adopt-A-Family Program at the Family House – that's equivalent to nearly 700 nights of lodging for families in need! Can the Family House count on you to make this year an even bigger success?



**THE CHALLENGE BEGINS  
DECEMBER 1ST  
AT 8:00AM  
AND LASTS JUST 40 HOURS.  
SIGN UP TODAY!**

## NEW THIS YEAR –

**JOIN THE CHALLENGE AS A TEAM!** Don't want to go it alone? Get your family, friends, classmates or coworkers together to join forces and become the top 40 Hours team. Simply choose the option to start a team when signing UP – or join an existing team! This is also a great opportunity to turn your Home Cook Heroes team into champions!

**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED** to the top fundraiser as well as top fundraising team. For more information, visit [GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org/40hours2015](http://GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org/40hours2015).

**WHAT IS NATIONAL GIVING TUESDAY?** There's Black Friday, Cyber Monday and then comes Giving Tuesday!

This coming December 1st is Giving Tuesday, a national day dedicated to giving back, where thousands of people around the globe come together after the Thanksgiving holiday to celebrate generosity and to give. Gift of Life Family House is proud to be an official partner of Giving Tuesday 2015.



# THE HOME COOK HEROES PROGRAM

brings volunteer groups to the Family House to prepare healthy, home-cooked dinners each night along with brunch on weekends. Participating groups include families, schools, businesses, service clubs, sports teams and more. We are proud to highlight a special group who has been a strong supporter of our Home Cook Heroes program: Team G\$.

**“Cooking for the Family House has helped us heal and move forward after losing Gary. It feels good to give back and offer support.”**

*Submitted by Trish Reichert, Donor Mom*

“My son, Gary Reichert, passed away suddenly in 2013 and by choosing to donate his organs, he gave the gift of life to four people and restored the sight of two more. We decided to start cooking at the Family House in June of 2014 as a way to honor the life-saving gifts that Gary gave to others, and to help keep his memory alive. “G\$” was Gary’s nickname. We chose to name our group Team G\$ when we first formed our team in 2014 for the Donor DASH, a yearly celebration of organ and tissue donors and the recipients of their life-saving gifts. We decided to continue using it when we came to cook at the Family House.

Team G\$ has become a source of healing for all of us. Our group is made up of my son’s friends and family. His loving girlfriend, Jennifer, sisters Shannon, Courtney and Tiffany, cousins Sherry and Jessica, his great aunt and uncle, Sara and Mercer, and Gary’s beloved niece, Adriana, all helped to make Team G\$ a reality. And our team continues to grow — friends of friends and extended family members participate, some of them never having met Gary! The support and camaraderie of Team G\$ and volunteering for the Family House has become an outlet to help us all honor Gary’s memory and his gifts to those that he saved.

When we come to cook, we always try to do something different, something that hasn’t been served in a while for the house guests. We try to think out of the box. In the past, we made mozzarella stuffed meatballs, homemade Salisbury steaks, root beer floats, homemade soups, tuna casserole, and sloppy joes. We want to make something comforting and delicious that the house guests would make in their own homes for dinner.

Cooking for the Family House has helped us heal and move forward after losing Gary. It feels good to give back and offer support where we can. We enjoy meeting and getting to know Family House guests, staff and interns. We have a great time working together and preparing a meal for everyone to enjoy. Every moment at the Family House is memorable.”



L-R: Jennifer Peatross, Trish Reichert, Tiffany Reichert, Sherry Mangini, Shannon Reichert, Dawn Hartman.

**The Home Cook Heroes program offers a fun and creative way to volunteer in your community, while engaging collaboratively and cooperatively with your family, friends, coworkers or classmates. Groups of up to 10 people can prepare meals (on or off site) and serve them to our guests. All you need to bring is your group and the food, and we will provide everything else in our modern, fully-equipped kitchen. For more information about the Home Cook Heroes program or to sign up, visit [www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](http://www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org)**

## A New Partnership and Collin Loshnowsky

Gift of Life Family House is privileged and grateful to be selected as a 2015 Teva Community Partner in Pennsylvania. Teva Pharmaceuticals is a global pharmaceutical company specializing in generic and specialty pharmaceuticals. Teva is committed to improving not only the healthcare of its consumers — approximately one out of every eight pharmaceutical prescriptions is filled with a Teva product — but to improving the health of the communities it serves. Through selected yearly community partnerships, Teva supports patient and caregiver focused organizations with a goal to improve overall healthcare around the globe.

The partnership opportunity was introduced by Teva Associate Manager and CSC Study Leader Charles “Chuck” Loshnowsky. Featured in the Family House Spring 2015 newsletter, Chuck and his wife, Nicki, have found that volunteering over the last ten years has helped them immensely on their journey





L-R: Kaitlyn Derrick, Jennifer Peatross, Tyler Medina, Kim Scollon.



L-R: Veronica Trapani, Jennifer Peatross, Jessica Roney, Shannon Reichert, Sherry Mangini, Tiffany Reichert, Dave Williams, Adriana Murray (front).



Mercer and Sara Quinby.

## It is a pleasure to recognize Home Cook Hero groups from April-July 2015:

American College of Physicians  
Angels of Christmas  
Anonymous  
AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center  
Augusta Drive Mens Bible Study  
Big Dog's Puppies  
buildOn  
Business Clubs of America  
Butterflies I.N.C.  
Campbell Soup Co. Marketing Interns  
Caracappa and Keller Families  
Children's Hospital Division of Nephrology  
Christ Church  
Community Evangelical Church Youth Group  
Coordinating Council of Frontiers  
International, Philadelphia Club  
Country Day School of the Sacred Heart  
DONORS ARE HEROES Committee  
Eaton / Van Kleunen Families  
Einstein Medical Center SICU  
Einstein Pharmacy  
Einstein Respiratory Department  
Ellen Abrohms & Friends  
Family of David Reczek "Dave's Dinner"  
Four Ladies & Friends  
GAMP Red Cross  
Geekadelphia

Gift of Life Hospital Services Dept.  
Girl Scouts of Central and Southern NJ  
Junior Troop #64355  
Green Polka Dot Pajamas Team  
Hahnemann University Hospital  
Professional Development and Education  
Hearts of Gold  
Hess Family  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania -  
Heart and Vascular SICU  
HUP Respiratory Care  
Hyatt at the Bellevue  
JEFF Transplant Institute  
Jefferson Hospital - 7W  
Kelley/Torhan  
Kim's Krew  
Lankenau Kidney Transplant Program  
Lankenau Medical Center  
Long & Foster - Haverford  
Madeline's Smile  
Margaret Tait & Friends  
Mary Lewitt  
Merck Corporate Group  
Merkle, Inc.  
Morgan Family and Friends  
Morgan Stanley  
Nagorsky Family

National Charity League, Valley Forge  
Chapter  
NewChurch LIVE  
Old First Service Camps  
Olivia Vinicur & Friends  
Patricia Zarkoski & Friends  
Pat's Wings  
Penn Treaty School  
Pennsylvania Hospital  
Pennsylvania Hospital 5  
Cathcart Nursing  
Project Village Restored  
Randon Family  
Rhoads 2 Neuro ICU  
Rutgers Gang  
RyanStrong  
Sam's Spirit  
Saul High School  
Shipley School  
Sistas in the Kitchen and Brothers Too  
Sodexo Dieticians  
Team GS

Team Spiers  
Temple University Staff  
Teva Angels  
Teva Pharmaceuticals Tax Group  
Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.  
The Church of St Ann Youth Group  
The Richard G. Tomaszewski Foundation  
The Timothy School  
Timberbirch Women's Club  
Towers Hall, Drexel University  
TRIO Philadelphia (Transplant Recipients  
International Organization)  
University City Kiwanis Club  
VACEA  
Vanguard  
Verizon Pioneers  
Youth Volunteer Corps

Thank you to our generous community  
partner for their ongoing food donations:  
Starbucks at the Bellevue



Collin Loshnowsky and on May 21, 2015 representatives from Teva along with Chuck and Nicki Loshnowsky visited the Family House to unveil the plaque with Collin's name on it.

As community partners, Teva Pharmaceuticals has not only supported the Family House with a generous financial contribution, but their employees have also been volunteering regularly on-site at the Family House, all thanks to the Loshnowskys' introduction.

ABOVE LEFT L-R: Chuck and Nicki Loshnowsky with Teva Pharmaceutical representatives, Donna Faix, Corporate & Social Responsibility Program Manager and Laurie Thibodeau, Director of Corporate Responsibility.



towards healing after the loss of their son, Collin, in 2004. Collin not only saved the lives of five people as an organ donor, but his legacy, carried on through the kindness and selflessness of his family, has touched countless lives over the last decade.

Teva Pharmaceuticals permanently underwrote the main entrance to the Family House – the vestibule – in memory of





# TOP 3 WAYS



## Organize a Fundraiser!

Gift of Life Family House relies on the financial support of the community in order to keep its doors open for transplant families. Community fundraisers are a huge source of support - from golf outings to bake sales to car washes, there are countless ways to raise funds for the Family House. Be creative and have fun! Fundraisers are also a great way to get your family and friends together for a fun activity or event, all while supporting the transplant families who rely on the Family House as their "home away from home."



## Start an Online Fundraiser!

An Online Fundraiser is one of the easiest and most effective ways to help support the Family House. Simply create a personal fundraising page on CrowdRise ([www.crowdrise.com](http://www.crowdrise.com)) and share it with your friends, family and co-workers! You can set a fundraising goal, add photos and stories, and encourage meaningful contributions that will make a real impact at the Family House. An Online Fundraiser is also a wonderful way to commemorate a special occasion, like your "Transplant-a-versary," make a tribute to a loved one, or celebrate a personal or group achievement, like running a 5K!

## 11th Annual Kidney Open – A Hole-In-One!

It was a beautifully clear and sunny Monday morning in Wilmington, Delaware on August 24th – the perfect backdrop for the 11th Annual Kidney Open Golf Outing, the most successful outing yet! More than 120 golfers came out to support the event – helping the Family House to raise over **\$90,000** net in support of the Adopt-A-Family Program!

This year's golf outing was held at the DuPont Country Club, and hosted by Family House Advisory Board member, Dan Sinnott, of Sinnott Executive Consulting and his good friend, Howard M. Nathan, President and CEO of *Gift of Life Donor Program*. The annual Kidney Open Golf Outing combines a fun day of golf with the benefit of raising funds for the Adopt-A-Family Program. The nightly fee requested from families of only \$40 per night is far below the actual operating cost. Many families cannot afford to pay this fee. With the support of the community, the Family House can keep this fee low, and also keep its promise to never turn a family away simply because they cannot pay.

This year's Kidney Open was a day full of fun, food, and philanthropy as the golfers picked up their goodie bags and official Gift of Life Family House golf polos. Participants played their luck with the 50/50 and raffle prizes, and then headed out on the course to play a scramble-format tournament on this incredible par 71 course, complete with Hole-in-One Car Giveaways and other fun contests and prizes, beverages and snacks. Not your typical Monday afternoon!

As golfers wrapped up their play and headed back to the beautiful veranda overlooking the course for a BBQ dinner and drinks, special guest speaker and past Family House guest, Irfan Patel, stepped up to the podium with his 12-year-old son, Yusuf – a kidney and liver transplant recipient. Irfan spoke of how, not one, but two of his children needed life-saving transplants at very young ages, how *Gift of Life Donor Program* and the Family House forever changed their lives, and how supporters of the Kidney Open truly help families like his own: "We are very much indebted to the Family House for the

comfort it provided us during these difficult times and it continues to provide that much-needed service to many families who make the Family House their secure abode while waiting for the gift of life for their loved ones. How to pay for the accommodation and where to stay should be the last of worries for any family who is already going through so many struggles. And the Family House is the answer to their prayers. One less thing to worry about!"

On behalf of everyone at Gift of Life Family House – especially the guests who call the Family House their "home away from home" – we extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who came out to support this event. And of course, a big THANK YOU to the day's generous sponsors who helped make the 11th Annual Kidney Open Golf Outing truly a "HOLE-IN-ONE!"

### DOUBLE EAGLE SPONSORS

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# TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY HOUSE THIS FALL!

Have you been looking for a group project for you and your family, friends or coworkers - or simply want to set aside some personal time to help others in your community? Gift of Life Family House offers a wide array of opportunities to help support our mission and our transplant families! This fall, we wanted to highlight a few opportunities that may jumpstart your volunteerism. But remember, any other ideas are both welcomed and encouraged – if you have a new idea, contact us today!



## Become a Home Cook Hero!

Haven't been to the House yet or want to show it off to someone you know? One of our most popular volunteer opportunities is our Home Cook Heroes Program. Volunteer groups of up to 10 people can provide, prepare and serve a meal to the transplant patients and families staying at the Family House. Enjoy cooking with your family and friends in our fully equipped kitchen, while seeing first-hand the impact of your service on our guests.



## Organize a Dress Down Day!

Does your company or school have a dress code? Tired of wearing the same old outfits every day? Talk to your supervisor or your teacher and organize a Dress Down Day in support of the Family House! With a small financial contribution, employees or students have the opportunity to dress casually for the day, and will also receive green DONATE LIFE bracelets to show off their support.



## Host a Wish List Drive!

Keeping the Family House stocked with basic home necessities – such as food, toiletries, and pantry items – requires a lot of donated items. This is an excellent activity to involve a large group of people. Grocery store gift cards are also an excellent option to keep our refrigerators stocked with the things we run out of most – milk, eggs and butter! To see a full list of our most in-demand Wish List Items, please visit [www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](http://www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org).



7th Annual No Shower Happy Hour fundraiser hosted by the Nelson family and David's Parrot Party to benefit the Adopt-A-Family program. The event, held at Echos North Wildwood, was in memory of David Nelson Jr. and Helen Hennessey, a lung transplant recipient, and raised over \$10,000!

**SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?** Get started today! For more information, please contact a member of the Family House Development Team at 267-546-9800, or visit our website at [www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](http://www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org).



## Caregiver Lifeline Spotlight

by Talia Giordano, MSW, LSW  
Gift of Life Family House Social Worker

### FINDING SUPPORT NETWORKS

Becoming a transplant patient or transplant caregiver can be difficult, both physically and emotionally. It is common to fear the unknown and become anxious about the "wait list" because it is a completely new journey. Often support from others who are also going through the transplant journey, or have gone through it in the past, can be exactly the type of support a patient or caregiver may need. However, finding this kind of support can prove challenging if you live in a small town or are located far from your transplant hospital. Below are some ways to locate the peer-to-peer support that's right for you.

**The Transplant Hospital** Many transplant hospitals have support groups for patients and their loved ones. The groups are typically held monthly and sometimes are even scheduled around clinic times, in order to make them more convenient for patients. Please talk with your transplant social worker to find out if your hospital holds a transplant support group.

**Coalition Groups** Coalition groups are people who have joined together for a common purpose, such as organ donation and transplantation. In Gift of Life Donor Program's service area, numerous coalition groups meet monthly to discuss ways to educate and inform individuals in the area about the importance of organ and tissue donation. Many of the attendees are transplant candidates or recipients as well as organ and

tissue donor family members. While these groups are not necessarily support groups, they do allow transplant patients to meet families like them in their area, which is a great method to develop new support systems. To find a coalition group in your area, please visit our Caregiver Lifeline webpage at: [www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](http://www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org).

**Peer Mentor Programs** In a peer mentor program, you are paired with another patient or caregiver who has already been through what you are going through. Typically, you would be paired with someone who is around your age, who has successfully been through the same type of transplant and is doing well, both emotionally and physically. Speak with your transplant social worker to see if your hospital has a peer mentor program. Please note, this type of support may be more difficult to come by, since not all transplant hospitals offer peer mentor groups.

**The Internet** The internet offers a surprising amount of support resources for transplant patients! There are hundreds of websites available for transplant patients, which can be wonderful on one hand, but also overwhelming for the typical user. A good place to start for someone who is less internet-savvy is the UNOS-run, patient-friendly site called Transplant Living ([www.transplantliving.org](http://www.transplantliving.org)). It has a community section with stories from other recipients and a way to find support groups in your area.

Another great resource for finding support groups is through Facebook. If you already have a Facebook account, simply go to the main page and search the type of group you are looking for. For instance, a heart transplant patient might search for "heart transplant support group." You can then reach out to the group leader to learn who is a part of the group, what is discussed, if it is a private group, and how to get involved in order to get the most benefits. A great feature of Facebook support groups is they can be accessed from anywhere in the world. In addition, if you are unsure about joining a support group, Facebook is a great way to test the waters in a less intimidating setting while maintaining some anonymity.

If you would like more help locating a support group in your area, please feel free to email us at [CaregiverLifeline@GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](mailto:CaregiverLifeline@GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org). Also, if you are a transplant caregiver, please consider joining our next Transplant Caregiver Support Phone Group!

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.

Contributions of \$50 or more received between APRIL 2015 – JULY 2015

## 2015 Family Circle

Recognizing gifts of \$250+  
to support the annual fund

### HONOR IN PLATINUM [\$5,000+]

Anonymous

### HOPE IN GOLD [\$2,500+]

Grand Lodge Independent Order

of Odd Fellows of New Jersey

**Foot of the Cross Christian Church**

### CARE IN SILVER [\$1,000+]

Anonymous

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Wells Fargo

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### GRACE IN BRONZE [\$500+]

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**Gloucester County Police Chiefs**

**Association**

**John Green**

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IMS Health

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**Merck Foundation**

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**Andrea and Sean Reynolds**

**Richard and Anita Shaffer**

Jessica Sharp

Jay and Pat Souder

**The Tyson Family**

Walmart Store #2141

### COMFORT IN COPPER [\$250+]

Ashley and Robert Adams

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Tibor and Bridget Baksy

Richard and Betty Beltz

The Bethel and Hill Family

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ahoffman@gifttolifefamilyhouse.org to  
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7th Annual No Shower Happy Hour hosted by the David Nelson Jr. Memorial Fund  
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