



— 35 Years —

Penguins Fan's Request for a Kidney Goes Viral

Family House provided
"home away from home"
for her family while
she recovered

By the time Kelly Sowatsky attended the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey game in March last year, she had been searching for a kidney donor for weeks. She figured it couldn't hurt to take her plea public, so she made a poster to bring to the game: "Calling all hockey fans! I need a kidney! Kidney! Kidney! Gratefully yours, Kelly." She thought maybe she'd get lucky and her poster would be featured on the jumbotron at the game.

Instead, Kelly's poster caught the eye of the Penguins marketing team, and its official Twitter account shared the image, which was then shared and liked thousands of times online. Hundreds of people from around the world reached out to Kelly asking how they could get tested, and eventually she found a match.

Kelly and her kidney donor travelled to Pittsburgh for the surgery, and their families were able to stay just minutes from the hospital at Family House. Having loved ones close by can improve patients' recovery, and the homelike atmosphere and supporting community at Family House enabled both families to relax after long, stressful days at the hospital.

"When my mom needed a break, she was able to come back here and just rest," Kelly said. "It's a quiet, very peaceful place to be. You're surrounded by other people going through similar situations with their families"

At Family House, Kelly's family enjoyed home-cooked meals prepared and served by community volunteers. Her family also would relax in the common areas of the house, reading books, playing games, or chatting with other guests. It became a "home away from home" for the two families, both of which had traveled hours to Pittsburgh.

"It becomes a family feel," Kelly said. "You might not know the person you're sitting next to, but you know that they're going through something similar, and everybody supports one another." ●



It's what you need.
It's a nice space to recover.

DEAR FAMILY HOUSE FRIENDS:

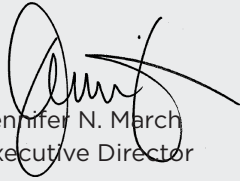
Family House is fortunate to be part of the healing and recovery process for more than 24,000 patients and family members each year. And we get to hear some pretty amazing stories along the way. One recent story that really stood out as life-affirming and inspirational was Kelly Sowatsky's journey back to health.

As you read in our cover story, Kelly's hand-made sign requesting a "Kidney! Kidney! Kidney!" at a Pittsburgh Penguins game went viral online and spurred hundreds of people to reach out and ask how they could get tested. This incredible outpouring of support from strangers all over the world resulted in a successful transplant for Kelly. Kelly's family, as well as her donor's family, spent time at Family House prior to and after the surgery--just minutes from the hospital.

Family House is proud to have played a small, but important, role in both Kelly's and her donor's recovery. And we are grateful that she allowed us to tell her story, which you can watch as a video testimonial on our website.

Thanks to you, our supporters and friends, Family House continues to be a "home away from home" for families like Kelly's.

Best wishes,



Jennifer N. March
Executive Director

Thanks to everyone who supported our Black & White Gala presented by UPMC & UPMC Health Plan! The event raised \$165,000 for the Family House mission. Thanks to our other leading sponsors: Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, and MSA.

SAVE
THE
DATE!



36th Annual Family
House Polo Match

Saturday,
September 14, 2019
Hartwood Acres



Considering a gift to support Family House?

Did you know you may qualify to use earnings from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to make your gift? A “qualified charitable distribution” might be right for you. To learn more, Family House reached out to Board Chair Al Vallano, a financial advisor with Hefren-Tillotson, who explained how a “QCD” works.

Family House Donor (FHD): Changes in the tax law have raised questions about “qualified charitable distributions.” What exactly is a qualified charitable distribution and how could it help me continue to support Family House?

Al Vallano: Ordinarily, all deductible contributions to a traditional IRA, plus earnings, are subject to federal income tax when they are later distributed. However, if the IRA owner meets certain requirements, she or he may be able to transfer funds directly from the IRA to a qualified charity and, consequently, exclude the withdrawal from taxable income. This is called a qualified charitable distribution or QCD.

FHD: Can anyone use a QCD?

Al: QCDs are reserved for individuals who meet certain requirements. For example, the IRA owner must be at least 70.5 years old on the actual date of the distribution. Also, the maximum distribution amount is \$100,000 per year, per taxpayer, and married couples can utilize \$200,000 (\$100,000 per spouse) worth of QCDs each year.

FHD: Could I direct a QCD to Family House?

Al: Absolutely! In fact, the distribution must go to a public charity—like Family House—and it must be one that would otherwise be eligible for a full charitable deduction. And the check must be made payable to the charity, not to the IRA owner.

FHD: What else should I know about QCDs?

Al: A QCD cannot be made to a private foundation or donor-advised fund. In addition, a charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust cannot be the recipient of a QCD. Finally, it is important to know that the donor must not receive any benefit(s) from the charity in return for her/his donation.

FHD: How can I find out if a QCD is a good fit for me?

Al: Questions about gifting a QCD to Family House and which types of IRA are eligible can be answered by a qualified financial advisor. And if you want to know what the impact of your gift of a QCD would be on Family House, contact Beth at BBrown@familyhouse.org. ●

DONOR SPOTLIGHT LINDA UBER



*Linda Uber (right) with her late husband, Sandy.
Stayed at Family House: 2004
Donor since: 2005*

When Linda Uber’s husband, Sandy, required surgery 15 years ago, they knew they’d be able to get the care they needed at a UPMC facility in Pittsburgh. Their surgeon recommended that Linda stay nearby at Family House so that she could be close to Sandy as he recovered.

It wasn’t until they traveled to another part of the country for Sandy’s medical care that they realized not every community has a place like Family House—a supportive, convenient and affordable “home away from home” for patients and their loved ones. Being minutes from the hospital allowed Linda to spend more time with Sandy, rather than traveling to and from the hospital.

Linda never forgot the comfort that Family House provided her while Sandy recovered from his surgery, and she has been a Family House donor since 2005.

“Family House provided such a service to us during a difficult time, and I want to give back so that they can continue to serve families like ours,” Linda said. “I give through my IRA; it’s the easiest way for me to donate, and I even benefitted tax-wise from it. I am thankful that I am able to contribute my small part to this wonderful organization.”

To learn more about giving to Family House through an IRA, check out our interview with Board Chair Al Vallano. ●



FAMILY HOUSE

5001 Baum Blvd. | Suite 545
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 2414

TO GIVE

- > Online at: www.familyhouse.org
- > By phone: 412-647-5893
- > Designate Family House through your workplace:
United Way: #859 | CFC: #40753

TO VOLUNTEER

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

TO BOOK YOUR STAY

- > Visit us online: www.familyhouse.org

TO CONNECT

- @FamilyHousePittsburgh
- @FamilyHousePGH
- @FamilyHousePGH



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

This spring, eighth grade students from Dorseyville Middle School collected teddy bears to donate to Family House guests. This donation drive was inspired by Shulamit, a Holocaust survivor who shared her story with the students. Their goal is to provide a small comfort to families going through a challenging time.

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



SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Penguins Fan's Request for a Kidney Goes Viral

Families stay nearby at Family House as patients recover from the life-saving transplant surgery

Why I Give

Former guest on what Family House meant to her family

Save the date for Family House Polo 2019!

Saturday, September 14
at Hartwood Acres

and more...