



**GIFT of LIFE**  
**Family House**  
 GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org

# UPDATE

2020 SPRING CAMPAIGN

# GIVE transplant families A PLACE TO CALL HOME



Families from all over the country travel to Philadelphia for life-saving organ transplant treatment because of its world-class hospitals and programs. Many don't know how long they'll need to stay because the transplant journey can be so unpredictable... and when days turn into weeks and weeks turn into months, it can become incredibly overwhelming.

For some, finances may be stretched thin because a family member has had to take time off work or leave their job to care for a loved one. For others, this could be their first trip to a big, unfamiliar city...they might not know how to navigate the neighborhoods and traffic, find somewhere to eat a meal, or even where to park their car.

At the end of a long day, these transplant families need a place to rest and be supported.

They need a place to call home.



**Doreen, Justine and their family during one of their first visits to the Family House in 2012**

## Will you give them A PLACE TO CALL HOME?

Since 2011, the Family House has welcomed home hundreds of transplant families going through an incredibly stressful time in their lives. When they stay with us, they receive a warm, cozy bed to sleep in, a home-cooked meal for dinner each night, a ride to and from the hospital for their doctor's appointments on our shuttle and support from a licensed social work team and network of other transplant families who understand what they're going through.

## For families like Doreen's, IT WAS JUST WHAT THEY NEEDED.

"It's hard to put into words how much the Family House really means to us," Doreen says. "I don't know what we would have done without it."

Doreen's daughter Justine received two double lung transplants. Over the years, their family stayed at the Family House for 195 nights...and it became their place to call home.

When Justine was 15 years old, she was diagnosed with primary pulmonary hypertension and was given six months to live. Thankfully, she received her first transplant in 2012 because of the selfless decision of a donor and family. For the next eight years, however, her doctors treated her for chronic rejection. Ultimately, Justine and her family learned she would need another transplant to save her life. She was placed on the waiting list again and received her second life-saving transplant in August 2019.

For both of her transplants, Justine was hospitalized in Philadelphia—almost two hours from her home in New Jersey. Her mom was always right by her side.

**“My job as a mom is to be here and care for my daughter,”** Doreen says. “There is no way I’d ever leave her alone. Justine needed to know someone was here to support her.”

Doreen lived out of the hospital. She slept in a recliner right by her daughter’s bedside and ate her meals from the cafeteria. “My family and I decided the hospital was the best place for me to be,” she says.

While Doreen stayed with Justine, her husband and three sons remained home in New Jersey...but it was important for them to spend time together.

The Family House helped them be a family again by becoming their home away from home on the weekends.

**“It was so nice to have my boys come visit and know they could stay at such a wonderful place.”**



Doreen and Justine during their first stay at the Family House in 2012

When Justine was discharged from the hospital following her transplants, she and her mom came home to the Family House for her recovery.

The Family House not only provided them with a comfortable room to stay in, a warm meal each night, and transportation to and from her post-transplant appointments, but also introduced them to other people who understood what they were going through.

“We could sit down and talk to families who understood what we felt,” Doreen says. “You didn’t have to feel so overwhelmed...it was like you were staying at home—like with one big family.”

**Make a gift to**  
**PROVIDE FAMILIES LIKE ANGEL'S**  
**a place to call home.**

Angel used to wake up each morning to do something he loved—going to his job as a truck driver. When he was driving, he felt free.

However, when he began to suffer from kidney problems, he couldn’t work as much as he wanted. As his condition worsened, he was forced to go on dialysis. Eventually he had to stop working entirely.

Angel found out he would need a kidney transplant and began traveling two hours from his home in Wilkes-Barre, PA to Philadelphia for his testing and appointments.

This became difficult for him and his family members. To be on time for his 8 a.m. appointment at the hospital, he would have to leave his home at 5 a.m. This meant his older children would need to help get their younger siblings ready for school. Angel’s girlfriend would also have to take the day off work to accompany him.

Through the difficulties, Angel’s family members remained supportive. Many were tested to see if they could donate a kidney to him. Angel’s mom Kirsy was a match...but she lived all the way in Boston and would need somewhere to stay.

During their transplant journey, Angel and his mom needed a place to call home.

Thankfully, when they were discharged from the hospital after a successful transplant, they could both recover together at the Family House with love and support from their family and our staff.



ABOVE: Angel with his mother and living donor Kirsy at the Family House; OPPOSITE PAGE ABOVE, L-R: Angel’s son, Noah; Kirsy at the hospital



**“Staying at the Family House was very much like being home,”** Angel says. **“My family also stayed there to help care for us. We felt very comfortable.”**

During his stay, Angel also connected with other kidney transplant patients. “It was a great experience to learn from other people,” he says. “I felt like the best way to recover from the transplant journey was to be at the Family House. My mom and I had everything we needed.”

**SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Independent Order of Odd Fellows**  
**New Jersey**

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows New Jersey (IOOFNJ) has been a longtime supporter of the Family House mission.

Former grandmaster, heart transplant recipient and wonderful friend, the late Harold Delhagen, connected our two missions many years ago, and since, IOOFNJ has made a real difference in the lives of transplant families.

They supported our initial capital campaign to help build the Family House and open our doors by underwriting one of our guest rooms. They’ve helped transplant families who couldn’t afford our nightly fee with a contribution to our Adopt-A-Family program. Additionally, IOOFNJ has volunteered on many occasions in our kitchen to provide warm, home-cooked meals to our guests in the evenings as part of our Home Cook Heroes program.



*Give transplant families*  
**A PLACE TO CALL HOME**  
by supporting the Family House  
**2020 Spring Campaign**

Consider a tax-deductible gift to the Family House or put your values in action with a commitment to support transplant families each month through our Welcome Home Club for Monthly Giving.

Sign up to give \$21 or more each month between March 1st and May 1st and you will receive a Family House t-shirt you can wear to proudly support our mission.

For your convenience, use the enclosed envelope or make a gift online at  
**GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org**



Most recently, they generously committed to a multi-year sponsorship of our shuttle program to help bring transplant patients and their family members back and forth from Philadelphia hospitals and the Family House.

This contribution to our mission helps provide a much needed service to our guests so they don’t have to navigate an unfamiliar city or pay expensive parking fees while caring for a loved one undergoing the transplant process.

In 2019 alone, their support helped us travel over 16,000 miles to provide more than 1,100 trips to and from Philadelphia hospitals and the Family House.

IOOFNJ is an organization based on the foundations of Friendship, Love and Truth, and seeks to make our world a better one to live in through charitable work on various projects in their community.

**We are so grateful for their support and look forward to serving transplant families with them in the future!**



Care Crew (AmeriHealth Caritas)

Ryan's Shamrocks

Bee a Blessing, Inc.

Home2 Suites by Hilton

# HOME COOK HEROES

Thank you to all the Home Cook Heroes volunteers who prepared home-cooked meals or baked goods for transplant patients and their families at Gift of Life Family House!

## Recognizing Home Cook Heroes Volunteers September – December 2019

- |  |                                    |   |  |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 6 years and Counting                                     | Edling Family and Friends          | Let's Bake TU                                 | Recovery Centers of America            | The Episcopal Academy                     |
| Addisons Angels  | Episcopal Academy EAPA             | Lights for Jack                               | Rich and Christy O'Malley              | The Mayo Association of Philadelphia      |
| Adelphia Lions   | Eric's Angels                      | Malvern Prep                                  | Richard G. Tomaszewski Foundation      | The Mona Lisas                            |
| AmeriHealth Caritas – EPS Team                           | Fam First Outreach Ministry        | Mandy Dorfman and Friends                     | Rivers of Love                         | The Paget/O'Reilly Family                 |
| APO & ACS  | <b>Four Ladies and Friends</b>     | Marriott Old City                             | Rockwell Custom                        | The Pinola Family                         |
| April & Roman  | Friends                            | Mason's Mission                               | Rowan University Student Programmers   | The R.A.D. Family                         |
| Atlanticare – Quality Management Department              | Friends Central                    | Maven Communications                          | <b>Rutgers Gang</b>                    | The Sassy Apple                           |
| AtlantiCare Emergency Department                         | Friends' Central School            | Medtronic                                     | Ryans Shamrocks                        | Thomas Jefferson Rehab                    |
| Audit Crew   | Gamma Iota Sigma – Sigma Chapter   | Merck & Co. & GOL                             | Ryanstrong                             | Thomas Jefferson Transplant Team          |
| Awkward Avengers   | GLDP CR&FSS                        | Mike's Family                                 | Sankofa Ministry                       | Thomas Jefferson University Hospital SICU |
| Bee A Blessing, Inc.                                     | GLDP Transplant Coordinators       | Mike's Miracle in Motion                      | Silverstein 10                         | <b>Tierney</b>                            |
| Bidwell Family   | Hannah's Heroes                    | MJ Settelen                                   | Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom            | TJU PACU                                  |
| Blazers Ice Hockey                                       | Hearts of Gold                     | Morales Family                                | <b>Sonesta Hotel Philadelphia</b>      | Transplant Pregnancy Registry             |
| Brusich McGinty Family                                   | Help Hope Live                     | Morgan Stanley                                | Sparc Services                         | University City Kiwanis                   |
| Bryn Mawr Hospital Pediatric Unit                        | Hogan's Heroes                     | <b>MTF Biologics</b>                          | St. Augustine Parish                   | UPMC Susquehanna                          |
| Bryson Family  | <b>Home2 Suites by Hilton</b>      | NCL – Valley Forge Chapter                    | St. Francis School of Nursing          | UPMC Williamsport Hospital                |
| Burlington Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows | Independence Blue Cross, Blue Crew | New Vision Pioneers                           | Students of Merion Mercy Academy       | UVA Club of Philadelphia                  |
| Butterflies INC  | Inspira Health – Elmer ICU         | One for Many                                  | Taticchi Family                        | Verizon Wireless                          |
| Capaccio Family  | Inspira ICU Nurses                 | Pat's Wings                                   | Team SayLess                           | Violet's Volunteers                       |
| Care Crew  | ISICU Crew                         | PEI – Genesis, Inc.                           | <b>Team Shea</b>                       | Virtua Marlton ICU                        |
| <b>Care Crew (AmeriHealth Caritas)</b>                   | Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy         | <b>Penn Medicine Chester County ER Nurses</b> | <b>Team Spiers</b>                     | Voorhees Rotary Dinner Club               |
| Care More  | Jay's Crew                         | Philadelphia Fraternal Organizations          | Team Stevie                            | WSFS Bank                                 |
| CHOP Clinical Nutrition                                  | Jefferson Bucks Campus ICU         | Pop's Bakers                                  | Temple Hospital Speech Pathology       |   |
| CHOP PICU  | Jefferson Northeast ICU            | PPMC Trauma Surgical                          | Temple of Deliverance Teen Ministry    |   |
| CHOP Radiology/Sedation                                  | Jefferson Nursing 9C/9NC/9NE       | Prism Career Institute                        | <b>Temple Transplant Team</b>          |   |
| Christiana Cares - Surgical Critical Care                | Just Some Random People            | Prism Career Institute – Student Nurses       | Temple University Eta Sigma Delta      |   |
| Cole Family  | Kathy and Colleen Duran            | Prism Career Institute Staff                  | Temple University Hospital Nursing Ed. |   |
| Comcast Public Cloud SRE                                 | La Famiglia dei Fratelli           | Randon Family                                 | Temple University Hospital SICU        |   |
| <b>Comhar</b>  | Lenape Valley Church               |   | <b>The Bellevue Hotel</b>              |   |
| Coordinating Council of Frontiers Intl                   |                                    |   |  |   |
| Digital Partners   |                                    |   |  |   |
| Donna's Darlings   |                                    |   |  |   |
| Drexel Gamma Sigma Sigma                                 |                                    |   |  |   |

Home Cook Heroes team photos are available to view on the Family House's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/GiftofLifeFamilyHouse](https://www.facebook.com/GiftofLifeFamilyHouse). While you're there, don't forget to like our Facebook page, tag yourself and your teammates, and share your photo to help spread awareness of the Family House mission! Tag us and use #HomeCookHeroes for your chance to win a special gift from the Family House!

Make this your **BEST BIRTHDAY YET** Help provide a place for transplant families to call home by pledging your birthday to support the Family House.

Through our "Best Birthday Yet" program, you can celebrate your birthday by hosting an online fundraiser for the Family House. Instead of a gift, ask your friends and family to support your fundraiser!

**It's really easy!** Pledge your birthday today and we'll send you a reminder as your special day gets closer to set up your fundraising page. We'll also send you some tips to help you make your fundraiser a success!

Visit [GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](https://www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org) to pledge now! We look forward to celebrating with you!



# Dedicate a PAVER

**THIS APRIL DURING DONATE LIFE MONTH**

Have you always wanted to dedicate a Family House Legacy Garden paver? Honor a loved one, give special recognition to a business or organization you support or provide some encouragement to transplant families during Donate Life Month!

Your paver and its message will become a permanent part of the Family House Legacy Garden.

To view and print the Legacy Garden Paver form, please visit [GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](https://www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org).

## Caregiver Lifeline Spotlight



### A Caregiver Story: Ashley

Ashley and Bobby were busy planning their wedding when Bobby became ill and required a double lung transplant. Quickly their lives were turned upside down. Ashley became a caregiver at just 27 and has learned how to manage the new life transplant brings.

#### How did your transplant caregiving journey begin?

I became a caregiver to my husband who unexpectedly fell ill and received the amazing gift of life—a double lung transplant. His five year transplant anniversary will be on 3/20/20, which is also our wedding anniversary. We were married in the hospital just before his surgery.

#### What has been challenging for you?

Learning to best manage a life that others are not accustomed to has been the most challenging. While spending time with family and friends is so important to us, we have to be careful around those who are ill because the effects could be devastating to Bobby.

Despite the challenges of this new life, it's ALL worth it because someone made a selfless decision to save someone else's life through organ donation. My husband is here because of that decision.

#### What would you say to a caregiver new to the transplant journey?

Work hard for your loved one and advocate for them when they can't. And don't forget to advocate for yourself, because you are just as



Ashley, Bobby, and their daughter Amara

important! Not all of your loved ones will understand what you're going through, and that's okay! Make sure you use your resources to find the support you need, including online or in person support groups, a therapist, or spending more time with those you feel most supported by. And don't forget to keep up on your own personal hobbies. They can do wonders for your spirit and perseverance!

The Caregiver Lifeline Program is supported in part by TD Charitable Foundation and Bridge to Life. We are thankful for their partnership and generosity.



LIVING ROOM



GUEST ROOM



# Sponsor-A-Room:

A room, a gift, a year...helping hundreds



KITCHEN



DINING ROOM

## We're thrilled to announce the launch of the Sponsor-A-Room program at the Family House!

You can help hundreds of transplant patients and families who will spend the night at the Family House when you sponsor one of our guest or common rooms for one year!

For a highly subsidized rate, transplant patients and their family members who stay at the Family House receive a private, comfortable room to sleep in, a warm meal each evening, transportation to and from the hospital and access to a licensed social work team and supportive community of other transplant families who understand what they're going through.

Your generous sponsorship of a room will support families by keeping our nightly fee low and covering costs for families who cannot afford it.

Sponsor a room and your name will be placed on a sign next to the room. Rooms may be sponsored for up to 3 years at a time with a tax-deductible gift.

- Guest Room: 1 year/\$5,000 2 years/\$10,000 3 years/\$15,000
- Common Room: 1 year/\$10,000 2 years/\$20,000 3 years/\$30,000

Sponsoring a guest or common room at the Family House will help provide transplant families with affordable lodging, meals, transportation and other supportive services.

### When you Sponsor-A-Room, you will be recognized during your sponsorship period with:

- Your name/company on our prominent Contributors' Wall
- Your name/company on a sign next to the room
- Invitation for two to our President's Reception during the year of sponsorship
- Listing in our publications and online forums including our Annual Report, in our newsletter and on our website
- An opportunity for a private check presentation with the Family House executive team, staff and guest (upon request only)
- Family Circle membership

### Sponsor-A-Room today!

Help us help more transplant families who need a place to call home by sponsoring a guest or common room today.

Visit [GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](http://GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org) to sponsor a room.

# 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 SEPTEMBER 2019 – DECEMBER 2019

#### Founders' Circle

(GIFTS OF \$10,000+)

Current members who have made renewed gifts of \$10,000 or more  
 Bee a Blessing, Inc.  
 Betsy Horen  
 Gamma Iota Sigma – Sigma Chapter  
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 The Gitlin Family Foundation  
 Howard and Liz Nathan  
 Penney Girls Foundation  
 TD Charitable Foundation  
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(GIFTS OF \$250+)

to support the annual fund  
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 Florence and Robert Dolceamore  
 Ellen and Barry Douney  
 Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.  
 Edward and Wendy Eaton  
 Ebenezer Baptist Church  
 Diana Elbanna  
 Exelon Corporation  
 Deborah Fales  
 Steve Feinstein  
 Stuart and Sandra Fine  
 First Reformed Church  
 of Lincoln Park  
 Todd Franzen  
 Katie Geary  
 Tess and Katie Geib  
 Kevin and Janeen Geklinsky  
 Richard and Theresa Gergar  
 Jacek and Laura Ghosh  
 Joyce Gilbert  
 Ari and Faigy Gilder  
 Harvey Goldglantz  
 Elvin and Sue Green  
 Thomas Gross  
 Deanna and Carl Gunlefinger  
 Friends of Bosley School Road  
 Denise Hamby  
 Brian and Lizzann Hamilton  
 Tawnee Harris  
 Tom and Kathleen Hebling  
 Joseph and Bonnie Henry

#### COMFORT IN COPPER (\$250+)

Lisa Coscia  
 Cindy Covington  
 John and Kathleen Crouch  
 Richard and Myrna Cuff  
 Merck Foundation  
 Glenn Darby  
 Krista Deguffroy  
 Elizabeth Dellers  
 Sherri and Michael Dion  
 Florence and Robert Dolceamore  
 Ellen and Barry Douney  
 Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.  
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thank you to our volunteers in the community for coordinating fundraisers and donating wish list items to support the mission of Gift of Life Family House.

#### Fundraising Events

Ally's Breakfast and Blood Drive hosted by Ally's Angels  
 Jingle Jam- coordinated by ILEA  
 Fundraiser coordinated by Association of Legal Administrators Philadelphia Chapter  
 Fundraiser coordinated by Concierge Ballroom LLC  
 Annual Golf Tournament in memory of Paul W. Penkala hosted by the Penkala Family and Friends  
 Gems League-Medford Lanes collection  
 Dress Down Day coordinated Somers Point School District  
 Denim Day coordinated by The Graham Company  
 Stroud Regional Police Department Olsen Christmas Wish  
 Bee a Blessing, Inc.  
 Reading Royals Game in memory of Brad Zunski

#### Wish List Drives

Robert Banion	Andrea Hojnowski	Prism Career Institute
Susan Bellerby	Gary and Coleen Jividen	Evangeline St. Rose
Loren Bruce	Barbara Katz-Chobert	St. Augustine
Linda Muller	Kevin P. Spiers Memorial	Temple University Hospital
Wendy Campbell	Fund Association	Tiffany Wells
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church	James Lemmon	Women of PSAV-Philly Chapter
Richard Cusmano	Erim Malowoski	WSFS Bank 16th and Chestnut Branch
Julie Delucia	Caitlin McMahon	York Area Transplant Support Group
	Sushama Patil	

Kimberly Stowman  
 Marie Strouse  
 Kevin Stump  
 Darlene Sweitzer  
 Donna and Brian Swilley  
 Mary Szilagyi  
 Charlene Tan  
 Mohamed Tanamly  
 Peter Thomas  
 Kevin Treiber  
 Wendy Trow-Fox  
 Christine Tuosto  
 Brian Tymon  
 Toni Ullsh  
 Mr. Michael Vagner and Dr. Evelyn Balogun  
 Barbara W. and Barry W. VanRensler  
 Regina Vega

Maureen Vickers  
 Stanley and Claudia Waldruff  
 Maria Louise and John Weibel  
 Vaughn and Cynthia Whisker  
 Marie Witt  
 Leah Zenker

ITALIC = upgraded member  
 BOLD = renewed member

**The Legacy Garden Paver Program**  
 Thank you to those who dedicated an engraved paver  
 Applegate Family in honor of Justice Applegate  
 Mary Lou Corbett in memory of David Corbett

Stephanie Drewitt-Jerman in memory of Cornell Da'Shev Drewitt  
 Pross Family in memory of Frank Pross  
 The Patients & Caregivers HUP Lung Transplant Support Group in memory of Teresa Valley-Lewis

**Welcome Home Club Heart Members**  
 Recognizing monthly contributors who donate \$21 or more per month  
**NEW Members**  
 Gary and Coleen Jividen  
 Megan Kane  
 Maryellen and Walter Paget

Due to space constraints, honor/memorial gifts and supporter gifts are no longer listed in the newsletter. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you contact us at 267-546-9812 to report any corrections.

## To make a contribution to Gift of Life Family House, please visit [GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org](http://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 the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.