

Family House

Vol. 2, No. 1

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Thanks for Bringing it Back, Bucco's

If Yankee Stadium is the "House that Ruth built," then Family House is "the Home the Pirates built." Since becoming a major partner in early 1983 with their commitment of \$150,000, the Pirates have become MVP's on the Family House team.

At the dedication, President Dan Galbreath spoke eloquently about Family House. Joined by Pirate players Kent Tekulve, Larry McWilliams, Bill Madlock, front office staff and the Pirate Parrot, he pledged the resources of the Pirates to do whatever is necessary to assist in fund-raising efforts for Family House. These efforts include:

- A Family House Night at Three Rivers Stadium where it is now a tradition for Dr. Thomas Starzl to throw out the first ball surrounded by the cheers of hundreds of current patients, families, and Family House alumni.

- Bucco Bars sponsored by the Pirates and made by Geoffrey Boehm Chocolates.

- Donations from the Pirate Caravan luncheons where Pirate players and staff serve as waiters, with tips given to Family House.

- Four box seat tickets available to Family House guests for each home game. Youngsters staying at Family House are often invited to watch batting practice, visit the locker room and never leave without souvenirs.

- Pirates annually participate in the Family House/Michelob Golf Classic; they sign autographs at fund-raising events, and, on a more personal note, make visits to the patients and families staying at the House.

- Personal contributions have been made by Bennie Distefano, Joe Orsulak, Larry McWilliams, Mike Easler and Kent Tekulve.

- Pirate caps, shirts, autographed baseballs, and other souvenirs are provided for Family House events.

- Personal appearances by the Pirate Parrot for special events. Even in the off-season this zany team mascot is always ready and willing to help. He has become a "buddy" to many Family House guests.

The Pirate '85 commitment to Family House is well under way. In addition to the four seats and Family House Night, a special Organ Donor Awareness Night is planned for June 7. A "Pirate/Family House Benefit" is scheduled for July 13 at The Sheraton at Station Square, which includes dinner, a live auction, and Monte Carlo.

Like an ace reliever or a clutch hitter, the Pirates *always come through* for a Family House win. Join us in supporting them throughout the '85 campaign. Let's all back the Bucs by attending the Family House night and all Pirate home games this season.



Family House/Michelob Golf Classic

"Slammin'" Sammy Snead, Coaches Jerry Faust, "Foge" Fazio, Joe Paterno and Roy Chipman are scheduled to join Frank Fuhrer at the second annual Family House/Michelob Golf Classic, June 24 at the Pittsburgh Field Club.

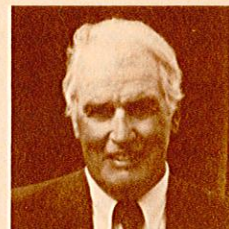
Michelob Pro Staff player Curtis Strange, recent winner of the Panasonic-Las Vegas Invitational and ranked Number One on the 1984 PGA Tour is scheduled to play. He will be joined by Michelob Pro Staffers Rosie Jones and Roger Maltbie.

As an extra incentive there are two "hole-in-one" prizes — McKean Cadillac will offer a Cadillac on hole #6 and Baum Boulevard Dodge will offer a car on hole #18. If you are closest to the pin on #4, you'll receive airfare for two from Eastern Airlines to anywhere it flies. Red Bull Inns of America will offer a challenge on #16. An exciting group of additional prizes is in store! Michelob Pro Golf Bags, cashmere sweaters, and sports bags; Bostonian golf shoes, and rain suits will be awarded. Local celebrities including Pirates, Steelers, and other sports figures will join each foursome as the gun signals the start.

Frank Fuhrer and Steve Blass are doing a great job to make 1985's Classic a huge success. Although the roster of participants is filled, you can still be a part of this great event by taking

an ad in the "Classic" program or by underwriting the cost of a tee or green. For more information call Steve Blass at 471-3545 or Wanda Wohlfarth at 647-5813.

Family House Partner Profile

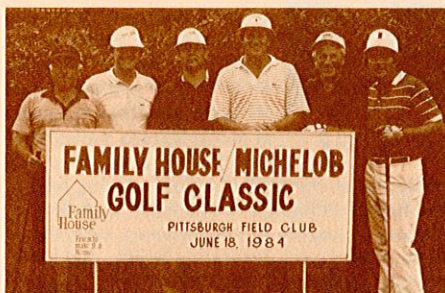


Frank B. Fuhrer, Jr.

As a partner and member of the Advisory Board, Frank Fuhrer has been a major force in developing and sustaining Family House. Mr. Fuhrer initially pledged \$150,000 over a three-year period to establish the House but soon recognized the need for additional fundraising. Drawing upon his many business contacts and putting his staff at the House's disposal, Frank Fuhrer established the Family House/Michelob Golf Classic in 1984 which made a \$20,000 "divot" in the Family House mortgage.

Born in East Brady, Pennsylvania, Frank is a self-made businessman driven by a strong work ethic. He has achieved impressive business goals while continuing to contribute to the community. In the years since 1966 when he first established a small insurance company, Frank has created a holding company of multiple businesses which includes the manufacturing and distribution of Tektor products, the Anheuser Busch Master Distributorship, the manufacturing of Roffler professional hair care products and an automobile leasing company.

Mr. Fuhrer has four children, and two grandchildren. His son, Frank, III, is a professional golfer, and a member of the Michelob Golf Advisory Staff. He will play in the Family House/Michelob Golf Classic.





Polo at Hartwood Acres

The Second Annual Polo Match at Hartwood Acres will be held on Saturday, September 14. Returning to vie for the prestigious Merrill Lynch Cup are the Potomac and Brandywine Polo Teams.

The day will begin at 11:00 a.m. when patrons gather field-side to tailgate and socialize with old friends and new. The match will begin at 1:30, followed by a champagne reception at the Hartwood Mansion featuring jazz by Nathan Davis and fabulous fashions presented by Saks.

Patron parking spaces will sell for \$150, which includes admission for 2 patrons and 2 guests to the Match and champagne reception. General Admission tickets will be available at the gate on the day of the event.

Circle September 14 on your calendar and plan to be with us for this exciting event.

A Word or Two from a Family House Guest

Family House has become a "family home"; it no longer qualifies as a house. The basic ingredient of a home is the people who live in it and Family House has sheltered so many of us since its opening in November 1983. Some have stayed for only a few days, others for months, and other have left and returned at a later time. Some have left full of hope, and some have left in sadness.

So many diverse people to remember! Geographically, we have represented countries all over the world: our friends from Bhutan, who were models of Eastern patience and politeness; an Egyptian businessman who was overwhelmed with his first Thanksgiving dinner; a woman from Turkey who conversed in any of five different languages as she worked in the kitchen; neighbors from Canada who spoke only French. All so eager to improve their English, to understand our customs, and to tell us about their homeland.

Within our own country, "family" has extended far beyond Western Pennsylvania. People of all ages, physical descriptions, ethnic backgrounds, economic status, living in a constantly changing unit. Regardless, each finds their place. Some seek the privacy of their rooms or perhaps the quiet of the library or the solace of the piano; in nice weather, the rhythm of the porch swing. Others seek companionship, having an urgent need to talk about the circumstances that have brought them to Pittsburgh. They find others with the same need in the kitchen, the television room, or maybe in the laundry.

No pressure, no demands, only a few basic rules to make communal living comfortable for everyone. No unwelcome intrusions by the press or television crews seeking those whose story is deemed newsworthy.

Friendships develop quickly and each departure causes an exchange of addresses and telephone numbers. A promise to keep in touch — to remain family.

Theresa S. Fortner

Family House Volunteers Are The Heart Of The House

In this and each future newsletter we will introduce some of our volunteers. They generously give their time to help our guests and to keep the House running smoothly:

MEET...



Ann and Fred Rotzell who are the senior members of our volunteer staff.

This past winter Fred celebrated his 80th birthday with a surprise party at Family House. When the Rotzells are not helping at the House, they can be found volunteering at Presby, the Blood Bank, or the School for the Blind.



Peg Byer — a member of the Women's Association of the American Cancer Society, played a very important part in helping to establish the policy and guidelines for Family House. With Cel McCabe, she served as our first volunteer coordinator, recruiting and scheduling volunteers. Peg and her husband, John, donated Room 312 in memory of Peg's sister, Gernie Moore.

Peg and John live in Murrysville, but spend much time travelling and enjoy May and September at their home in Myrtle Beach.



Sharon Volpatt — was one of the first volunteers. She began working for Family House in September, 1983, and gave some of the first tours of the House. Sharon, her husband, Ray, and three children live in Upper St. Clair and spend weekends at their home in Seven Springs.

Sharon's daughter, Amy, is a freshman at Penn State; Raymond, Jr., is an honors student at Upper St. Clair High School and Michael, an eighth grader, is a CLO mini-star. Besides being a busy mother and Family House volunteer, Sharon serves as advisor to the Deerfield Woods Garden Club.



Jean Yingling — Since the House opened in 1983, Jean's smiling face has been at the volunteer's desk. She and Sharon are known as the "Goodies" ladies — they never arrive without treats for our guests. Jean is a nurse at Monongahela Valley Hospital and, in addition to volunteering at the House, enjoys playing bridge. She has two children — Michelle, a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, who shares her mother's cake decorating hobby, and Mark, a junior at Bethel Park High School.

Good Friends

Family House benefits from many, many special friends. Here are some examples of how friends have helped to make Family House a home:

March 17 was Family House Day at the Pittsburgh Spirit-Chicago Sting game. Tickets were sold at all the University Health Center of Pittsburgh member hospitals, with a portion of the proceeds going to Family House. This event raised over \$400. As an added attraction, the "Friends of Family House" battled radio station B-94 in a celebrity soccer game at halftime. The *Pirate Parrot*, Steve Blass, former Pitt football and current Minnesota Viking Star Ron "Moose" Sams and the *Budman* joined forces with University Health Center of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital players to secure a 2-0 victory.

We thank the *Pittsburgh Spirit*, especially Chase Edmonson, for coordinating what we hope will be an annual event.

Family House guests were treated to the *Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's* opening night performance on February 21. The three-part performance featured "Actuations" with music by Stravinsky, "The Garden" with music by Claude Debussy and "Scotch Symphony" with music by Mendelssohn. Many thanks to David Fleeger and Barbara Rosenstein of the Pittsburgh Ballet for the donation of tickets. We also thank the always-anxious-to-help Family House volunteers who were on hand to provide transportation to Heinz Hall.

Spring has arrived at Family House! The crocus are blooming! Thanks to the *Perennial Garden Club of Fox Chapel* and Mrs. D. J. Hammerschmidt, 600 bulbs were planted in the fall.

The wreath in the parlor has been brightened with pussy willows, violets, and dogwood by Mariclaire Beggy.

Gail Gilliland has designed Spring bonnets to decorate the front doors. Gail always adds a creative touch to the House as the seasons change.

Volunteers Mary Struk and Violet Gallo bought 20 bunches of daffodils during the American Cancer Society "Daffodil Sale" for the House. Flowers always make the House so much brighter.

Mr. & Mrs. Val Sichi have bought two new coffee makers for the Family House kitchen. Mr. Sichi was a guest at the House while Mrs. Sichi was in Presby. Contributions from Family House guests are made frequently and we are touched by these gifts.

A beautiful bouquet of spring flowers graced the volunteer desk during Volunteer Week (March 28-April 3) as a reminder of our love and appreciation. We are truly grateful for the time, thoughtfulness, and commitment of our excellent group of Family House volunteers.

Wedding Bells

On May 18, Family House resident manager, Laurie Robinson, will become Mrs. Dorn Checkley. Dorn and Laurie will live at Family House. Please join us in wishing them much happiness.

Sharon Volpatt and Jean Yingling invited all the Family House Volunteers to a surprise bridal shower honoring Laurie on April 11. Laurie was "showered" with many lovely gifts and a gorgeous cake baked and decorated by the hostesses and Jean's daughter, Michelle. It was indeed a memorable evening for Laurie and all the guests.

Message From Laurie Robinson

There is a small network of special people little known to most. They hail from all over the United States and are characterized by their compassion, caring, and strength. They are all ages, male and female, and come from a wide variety of backgrounds. These are the families who have stayed at Family House.

While at Family House these families build strong and fast relationships. After leaving Family House, these relationships continue to grow through long distance phone calls, letters, and visits. Take, for instance, the "Whites" from Tennessee, who came to Pittsburgh because Mrs. White required specialized oncology treatment; and the "Adams" from Seattle, Washington, who came to Pittsburgh because Mr. Adams needed a liver transplant. The two families lived through many critical moments together and in less critical times saw some Pirate baseball games, toured the city, and shopped in every mall in the Pittsburgh area. Mr. & Mrs. White left for home, leaving behind their new friends to finish recuperating in Pittsburgh. The long distance calls began and now that Mr. & Mrs. Adams are about to return to Seattle, Mr. & Mrs. White are coming to Pittsburgh from Tennessee for their "Bon Voyage."

Ray is a 20-year-old young man from New Mexico who underwent an extensive hip replacement. Jim and his wife from Illinois were here for a liver transplant and became attached to Ray. After his successful liver transplant, Jim returned to Illinois, but surprised Ray by showing up in pre-op just before Ray's hip surgery several months later.

Another family who came from New York made fast friends with a family from Louisiana while both were waiting for organ transplants. Now that both patients have recovered and are back to more "normal" lifestyles the families talk frequently. Daryl, a 12-year-old from the Louisiana family, will be visiting his New York friends this summer for a week during summer break.

These are only a few of many such stories. Family House guests become a family, grateful for each other's support during anxious moments while waiting or recuperating from a second chance with the gift of life. The small network of former guests is growing as more and more families stay at the house, now just over one year old. These many Family House families thank the dear friends of Family House for making it all possible.

Second Chance Dedicated to Life

KDKA-TV and the Group W television stations launched the first organ transplant and donor education campaign in the history of television at the 22nd annual meeting of NATPE (National Association of Television Programming Executives) on January 11.

Created by KDKA-TV and entitled "Second Chance," the campaign is a totally integrated news, public service and public affairs programming effort aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of organ donations and increasing public commitment to such donations.

"While organ transplants save lives, there is a critical shortage of donations nationwide due to a lack of information on the subject. Group W believes only a project of this scope can raise the public consciousness of this vital medical need. The need for donors is acute. It is estimated that there are as many as 20,000 patients from whom organs can be obtained for transplant each year — yet fewer than 2,500 organs were actually transplanted last year,"

said Carolyn Wean, vice president and general manager of KDKA-TV. By signing and carrying the enclosed Organ Donor Card, you can support this effort. Please think about it!

National spokesman for "Second Chance," television and film star William Devane will be featured as spokesman in local and national public service announcements, promotion campaigns and print ads. He will host a one-hour special, also entitled "Second Chance" to be aired the week of June 9. Much of this documentary produced by KDKA-TV was filmed at Presbyterian-University Hospital and Family House.

A key component of the "Second Chance" effort is a toll-free National Organ Transplant Hotline to provide viewers with information on organ donation. Volunteers are needed to answer phones for the hotline located in the Presbyterian-University Hospital Administration Building, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. For more information, please call Mary Lou McLaughlin at 647-5813.

Gifts and Contributions

The following friends have generously made gifts to Family House since our last newsletter. Many thanks for their thoughtfulness.

Armstrong Charitable Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Avery
The Bridgeport Area Foundation, Inc. —
Mrs. Eleanor Pascoe
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Brown
Mrs. Linda R. Buehrle
Mr. & Mrs. Duane R. Clark
The Daniel Conn Family
Dapper Dan Club
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Deets
Reverend & Mrs. Jack G. Flinton
Ms. Charlotte Foster
Ms. Jeri Frizza
Mrs. Gail Gilliland
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Golomb
Evelyn M. Gusk
Jay L. Harris/I and C Activity — WPAD
Mr. & Mrs. Randall C. King
Donna Kahle & Family
Father Albert Leonard
Dr. & Mrs. Erwin Lesser
Charles G. Mallon, Jr.
Massey Charitable Trust
Mrs. Nancy Shaw McKee
Mr. Larry D. McWilliams
Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Miller
Ms. Mary Ann Miller & WPGH-TV
Mr. Maurice Perr
Ann Petrantoni
Presbyterian-University Hospital Gift Shop —
Ms. Agnes Zuckero
Mr. Rich Tomnay
Residents of Forbes Hall — Lothrop Challenge
Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Schnurrenberger
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Schubert
Mr. Robert B. South
Squirrel Hill AARP
Ms. Mary Stackpole
Dr. Thomas Starzl
Mrs. William Steitz
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Stern
Mr. John Sysko
Tri-River Clowns
Mirian E. Weaver
Mrs. Eileen Wikel & Daughter Sharon

Mortar Board Organ Donor Drive

By Jimmy Krell, President, Mortar Board, University of Pittsburgh

Mortar Board is a service-oriented Senior honor society on college campuses throughout the country. This year, the chapters at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, Duquesne University and Chatham College joined together in a special project to promote organ donor awareness.

The idea for the project began last October at Family House where Pitt Mortar Board sponsored a Halloween party. After developing a special relationship with several families, the Board realized that the best gift they could give to their new friends was help in finding more organ donors. After the birth of the program in November, the real work began. Plans were made to spread the word about organ donation and to distribute donor cards to as many people as possible.

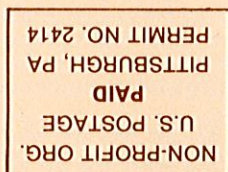
On February 13, the four Mortar Board chapters invited students from 163 smaller Western Pennsylvania high schools to participate in an afternoon seminar held on the Pitt campus. Mortar Board's goal was to inform these students of the critical needs of organ transplantation in the hope that each school would subsequently hold its own drive during National Organ Donor Awareness Week, April 10-16. The afternoon's speakers included liver surgeon Dr. Robert Gordon, Organ Procurement Foundation Director Donald Denny, and organ recipients Father Frank Pezzulo and Brian Reames. The students got a chance to express their own feelings during discussion groups at the end of the day. The program's success can be summed up with this comment by a participating student: "At one time I did not want to donate. But now, there is no doubt in my mind. I feel that if I can help fulfill someone's life when mine is over, I will feel satisfied."

Mortar Board also took their efforts to the students of their own schools. On February 14 and 15, information tables were set up in several locations at each of the four colleges. Members talked to students and explained the importance of signing uniform donor cards. The response was tremendous; several hundred students signed cards during those two days. Mortar Board wishes to remain a long-standing friend of Family House and has plans to repeat this project next year.

In Memoriam

We are grateful to those friends of Family House who have made a contribution in memory of:

Mr. Sidney A. Bachman
Mrs. Ruth Bauer
Mrs. Jeanette Booth
Miss Renee Cantos
Mr. Fred Corrieri
Miss Mary Cheatham
Mr. Conlon
Mr. Fred Ekeler
Chris Hough
Mrs. Marucci
Mr. Harry Massey
Mr. Richard Mignone
Mrs. Elsie Nativio
Mr. David T. Rees
Mrs. George A. Vahanian, Sr.
Randy Ward



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Family House



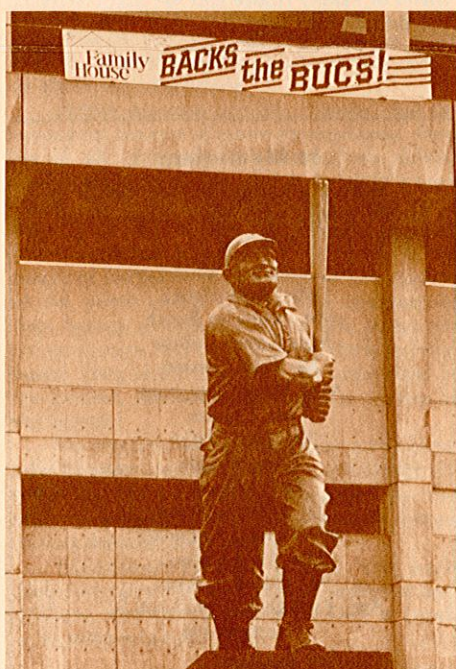
University Health Center of Pittsburgh

Members:

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Eye and Ear Hospital of Pittsburgh
Magee-Womens Hospital
Montefiore Hospital
Presbyterian-University Hospital
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

American Cancer Society, Frank B. Fuhrer, R.K. Mellon Foundation, Mellon-Stuart Company, Pittsburgh Pirates

FAMILY HOUSE BACKS THE BUCS



Cercle Francais Fait un don de \$105 a Family House

Many special thanks to *Paul Seltman* and the *French Club* of Shadyside Academy for donating the proceeds of their Teacher Impersonation contest to Family House.

WAACS Benefit

An evening with Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme has been planned by the Women's Auxiliary of the American Cancer Society Saturday evening, June 1, at Heinz Hall.

Patron tickets include dinner at the Duquesne Club before the concert.

Proceeds from the evening's event will be used to fund local patient service programs, public and professional education as well as important research into the causes and cure of cancer.

For more information please call 261-4352.

Beyond Family House

Selected patients with brain tumors are now being treated with implants by Dr. Robert Selker, Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Montefiore Hospital as part of the National Cancer Institute. The ultimate goal of this program is to establish the definitive and most effective treatment for malignant brain tumors.

It is necessary for patients participating in this pioneer program to return to Pittsburgh every eight weeks. Most must travel great distances at a tremendous expense. Because we can't always guarantee the availability of a room at Family House, it became necessary to arrange for alternative housing. This idea was introduced to the congregation of Shadyside Presbyterian Church by Reverend Douglas Pride and Family House volunteer Nora Jackson. Seven Shadyside Church families have offered the comfort and warmth of their homes to Dr. Selker's patients and families while they are being treated in Pittsburgh.

While this special program further emphasizes the tremendous need for Family House it is also gratifying to have the community respond to this need. We are grateful to Shadyside Presbyterian Church for adopting this mission.