



UPDate

Make this your
**BEST
BIRTHDAY
YET**



by pledging to raise money for transplant families
at Gift of Life Family House!

Celebrate your special day by supporting transplant families at Gift of Life Family House and make this your "Best Birthday Yet"!

Ask your family and friends to join you.

This year on your birthday, instead of asking for a gift, ask them to make a donation to support families seeking life-saving transplant care far from home.

**Make this your "Best Birthday Yet"
by giving the gift of home!**

At the Family House, transplant families have a comfortable bed to sleep in, a warm, home-cooked meal each evening, rides to and from the hospital for doctor's appointments, and access to a licensed social work team and community of other families who understand what the transplant journey is like.

You and your loved ones can make this your best birthday yet and give the gift of home to a family in need of support.

Anthony and his mother, Teresa, stayed at the Family House while his father, Joe, received treatment for his liver transplant in Philadelphia. They became his caregivers while they supported Joe during his treatment and recovery. "As a caregiver, you focus on the patient and less on yourself," Anthony says. "At the Family House, there's someone to focus on you."

When Anthony's birthday came around, he decided to use it as an opportunity to support families like his staying at the Family House. "My Facebook friends know about my father's transplant and I thought I could use my experience to help other families like ours," Anthony says. "It's hard to go through something like transplant and not be changed by it. I want to help out as much as I can."

Anthony and his family

Anthony's fundraiser ran for two weeks on Facebook, and with the help of the people he loves, he exceeded his fundraising goal!



James and his sister, Kristen

"I gave up my birthday for the Family House because everything it does for families is more important than any material gift I could've received," he says.

James gave up his birthday for the Family House in memory of his sister, Kristen, who passed away while waiting for a liver transplant. James stayed at the Family House with his family while Kristen saw doctors in Philadelphia.

8th Annual PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

This past May Gift of Life Family House celebrated its community of generous supporters and a year of amazing growth during its 8th annual President's Reception. Howard M. Nathan, Founder & President, gave remarks along with Jan Weinstock, Vice President and Administration & General Counsel for *Gift of Life*, Tibor Baksy, a former Family House guest, and Cherri Gregg, community affairs reporter for KYW Newsradio.

We are so proud to be part of a community that truly understands what families go through during the transplant journey. We are also so grateful that our community is willing to take the next step and help us sustain our programs.

Since opening our doors, we've offered over 60,000 lodging nights of care and have served over 222,000 home-cooked meals, along



Our construction theme celebrated some changes coming to the Family House including our brand new van and the conversion of space into two new guest rooms. L-R: Leah Zenker, Anne Rooker and Diane Milbourne

with offering support groups, rides to and from the hospital, free laundry services, access to a full-service kitchen and fully-stocked pantry, a beautiful garden to relax in, and so much more.

Tibor Baksy, who stayed at the Family House while his infant son John Paul received a life-saving liver transplant, said in his remarks: "This House provided not only a bed—it provided hope for us, it provided understanding, it provided a place of peace, and it provided love...and I didn't know it at the time, but we needed all those things."

Thanks to our community, there was someone to take care of Tibor, his wife, and their other children while they all cared for John Paul.

Our Keynote Speaker, Cherri Gregg, also reminded us just how important a place to call home is. "Home is the place where there is love and resilience," she said. "It's also the place where we have the important conversations and where we share our laughter and tears." The Family House truly is a "home away from home" for so many families and we are so grateful that you choose to support us.



Music was provided by "The Bone Tones," resident band and our friends from MTF Biologics; BELOW: John Paul Baksy holding the Family House Challenge Coin

We've connected hundreds of transplant families with support systems and friendships they'll take with them outside of the walls of the Family House. Together, we give these families the strength to move forward and take on whatever's next in their transplant journeys.

Thanks to people like you, we were able to move forward here at the Family House, too, with a brand new shuttle and a plan to convert already existing space here at the House into two new guest rooms. Now, in 2019 and beyond, we will be able to help our guests get to and from their doctor's appointments more comfortably and serve more of those who come through our doors each day.



At the 8th annual President's Reception, we also presented our first ever Family House challenge coins to these special members of our community to say thank you for supporting transplant families. The coins are engraved with values we hold dear: family, community, compassion, generosity, service, and commitment. Our community has displayed these values time and time again and we couldn't be more grateful to have them by our side.

Transplant families often have no idea how long they will need to stay at the Family House. So much depends on the success of their loved one's progress. The longer families are uprooted from their everyday lives, the more help they will need.

In 2018, our community hosted

143
individual
BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISERS
to support transplant families
at the Family House.

you
CAN HOST ONE, TOO!

Let your loved ones know that the transplant families traveling to Philadelphia for life-saving care are on your mind and that a contribution to the Family House would not only support them during one of the hardest times in their lives, but that it would be a great way to celebrate you, too!

To learn more about pledging your birthday

to give the gift of home to transplant families at Gift of Life Family House, visit our website at

GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org

SIGN UP NOW

and we'll send you an email reminder
as your special day approaches along with tools
to help make your fundraiser
as fun and successful as possible!



Howard M. Nathan, Founder & President, and Jan Weinstock, Vice President and Administration & General Counsel for *Gift of Life*, pose with Tibor Baksy, his wife Bridget and their six children John Paul, Tibor Jr., Ann Marie, Matthew, Isabel and Mark

FACES

Donna and Nicole

“I sent [my brothers and sisters] photos and took them on a video tour of the Family House,” Nicole says. “Instantly, they all felt at ease knowing mom and I were okay.”

A few years earlier, when Donna Jones was diagnosed with three different, simultaneous lung infections, the mother of four found herself in need of care and a “home away from home.”

“I’ve always been a very active mom and grandmother,” Donna says. “But as I got sicker and sicker, I was really grateful to have my children be there for me.”

As Donna’s condition worsened, her daughter Nicole and her siblings decided together it would be best for their mom to have someone stay with and care for her. Nicole offered to move in with her mom and help her care for the house, her pets, and herself.

Donna suffered a collapsed lung in 2012 but was able to recover. Although she was moving more slowly than she was used to, she was able to attend one of her children’s weddings and continue working from home as an IT consultant.

Tragedy struck again on New Year’s Eve in 2015 when Donna suffered another collapsed lung. This time her doctors suggested she be listed for a life-saving lung transplant. Donna would remain on oxygen and require around the clock care until an organ became available for her.

Thankfully, Nicole was able to be by her mom’s side.

Donna received “the call” that a donor organ had become available in December of 2018. Together, she and Nicole quickly left their home in Maryland to make the two hour drive to Philadelphia. As soon as they arrived at the hospital, Donna was immediately taken to surgery to receive her precious gift of life.

While at the hospital, Nicole reassured her siblings: “I got mom,” she said.

After her transplant, Donna spent 21 days in the ICU and 18 days in inpatient therapy. Afterwards, she and Nicole came to stay at Gift of Life Family House so she could remain close to her doctors.

“I would recommend this place to anyone—it’s a comforting and loving environment,” Nicole says. “You get to talk to people at all points in the transplant journey.”

of the Family House



Nicole (left) and her mom, Donna (right), a bilateral lung recipient, at the Family House

Although Nicole was the only one of Donna’s children to stay with her at the Family House, the others felt so comforted knowing that their mother had a safe place to stay.

“I sent them photos and took them on a video tour,” Nicole says. “Instantly, they all felt at ease knowing mom and I were okay.”

“You make a family here,” Donna adds. “We all exchange phone numbers. You learn from others. You encourage them. You can really feel the love.”

Although all of Donna’s children could not be at her side as Nicole was, they all supported their mother in different ways. While she was in the ICU after her transplant, they visited and brought her grandchildren down to keep her company.

To help her son understand what happened to his grandmother, one of Donna’s daughters wrote the book “My Nonna’s Boo Boo” to teach him about her lung transplant.

Donna’s transplant journey brought her and her children closer together. “This was a very emotional journey,” Nicole says. “I don’t regret anything, especially if it means that I can have my mom around. I just want her to get back to the person she misses being.”

“I am so grateful to have Nicole in my life,” Donna says. “She does everything for me. I am so blessed.”

Here at the Family House, mothers and daughters like Donna and Nicole can stay together and take care of each other while they navigate the difficult transplant journey. Other family members can also find comfort in knowing their loved one has a safe place to stay during a stressful time. Donna was able to recover after receiving her precious gift of life from an incredibly selfless donor and Nicole was not only able to take care of her, but find the comfort and support she needed as her mom’s caregiver as well.

HOME COOK

Heroes

The Family House is proud to recognize volunteer groups who supported the Home Cook Heroes program from January – April 2019

3NE Thomas Jefferson University
5 Lenfest West Abington/
Jefferson Hospital
Accolade
Accounting & Financial
Women’s Alliance
Alpha Phi Omega: Alpha Gamma Iota
AmeriHealth Care Crew
APO: AGI
April and Roman
Atlanticare – 2 Meadow
Atlanticare PCU
Avalon Friends
BAYADA Home Health Care
Beneficial Bank
Blazers Bantam AA Ice Hockey Team
Burnside/Ritter Family
Care Crew (AmeriHealth Caritas)
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia –
Service Desk
CHOP PICU
Christ Lutheran Church
Circle of Friends
Columbus Forum 1492 (OSHA)
Comcast Cares Day
Comhar
Congregation M’kor Shalom
Cooking Club
Crozer Chester Medical Center
Delta Sigma Pi
DJ’s Family Support
Dragons for Donations
Drexel Gamma Sigma Sigma
Drexel University College of Medicine
Eaton/Van Kleunen
Ed’s Eyes
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
Family House Staff
Five Below – Legal Team
Four Ladies & Friends
Franklin Towne Charter
High School – NHS
Furloughed Friends
Gamma Sigma Sigma Drexel University
Georgetown Club of Philadelphia
Gift of Life CR Department
Girl Scout Troop #2674
Girl Scout Troop 7192
Girlfriends
Grant Thornton
Hamon Family
Home2Suites by Hilton
Honoring Jerry
Hospital of UPenn MICU
Hyatt at the Bellevue
Independence Blue Cross, Blue Crew
Inspira Health Network
Jefferson Center City Med ICU
Jefferson Health NJ Surgical Services

Jefferson Hospital – 5W Heart Failure
Jefferson Hospital Center City Med ICU
Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience
NICU
Jefferson Intensive Care Nursery
Jefferson Nursing
Jefferson Nursing Students
Kingston Girl Scout Troop #30140
La Famiglia dei Fratelli
Lankenau Kidney Transplant
Lankenau Surgical Stepdown
Lara’s Forever Friends
Links
Long and Foster Haverford
Lourdes SED
Madison’s Girl Scout Bronze Award
Main Line Health Home Care
and Hospice
Mason Family
Mason’s Mission
Maven Communications
MGSOSA
Mona Lisas Club
Motion Recruitment Partners
Mount Holly Elks #848
MTF Biologics

NCL – Valley Forge Chapter
Neumann University Student Nurses’
Association
New Vision Pioneers
NewChurch LIVE
Pat’s Wings
Path to the Plate
Pattinson Family
PCP - SSHP
Pedrick Family
Penn Medicine – Silverstein 10
Penn Medicine Chester County
ER Nurses
Penney Girls Foundation
Phoenixville Area High School
Philadelphia ALA
Philly Chapter USPCA
Pi Beta Phi
Poplawski/Jordan Family
PopPop’s Super Bowl Champions
Presby NICU Brain Trust
Rand Nation
Random Family
Rodriguez Family
Rutgers Gang
Seer Interactive

Siena’s Birthday Wish
Silverstein 10
Sonesta Hotel Philadelphia
Southeast Pennsylvania
Ambassador Group
St. Augustine Parish
St. Francis Nursing School
Stacy Raynor
Stephanie and Friends
Talia’s Biggest Fans
TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
Team Flossie
Team Kellie
Team Shea
Team Spiers
Temple 6 East
Temple Diabetes
Temple Transplant Team
Temple University Hospital MRICU
The Bellevue
The Conrads
The Eckerles
The Episcopal Academy
The Jones Girls
The Lawrence School
The Rivera, Muwwakkil, Creamer Family

The Saturday Club
Thomas Jefferson SICU
Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital ED
Tierney
TJUH Neuro ICU
Travers and Porter
TUSP ODA
United National Miss Noelle Mililo
University City Kiwanis
UPMC Susquehanna Williamsport Hospital
Wawa
Wills Eye Hospital & Lindley-Olney Lions

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.

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





Caregiver Lifeline Spotlight

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

Preparing for a Transplant

Preparing for a transplant can be overwhelming for patients and families alike. Below are some ideas of topics and questions you can ask your team as you begin to anticipate the transplant journey and life afterwards.

1. Learn about your transplant

- Navigate the transplant process with help from our Caregiver Lifeline Program:
<https://www.giftoflifefamilyhouse.org/bridge-caregiver-support/>
- Visit other trusted websites for information about transplant, like TransplantLiving.org, UNOS.org, Organdonor.org, and other trusted disease specific organizations



You're invited!

15TH ANNUAL KIDNEY OPEN GOLF OUTING

Hosted by Howard M. Nathan and Dan Sinnott

You can support transplant families at Gift of Life Family House by enjoying a beautiful day of golf on

Monday, August 26, 2019
at the
DuPont Country Club
in Wilmington, DE.

All proceeds will go towards our Adopt-A-Family Program. Registration is still open and sponsorship packages are available!

Anyone can participate! Register today at
GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org

2. Ask your medical team questions

- “What is required during a transplant evaluation?”
- “What will the surgery be like?”
- “How much time do I/patient have to get to the hospital when we get the ‘call’?”
- “What will the hospitalization for the transplant and recovery be like?”
- “Where will I/patient go after discharge?”
- “How many medications will I/patient be on after transplant and what are the side-effects?”
- “How often and for how long will I/patient need to be seen at the transplant center after my transplant?”
- “What will my/patient’s physical limitations after the transplant?”

3. Plan for the financial impact of transplant

- For the transplant financial coordinator – “What will the cost of the transplant be, what will my insurance cover, what will be the new RX costs?”
- Research additional financial support opportunities through health insurance
» Some insurances may have a caregiver stipend or a travel and lodging benefit – contact them directly or your transplant social worker
- Research fundraising for transplant through trusted organizations like Help Hope Live, National Foundation for Transplants and Children’s Organ Transplant Assistance
- Consider transferring paper bills to electronic bills in case you are away from home for an extended period for the transplant

4. Ask your employer questions about being out of work

- “How much paid time off/vacation time will be available?”
- “Can co-workers donate PTO/vacation time to me?”
- “How do I apply for Family Medical Leave Act benefit (FMLA)?”
- “How long can I maintain my health insurance benefit if out of work and what will the cost be?”
- “What is my/patient Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability benefit?”

5. Prepare for being in the hospital or away from home for a time for the transplant surgery

- Discuss who will assist with daily household chores/items when away like mail collection, trash removal, or pet care
- Identify what will be in your “hospital bag”
» A few changes of clothes; an entertainment source (iPad, music, games, books, etc.); cell phone and cell phone charger; list of contact names and numbers for sharing updates; pictures of family, friends, and pets to keep in the hospital room; other items to pass the time (coloring books, knitting/crocheting, meditation, etc.)

6. Identify your support networks

- Who are your personal and professional support networks? Your list, which should include phone numbers, may include family, friends, spiritual or church community members, hospital/transplant social workers and other support professionals, as well as other community members within your home and transplant community.
- Visit our website to find in person or online support groups

TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS: THANK YOU

for your partnership in helping us care
for transplant patients and their families
at Gift of Life Family House.

Contributions of \$250 or more received between JANUARY 2019 – APRIL 2019

Founders’ Circle

[GIFTS OF \$10,000+]
Current members who have made renewed gifts of \$10,000 or more

Anonymous
Bridge to Life, Ltd.
Jean and Sam Jones
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

2019 Family Circle

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

HONOR IN PLATINUM [\$5,000+]

Jean and Sam Jones

CARE IN SILVER [\$1,000+]

Larry and Diane Beard
Richard and Betty Beltz
DaVita Franklin Dialysis Center
Michael Fitzgerald
Fox & Roach Charities

Annetta Good
Dr. Pamela Horn

Krysta Hankee Memorial
Scholarship Fund

Matthew Reabold Memorial Fund
Cary Moritz, Esq. and Michael Moritz, MD
Juan Ramos
Ryan Lee Mohn Memorial Foundation

Analise and Americo Santos
John and Brenda Scanelli
Transplant Alliance Foundation, Inc.
Carole Vaught
Walmart #6332
Wells Fargo
Harold and Janet Whartnaby

GRACE IN BRONZE [\$500+]

Kelly and Andy Albright
Antonella and Scott Beck
Catie and Lexi Becker
Robert and Heather Bonthron
Jim and Karen Carns
William and Marilyn Cody
Crossfit Kazam
Jon Davis
Jim and Lynn Dever
Harris and Debra Devor
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Harvey and Rosalie Goldberg
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Peggy Kelly
MTF Biologics
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Merck Foundation
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Page Consulting LLC
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Lori and John Peruto, Esqs.
Terri Lathan and Darryl Price
Andrea and Sean Reynolds
Robin and Fred Robbins and Ben and Caroline Batoff
Scott and Vickie Sayles
Debra and Carl Fritz
Beth and Gary Wierbowski

COMFORT IN COPPER [\$250+]

Anonymous
Paul Albert
Pearl Andes-House
Debjani and Satya Bhoumik
Eugene and Patricia Blum
Gary and Clari Blum
Barbara and Robert Bowie
Donald and Sarah Carter
Jennifer Clune
Cocalico Middle School Faculty Fund
Chris and Sharon Crooker
Stephen and Priscilla Demosky
Donna Dick
Friends of Darra Bigelow
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Brenda Gervato
Dr. and Mrs. Mehdi and Christine Haririan
Kay and Charles Hays
Haskell Hughes
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La Famiglia Dei Frantelli
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Evan, Debra and Jeff Morgan
Bud Murphy

Marie and Donald Orlovsky
Maryellen and Walt Paget
Peter and Nancy Parsons
Ruth Peachey
The Raymond Family
Sean Rhoads and Keri Fisher
Shannon Sensenig
Stephanie Severn
Jay and Pat Souder
Howard and Norma Sudler
William Sweeney
William and Theresa Thorp

Christine Tierney
Nancy Tindall
Maria Tserkis
John and Evelyn Valentin
Thomas Wallrich
Robert G. Walsh, Sr.
Jan L. Weinstock, Esq.
Kathy Yandle and Rick Miller
Kitching Yau

ITALIC = upgraded member
BOLD = renewed member

The Legacy Garden Paver Program

Thank you to those who dedicated an engraved paver

Nancy Witty
In memory of Robert O Witty

We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you contact us at 267-546-9812 to report any corrections.

Due to space constraints, honor/memorial gifts and supporter gifts are no longer listed in the newsletter.

Welcome Home Club Heart Members

Recognizing monthly contributors who donate \$21 or more per month

NEW Member
Judy Mueller

thank you to our volunteers 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

Cocalico Middle School Faculty Fund
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

The Lawrenceville School
MTF Biologics

Wish List Drives

Catie and Lexi Becker
Christiana Care Health Services
Cristin Nicoletti
Elonda Taliaferro
French International School of Philadelphia
Girl Scouts and Madison Baylor
Glenn Baker
Kathy Moon

The Mona Lisas
Mt. Holly Elks #848 and Karen Van Brunt
New Gethsemane Baptist Church and LaVerne Clark
New Jersey DeMolay
Amanda Beltz
Pennridge High School
Team Spiers



Wish List donations from Girl Scouts

JOIN THE  **WELCOME Home CLUB TODAY!**

Giving a little each month—a small commitment from you—truly makes a big difference in the lives of our transplant families.

When you make a monthly gift, you’ll not only help families now, but you’ll help families months from now. You’ll help create this week’s support group, give our guests access to our kitchen next month, and support a family’s stay at the Family House when they need it most. A monthly gift shows you’re committed to being by their sides.

If you haven’t already, will you join our Welcome Home Club today?
Visit GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org for details.

Also, 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!

To make a contribution to Gift of Life Family House, please visit 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