

THERE'S NO PLACE
LIKE HOME

OCTOBER 16
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 5

A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

FRANCIS HOUSE



NEWS

SUMMER 2013

Resident Spotlight: Carol Davenport

"Mom will skip into heaven with a smile on her face," says George Davenport to his daughter Karin. Karin heartily agrees. They both describe Carol as quiet and gentle and an easy person to love. "Once they know her, people gravitate to her," says daughter Karin.

This is seen at Francis House. When Carol is visiting in the Great Room, it isn't long before there is a volunteer or staff person sitting with her, laughing and enjoying her company. "She is the silliest person, too. If she is comfortable with you, she loves to be a comedian, act in plays and be in the spotlight."

George believes he was always destined to meet and marry Carol. In 1980, George was in Louisville and saw a beautiful woman driving a white, 1975 Camaro. He said to himself, "I'm going to marry that girl." George and Carol met in the Atlanta airport. Carol was returning home from a conference on Kiowa Island and George from a conference in Atlanta. They exchanged business cards. Their first real date was dinner on February 16, 1981. They were married on December 12, that same year. George is still driving that white Camaro. In fact, Karin will be driving in that same car when she is married on December 7, this year.

When spending time at their cottage on the St. Lawrence River, Carol found time to read but filled her days with home improvement projects as well. She tore down a wall on the porch and helped George put in windows. She tiled the bathroom herself. "If we were just quietly sitting," says Karin, "Mom would jump up and say, Let's spray paint those lamps. Mom always wants to be busy, she can never just "be."

Both George and Karin describe Carol as a woman of great



Francis House resident Carol Davenport (center) enjoys the gazebo with daughter Karin and husband George.

faith. She often uses the phrase, "It's all in God's hands." When she was feeling very ill from the side effects of chemotherapy she described her situation to her family in this way, "God is with me, holding my hand. It's like a peace in my heart."

Carol worked for 17 years as the Office Manager for Bill Rapp Super Store. Says George, "Carol is very focused and detail-oriented. She worked very hard and was dedicated to her job. Once Karin was born, however, Carol's number one priority was her family." That priority is borne out as Carol, from her bed, puts her arm around Karin and gives her a gentle kiss. She looks at George and says, "I love you."

George has a picture of Carol on the terrace at Francis House having breakfast. A friend who saw the picture on Facebook remarked, "I thought Carol was at your home." George says, "She is at home, here at Francis House."

Carol passed away September 16th with her family by her side. We are grateful that Carol was a part of our Francis House family and for the love and laughter she shared with all of us.

FRANCIS HOUSE

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NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

What is family? There are many definitions. "A primary social group of parents and their offspring, the principal function of which is provision for its members." Or, "all the persons living together in one household." Another may be, "A group of people who are generally not blood relatives but who share common attitudes, interests or goals."

Family is about care and concern, sacrifice and giving. These qualities can exhibit themselves in situations that don't meet the typical understanding of family. I have been visiting an elderly friend who is in a long-term care facility. Mealtime is a remarkable experience. There are small groups of individuals who comprise the table. Each person arrives at a slightly different time. Greetings are exchanged and each person is served. If there is a dietary preference, one tablemate might share that with the staff, as in "She'll have the bread pudding but don't put on the whipped cream. She doesn't like it." As the meal progresses, there is conversation – perhaps it's about the weather, or the Yankee game or the golf channel. Social exchanges on the activities of the day, as in who won at bingo or danced (even in the wheelchair). But underneath the pleasantries is a current of caring and concern. "I didn't see you at lunch and I was worried." Did you hear that Jim went to the hospital? I hope he'll be alright." "She's new here and it's so sad. She cries all the time. I'm going to ask her to join our table for dinner. Maybe we can cheer her up." A group of people, human beings, sharing common interests and goals. A family.

I have had the privilege of viewing family in the context of Francis House for over 15 years. Residents come into our home and are welcomed into our "family." Our shared commitment is safety and comfort. Our goal is for a peaceful transition from this life to the next. Along with our residents, we welcome their more traditional family, spouse, parent, child, niece, nephew, best friend and confidant. In concert with each other, the family functions as a single unit, meeting needs, showing love, and certainly providing for its members.

It is that way also with our generous and committed benefactors. Giving of time, talent and treasure, these members of our family make it possible for the dream of Francis House to be lived out every day.

In the human family are many beautiful examples of God's unconditional love. We are blessed to be part of that family and to know love and care, given and received from our members, both within and outside the walls of Francis House.

In Peace and Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Light". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Light, Executive Director

Meg Bogosian Named Volunteer Citizen of the Year



Meg Bogosian, long-time Francis House volunteer, was named Direct Energy and Syracuse Media Group's Volunteer Citizen of the Year. Francis House staff, volunteers and community leaders gathered at Francis House on August 26th for the award presentation. It was the first time the award was given. Meg received several citations from local and state

politicians, a crystal award and a check for \$1,000. Francis House also received a gift of \$5,000 in Meg's name.

Meg is one of Francis House's original volunteers. She became involved even before the doors opened to our first resident. As a mother of six young children, she volunteered several times each month cooking and serving meals to our residents, cleaning the house and providing loving support to both residents and family members.

In 1997 when Francis House created our signature fundraising event There's No Place Like Home, Meg was one of the first to volunteer. She has worked side-by-side with staff to help build the event. She serves as the prize chair for the event, which is no small feat, with over 800 prizes needed to make the event successful. For months Meg spends a little part of every day visiting local businesses to ask owners to donate prizes. She secures hundreds of prizes every year.

Meg also helps behind the scenes at the event with decorations and event set-up. Through her artistic skills and thousands of hours of her own time, Meg has created everything from large displays to hand-painted silk banners. The week of the event, Meg is at the fairgrounds from early morning to late evening helping staff.

Meg has given her time as a board member for the Francis House Board and the Francis House Auxiliary Board.

"Meg is family," explains Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development. "Meg not only volunteers thousands of hours, but she has fun doing it! In the house, she was a constant support to our residents and she does the same for us as staff members. She is always the first to volunteer, to go out of her way to get things done. She inspires us."

Outside of Francis House, Meg has volunteered for many community organizations over the years including Susan G. Komen Foundation, OnPoint for College, Community General Hospital Foundation and Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund.

Congratulations Meg!

Welcome Mairead

Francis House is grateful to have Mairead Rauch as part of our ministry for the next year through the FrancisCorps program. The mission of FrancisCorps is to pass on the spirit of the Franciscan orders onto the next generation through prayer, communal living and service.

Mairead, a recent State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) in environmental resource engineering, heard about FrancisCorps during her sophomore year. Many people encouraged her to participate and in March she completed the application. After an in-depth interview process, Mairead was chosen.

After reviewing the many organizations with volunteer options, Mairead was drawn to the ministry at Francis House. "It seemed like the atmosphere I wanted to be surrounded in," says Mairead. And she believes she was right. She has found it to be a peaceful, loving place that "brings out the humanity in everyone."

Mairead will spend most of her time with hands-on help at the house. She will also give some office support when needed. Sister Colette Walter, household coordinator, says Mairead has already become a part of the family. "She is a natural fit. She is always willing and asking to do anything she can. She is so generous. She has the spirit of Francis House in her heart."

Mairead said her goal for this upcoming year is to grow spiritually; become more centered and be prepared for the next step in life. "I want to live in close-knit community, to become closer to God and help my brothers and sisters through their struggles. As long as I have food, health care, shelter, knowledge and companionship, I am happy."



Sister Colette Walter, household coordinator, (left) is grateful for the hands-on help of Mairead Rauch, FrancisCorps volunteer, who will be serving at Francis House this year.

Volunteer Spotlight

Event Chairs Heather and Mike Hennigan and Janice and Howard McCarthy

There's No Place Like Home, Francis House's annual signature event, has grown over the past seventeen years to become one of the largest fundraisers in Central New York. This growth is due in part to the tremendous volunteer leaders who have guided our event. We are grateful to have Heather and Mike Hennigan as Chairs and Janice and Howard McCarthy as Vice Chairs for the 2013 event.

Heather began her involvement with Francis House as a house volunteer. She became involved with the Auxiliary and served on the board, including serving as board president from 2009-2010. Heather has used her artistic talents to help with decorating the event, especially the silent auction.

Both Heather and Mike have been long-time supporters of Francis House, including hosting events at their home. They have also helped many other organizations in the community including Christian Brothers Academy, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and St. Joseph the Worker Church in Liverpool.

Heather is an artist and currently designs and creates glass jewelry and sculpture through her company "Born In Fire." Mike is a third generation grocer and owner of Nichols Supermarket & Nichols Discount Liquors in the village of Liverpool. They have three children: Kate, Michael and Eileen. When time allows, Mike and Heather enjoy traveling and camping.

The Hennigan children have also supported Francis House activities throughout the years. Kate and Mike were volunteers in the first years of the event. Mike has helped at Francis House fundraisers at the Hennigan home. Eileen helped to create the Francis House display board that we use for community education and volunteer fairs.



There's No Place Like Home Chairs Mike (left) and Heather Hennigan (2nd from left) with Vice Chairs Janice and Howard McCarthy hold up keys from the popular key game at the event. Over 500 prizes can be won if guests have the winning keys to the prize house doors.

Says Heather, "Francis House has been near and dear to our hearts for better than 10 years. We have been honored to be involved in supporting this important mission. The deep dedication and compassion that we have witnessed by so many staff and volunteers at Francis House, humble us as well as inspire us. Francis House is a special place on earth that provides residents and their families invaluable comfort to ease the journey to a special place in heaven. It is a true blessing for our community and we count ourselves blessed to be a small part of it."

Our other leaders for this year's event are our Vice Chairs Janice and Howard McCarthy.

Janice first learned of Francis House through her church bulletin in 2004. She soon became a house volunteer. Janice volunteers every Wednesday morning. Janice has also been an active member of the Francis House Auxiliary, including serving as Treasurer. Outside of Francis House, Janice volunteers for Meals on Wheels every other Monday.

Janice has encouraged her whole family to volunteer at Francis House. Children

Ryan, 33, Rory, 31 and Andrea, 26, join Janice and Howard and volunteer together at Francis House on Easter morning. They make mimosas and eggs benedict for the residents and family members. It has become a family tradition for them and for us at Francis House.

Howard eagerly joined the event committee. He has brought new supporters to Francis House to show them first-hand the difference they make. Howard is CEO of DUMAC, a local company started by his father in 1951.

Howard and Janice make it a point to schedule time with each other and with their family. They love the outdoors and love to walk and run. They also love to travel and are soon on their way to the United Kingdom for a two-week tour. Howard is an avid golfer and Janice loves to garden and enjoys taking care of their horses.

Thank you to Heather, Mike, Janice and Howard for all of your hard work and dedication. We look forward to a successful There's No Place Like Home!



FRANCIS HOUSE
INVITES YOU TO
CELEBRATE...

*There's
like ^{no} place
home*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013
5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
HORTICULTURE BUILDING
NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Tickets are \$50 and can also be
purchased at the door.

Enjoy delicious food stations and live music.
Purchase keys to unlock doors with a chance to
win wonderful prizes.

MAJOR SPONSORS

James F. Prioletti, CFP®, ChFC®
Certified Financial Planner®

Ameriprise
Financial



Teri and Ed Perry

Proceeds from the event will help us to provide loving
care to our residents with terminal illnesses.

To receive an invitation call Francis House at 475-5422
or email us at
info@francishouseny.org.

RAFFLE DRAWING

\$5 PER TICKET, 5 TICKETS FOR \$20
DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE EVENT ON OCTOBER 16TH

PRIZES:

- Roundtrip Airfare for Two, donated by jetBlue
- \$500 Gift Certificate, donated by Nichols of Liverpool
- \$500 Gift Card, donated by Destiny USA
- Dinner-of-the-Month for One Year,
donated by 12 local restaurants

*You do not have to attend the event to be a winner. If you can
help to sell tickets, or would like to purchase tickets yourself,
please call Adrienne Kelley, special events & development
coordinator, at 475-5422 or akelley@francishouseny.org.*

Remembering Maureen

Maureen Geisser was a beloved volunteer at Francis House from 1995 until 2007. She was so gentle and loving in everything she did. We are grateful for the many residents and family members she helped on their final journey.

We were saddened when we had to say goodbye to Maureen in 2007, when she passed away from cancer. Every summer family and friends gather to remember Maureen, celebrate her spirit and raise funds for Francis House in her name. Maureen's husband, Don, began the event six years ago. "It was a way for us to celebrate and enjoy each other's company as Maureen would want," says Don. "And it has continued every year because people want to keep it going. We have a great time."

Since its beginning, the tournament has raised over \$15,000 for Francis House. After a day of golf at the Pompey Golf Club, family and friends gather in Don's backyard for a barbeque. There is a raffle with all items Don gets donated and purchases himself. There is always a remembrance and toast to Maureen.



Don Geisser stands next to a poster bearing Maureen's picture and the title "In Memory of a Great Lady" at the annual Maureen Geisser Golf Tournament and Barbeque.

Awards are given for the golf winners and various prize contests. There is also the "Jeff Gordon Award" for the last place "winner." Maureen and Don loved to attend NASCAR events, and Jeff Gordon was Maureen's favorite—not Don's—and there was constant joking back and forth. So it was fitting this year that Don's foursome won the award along with Jeff Gordon memorabilia!

"We were so blessed to have Maureen in our Francis House family," says Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development. "And Maureen's legacy of caring continues as funds from this day help us to care for those who need us."

Thank You...

✿...CNY IAABO for proceeds from the 2013 Zebra Classic Basketball Tournament

✿... Thank you to the Jesuit novices for their volunteer support every Friday evening and for their help with many projects around the house.

✿...Sean Severance for dedicating his run at the Boston Marathon in memory of his mother Linda, who was a Francis House resident in November 2012, and raising funds for our ministry.



Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, accepts a check from Shelby Mustang Club President Mike Holy at their September meeting.



We thank Daryl Hanifan, owner of Seams Possible, and her quilting friends for making quilts for prizes for There's No Place Like Home. Pictured here Great Kalsuga (left) and Mary Lansley.

You Can Leave A Legacy to Support the Residents of Francis House

By naming The Caring Fund of Francis House in your will or other planned giving vehicles, you will be impacting the lives of our residents and family members for many years to come.

As with any financial decision, you should contact your accountant or financial advisor to discover what type of gift is best for you. For additional information, contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at 475-5422.



The Caring Fund

*in honor of
Sister Kathleen
Osbelt*

You Can Still Make a Difference

There is still time to give your gift to The Caring Fund In Honor of Sister Kathleen Osbelt. Your gift will impact this ministry for many, many years to come by helping us to establish an endowment for care for residents without financial resources.

We are currently creating The Caring Fund book which will forever be kept in the Chapel of Francis House. This book is being made entirely out of wood. It is a natural, simple, beautiful tribute to all those founding supporters of The Caring Fund. The name of every donor to the fund will be etched in the wooden pages

of The Caring Fund book. All donors who make a gift by October 15, 2013 will be included in the book. We look forward to unveiling The Caring Fund book in our January newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development at 475-5422 or blhoey@francisouseny.org.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this crucial campaign to ensure the future of our ministry. You are in our prayers of gratitude!

FOUNDERS CORNER

Dear Friends,

A book that found its way into my hands recently had a chapter on death, but not focusing on the final death, but on all the deaths we experience as we mature. Those deaths are the many losses that come our way: moving out of a familiar environment, leaving our family of origin, saying goodbye to friends, losing a job, a promotion, a house, a friend.

Each “little death” helps us to dig deep and clarify who we really are, what makes me who I am, and where is God in all this. Fall is a good time to reflect on whether we have allowed our losses to stretch us, to deepen us, to help us mature. We have found that many people at Francis House who are dying are very much alive. A paradox understood only by those who have incorporated and grown with each of life’s losses and have become more open, generous, and compassionate.

Take some time this Fall to take stock of the grace and blessings resulting from your own “little deaths.” You remain in my prayers.

J. Kathleen Cahell



Silver Tea is a Success

Thank you to all who attended and supported our Auxiliary Silver Tea on September 10th. A special thanks to Walter Miller and Jane Verostek for opening their home. It was a warm, sunny day and guests enjoyed the historic memorabilia and beautiful antiques throughout the home. Congratulations to our hard working Auxiliary members led by Tea Chair Nancy Marsden and Tea Co-Chairs Mary Jane Lowery and Debbie Greiner.



(From left to right) Nancy Skahen, Francis House Auxiliary President; Walter Miller, Silver Tea Host; Jane Verostek, Silver Tea Host; Nancy Marsden, Silver Tea Chairperson and Nancy Light, Francis House Executive Director

WISH LIST

Grocery store gift cards

Postage stamps

FOOD

Applesauce snack cups
Bisquick & pancake mix
Broth: chicken, beef, vegetable
Brownie mix: fudge & milk chocolate
Cake mix: white, yellow, devil's food
Chocolate chips
Coffee: decaf & regular
Cookie mix: sugar, peanut butter, chocolate chip, macadamia nut
Cooking oils: olive & canola
Cooking spray
Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster, saltine
Cranberry sauce (whole berry)
Cremora creamer
Flour (5 lb. bag)
Frostings: chocolate, vanilla, fudge cream cheese
Fruit snack cups: mandarin oranges, mixed fruit, pineapple tidbits
Gravy: chicken, turkey, beef
Hot cocoa mix
Jell-O snack cups (regular & sugar free)
Juice: cranberry, apple
Keurig K cups
Lemonade & Iced Tea mix
Mayonnaise
Muffin mix: blueberry, apple cinnamon, chocolate chip, corn
Mushrooms (small cans)
Nuts: walnuts, pecans
Pancake syrup & Honey
Peach/Pear halves (canned)
Pie fillings: cherry, apple, blueberry
Pineapple (canned) slices, crushed
Quick bread mix: pecan swirl, cranberry, cinnamon swirl, banana nut
Soda: 12 - 18 oz. (diet & regular)
Soup: cream of chicken, cream of celery, cream of mushroom, tomato
Sugar: regular, brown, confectioner
Tomatoes: stewed, diced, crushed
Tuna (cans) solid white & light

PAPER GOODS

Aluminum foil & plastic wrap
Flexible straws
Freezer & storage bags (all sizes)
Kleenex, Napkins & paper towels
Plastic cups (small)

HOUSEHOLD

Bleach
Dishwasher detergent pacs
Disinfecting wipes
Dryer sheets
Laundry detergent (phosphate free)
Liquid hand soap & sanitizer
Lysol kitchen cleaner
Swiffer sheets (dry)
Toilet bowl cleaner
Trash bags (13 & 30 gallon)

RESIDENT SUPPLIES

Baby wipes: unscented
Body powder
Mouthwash (travel size)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Alcohol pads
Bag Balm
Benadryl

We Pray for Our Residents Who Have Died Since the Last Newsletter

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Ahearn | Carol Davenport | Patricia Lambert | Roccalina "Lina" Ryan |
| Marion Andrade | Debra Lynch DeRose | James Lander | Elizabeth "Buzzy" Silsmer |
| John Bailey | Daisy Fried | Ida Libina | James Steele |
| Carl Belsi | Clifford "Randy" Graham, III | Josephine Longo | Henki Van Der Werff |
| Winifred Byrne | Erwin "EJ" Jewell | Mary McMahan | Charles Vinal |
| Jack Cain | Raymond Justian | Lillian Mackin | |
| Gail Cole | Linda Kehl | Paul Naughton | |
| Stanley Colella | William Kelleher, Jr. | Daniel Pastie | |

We Also Pray for Our Current Residents

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Earllane Anthony | Doris DeSalis | Mary Long |
| Mary Jane Ball | Patricia Frost | Josephine Monahan |
| Patricia Brigandi | Carol Jennings | John Pelkey |
| Lawrence Cantwell | Bertrand Levasseur | George Stanton |

