



Melodious Moments at Family House

Mike Ruscio and his wife Carla needed a place to stay while Carla’s father was hospitalized. He transferred from Altoona, PA to UPMC Presbyterian with gastrointestinal issues stemming from a recent bout with cancer. “We were told to get to Pittsburgh as soon as possible. Luckily my wife had stayed at Family House before, so we already knew we were in good hands,” said Mike.

As his condition continually changed, so did the Ruscio’s length of stay in Pittsburgh. “At first, we were only going to be here for three days, then it turned into five weeks. Family House was so accommodating and flexible with our changes,” Mike explained. Three weeks into their stay, Jim Mouzakis and his wife and Carla’s sister, Shelley, flew in from California.

“Shelley and I wanted to give Mike and Carla a break from their long days in the hospital. I didn’t know what to expect but I was so surprised at how comfortable I felt when I walked through the doors of Family House,” Jim said. “Everyone, from staff to volunteers to the other guests, was extremely generous.”

While their wives were at UPMC Presbyterian with their father, brothers-in-law Mike and Jim played cards in the lounge, talked to different guests and learned their stories. “Everyone was going through a hard time but they always asked how you were doing. You saw familiar faces and began to feel that sense of comfort that you can’t get at a hotel,” both Mike and Jim expressed.

After returning from a long stressful day at the hospital, Mike spotted a guitar in the lounge. He picked up the instrument and began playing in the back of the house, away from guests. Jim, a singer in a band in California, joined him and a small crowd began to form around them. “This was all very impromptu, just a way for us to pass the time and relax a bit,” Jim explained. “We usually play together for our family so it just felt natural.”

Their melodies erased the day’s hardships and filled the air with calm and peacefulness. With such a positive reaction from fellow guests, they played a few more sessions during their stay. “It was something for us to do and it brought the house together. I enjoyed experimenting with our music and it provided a sense of normalcy for a period of time,” shared Mike.

As Carla and Shelley continue to care for their father, the entire family expresses their appreciation for their time at Family House. “What this place does truly makes a powerful impact on its guests. I am definitely planning on making some kind of donation to make sure this service is available for others,” Mike shared. “We are going to return the favor.” ●



Brothers-in-Law Mike and Jim shared musical talents with Family House guests



You saw familiar faces and began to feel that sense of comfort that you can’t get at a hotel.

Now more than ever, affordability is key

Inflation and rising costs of living are impacting us all. The headlines are unavoidable, and many of us feel the squeeze on our personal budgets.

For families managing medical care away from home, finding financial balance is much more challenging with the many unanticipated costs. Every penny counts. That is why Family House's affordable lodging and additional amenities make a huge difference for the families who rely on our services.

The economic benefit of Family House isn't just our nonprofit rate, offered at a fraction of the cost of Pittsburgh-area hotels. Guests receive a whole host of added benefits to reduce the economic burden of medical care.

Communal pantries and refrigerators are kept well-stocked with healthy food options from generous donors in the community. Groups from local corporations, universities, churches, and other organizations regularly prepare and serve warm dinners for guests. Transportation to and from the hospital is and will always be free. And each morning, Family House guests wake to a complimentary breakfast—made available seven days a week!

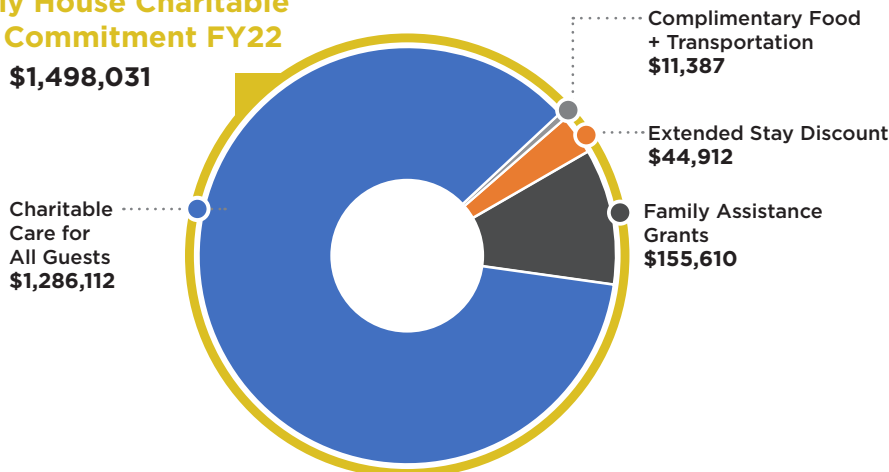
For families with increased financial need, Family Assistance grants are available to reduce room rates. Recently, the Family Assistance program has expanded its eligibility to reach even more families, as patients and their caregivers are increasingly strained by managing both health and financial challenges.

The recent consolidation of Family House under one roof ensures the financial resource of this institution will remain available for families long into the future.

We are especially grateful for generous and loyal donors and volunteers. Without them, families in need of affordable options would not be able to find Family House. We thank each person who lifts up this mission. ●

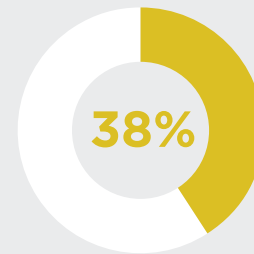
Family House Charitable Care Commitment FY22

Total: \$1,498,031



\$1,498,031

Total raised to support Family House last fiscal year to reduce room rates for all guests



of all guest nights were even further subsidized through Family Assistance funds

Warm dinners prepared and served by volunteer groups



8,454

hours from dedicated volunteers

of roofs Family House now manages



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are officially moved in!

As of July 15, our beautiful “future and forever” Family House is in full operation. Daily, we welcome families to our new address at 5308 Liberty Avenue. And so far, the feedback has been great!

Making any house a home—or in this case, transforming a corporate hotel into a homelike environment—requires far more than colorful paint, tastefully designed rooms and gathering spaces with comfortable furnishings, all of which are in abundance here.

Beneath the beautiful new spaces, what has made this house a home are the people who support this critical mission with personal donations of money or time.

In this newsletter, read how **Family House volunteers** continue to provide support to staff as well as warmth and comfort to patients and caregivers, many of whom experience great emotional and financial stress. **Volunteer groups** also make this house a home by preparing and serving homemade meals to lift the spirits of our guests after a long day in the hospital.

Our guests themselves also play (quite literally!) a role in creating a homelike environment. While together under one roof, many **guests entertain their new Family House family** when they sit down at the grand piano or pick up the guitar in our family room. These talented musicians create a peaceful and relaxing environment for fellow guests to feel at home while easing their own stress.

The theme of coming together brings to mind the thoughtful and generous benefactors like you who make this new Family House a home. Your support and the generosity of our larger community enables us to undertake this historic project, consolidating all lodging and services into one location, under one roof.

As evidence of that support, our capital campaign—*Under One Roof: The Campaign for Family House*—continues to make great strides toward achieving its \$16 million fundraising goal. As of today, total commitments have reached \$13.7 million!

Just like in any new or remodeled home, there remains some work. Nevertheless, it is most gratifying to see how far this organization has come in the past year, and exciting to imagine just how much more this new Family House will become a “home away from home” for guests in the months and years ahead.

On behalf of the Family House Board of Directors, our dedicated volunteers and colleagues, and, most especially, the thousands of patients and caregivers your continued generosity supports, please accept my heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes for continued good health throughout the Holiday Season and New Year.

Jennifer N. March, Executive Director

Family House and Presenting Sponsor First National Bank welcomed **more than 2,500 supporters** to the 39th Annual Family House Polo Match at Hartwood Acres on Saturday, September 10! Howard Hanna Real Estate Services Pittsburgh Polo Club tied #1 Cochran Potomac Polo Club with a score of 5-5. **The event raised nearly \$300,000 to support Family House’s affordable lodging for patients and caregivers.**

SAVE
THE
DATES!



Family House Gala

▶ **March 18, 2023**
Duquesne Club

40th Annual Family House Polo Match

▶ **September 9, 2023**
Hartwood Acres



Support from Within

The Family House volunteer program truly is the backbone of the organization. Because of volunteers, Family House provides the warmth of a homelike environment. Two long-time house volunteers, Connie Ochs and Mary Ann Tataryzn, offer insight on their experience and how it feels to be under one roof.



Connie Ochs began her volunteer journey ten years ago as a floater picking up shifts in each of the three former locations.

“I loved being a floater. I got to interact with the staff at all locations and I could pick up shifts when they were convenient for me.”

While some duties have changed, Connie enjoys working at the new house. She is on a new committee to create programming for guests.

“We’ve started a baking program once a week and guests really love it. Some will help us with the baking, others will gather and start conversations with each other. It’s a great way to get guests to mingle and forget, for a few moments, about their day.”

The best part of volunteering for Connie is the guest engagement. Whether giving tours, answering questions, or reminding guests where things are located, someone always needs her help.

“I am excited to come into this new, beautiful location. I know that my work alleviates stressors for both guests and staff alike. Volunteering at Family House has given me a better appreciation for what I have. I’m also amazed at how graceful guests are to each other. There really is a strong support system here and I feel proud to be a part of it.” ●



Mary Ann Tataryzn decided to become a house volunteer nearly nine years ago after her sister invited her to cook a meal for guests.

“As soon as I walked into the house, I knew this was the place for me. I was looking for a new way to spend my time after retiring from teaching and volunteering at Family House was the right fit.”

When Mary Ann walks into Family House for her shift, she is ready to get to work. She heads to the kitchen area to clean out leftover items in the individual cubbies and to individually wrap baked good donations. Then it’s off to guest rooms to ensure they are prepared for check-in.

“I’m truly enjoying the new house and keeping busy during my shift. I am really impressed with how the new house feels like a Family House. It’s a larger space but it still feels like someone’s home.”

Each floor is uniquely themed with its own lounge space, perfect for moments when guests want peace and quiet.

“I love that there are various ways for guests to interact with each other. My favorite space is the kitchen because I see so many people cooking, chatting, and making friendships. It reminds me of what happens in my own home.”

For Mary Ann, being able to make a difference, no matter how big or small, is the reason she continues her volunteering.

“We are exactly what they need at this time in their lives.” ●



HOLIDAY WISH LIST

HELP US SUPPORT FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Winter wear
(hats, gloves)

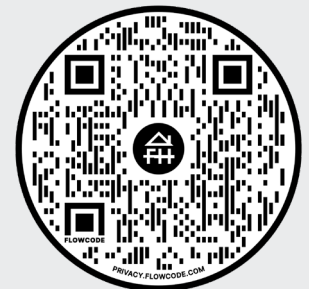
Disposable Face Masks

Lotion

Chapstick

Standalone pantry items
(Chef Boyardee, soups)

For more needed items, please visit our Amazon Wish List:



DELIVER TO:

Family House
5308 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Make Family House a home for the holidays!
Warm the hearts of our guests with a homemade meal.



Contact us to learn more!
volunteer@familyhouse.org

#1 Cochran Automotive continues its longstanding support for Family House

Family House is proud of its strong relationship and support from local family-owned businesses.

#1 Cochran Automotive has proudly supported and been a Polo Team Sponsor for over two decades. This level of support allows Family House to host its largest annual fundraiser, with proceeds going directly toward the organization's operations. Since 2016, Family House has been the #1 Cochran Subaru Monroeville dealership's local charity for the Subaru Share the Love Campaign. Subaru of America donates \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased to the customer's choice of charity. In 2021, the dealership raised over \$24,000 for Family House.

Over the years, #1 Cochran dealerships have collected food items to help stock the communal pantries for Family House guests. These items provide food for many families who do not have the time or ability to purchase groceries during their stay. This level of support further reduces the level of stress and worry of guests while they are at Family House.

“ We are proud to partner with Family House in their mission to provide a ‘home away from home’ for patients and families who travel to Pittsburgh for medical needs. The wonderful care, comfort, and support they provide meaningfully impacts so many lives. We’re honored to play a small role in their essential work. ”

— Rob Cochran, President and CEO, #1 Cochran Automotive and Emeritus Director, Family House Board

Family House recognizes #1 Cochran Automotive and the entire Cochran family for their dedication and commitment to the organization. When families come together, remarkable things can happen. ●



FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Each year, a community of loyal donors open Family House's doors to thousands of families during medical treatment. Family House is grateful to all those who supported this mission in FY22 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022).

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

Donors listed alphabetically

- Chris and Janine Bell
- Joe Belz
- Lillian Beretta
- Jeannine Blyth
- Joette and Kurt Carlson
- Leah Chappell
- G. Reynolds and Linda Clark
- Francesco D'Abarno
- Christopher Davis
- David DeShong
- Joel and Joan Ettinger
- Curt and Kimberly Fleming
- Robert Fulton
- Eileen and Brad Gross
- Martina Hahn
- Howard "Hoddy" and Mary Anne Hanna
- John and Charlene Innocenti
- Tricia Keating
- Dennis Kelleher
- Peter and Alice Leone
- Holly Lorenz
- Becky Matson
- Rita McCaffrey
- Marlene Mihalsky
- James Moore
- Eugene and Sandy O'Sullivan
- A.J. and Jackie Poole
- Sandra and Matthew Rader
- Michael and Amanda Rost
- Bruce and Holly Rudoy
- David and Julie Russo
- Jeannine Spinola and Michael Iannacchione
- Vicki Stasenکو
- Doug Stirling
- Steven Sushner and Adam Kirschenbaum
- Clyde and Linda Uber
- Alfred and Jeanne Vallano
- John Wilds
- John and Valerie Williams
- Robert and Gaye Wood
- Shelley Zomak



FAMILY HOUSE

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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

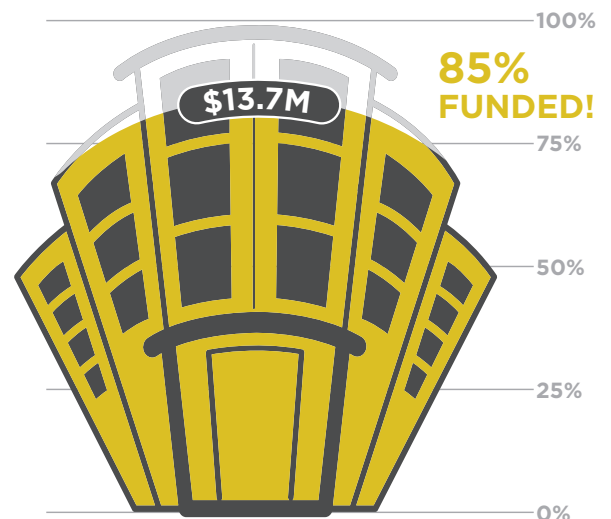


Thank you for supporting Family House!
YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

FALL 2022
NEWSLETTER

Under One Roof: The Campaign for Family House has surpassed 85% of its \$16 million goal.

Two recent leadership gifts brought total capital campaign commitments to \$13.7 million. In August, Family House received a \$500,000 grant from Annapolis, MD-based Phillips Charitable Foundation. And in September, Emeritus Board Member Howard “Hoddy” Hanna III and the Hanna Family pledged their continued support for Family House with a substantial campaign gift. “We are grateful for and humbled by the extraordinary generosity of Family House’s community of support,” said Glen Feinberg, Board Member and Chair of the *Under One Roof* campaign. “These gifts like all contributions to Family House not only inspire us each day, they reinforce for us the essential role we play in Pittsburgh’s healthcare delivery.” ●



For more information and to make a gift to *Under One Roof*, visit familyhouse.org/onerof