

# **UPDate**

On May 4, 2017,

GIFT OF LIFE FAMILY HOUSE

celebrated their most generous supporters at the

6th Annual

"Whether you have a personal connection or just believe in the great work of our mission – from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your compassion, your generosity, and your loyal dedication and commitment to our mission. This place of refuge and care would not be here if it was not for you."

—Howard M. Nathan, Founder and President,

Gift of Life Family House

Since 2011, Howard Nathan, along with the Gift of Life Family House team, has honored its Family and Founders' Circle members for their dedication to helping others, and for their financial support of the Family House. New this year, the Family House also recognized the first members of its Legacy Society, a program for planned giving.

Due to the generosity and commitment of those who give financially, the Family House is able to provide a "home away from home" and much needed support



L-R: Bobby Rydell; Howard M. Nathan, President & CEO,
Gift of Life Donor Program; Jan L. Weinstock, Esq., VP Administration & General Counsel,
Gift of Life Donor Program; Rasheena Phinisee; and Assiah Phinisee at the Gift of Life
Family House President's Reception on May 4, 2017.

for people like Merida, a single mother from New York who bravely traveled to Philadelphia for her life-saving transplant. Merida was a guest speaker at the event and shared, "You may never truly know the impact that your generosity has had on my life and on the lives of other transplant families."

This year's program also included two special keynote speakers – singer, actor and '50s icon, Bobby Rydell, and an inspiring eight-year-old author, Assiah Phinisee. Both recipients share a split liver from one generous donor. They received their life-saving liver transplants in 2012.

The event's program was aired live on Facebook and received over 2,400 views.

If you are interested in becoming a Founders' Circle, Family Circle or Legacy Society member and attending our next President's Reception, please visit www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org/support.

RIGHT, L-R: Bernie Gottlieb, Ellen Gottlieb, Susan Pincus, Janice Schwartz-Donahue and Barbara Katz-Chobert.



Gift of Life Family House is proud to spotlight

# Legacy Society

members who have made planned gifts to support the Family House



# **JAY and PAT SOUDER**

are helping secure our future through a bequest.

Jay and Pat Souder had no idea that one day their peaceful lives in the country would be upended. They live on a road that rarely sees two cars in one day.

"It was a shock when they first told me I needed a heart," says Jay, because he didn't feel that ill. "When they told me, 'You're pretty bad now, so let's look into a new heart for you,' that's when reality hit me."

Thankfully, Jay received his gift of life from a generous donor in 2014 and is doing well. Staying at the Family House was an important part of the Souders' transplant journey.

When Jay was listed for transplant, winter was approaching. Doctors advised them that they had a two-hour window to get to Philadelphia once a heart became available. Knowing that the drive can take them three hours or more in bad weather, they made arrangements to stay at the Family House beginning on December 2nd. That all changed when Jay was told

during a visit with his doctor on November 23rd that he needed to be hospitalized immediately. "I was in shock," says Pat. "We weren't prepared." Much to her relief, we had a room for her.

Miraculously, Jay got his heart four weeks later — right before Christmas. "I woke up early Christmas morning so that I could be with Jay in the hospital. I opened the door to my room and there were two gifts for us from the Family House. It was incredibly thoughtful."

Jay was discharged to the Family House on January 5th. They stayed with us through February when he was well enough to go home.

"The Family House was such a benefit to us and we're very grateful," says Pat. As a result, the Souders named the Family House as the beneficiary of their estate. "We don't have children. It's just us and our dog Gracie." The Souders have been married for 36 years.

"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. That's the most important reason that we decided to make this bequest," explains Pat. Their generosity will be an enormous help to us in meeting the needs of transplant families in the future.

Pat notes that setting up their charitable bequest was simple to do. "Every year we meet with our attorney and go over our will. Naming the Gift of Life Family House as our beneficiary was really easy. It was a lot easier than doing our taxes."

The Souders say they felt a strong sense of community and camaraderie while staying at the Family House. "At dinner, we'd push our tables together and socialize with other couples and individuals that we met. It was very helpful to have this outlet, considering what we were all going through," says Pat. More than two years after Jay's transplant, the friendships they formed continue. "We've made wonderful and hopefully lifelong friendships because of the Family House."



Gift of Life Family House invites you to join Jay and Pat Souder in supporting the future of Family House by becoming a member of the Legacy Society.

### **JOINING THE LEGACY SOCIETY IS EASY.**

Simply include the language below in your will directing a charitable gift to the Family House and then let the Family House know about it. Such a bequest can take many forms including cash, stocks, or other gifts of value. A future gift made through a bequest may provide tax advantages that benefit you, your estate and your beneficiaries.

#### When you become a Legacy Society member,

your gift will be acknowledged right away and you will be enrolled in various recognition programs, including an invitation to the yearly President's Reception. Your name will also be published in the Family House's quarterly newsletter and on its website. For members who make bequests of \$10,000 or more, your name will also be added to a special Legacy Society Wall in the Family House's living room.

Sample language for making a bequest: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Gift of Life Family House, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization located at 401 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123, EIN 26-0585694, or its successor-in interest, [insert dollar amount or percentage] for its unrestricted use and purposes."

#### Already have the Family House in your will?

Let us know so we can celebrate your generosity now!

For more information about the Family House and planned giving options or to download a Legacy Society Membership form, visit

#### www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org

As with any tax-deductible gift, you should consult with your tax advisor to determine the degree to which your gift may result in tax advantages to you, your estate, and your beneficiaries.

Your Name Here



On April 19-20, Gift of Life Family House was grateful to welcome back community partner volunteers from Comcast Philadelphia for their 16th Annual Comcast Cares Day!

Comcast Cares Day is a worldwide initiative that brings together thousands of Comcast employees, their families, friends and networks from around the world to volunteer and make change happen in local communities.

Over a two day span, volunteers from Comcast's Tax Accounting team worked hard to make a difference at the Family House by assisting with special projects like painting, repairs, planting flowers and gardening, cleaning, and cooking meals for the families in residence! Volunteers even utilized their artistic skills by painting a beautiful butterfly mural in the lower level of the Family House.





Volunteers from Comcast's Tax Accounting team

We are thankful to the Comcast volunteers for their time, passion and dedication to the Gift of Life Family House mission!

# Is your company looking to partner with a nonprofit organization?

Through volunteerism, sponsorships, grants and program support, hundreds of corporations like Comcast have partnered with Gift of Life Family House to support transplant patients and their families. In return, corporations receive unique recognition and brand visibility through our various communications and social media platforms as well as opportunities for employee team building activities and ways to engage and reconnect with clients.

Gift of Life Family House invites you to join this growing group of corporate partners – who help provide a "home away from home" to transplant families. If your business or corporation is interested in supporting programs, events or other initiatives at Gift of Life Family House, we would be happy to help build an impactful partnership.

For more information contact Sara Cohen, Development Manager at scohen@giftoflifefamilyhouse.org or call 267-546-9812.

# Future Business Leaders of America

#### to Create Awareness and Support Transplant Families

Students of the Souderton Area High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently hosted a bingo fundraiser to raise funds for Gift of Life Family House as well as raise awareness for organ and tissue donation as part of their community service project.

The fundraiser involved several FBLA students including Jayme Barnett, whose father received a life-saving liver transplant in September of 2016.

Students of the Souderton Area High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). L-R: Ashley Nguyen, Jayme Barnett, and Saba Ahmed.



"The mission of Gift of Life is important to me, especially now since my father received a transplant that saved his life. My focus for this project was to be able to educate others on organ and tissue donor awareness, and help the mission that has saved so many lives. I also wanted to support those who are going through the transplant process at the Family House."

-Jayme Barnett

On March 29, 2017, members of the FBLA proudly presented the \$3,000 proceeds, which will benefit the Family House's Adopt-A-Family Program.

In addition, the FBLA group has established an Adopt-A-Blanket campaign where donations are collected to support materials to make blankets. With these supplies, students make warm, colorful fleece blankets for transplant patients and their families staying at the Family House. To date, the group has distributed over 100 blankets to transplant families.

This project also served as their platform at the FBLA state leadership conference in Hershey, PA in April, where the group placed fifth in the state for their community service project presentation. Congratulations to the Souderton Area FBLA and many thanks!





The 13th Annual Kidney Open Golf Outing is just around the corner. You're invited to join us on Monday, August 28, 2017 for an exciting day of golf, networking and great food at the exclusive DuPont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware. All proceeds will support the Adopt-A-Family Program at Gift of Life Family House! Sponsorship packages and golf spots are now available and registration is open. For more information, visit

www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org



The Home Cook Heroes program continues to offer volunteers a fun and creative way to support the Family House!

Groups of up to 10 people can prepare meals, on or off site, and serve them to our guests. Bring your volunteer group and 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.

#### The Family House is thrilled to recognize Home Cook Hero groups from February – April 2017

3 West Rehah Abington - Jefferson Health CSU Alpha Delta Mu, Social Work Honor Society Angels of Christmas, Inc. Anonymous

Arcadia for a Better Community Aria Jefferson Frankford Campus **Emergency Department** 

AtlantiCare - Diabetes Team **AtlantiCare Business Office AtlantiCare Coding and Clinical Quality** 

**AtlantiCare Palliative Care** Beach, Neher and Daley Families

**Beneficial Bank Bonnette Family Burnside Family** 

Butterflies LN C Carla Levins and Friends

**CCP Sociology** Chicks in the Pantry and Rooster John

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: **PICU Nurses** 

Christ Luterhan Church Comcast Cares Day! DaVita Medical Group House Calls Team **Drexel Dragons for Donation** Drexel ESD

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MICU Reading Health System Middletown Anesthesia Moorestown Jewish Association **Multicultural Affairs Coalition** NCL - Valley Forge Chapter

**New Vision Pioneers** 

NewChurch LIVE Nish and Family Parkland HS SADD Pat and Peter's Pals

Patrice Green **Pat's Wings** 

Patsy's ShamRocks **Pattinson Family** 

Penn Medicine Chester County Hospital -**Emergency Nurses** 

Philadelphia College of Pharmacy's Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy

Philly Gifted

Phoenixville Area High School, Youth and Philanthropy

Phoenixville HOSA Puja Peruto and Friends Purposeful Playgroup

Royal Disturbance **Rutgers Gang** 

Saint Basil Academy Sonny Days

St. Augustine Parish

St. Dorothy School Team Flossie

Team Jenna

Team Spiers

Temple of Deliverence Teen Ministry Temple Transplant Team

Temple University Business English Lingua Franca

Temple University Hospital **Heart Transplant** 

The Jacobs Family The McMahon Family

The Nutt Family The Pironti Family

Timberbirch Women's Club TJUH - 7West

Troop 5029

**University City Kiwanis** 

**UVA Club of Philly** Valentina Souprountchouk and Friends Villante Family

West Chester University Phi Sigma Pi West Chester University Phi Sigma Pi Alpha Epsilon

Thank you to our generous community partner for their ongoing food donations:

Starbucks at the Bellevue

BOLD = Home Cook Hero All Star

All-Stars are committed volunteer groups who provide a meal to Family House guests through the Home Cook Heroes program at least 12 times in a calendar year.





# Spotlight

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

# Finding Support through your Hospital Chaplain

The transplant journey can bring up many different emotions, questions, and even doubts about your spiritual or religious belief system. For some, faith and spirituality may grow during this time, while for others it raises questions and doubts. Hospital/medical chaplains can offer support and comfort for you and your family regardless of faith, spirituality, practices, or belief system. Chaplains are professionally trained individuals who reach across all faith lines to support patients and their families during a difficult medical time.

## How can the Chaplain help you during the transplant process?

### Be an additional support person by providing a listening ear chan

by providing a listening ear Chaplains can offer a warm, compassionate, and judgment-free presence. There may be times when at the hospital you feel lonely, anxious, angry, or confused. Talking with the chaplain about your experiences and feelings may help you feel better. Chaplains recognize that patients and families come from different cultural and religious backgrounds and their goal is to offer you guidance and support in line with your beliefs and comfort level, not force their own beliefs on you. Along with offering support, a chaplain can lend an ear to simply hear your fears and celebrate your joys. Whether you are deeply spiritual, do not believe in a specific religion, or fall somewhere

in between, you may want someone to talk to and hear your thoughts. Chaplains can be a sounding board for you, and even offer support around decision making and finding meaning in your own or a loved one's illness.

#### Support your beliefs and practices

and provide quidance Faith can impact one's emotional and physical well-being and chaplains can help you strengthen your spiritual health, if desired. This can be in the form of discussing faith-based questions you may have or discussing uncertainties about what you are going through. It can be a conversation around deepening your beliefs. A chaplain may be able to help you with your spiritual needs, such as lending you a Bible, prayer rug, Sabbath candles, etc. Although the resources available will vary among different hospitals, chaplains want to support you and address your spiritual needs in any way that they can. Additionally there may be a time when you want to participate in a religious ritual or receive a sacrament – the chaplain can help you by leading, scheduling, and sometimes even designing these rituals and sacraments. They can also pray with you and for you at any time – while you are at the hospital with the patient for a transplant evaluation, post-transplant appointment, during a hospitalization, while you or the patient is waiting to go into transplant surgery, or while you are visiting the patient in recovery.

Help you connect or reconnect Is there someone you would like to connect or reconnect with? Chaplains can act as mediators or reconcilers when needed. They can also help you connect to a faith community or with a particular belief system. If you would like someone from your faith community to visit, a chaplain may be able to coordinate this visit as well.

Hospital chaplains are typically available between Monday and Friday, but at many hospitals, services are available 24 hours a day. Contact your hospital chaplaincy office or speak to your transplant social worker or nurse for specific information regarding their services and your needs. Additionally, please feel free to contact the Caregiver Lifeline Program Social Worker at CaregiverLifeline@GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org.

### To our most gracious contributors:



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 FEBRUARY 2017 - MARCH 2017

#### Founders' Circle

PARTNER OF CARE [\$50,000+]

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#### **2016 Family Circle**

[GIFTS of \$250+] to support the annual fund

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ITALIC = upgraded member BOLD = renewed member

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#### The Legacy Garden **Paver Program**

Thank you to those who dedicated an engraved paver

The Dorfman Family George Flocco of BEDC

Nan Hazelnis

Merkle King of Prussia

The Patients and Caregivers HUP Lung Transplant Support Group

We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you contact Samantha Oliphant at soliphant@giftoflifefamilyhouse.org to report any corrections.

**Amazon Wish List Drives** 

**BNP Paribas Financial Services** 

coordinated by:

Jodi Boyd

## Thank you to our volunteers in the community for coordinating fundraising events, Wish List Drives and CrowdRise fundraisers to support the mission of Gift of Life Family House.

#### Fundraising Events

The Aisling & Olivia Fun Run and Remembrance Walk

**Dance Action of Newtown Student Fundraiser** 

Family House Fundraiser hosted by "Papa Carl" Anderson

Family House Fundraiser hosted by Jodi Boyd

Family House Fundraiser hosted by Weidner's Deli

Initials Inc Party hosted by Lisa Litchkowski

RyanStrong 5K Run or Walk

**Souderton Area High School Future Business Leaders** 

Team Matt collection benefiting Gift of Life Family House

WeeUsables Stuff-A-Bag Charity Fundraiser

of America Bingo Fundraiser

#### Wish List Drives coordinated by:

**Stacy Arnold** 

**Pam Bates** 

Be a Giver, Inc.

Caroline's Crusaders

**Orefield Middle School** 

**David Snyder** 

**Team Fritz** 

**Donna and Richard Waechter** 

Lisa Willis

#### **CrowdRise Fundraisers**

**CTI Cares** 

**Domingo Pena's 70th Birthday Skydiving** 

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