



FAMILY HOUSE

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



A Full Circle of Care: Amy's Story

When Amy Morris's husband, Brian, was diagnosed with a rare cancer, she suddenly found herself spending long days inside UPMC hospitals. What she didn't expect to find was a second home at Family House.



Over 80 nights, Family House became Amy's safe place—offering not just a bed, but a sense of security, community, and compassion. From volunteer-led dinners to visits from therapy dogs, Amy found comfort in small but meaningful moments during an incredibly difficult time.

After Brian's passing in October 2024, Amy's connection to Family House deepened. She returned—this time as a volunteer—leading dinners, organizing drives, and honoring Brian's memory by serving families on the same journey she once walked.

“A night at Family House is **so much more** than a bed.”



“A night at Family House is so much more than a bed,” Amy said. “It's safety, kindness, and peace of mind. When you're in crisis, those little things aren't little. They're everything.”

Today, Amy continues to give back, carrying forward the compassion she once received. Her story reminds us that every donation provides more than shelter—it provides dignity, relief, and hope. ●

How **YOU** can help us serve patients and families

To support our mission, please consider donating or volunteering. Your help can expand our programs and enable us to reach more families in need.

Together, we can ensure every family has a “home away from home” during their medical journey.

Volunteer:

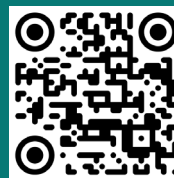
Visit us online to sign-up:
familyhouse.org/volunteer



or scan the QR code.

Donate:

Visit familyhouse.org/donate



or scan the QR code.

**A LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Thank you for a successful 2025 fiscal year!

Because of
you, FY25 was
extraordinary.



Nearly 6,000
patients and
caregivers called
Family House home
this past year, staying with us for
more than 34,000 nights. Families
traveled from all 50 states, D.C.,
and 19 countries for medical care
in Pittsburgh—and here, they found
more than lodging. They found
comfort, community, and a “home
away from home.”

Your generosity made this possible.
Together, we raised \$1.35 million in
operational support and secured
\$647,000 in grants for vital
projects. These funds helped us act
quickly when challenges arose—like
installing a new backup generator
after a 36-hour power outage—and
launch essential improvements,
including a full roof replacement
that was completed this summer.

And we’re building for the future.
Renovations are now underway
in our 121 guest rooms, with
upgrades like energy-efficient
lighting, modern furnishings, and
fully accessible bathrooms. These
changes will ensure that every
guest has a safe, comfortable, and
welcoming space for years to come.

None of this happens without
you. Thank you for standing with
Family House and bringing hope,
care, and stability to families during
some of the most difficult times
of their lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Plante'.

John Plante
Executive Director





YEAR IN REVIEW

Family House continues to fulfill its mission of providing a “home away from home” to patients who must travel to Pittsburgh for medical treatment by offering safe, affordable, and comfortable lodging. To allow for our organization to thrive, our room rates increased slightly in 2025. Yet, **they remain approximately \$44, or more, below standard hotel room costs**, helping families avoid the high occupancy taxes typically associated with hotel stays.

\$1,997,799

Total Gift Revenue



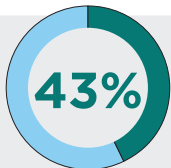
664

New Donors



34,786

nights provided
to patients and
caregivers



43%

of all nights were
supported by our
Family Assistance
Program

**3
nights**

Average length
of stay



Welcomed patients
and families from
**50 states +
Washington DC
and
19 countries**

365

days of
complimentary
breakfast
offered



7,500+

donated
volunteer
hours
contributed
to Family
House



\$125K+

worth of
donated time
by volunteers



FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Each year, Family House opens its doors to thousands of families during medical treatment. Family House is grateful to all those who supported this mission in FY25 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025).

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

Janet Boyers
Kaitlyn Brennan
Robert Burtner
Joette and Kurt Carlson
Renny and Linda Clark
Janet Cook
David DeShong
Robert Einbecker
Joel and Joan Ettinger
Shannon Gallagher
Jane Gilbert
Matthew Gorby
Estate of Rosemary Hiltner
Jean Jacobs
Tricia Keating
Dennis Kelleher
Drew and Tracy Keys
David Larotonda
Brett and Eleni Lucido
Marlene Mihalsky
David and Joyce Neumann
Gary New
John Plante and Christine Photos
AJ and Jackie Poole
Michael and Amanda Rost
David and Julie Russo
Andrew Servedio
Mark and Marcia Sherwin
Stephen Stillwell Trust
Steven Sushner and Adam Kirschenbaum
Kelly Szejko
Craig and Jill Tillotson
Linda Uber
Al and Jeanne Vallano
Dr. John Wilds
Gaye Wood

Family House News

42nd Annual Family House Polo Match Recap

The 42nd Annual Family House Polo Match, presented by **F.N.B. Corporation**, brought together families, friends, colleagues, and community supporters for an unforgettable day at Hartwood Acres on Saturday, September 6, 2025. Guests enjoyed a professional Polo match, a vintage car show, tailgating, live music, children's activities, delicious food trucks, and a spirited silent auction.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, attendees, and supporters, this year's Polo Match raised more than \$250,000 in support of Family House's mission to provide a "home away from home" for patients and families traveling to Pittsburgh for medical care.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us on the field and made this incredible day possible!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Kyalie Mizerak, Clinical Marketing Coordinator

How did you first get involved with Family House?

I can remember the first time I heard about Family House! My grandma, Karen Gallarno, had been a volunteer since the former Shadyside house opened and when I was eight or nine years old, she brought me with her for the first time. I grew up serving alongside my grandma and the rest of the grandkids at all four of Family House's former locations.



What do you enjoy most about working at Family House?

It's impossible not to notice how deeply the staff and volunteers at Family House care for our guests by always going above and beyond to meet their needs, even in the smallest ways. Being a part of this community is my favorite thing, and I'm blessed to have been around so many compassionate people for so many years.

What do you wish other people knew about Family House? I wish more people understood the value Family House provides. We're so much more than an inexpensive place to stay; everything we do attempts to take care of our guests physically, mentally, emotionally, and practically. Because we serve a fairly small subset of travelers, we're able to specialize unlike a regular hotel. All our services aim to make our guests' lives as easy as possible!

Family House Construction Project Updates

Family House recently began some incredible construction projects to continue to enhance our facility to serve as a comfortable, safe "home away from home."

- **Kamin Conservatory:** Thanks to **Dan and Carole Kamin and the Kamin Family Foundation**, Family House is building a beautiful new gathering area for guests. The Kamin Conservatory will provide year-round comfort space, complete with rocking chairs, for patients and caregivers of all ages to relax and connect.
- **Family House Roof Renovations:** Family House is not only now operating under one roof, with the help of **Centimark**, all of the many roof structures on our facility have been replaced.
- **Power Generator Installation:** Grant support from **The Hillman Foundation** and **Scott Foundation** is enabling Family House to install a new backup power generator this fall.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE:

Angel Flight East

At Family House, we are proud to partner with Angel Flight East (AFE), a nonprofit organization that transforms lives by providing free air transportation for patients and their families. AFE ensures access to critical medical care, connecting individuals to distant treatment facilities with compassion and care.



With the support of over 460 volunteer pilots—who generously cover all flight expenses—AFE serves approximately 200 passengers annually across the Northeastern U.S. Their commitment to easing the burdens of medical travel aligns seamlessly with our mission to support families during challenging times.

Together, Family House and AFE work to ensure that patients and their loved ones can focus on healing without the stress of travel logistics or financial strain.

To learn more about AFE and other Family House partners, visit familyhouse.org/partners.

Help Provide Items in Need

Help us support families with a collection drive of essential items and healthy non-perishable items:

- **Travel-sized hygiene products** (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- **Non-perishable breakfast and pantry items** (fruit or granola bars, canned goods, pasta, sauces, broths, peanut butter, etc.)
- **Household items** (tissues, disinfectant wipes, etc.)

For more needed items, scan the QR code or visit familyhouse.org/donate/ways-of-giving.



Please deliver donations to:
Family House
ATTN: Development Department
5308 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Shadowboxes at Family House

If you read Amy's story on the cover of this newsletter, you learned that Amy turned her resilience into purpose by giving back to Family House. Amy, several of her colleagues, and her employer, MSA, The Safety Company, one of Family House's generous corporate sponsors, are being recognized in a shadowbox in one of our guest rooms. These shadowboxes, like MSA's (pictured here), are available for donors supporting room renovations at Family House.

Interested in learning more about Family House shadowboxes? Reach out to us directly at development@familyhouse.org or call (412) 647-5893.





FAMILY HOUSE

5308 Liberty Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15224

TO GIVE

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

TO VOLUNTEER

- > Visit us online to sign-up:
familyhouse.org/volunteer
- > For questions: volunteer@familyhouse.org

TO BOOK YOUR STAY

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

TO CONNECT

   @FamilyHousePGH

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

FALL 2025
NEWSLETTER



Day of Giving

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 2

SAVE THE DATE!

Interested in
becoming a 2026
Polo sponsor?

ssurace@familyhouse.org



Visit familyhouse.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for details.