



Woven Together: Putting the Family in Family House

After dropping off her husband Rich for treatment at UPMC Shadyside, all that Bonnie Schall wanted to do was relax and decompress from her long, stressful day. Driving from Latrobe to Pittsburgh was already challenging without the added worry about Rich’s upcoming tests. Luckily, when Bonnie opened the door to her room at Shadyside Family House, she saw something familiar and comforting—a handmade quilt on the end of the bed.

“The quilts really brightened up the room and made me feel instantly at home,” said Bonnie, who has been a member of the Loyal Hannahs Quilt Guild in Saltsburg, PA for over 15 years. Eight years ago, Rich was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma (a form of blood cancer), and the Schalls have stayed at Family House five times since. After two bone marrow transplants and no improvement on his condition, his doctor decided to enroll him in a Chimeric antigen receptor or CAR-T cell clinical trial. “This trial has saved Rich’s life,” Bonnie expressed. “We know that we can leave the trial at any time, but have decided to stick with it to help with the research that will hopefully lead to a cure of this type of cancer.”



Family House has been a part of Rich’s journey throughout his clinical trial, and has been a life saver for Bonnie as well. Treatment days begin in the early hours of the morning and last until the early evening, too long for Bonnie to drive from Latrobe and back for three consecutive days. When she found Family House, she was able to leave the hospital and break up her days with Rich and enjoy some alone time. “I always brought my sewing machine with me, which helped take my mind off of Rich’s medical situation.” If Family House wasn’t available, Bonnie would have had to remain in the hospital through the day of treatment—a long, nine-hour day.

Being able to cook their own meals was a huge perk to Bonnie and Rich, as they don’t typically eat out in their everyday life. Meeting and bonding with other guests while in the kitchen allowed Bonnie to feel like part of a larger family, one full of people going through a similar situation. “If you need something, you can ask someone for help unlike at a hotel—we are family.”



“Family House’s quilts are what brought me comfort when I needed it most. I wanted to be able to give something back.”

Bonnie wanted to combine her Latrobe family with her Pittsburgh family and suggested that Family House become a new recipient of her Loyal Hannahs Quilt Guild’s homemade quilts. The Guild has been in existence for some 30 years and donates quilts to a variety of charitable organizations. “It just made sense to me,” Bonnie explained. “Family House’s quilts are what brought me comfort when I needed it most. I wanted to be able to give something back.”

While the road ahead is unknown for the Schalls, Rich’s health has been the “best in years” and Family House will continue to be a part of their journey. “Family House is the ‘greatest place to stay’: convenient, clean, and has everything you need. No hotel can give you the same sense of calm and security as Family House has for me and my husband.” ●

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the fall of 2019, I had the privilege to share with you the news that Family House would be introducing a new award recognizing those in the community whose example of “courage, optimism, commitment, determination, resiliency, and generosity” served to inspire us all. At the annual Family House Polo Match that year, I was proud to present the inaugural Family House *Person of Inspiration Award* to Ryan Shazier, a former All-Pro linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers whose remarkable rehabilitation journey following a serious spinal cord injury continues to inspire football and non-football fans alike.

Thinking back on that September afternoon when Ryan and his wife, Michelle, joined me on the Hartwood Acres Polo field, I could never have imagined that I would be the recipient of this very same award this year, bestowed upon me by the Family House Board of Directors and Polo Committee. In a phrase that I’ve come to embrace, which I first used when presented with this incredible honor, I was simply “gob smacked”!

I have shared with you some of the details of my personal medical journey over the past 15 months. While I don’t wish to revisit those details at this time, I do want to convey that, while I was overwhelmed to be named as just the second recipient of Family House’s *Person of Inspiration Award*, it would be incredibly disingenuous for me to accept this recognition in a vacuum.

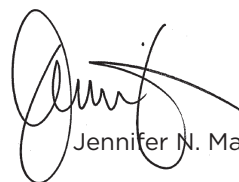
As I said when presented with this honor at the 38th Annual Family House Polo Match presented by First National Bank, it was the collective acts of kindness, dedication, comfort, courage, generosity, and love from countless others that inspired me then and continue to sustain and uplift me. It is in your name, Family House community, that I humbly accepted this honor. You inspire me daily, from those who are in healthcare delivery and who quietly and compassionately continue to meet the needs of patients, even in the midst of a global pandemic despite the great

risk it posed, to the members of families and friends—not the least of which are my own—who selflessly and tirelessly serve as caregivers for loved ones in need, despite the often unacknowledged toll it takes on you personally.

It is you who generously contribute your time, talents, and resources to shoulder the burdens of those among us who are in need of help, yet oftentimes too embarrassed, shy, or proud to request it, who inspire me. It is those of you who serve others with compassion, understanding, and positivity, like my colleagues at Family House with whom I’m privileged to work each and every day to fulfill our mission and essential role in the region’s continuum of healthcare delivery, who inspire me.

Please be assured of the immense gratitude that I feel for each one of you; for all that you have done and continue to do for others. You inspire me daily. Indeed, I remain grateful and “gob smacked” in accepting this incredible honor.

I look forward to continuing on this journey with you as Family House prepares for our exciting future.



Jennifer N. March, Executive Director



Jennifer March, husband Charlie, and daughter Alden at Family House Polo 2021.

Approximately **3,000 guests** attended the 38th Annual Family House Polo Match presented by First National Bank in September at Hartwood Acres. Howard Hanna Real Estate Services Foxlease Polo Club took home the win against #1 Cochran Potomac Polo Club with a score of 11-7! **The event raised over \$260,000 for the Family House mission.**

SAVE THE DATES!



Family House Gala

March 26, 2022:
Location TBD

39th Annual Family House Polo Match

Saturday,
September 10, 2022
Hartwood Acres



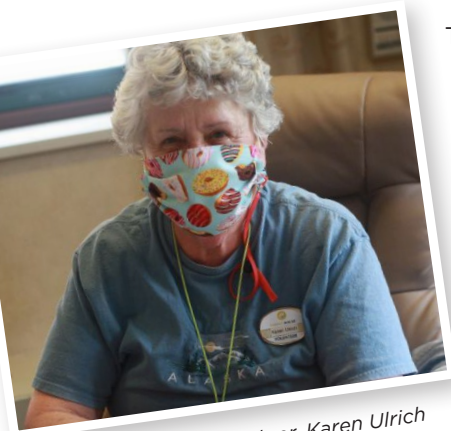
Family House and presenting sponsor First National Bank welcomed nearly 3,000 guests to this year’s Polo Match. Sponsors, guests, and volunteers were thrilled with the day that included live music, vintage cars, pony rides, food trucks, and an exciting polo match! The Sewickley Hunt Club entertained during half time while guests were able to meet the adorable hounds. The event concluded with musical performances from No Bad Jujū and Brownie Mary, presented by The Farina Foundation. ●

Sustaining Family House through Extraordinary Times

Patients simply do better when a loved one is near. And stress reduction, financial or emotional, is critical to recovery. That is why Family House takes continuing its mission, throughout the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, so seriously.

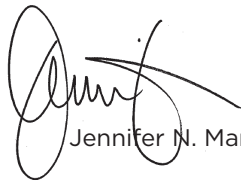
Since the start of the pandemic, Family House has remained open and available 365 days to patients and caregivers who require safe, comfortable, and affordable accommodations while receiving essential medical care that could not be postponed. In fact, the doors of Family House have never closed in 38 years.

Everything Family House provides helps stretch financial resources for families in the midst of a medical situation. In FY21, Family House's room rates remained at deeply discounted levels, with 25% of room operating costs subsidized through philanthropic contributions. Family House met the lodging needs of 13,753 patients and caregivers over 8,235 reservations and 25,884 nights of service.



Family House Volunteer, Karen Ulrich

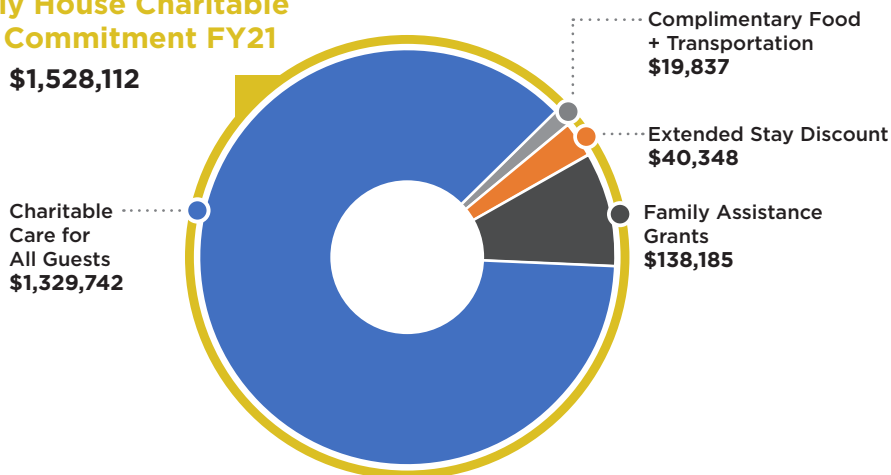
This impact is owed to each volunteer who prepares a home-cooked meal, every donor who mailed in a handwritten check, the corporations who invest in our annual fundraising efforts, and the foundations who partner with us in making Pittsburgh hospitable for all. The results presented here are a community effort. We thank each person who made them possible.



Jennifer N. March, Executive Director

Family House Charitable Care Commitment FY21

Total: \$1,528,112



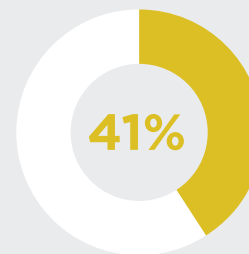
“It is the epitome of caring, thoughtfulness, attention to detail, and comfort—every aspect of hospitality and healthcare that human beings can create for those of us in stressful times. I cannot express enough my gratitude for the wonderful people associated with Family House, and the facility itself is beyond words.”

—Family House guest



\$1,528,112

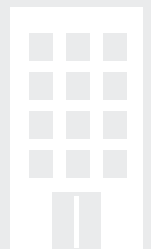
Total contributions raised to support Family House last fiscal year



41% of all guest nights were subsidized through Family Assistance funds

5 to 1

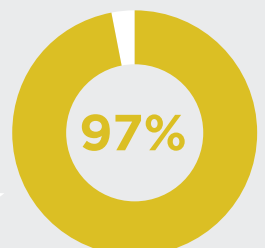
operations reduced from 5 facilities into 1 singular Family House by 2022



2,728

volunteer hours made Family House's mission come to life

Overall guest satisfaction



Three Smart Ways to Support Family House

There are many savvy methods to support Family House. Here are a few ways your charitable gifts can save money and leave a legacy while supporting Family House.

For more information on these or other ways to make a gift to Family House, contact Director of Development Caily Grube at cgrube@familyhouse.org.

1

Jumpstart your end-of-year giving by celebrating Stock Monday. Stock Monday is a new, tax-smart giving day on November 29—the Monday before Giving Tuesday. And it is mutually beneficial! Family House receives the full value of the stock, while you avoid paying capital gains tax.

- **How you save.** When you donate appreciated assets, you avoid paying capital gains tax. If you itemize deductions, you can also take a charitable deduction for the entire amount.
- **Now is the perfect time to donate.** For your gift to be eligible for your 2021 tax return, you must give by December 31, 2021.
- **To make a Gift of Stock,** log into your brokerage account and opt to gift shares or securities. If you can't find that option, contact your brokerage firm directly.

“ We are all about philanthropy—and we want to do it smartly! When we transfer gifts of stock, rather than using a credit card or writing a check, it is actually worth more because of avoided taxes. That is a win-win: we get to meaningfully support Family House, more than we would if it was straight cash, and reduce on our own income tax. — **Mark and Marcia Sherwin** ”

2

Give through your IRA. If you are age 70.5 or older, you can join other Family House supporters who make tax-free gifts from their IRAs once a year. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift, is money transferred directly from a traditional IRA to any 501(c)(3) charity.

- **How you save.** This is one of the most tax-efficient ways to make charitable gifts. A QCD lowers overall income, rather than being itemized as a deduction.
- **Avoid penalties.** QCDs are also an opportunity to help meet Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Those over age 72 with an IRA must make RMDs annually or they may face a large penalty.
- **To make a QCD,** donors should submit a request to their IRA custodian, such as Fidelity, Vanguard, or Charles Schwab. The custodian then transfers the gift to Family House.

“ Although we moved from Pittsburgh, we continue to support Family House because, as former volunteers, we know firsthand how it fulfills a critical need and favorably impacts the lives of others. Our donations enable us to maximize giving and achieve our philanthropic goals in a low cost, flexible, and tax efficient manner. — **Bob DiBella and Carol Savage** ”

3

Create a legacy. We know that cash donations might not be right for everyone, but giving a gift in your Will is a powerful commitment to our work and mission for generations to come. Here is why Family House Board Member Bobbee Kramer made a bequest to support Family House:

“ My first husband was seriously ill. We flew to Houston, Texas to see one of the best surgeons in the country for what we thought would be a few days' consultation. We ended up staying six weeks in the local hotel frightened and away from our support system. Because my family didn't have Family House, it is very important that this work is sustainable for generations to come. That is why I chose to make a legacy gift to Family House. — **Bobbee Kramer** ”

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

HELP US COLLECT GIFTS FOR FAMILIES SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!

Winter wear
(hats, scarves, gloves)

Socks

Disposable Face Masks

Lotion

Chapstick

Takeout containers
(single boxes &
3-sectioned boxes)

Standalone pantry items
(Chef Boyardee, soups)

Hot chocolate packets

For more pantry items,
please visit our
Amazon Wish List at
the QR code below:



DELIVER TO:

Family House
Administrative Office
5001 Baum Blvd., Suite 545
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For further questions, please
call 412-647-0389 or email
volunteer@familyhouse.org

Family House is so proud of its relationships with local, family-owned companies.

For example, Family House's relationship with Howard Hanna Real Estate Services stretches across four decades. The company and family have invested in Family House as a community asset through both philanthropy and leadership.

“Howard Hanna and Family House seamlessly work together. Because at Howard Hanna, our focus is on the home, and Family House serves as a “home away from home” for people in town for medical procedures to be with their families. It's a cause that I personally and inherently want to be part of—and of course, I want to carry on the legacy of our family's support into the future.”

— Helen Cestra, Howard Hanna Realtor and Family House Board Member



Helen Cestra, Howard Hanna

Family House recognizes and thanks Howard Hanna Real Estate Services and the entire Hanna family for their remarkable dedication to the patients and caregivers Family House has served and continues to serve. ●



“From my first phone call to every interaction with the staff, everyone was very friendly and helpful. My room was quieter than I expected in the city, and although home is less than 1½ hours away, staying here was much less worry for my husband than if I had driven back and forth.”

—Family House guest

“My daughter has been in Shadyside Hospital for 11 weeks after being diagnosed with Leukemia. Being able to stay here for most of her stay has been a blessing for me and comforting to my family knowing I was safe and well cared for.”

—Family House guest

Family House is grateful to all of its annual donors whose gifts, grants, and in-kind support in FY21 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) supported so many families during medical treatment.

We are especially pleased to recognize the following Individuals in our **Founders Circle** for their gifts that totaled \$1,983 or more.

Donors listed alphabetically

Chris & Janine Bell	Peter & Alice Leone
Thomas & Diana Bills	Holly Lorenz
Angela Blanton	James & Lisa Lorenzi
Kenyon & Sylvana Bonner	James & Christine Luketich
John Boyas	Annamarie Lyons
Brad Buchanan	Jennifer & Charlie March
Kurt & Joette Carlson	Paul & Anne Marcucci
Helen Cestra	Sandy & Eugene O'Sullivan
G. Reynolds & Linda Clark	Kym Pelcher
David DeShong	A.J. Poole
Kathy & Sam DiBiase	James Purman
Joel & Joan Ettinger	Sandra Rader
Glen Feinberg	Michael & Amanda Rost
Kevin & Sharon Fitzgerald	Allan Rummel
Curt & Kimberly Fleming	David & Julie Russo
John Foster	Marc & April Serlin
Courtney Gargas	Marcia & Mark Sherwin
Jane Gilbert	Jeannine Spinola
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Howard & Mary Anne Hanna	Craig & Jill Tillotson
Terrence & Laura Hartford	Walter & Arlene Turner
Brittany Holzer	Linda & Clyde Uber
John & Charlene Innocenti	Alfred & Jeanne Vallano
Jessica Johnson	Judith & John Verbanic
Tricia Keating	Thomas Vrabec
Dennis Kelleher	Travis Watson
Bobbee & Elliott Kramer	John Wilds
Laura & Claude Kronk	John & Valerie Williams
Suzy Lang	



FAMILY HOUSE

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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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TO GIVE

- > Online at: www.familyhouse.org/support
- > By phone: 412-647-5893
- > Designate Family House through your workplace:
United Way: #859

TO VOLUNTEER

- > Email us at: volunteer@familyhouse.org
- > By phone: 412-647-4917

TO BOOK YOUR STAY

- > Visit us online: www.familyhouse.org
- > By phone: 412-647-7777

TO CONNECT

  @FamilyHousePGH



Thank you for supporting Family House!
YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Thank you, volunteers!

Family House volunteers gathered at the future home of the organization on October 7 for a "re-meet" and greet event! It was a lovely evening, with Executive Director Jennifer March showcasing all the changes happening at the new space. The upcoming renovation plans were showcased, alongside discussions about the volunteer program's present and future considerations. Family House volunteers' posed important questions about how volunteering might change and problem-solved with staff. With tours, snacks, and refreshments, a good time was had by all! ●



 Visit www.familyhouse.org to learn more about how you can support our families.

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

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