

A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

FRANCIS HOUSE



NEWS

SUMMER 2012

Resident Spotlight: Joan Carroll

A Lifetime of Caregiving and Service

Joan Carroll was one of the first members of the Francis House family. When the house opened in 1991, Joan gave her time and talent from a career in nursing to become one of our very first caregivers. It was a testament to Joan's belief in service and giving to others.

Joan was born and raised in the small New York town of Whitetail. She was raised in a close family and her parents instilled the values of the importance of family, hard work and support of those in need.

Says Tim Carroll, Joan's son, "it was a time that defined a generation and defined the person my mother was. She worked hard and always gave time for others. One of her favorite memories was picking apples during the war. When the family wasn't working, they were in the orchards helping the local farmers. It was hard work and she loved it."

Joan married Robert Carroll in 1947 and had a beautiful family that included two sons, Mike and Tim and daughter Mary. Family always came first, but Joan also was dedicated to her career as a nurse. She first worked as a nurse caring for those injured at

manufacturing plants. She witnessed the most horrific injuries, but loved being able to serve her patients. Joan then worked as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital on the night shift. After moving to Ohio for a few years because of her husband's job, they returned to Syracuse where Joan worked at Hutchings Psychiatric Center.

One of Joan's favorite pastimes was gardening, and of course, Joan used this to help others. She became a gardening volunteer at Francis House and she made sure that the yard was beautiful. Every bedroom has large, low windows to enable residents to see outside even from bed.

In April, Joan entered Francis House as a resident. Everyone was honored to care for a woman who had given so much of herself for our ministry. Says Tim, "when we walked in and we saw how lovingly she was welcomed, we knew it was the right decision."

Joan loved sharing stories of the first years of Francis House. She especially loved talking with our caregivers. She told them they were lucky because, "it

was all up and down stairs all day in the old house."

Even as a resident, Joan was thinking of ways she could care for others. Joan talked with her family about making a legacy gift to Francis House. Joan's gift will support The Caring Fund, Francis House's newly-created endowment. Through her gift, Joan will continue to care for our residents for many, many years to come.

We said goodbye to Joan on April 17th. We were privileged to have Joan as a member of our Francis House family and we are forever grateful for the impact she made and will continue to make on the lives of our residents and family members lives.



Joan (middle) and gardening volunteers (from left to right) Vi Simonelli and Joelle Wood.

FRANCIS HOUSE

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NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

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Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Fear, worry, anxious hours. Things seem overwhelming and out of control. Thoughts race from, I'll be OK to, where will I go, who will help me, how much time do I have left?



Over the last fourteen years, I have met and talked with so many people who are themselves or have a loved one that is, nearing the end of their life. Dying at home is not an option for them. Family may be scattered across the United States or exhausted from months of care, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In many instances, there is no family at all to help. The need for support, for physical care and for compassionate presence grows more each day. Anxiety about cost, because we are all very aware of the high cost of care in our country, overshadows all these thoughts. "How will I pay for what I need?"

When Francis House calls, saying, "We have a bedroom for you," the fear immediately subsides, peace enters in and energies are put into living for however long that life may be. Sister Joette Ebert, OSF, put it very well when in 1991 she wrote, "As strangers, broken, pained they come... Looking for that welcome wherein one's name is Friend, and one's story, precious. When we become family, this becomes home." I left many homes in the early years feeling sad and frustrated at the lack of space for persons so clearly in need. That Francis House has expanded from 6 to 8 to 16 bedrooms stands as a testament to the recognition of that need and to the generosity of so many people in our community. Careful stewardship of that generosity has allowed us to say "yes" when the request has come.

Now is the time to look to the future, to build on that strong and truly extraordinary foundation. The Caring Fund in Honor of Sister Kathleen Osbelt is the next milestone in our mission of caring for those who are dying. We always want to say, "yes" despite the economics around us. Whether the years are lean or good, there will always be a need for a home where our brothers and sisters may die with dignity while witnessing the unconditional love of God. The Caring Fund is the first step in preserving that mission for the future.

In peace and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Light". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Nancy Light, Executive Director

The Caring Fund

in honor of **Sister Kathleen Osbelt**



Sister Kathleen ministering to a resident in the early days of Francis House.

We are dedicating the Francis House Endowment, The Caring Fund in the name of our founder, Sister Kathleen Osbelt. The endowment will be a restricted fund. The principal funds raised will never be touched. Income generated by the fund will be used to offset the cost of care for those in need to help alleviate the mental and emotional distress they suffer when they have no financial means. It will provide assurance for the future that when someone is alone, has nowhere to go and has just months to live, they will find a home and a family in Francis House.

This ministry was created from the love Sister Kathleen had for those most in need in our community. She has inspired countless individuals to give of themselves unconditionally. For twenty years she has been a true servant leader; working side by side with volunteers and staff caring for our residents. Sister Kathleen serves as a board member and continues to be actively involved in nurturing the mission and ministry of Francis House.

Sister Kathleen's favorite scripture reads, "Glory to Him whose power at work in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." (Eph. 3:20) The 2,000 individuals who have spent the end of life's journey with us along with over 8,500 family members are a testament to these words. Francis House stands as a fulfillment of this statement, but there is more work to be done. We ask you to partner with us to ensure that Francis House is here for many years to come.

Compassion
Unconditional Acceptance
Respect & Dignity





Sally Whaley, Francis House caregiver, shares a laugh with resident Marlene K.

“Becoming aware of what is inside Francis House—love, friendship, compassion—moved my husband and me to make a living promise. Funding makes this unique home possible. The Caring Fund will make this home available to others in the future. Those who come here as residents are respected, loved and cared for in a truly comforting and compassionate manner. Francis House is truly a home, a comfort during the most trying time. Nothing is better than that.”

“Our family has been twice blessed by Francis House and we are proud to be part of the Francis House family. My father and my mother were active volunteers in the ministry’s early days. I have vivid memories of my mother, my wife and our children visiting with my father in the original house. It was wonderful for him and for our family to share his passing in a home that had brought him and my mother so much joy and happiness. My mother continued to serve as a volunteer, fundraiser and all around supporter. When my mother’s health began to fail she also had the opportunity to move to Francis House... this she referred to with great joy as “going home.” I can tell you for sure there was no place in the world where she would have preferred to spend her final days. We are happy to support The Caring Fund because it will provide financial stability to assure the ministry and Sister Kathleen’s dream will continue.”



Helen Day, former Francis House volunteer and resident. Letter written by her son, Phil Ramsey.

Sister Colette hugging family member.



“I am so blessed to spend time with every resident. When it is time for them to move on, I say ‘there are 2,000 wonderful people who were here at Francis House that are waiting to welcome you into Heaven.’”



Gen Saya, President of the Francis House Board of Directors talks with Francis House volunteer Sue Riley.

“I gave to The Caring Fund because I care. I believe in this ministry. This endowment will help us continue to fulfill our mission of caring and providing home for those who come to us. There are so many places demanding every person’s resources, but when you give to Francis House it makes a difference in people’s lives. Every gift is important. Gifts combine to make a huge impact. I’ll never forget the family member of a resident who told me, ‘Francis House is the foyer to Heaven, filled with angels.’”



Rena Gianquitti one of the friendly voices you hear when you call Francis House.

“I love Francis House and it is one of the most important things in my life. Every morning I say my Francis House prayer and I think of all the people here—residents, family, volunteers, staff and donors. If I can help by volunteering and donating I will always do it. I’m not a financial person, so the idea of an endowment was new to me. But when I learned that The Caring Fund will help Francis House for the future, I wanted to help. Francis House needs to be here, forever.”

The Funding Challenge

The mission of Francis House embraces the legacy of Saint Francis, Saint Clare and Saint Marianne Cope. Sisters of St. Francis, who sponsor our ministry, have committed themselves to the ministry of caring for the suffering as well as to the call to be good stewards of the resources available to us in the completion of that duty.

During the 2010 fiscal year, Francis House received 601 referrals from people at home, in hospitals or nursing homes. Those who came to Francis House in the last days of life did so out of a need for loving care, support and emotional peace. They were welcomed into our home without regard to their ability to pay for that care.

Prior to admission, Francis House is diligent in meeting with every resident or family member to discuss finances and make clear our position as a home dependent on private donations. It costs \$6,700 per month to care for each resident. On admission day, Francis House determines a monthly contribution for each resident representing some or all of the cost of care.

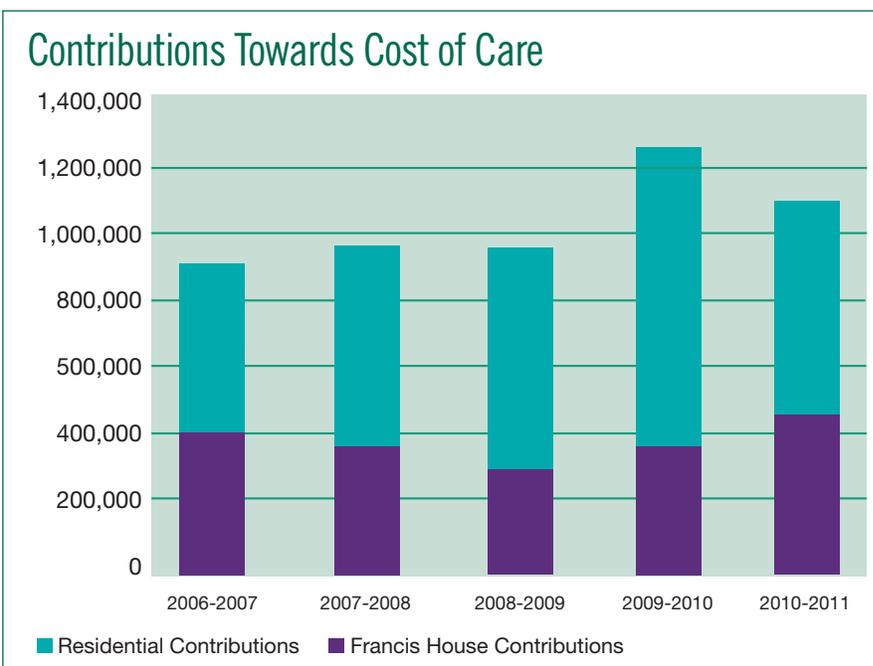
Francis House has grown to accommodate need, but with that growth has come the increased cost of operating two homes. Routine expenses such as utilities and food, as well as the cost of additional caregivers, have increased. Many of those we serve are on a fixed income and most have endured a long, expensive illness prior to coming to us. While their expenses have increased, their income may not have kept pace. Simply put, we are here for people who need us

most. Our annual budget of \$1.3 million is met through the generous donations of individuals, corporations and foundations in our community. Francis House is not a licensed facility. It is a private home and is not eligible to receive direct third-party reimbursement such as Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance.

Francis House has raised funds through a strategic development plan that includes diverse programs from memorial giving to our successful annual signature event, “There’s No Place Like Home.” Monies raised through the development program have enabled Francis House to contribute toward cost of care for residents without financial resources. However, fundraising in today’s economic climate continues to be challenging. If we are to remain true to our needs-based mission, ability to pay for care must never be a consideration for admission.

If we are to remain true to our mission, the ability to pay for care must never be a consideration for admission.

Therefore, we have established an endowment for Francis House. This endowment, The Caring Fund, is restricted for the operating costs of Francis House.



*Note: In 2009, the cost of care per resident was adjusted from \$6,300 per month to \$6,700 per month and can be seen by the overall increase in cost of care.

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“I have always believed in the mission of Francis House. For the past 11 years, I have eagerly volunteered to support this ministry in any way I could. I’ve sold pins, served on the Auxiliary Board and Board of Directors, served on the event committee. But everything changed this year when my mother-in-law became a resident. I saw Francis House from the other side of the bed. I cannot express the care and compassion that was given to my entire family. Now I see even more why Francis House must be here and why The Caring Fund is so essential. What happens here is amazing and every person deserves to spend their final days in comfort and feeling so loved.”

—Maureen Drescher

Dear Members of Our Francis House Family,

For 21 years I have been witness to God’s work at Francis House. While I miss my personal daily visits with our staff, volunteers and residents, I thank God every day that the work of Francis House continues. Francis House is and will ever be close to my heart.



There is no one who walked into our house on 108 Michaels Avenue 21 years ago that could have imagined that our four-bedroom house would grow into two houses with eight bedrooms each. Who could have known that we would have cared for 2,000 residents and have over 500 active volunteers.

There are so many stories attached to those many lives: stories of last wishes fulfilled; peace given to anxious family members and their loved ones; reconciliations made and incredible stories of love shared. There have been many accounts of angels, light and loved ones who had died, being seen at life’s end.

Francis House has to be here to embrace those with terminal illnesses. This home, this community coming together to care for others, is a place where volunteers say, “I get back much more than I give.” Staff members have a job that makes a difference in the lives of others. Teens learn that their youth and energy brings life to our residents. Donors can see that their gifts unfold into works of mercy.

Francis House has been a blessing to me personally because of the miracles I have witnessed. That is why I believe in the importance of building an endowment. We have to make sure those miracles continue and that our ministry will still be around here serving those in need long after I have joined our past residents.

So please, help me raise the needed funds for The Caring Fund Campaign. We have set our goal to begin the endowment at \$2 million. Thanks to gifts from many generous benefactors we have over \$1 million pledged. With your help we can make it.

God bless each of you and give you peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Kathleen Osbelt".

Sr. Kathleen Osbelt

We are so grateful to those of you reading this newsletter who have already made your generous pledge to The Caring Fund. We are asking all of our Francis House family to support this important campaign.

The enclosed envelope in this newsletter is dedicated to The Caring Fund. It is your pledge card. We are accepting pledges over the next five years. You can also make a one-time gift and enclose it in the envelope. Checks can be made payable to Francis House Caring Fund. Thank you for enabling us to continue our ministry for those who will need us in the future.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to someone in person about The Caring Fund, please contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at 475-5422 or blhoey@francishouse.org.



There's ^{no place} like home

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 10, 2012
5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
HORTICULTURE BUILDING
NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS

MAJOR SPONSORS

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

*Teri and Ed
Perry*

Enjoy delicious food stations
and live music.

Purchase keys to unlock doors with a
chance to win wonderful prizes.

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

Questions? 315-475-5422 or
www.franchishouseny.org



Mark Your Calendars

Auxiliary Annual Silver Tea

Wednesday,
September 12, 2012
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

At the beautiful, historic home of
Brian and Linda Osborne
4571 Ridge Road, Cazenovia, NY 13035

Invitations will be mailed in August

WISH LIST

Grocery store gift cards
Postage stamps

FOOD

Applesauce snack cups
Bisquick
Broth: chicken, beef, vegetable
Brownie, cake & cookie mix
Cereal: Cream of Wheat, oatmeal, corn flakes
Chocolate chips
Coffee: regular & decaf
Cooking oils: olive & vegetable
Cooking spray
Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster
Creamora
Dessert mix (no-bake cheesecake, etc)
Frostings
Fruit snack cups
Gravy: chicken, beef, turkey
Jam/Jelly
Jell-O snack cups (reg. & sugar free)
Juice: cranberry, apple, V-8
Lemonade mix
Muffin & quick bread mixes
Mushrooms (small cans)
Peanut butter
Peach halves (canned)
Pie fillings: raspberry, cherry, etc
Pudding snack cups:(reg. & sugar free)
instant & cook-n-serve
Soda: 12 oz. cans (diet & regular)
Soup: tomato, cream of celery, cream of
chicken, cream of mushroom
Spaghetti sauce (jars)
Sugar: regular & brown
Tomatoes: stewed, diced, crushed
Tuna: (cans) regular & light
White vinegar

PAPER GOODS

Aluminum foil & plastic wrap
Freezer & storage bags (all sizes)
Kleenex
Napkins & paper towels
Paper cups (3 oz.)
Plastic cups (small)
Plastic silverware

HOUSEHOLD

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

RESIDENT SUPPLIES

Baby wipes
Body powder
Mouthwash (travel size)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Alcohol pads
Bag Balm
Benadryl
Immodium

SPECIAL NEEDS

Yard String Trimmer

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

Paulette Ackerman
Michael Acuff
Franz Brunner
Mary "Joann" Buroker
Joan Carroll
Victoria Commonda
Jean Congdon
Letitia "Betty" Cosco
William Coughlin
Joseph "Joe" Donahue
Mary Drescher
Yolanda Filosi

Mary Gentile
Mary Gitzen
Carol Harmon
Dorothy "Dottie" Hickok
Clyde Hightower
John "Jack" Hill
Richard Keller
Jay Kay Klein
Kathleen Kline
Maureen Knopp
Harvey Loshaw
Ann McVicar

Eugene "Pete" Mardin
Jennie Meyers
Mary Millacci
Diane Millek
Barbara Miller
Irene Mitzo
Evan Murdock
Rose Oliveri
Timothy Penson
David Phillips
Amy Pole
Helen Provo

Anthony Quiles
Shirley Powless
Michael Reidy
Patricia Reney
Elizabeth "Liz" Robinson
Grace Rose
Kathleen Satalin
Gladys Stillwell
Joan Taylor
Thomas Triscari
Jeanette Walsh
Clair Wilkins

We Also Pray for Our Current Residents

Elaine Cremins
Susie DeVito
Arthur Ferris

Grace Hall
Marlene Kolodziejczyk
Marjorie Mignacca

Elizabeth Mozley
Jane O'Connor
Nicholas Silvaggio

Donna Thompson
Shirley Tyminski
Bernard "Bernie" Townsend

