

25th Anniversary  
1991–2016  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

# FRANCIS HOUSE



# NEWS

SPRING 2016

## Francis House Begins an Anniversary Year of Celebration

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, over 300 people gathered at Holy Cross Church for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass. Msgr. J. Robert Yeazel officiated the celebration which included volunteers, staff members and benefactors.

The Mass was followed by a reception hosted by the Auxiliary of Francis House in the parish center. The room was decorated in green and silver. A slide show featured pictures spanning 25 years of our ministry. Guests were in awe of the incredible cake display created by Liz Haahr, Francis House menu coordinator, that included gingerbread house replicas of our

homes and a lighted sugar sculpture of the stained glass window in our chapel.

“It is overwhelming to share this moment with so many special people,” shared Sister Kathleen Osbelt, Francis House founder. “There are people here who were with me 25 years ago offering their time and their support. Every person did what they could. That is why our ministry remains strong to this day because everyone comes together as a community, as a family to love one another.”

*Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development (middle), shares a hug with Jean (left) and Suzanne (right) Moran. Jean's husband and Suzanne's father, Red Moran, was a Francis House resident in 2009.*



*Nancy Light, executive director (left) welcomes long-time benefactors Ellen and Jay Pristash.*



*Liz Haahr, menu coordinator with her homemade cakes in celebration of Francis House's 25th Anniversary*

## FRANCIS HOUSE

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Sister Kathleen Osbelt  
Beth Lynn Hoey  
Nancy Light

### NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

is published three times a year by Francis House. The newsletter is distributed free to friends of Francis House. For more information, comments or address changes contact:

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## Executive Director's Message

Twenty five years, nine thousand one hundred and twenty-nine days. These are so much more than mere numbers. When you add to those days and weeks and months the residents who have called Francis House home, those numbers take on faces, names and a special meaning. Think about the hundreds of volunteers who have been and many who still are, giving of themselves for this ministry. Add the faithful donors and supporters who have shared their time, talent and treasure to make the dream of Francis House a shining reality. So many years, so many wonderful people have been companions on this journey we call Francis House.

There is a song by Joyce Johnson Rouse, "Standing on the Shoulders." The first verse is,

*"We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us*

*We are stronger for their courage, we are wiser for their words*

*We are lifted up by their longing for a fair and brighter future*

*We are grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this earth."*

Twenty-five years after the first resident was welcomed, we are indeed standing on the shoulders of those who came together, believed in the mission and readily agreed to do anything they could to create this home and family. Were it not for the steadfast courage and faith in God's goodness, there might be nothing to celebrate today. But here we are, embarking on the next quarter of a century.

The model of care provided at Francis House is one that is finding a foothold across our country. The model is really quite simple--make a home where people at the end of life's journey can find peace, shelter, compassion and comfort. Francis House has been blessed and we are finding ways to pay those blessings forward. We are using our experience, knowledge and history to help others who want to make a comfortable home and family for those who are dying. Through the years we have served as mentors and guides for people from New York to California to help them make their dreams a reality.

In January of this year, Francis House launched a program we are calling the Francis House Resource Center. The work of this center will be multifaceted. There will be online information about our home, outreach to others wishing to create a similar home and family and community education around the topic of end-of-life-care. Sister Kathleen Osbelt is once again on staff and we are blessed to have her working on this program.

Thank you to each and every one of our Francis House family, past and present, for being the shoulders we needed for these 25 years. We ask God to bless us on our journey as we become the shoulders for others who have the vision of a comfortable, peaceful death for sisters and brothers at the end of life.

May God bless you and Francis House with the graces we will need for our journey.

In Peace and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Light".

Nancy Light, Executive Director

# Volunteer Spotlight: Dick Maloney

After retiring in 2011, Richard “Dick” Maloney saw a notice in his church bulletin. It said Francis House was in need of volunteers and he knew immediately it was something he wanted to pursue. And the timing was right.

Dick called and met with Rea Carver, Francis House volunteer coordinator. He was assigned his first task, to work in the kitchen to prepare and serve food for our residents. It wasn't long before Dick offered to help wherever there was a need. “When something comes up,” explains Rea, “I know I can always ask Dick.” Over the past 5 years Dick's duties have grown to include gathering and returning all the donated deposit bottles and cans twice a week, assisting with garden clean-up in the spring and fall and most recent, volunteering during set up of the annual “There's No Place Like Home” event.

When asked why he volunteers at Francis House Dick replied, “I have met so many wonderful residents

and their families. It is simply a peaceful place to be. I see the residents receive such love, dignity and respect from the caregivers and all the volunteers. Thanks to my experiences at Francis House, I have learned how to cope with death among my family and friends.”

Dick is very dependable and being at the house several times a week allows him to develop relationships with residents and families. Rea said, “Dick is very dedicated, hardworking and enthusiastic volunteer. Our residents look forward to seeing him on Wednesdays and Fridays.”

Dick, a native of Rochester, NY, moved to Syracuse to attend Le Moyne College and has lived here since he graduated in 1971. He currently resides in Liverpool with his wife, Marlene. When Dick is not giving of his time at Francis House, he enjoys running and spending time with his wife, their three children and five grandchildren.



*Volunteer, Dick Maloney finishes preparing breakfast for Francis House residents.*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN SOMEONE'S LIFE

**Become a  
Volunteer**

Join our Francis House family  
and make a difference  
in the lives of others.

For more information, contact  
Rea Carver, Volunteer Coordinator  
at 315-475-5422.



## Walkway of Blessings

We will be installing additions to our Walkway of Blessings this summer. If you would like to dedicate a brick in memory of or in honor of someone who has been a blessing in your life, your reservation form must be received by June 15, 2016. For your donation of \$100, a brick will be engraved with your message and placed in our walkway. You will be notified when your brick is installed. To purchase a brick, call 475-5422 or email [info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org) with the subject: “A Blessing Brick” and we will email you a form to complete with your payment.

# Donor Spotlight: Corrine Valerio



*Beth Lynn Hoey (left) Francis House's Director of Development with long-time benefactor Corrine Valerio.  
Photo by Norm Schillawski, Atlas Fence comptroller*

“Corrine is calling, what do you need?” Once a month, you will hear these words in the office at Francis House. For the past 18 years, Corrine Valerio has provided office supplies as her donation to our ministry. “It is my way to help Francis House,” says Corrine, “most people do not think about the office workers, but they keep the place running and I’m happy to help them do their job.”

Corrine understands the needs of an office first hand because she has worked as Office Manager at Atlas

Fence for 22 years. “There is not a paper clip out of place!” shares Beth Lynn Hoey, Francis House’s director of development. “Corrine is so organized, it is fitting that she lends her support to help us do the same.”

Corrine remembers when she first heard about Francis House in 1998. “Sister Kathleen Osbelt spoke at my church. When I heard about the work she was doing,

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*“When I heard about the work she was doing, it touched my heart in a special way.”*

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it touched my heart in a special way.” And Francis House has held a special place in Corrine’s heart ever since. Although Corrine has never had a relative or close friend at Francis House, she feels a special connection to the organization. “I just feel in my heart that I need to support this wonderful place. The little bit that I can do—I know it makes a difference.”

Over the years Corrine has contributed thousands of dollars of supplies. Not only does it help financially, but the staff look forward to Corrine’s deliveries. “Corrine is so very faithful with her calls,” says Lesa Wiedemeier, Francis House’s executive assistant. “The next day the boxes of supplies arrive, sometimes with a little treat for the staff as well.”

Thank you Corrine!

## St. Patrick's Day Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported our St. Patrick's Day Giveaway. All 600 tickets were sold. Congratulations to our winners Rev. Arthur Hapanowicz (not pictured), Ed Grieb and John Schneid.



*Check presented to Ed Grieb (right) our second place winner, by Adrienne Kelley, development & special events.*



*Check presented to John Schneid (left) our third place winner by, Adrienne Kelley, development & special events*



## Introducing our New Director of Mission Outreach Sister Kathleen Osbelt

Following our mission to “share our lived experience to help others,” Francis House has created a Resource Center to provide education on end-of-life care issues and mentor other groups who want to create a home like Francis House. Leading this effort is our newly created position of Director of Mission Outreach. We are thrilled to announce that our Founder, Sister Kathleen Osbelt, has accepted this position to help others to care for those in their final days with compassion and dignity.

Dear Friends,

*There are no words to express how happy I am to be back at Francis House and working side by side with the Francis House family every day. This new position, in addition to our 25th Anniversary year and our creation of a new Resource Center, makes this a truly exciting year. Francis House continues to help those who want to open homes to care for those with terminal illnesses. Presently, we are assisting two groups in Pennsylvania and another group in California. We were pleased to attend the opening of Mercy House of Hope of the Southern Tier in Endicott, NY in February. We were honored to journey with the founders of Mercy House over the past few years and were witness to the opening of their doors to those in need.*

*We are also creating a new website to share information on end-of-life care and our unique model of care. Look for an announcement in our next newsletter!*

*We also continue to reach out to those in our community to share our experience and information on issues regarding death and dying. If your company or organization is interested in an education session, please contact me at 315-475-5422 or kosbelt@francishouseny.org.*

Sister Kathleen Osbelt  
Director of Mission Outreach



## Annual Fashion Show May 12th

Auxiliary to Francis House Annual Meeting and Fashion Show Thursday, May 12 at the Doubletree Hotel on Carrier Circle. Fashions provided by Jane Morgan's Little House

## SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
5:30pm-8:30pm

New York State Fairgrounds,  
Horticulture Building

# Celebrity Chef's Celebrate 25 years of Francis House

Thank you Bill LaFluer and John Borchardt, owners of Carnegie Catering and Nick and Angelos Ristorante, for serving as our January Celebrity Chefs in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. When asked why they give of their time to Francis House, Bill said "We love what Francis House does for the community and wanted to give back to the residents and their families."



Francis House staff is all smiles after enjoying a delicious meal with Bill LaFluer (back row second from left) and John Borchardt (back row second from right).

A special thank you to Brian Connor, chef at Riley's, and assistant Joey Kingsley for serving as our February Celebrity Chefs in celebration of our 25 years!



Brian Connor, Riley's chef serves Francis House resident Harriet and grandson, Matt.

## A Look Back

*Throughout this anniversary year, we are sharing excerpts from past newsletters to celebrate how far we have come, and how our mission has sustained us.*

*Spring/Summer 1993*

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

...We can be the Spring warmth that makes another comfortable enough to take off the layers that kept him/her warm during a cold loneliness. We can be the rain which brings nourishment when we cry with someone in pain. We can be the wind that challenges another when needed. We are the stillness of a Spring afternoon when we sit in silence to companion another. God's miracles of new life are most profoundly seen in the seasons of the heart when that sacred ground is touched by another heart...Yours!

### WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

Bruce Stauffer, board member, and Nancy Duffy, chair of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, ask you to support our St. Patrick's Day Raffle. For sure, there will be not only Irish eyes, but eyes of all kinds smiling when we have sold 300 tickets for the raffle of \$10,000. The raffle will provide funds for the operation of our home."

### House Pins, A Francis House Tradition



The "house pin" is a signature symbol for Francis House supporters. Stained glass pins by local artist Tina Barry remain on sale for \$18 each. If you are interested in purchasing a pin or have a venue where our pins can be sold, please contact pin sale coordinator Nancy Skahen at (315) 458-1351.

# Living the Final Chapter Symposium



Dr. Robert J. Wicks kicked off the symposium with his keynote focusing on counteracting stress for caregivers.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Francis House and Le Moyne College *hosted Living the Final Chapter: Compassionate Care for Persons at End of Life* at Le Moyne College. The keynote speakers were Robert J. Wicks, Psy.D. and R. Ann Fitzgerald Ober, RN, PhD.

Dr. Robert Wicks opened the day focusing on the secondary stress that people deal with as caregivers and in their personal lives. Attendees enjoyed Dr. Wicks stories of his time with medical professionals and caregivers across the globe from hospitals to the front lines of war-ravaged countries. He shared tools on how to deal with the high-stress of caring with others, noting that every caregiver must focus on his or her self care to be able to continue to serve others. Dr. Wicks' book *Riding the Dragon: 10 Lessons for Inner Strength During Challenging Times* sold out at our bookstore.

Breakout sessions included: spiritual care; how to make personal wishes known; and the emerging movement of medical and social hospice care.

The day ended with R. Ann Fitzgerald Ober, RN, PhD, who focused on how to have healing conversations and difficult conversations. Attendees participated in exercises focused on listening and being present in the conversation. We thank Ann for donating the proceeds of sales at the symposium of her book, *Healing Conversations: Essential Communications for Healthcare Professionals*.

## An Unforgettable Evening with Scott Simon

The symposium was preceded by *Unforgettable: An Evening with Scott Simon* on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at Le Moyne College. Over 100 guests gathered to hear the remarks of Scott Simon, best known as the award-winning host of Weekend Edition Saturday on NPR. Mr. Simon shared stories recounted in his book, *Unforgettable*. The book chronicles his time with his mother in her hospital room during the last weeks of her life in July 2013. It was a special night filled with laughter and tears. We are grateful for Mr. Simon and the extra time he spent talking with guests and signing copies of his book.



(from left) Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, Nancy Light, executive director, Barbara Carranti, Francis House board member, Scott Simon, Sister Kathleen Osbelt, Francis House director of outreach and Dennis DePerro, Francis House board member.

# Thank You...

☞... Thank you to an anonymous donor for a new freezer for our food pantry.

☞... Thank you to the Syracuse University Sports Medicine Department for their assistance in making meals and serving our residents during winter break.

☞... Thank you Bernice Buck for hosting another successful Super Bowl Party raising over \$1,500 for The Caring Fund, Francis House's Endowment.

☞... Thank you to Carter Funeral Home for printing our special prayer cards given to every family.



*Adrienne Kelley, development and special events, Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development and Sister Colette Walter, household coordinator enjoy a sunny afternoon with members of the Valley Desperados Motorcycle Club at their annual fundraiser and pantry drive for Francis House.*



*Thank you AT&T for your collection of food pantry items and over \$1,400 in support of our resident care.*

☞... Thank you to Kevin Pugh for designating Francis House to receive a donation from C&S Companies in recognition of his volunteerism in the community.

☞... Thank you Masons for the Easter food meals.

☞... Thank you Linda O'Boyle and Metro Home Style customers for being so generous and donating over 10 boxes of items from our wish list to add to our pantry.



*Linda O'Boyle (left) delivers donated pantry items to Beth Lynn Hoey, Francis House director of development (right).*

☞... Thank you to the Eastwood Rotary for a grant to purchase two resident beds.



*(from left) Wayne Bodow, president and Ed DeLong, member present a check to Beth Lynn Hoey, Francis House director of development.*

☞... Thank you to the Vietnam Veterans of CNY Foundation for their generous donation in support of our Vietnam Veteran residents.



*Pete Bronstead (left), chapter President and Bob Quirk (right), chapter Vice President deliver a check to Adrienne Kelley (middle), Francis House development and special events.*

☞... Thank you to all of the special people who helped make our 25th Anniversary a beautiful evening. Rev. J. Robert Yeazel, the entire Holy Cross staff, and the Auxiliary of Francis House.

# Your Legacy of Love

We have received tremendous support from our benefactors who have named Francis House in their wills and other planned giving vehicles. We would especially like to recognize the following for their generosity:

Estate of Kathleen V. Snavely  
Estate of Robert D. Holl  
Estate of Edward J. Shaughnessey  
Estate of Anne A. Garofalo

We ask you to consider leaving your legacy to support our ministry at 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 more information on The Caring Fund, go to [www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org) or contact Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development.

# An Easy Way to Give Your Support

You can schedule monthly or quarterly gifts through ACH(Automated Clearing House) debits.

ACH debit allows you to make your donation electronically. It is a more efficient, cost-effective program for both you and Francis House. For more information, please contact Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development 315-475-5422 or email [blhoey@francishouseny.org](mailto:blhoey@francishouseny.org).

## The mission of Francis House

Francis House provides a home and extended family to persons with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity surrounded by the unconditional love of God. We will use our lived experience as a resource for others.

### The core values of Francis House are:

Compassion, Unconditional Acceptance,  
Respect and Dignity.

## WISH LIST

### MISCELLANEOUS

8 ½ X 11 white copy paper  
Grocery store gift cards  
Postage stamps

### FOOD

Applesauce snack cups  
Bisquick  
Broth: chicken, beef, vegetable  
Brownie mix  
Cake mix: white, yellow, chocolate  
Chocolate chips (semi-sweet)  
Coffee: decaf & regular  
Cookie mix: sugar, peanut butter, chocolate chip, oatmeal  
Cooking oils: olive & canola  
Cooking spray  
Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster, saltine  
Cremora creamer  
Flour  
Frostings: fudge, vanilla, cream cheese  
Fruit in flavored gelatin snack cups  
Fruit snack cups  
Gravy: chicken, beef, pork  
Honey  
Juice: cranberry juice cocktail, apple  
Mayonnaise  
Pancake syrup  
Peaches or Pears (small cans)  
Peanut butter (16 oz. jar - creamy)  
Pie fillings: cherry, apple, blueberry  
Pineapple (canned) crushed & chunks  
Pudding snack cups  
Quick bread & muffin mix  
Soda (liters and cans)  
Soup: cream of mushroom, tomato, vegetable  
Sugar: granulated, brown  
Tomatoes: diced, crushed  
Tuna (cans): solid white & light

### PAPER GOODS

Coffee stirrers  
Flexible straws  
Freezer & storage bags (all sizes)  
Parchment paper  
Plastic or paper cups (5oz.)  
Plastic wrap  
Snack & sandwich bags  
Tissues & napkins

### HOUSEHOLD

Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt  
Bleach  
Dishwasher detergent gel pacs  
Disinfecting wipes  
Glass cleaner  
Laundry detergent (phosphate free)  
Liquid hand soap & sanitizer  
Lysol kitchen cleaner  
Masking tape and painter's tape  
Swiffer sheets (dry)  
Toilet bowl cleaner  
Trash bags (13 & 30 gallon)

### SUPPLIES

SUPPLIES  
Alcohol pads  
Baby wipes

## Receive Francis House Newsletter and Updates Via Email



If you would like to receive this newsletter and other Francis House updates through your email, visit [www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org). Many of you have asked for this option for your convenience and to save Francis House resources.

## We Pray for Our Residents Who Have Died from August 18, 2015 - April 8th 2016

Concetta "Connie" Abbata  
Saba Abou  
Barbara Ashby  
Robert Baggett, Jr.  
Sharon Bahn  
Agnes Barone  
Joseph Boise  
Loretta Bono  
Martha Booher-Smith  
Robert Glenn Brown  
Daniel Calkins  
Marie Carey  
James Carroll  
Martin Casey  
Roberta "Bobbi" Castaldo  
Donna Clary  
Christine Coleates  
Nicholina "Nickie" Collar  
Claudia Constatas  
Agnes Coon  
Marie DeMichele  
Jennie DePerro

Valentino DiNicola  
Mary Lou Dowling  
Roberta Dungey  
Rebecca Fedele  
Gerald Fielding  
Kathryn Fischer  
Philip Galuppi  
Joseph Garofalo  
Catherine Giannetto  
Patricia Goettel  
Harold Goldberg  
Sandra Guzman  
Kathryn Hable  
Donna Halstead  
Catherine Healy  
Nancy Jarvis  
John Kirsch  
Susan Leach  
Arlene Lewis  
Concetta "Connie" Lincoln  
Patrick Lizzio  
Pauline A. Lynch

Robert J. Lyons  
Patricia MacKillop  
Ann Mangan  
Virginia Maroney  
Nick Meola  
Denise Moore  
Mary Morrison  
Barbara O'Leary  
Bernard Paestella  
Elizabeth Parish  
David Patrick  
Nancy Pevarnik  
Betty Plunkett  
Julia Polacci  
Daniel Ranlet  
Florine Robinson  
Shawn Rodriguez  
Claire Roeder-Cummings  
Karen Rogers  
Harry Rook  
Jeaninne Rowan  
Carole Rowland

Marcia Rutledge  
Margaret "Peg" Rydelek  
Paula Salce  
James A. Sawyer  
Edna Scardella  
Aline Shaffer  
Ruth Simone  
Muriel Smith  
Steven J. Smith  
John Smorol  
Betty M. Snyder  
Lewis Spagnola  
Marian Stone  
Myrna Thayer  
Sally Wake  
Leon Watson  
James R. Webster  
John Wise  
Rose Marie Wortman