

A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

FRANCIS HOUSE



NEWS

WINTER 2013

Debra Adams: The True Meaning of Giving

Christmas was Debra's favorite holiday. She loved to shop and buy presents. She loved to decorate. She loved to celebrate. When she came to Francis House in November, she wondered if she would be able to celebrate one more Christmas.

It was just before Thanksgiving when Debra asked staff members to come to the great room. Waiting for us was a surprise celebration Debra had planned. Her parents were there, along with her sister who was taking pictures. Debra sat us down at the dining room table and then presented a cart full of wrapped presents.

As we opened the presents, we realized the presents were for Francis House. First, there were 16 Christmas-themed meal trays for residents. Next, were cushions for the chairs in the great room that needed to be replaced. Every gift

was thought out carefully and was exactly what Francis House needed.

As presents were opened, staff began to sing the Christmas carol *It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. There were many hugs of thanks. And the only person happier than the staff for all the wonderful presents, was Debra. She smiled and laughed.

Soon we all realized, this was our Christmas with Debra. As the holidays approached, instead of being angry or sad, Debra thought about what she could give to others. She

asked her parents to take her shopping so she could buy presents for her new extended family.

Debra said later, "the staff and volunteers have become my family, too. They are here not because it's a job, but because they want to be part of this great place."

"I know this must sound strange to most people," said Debra, "but I was excited to come to Francis House. When we pulled into the driveway, I just exhaled. And when we walked in the front door, I knew I was home."

We were privileged to have Debra as part of our family. Debra passed away surrounded by her family, the day after her favorite holiday. She reminded us about the true meaning of Christmas.



Debra and Nancy Light, Executive Director.



Debra (third from left) gives early Christmas gifts to the administrators of Francis House (from left to right) Lynn Hallowell, Lesa Wiedemeier, Colleen Haggerty and Beth Lynn Hoey.

FRANCIS HOUSE

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NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

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For more information, comments or address changes contact:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Gratitude. It's a small word, just three syllables but it carries a powerful message. From the Latin *gratus*, it is believed that the first, known usage was in 1523 and describes the "state of being thankful." For four hundred and ninety years, people

have been gratefully expressing thanks, appreciation, and recognition for good deeds, gifts and favors they have received from others.

Every now and again, it may be good for us to take a moment and give thought to those people and things in our lives for which we are grateful. Perhaps it is family and friends who love and support us at times of celebration or times of trial. We may be grateful for the gift of the children in our lives. With their innocence and openness, they help us recognize and reflect on unconditional love and acceptance. It may be gratitude to those serving our country in the Armed Forces. We are grateful to the emergency personnel who keep us safe and come to our aid in time of need. There are endless opportunities for us to be grateful and to express that gratitude.

As a ministry, Francis House would not exist without the good deeds, gifts and favors of so many people in our extended Francis House family. We are ever grateful for the volunteers who make our house a home. From preparing meals to gardening, they serve our residents with love and constancy. Our gratitude extends to our donors and benefactors who are so very faithful in their support. They hold Francis House close to their hearts and never fail to think of us, our present and our future. We give thanks for all the random acts of kindness that occur every day, such as the unexpected delivery of a beautiful basket of fresh oranges and grapefruit from Florida to the gift of music shared with our residents and family members by someone who has been touched by this ministry. We are grateful and rejoice in the thoughtfulness and generosity of our friends.

We receive many letters of gratitude and thanks for the care we have given to loved ones, but it is us at Francis House who are most profoundly grateful. It is our great privilege to share in a journey that happens only once in every life. It is our privilege to give witness to the sacred as we give presence to our resident friends. It is we who are grateful to God for the opportunity to serve in this gift that is Francis House.

In peace and gratitude,

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

Nancy Light, Executive Director



We are grateful to the many friends and family members who have raised funds for our ministry. If you are thinking of a fundraiser for Francis House, please first contact Beth Lynn Hoey, development director, at 475-5422. We will share our policies for outside fundraising events.

Keys to Success

Francis House family and friends gathered on October 12th for There's No Place Like Home at the Horticulture Building at the New York State Fairgrounds. Over \$310,000 was raised in net proceeds for Francis House.

Guests enjoyed delicious food from Carnegie Catering and live music from Paul Fey and The Harmony Katz. The popular key game provided excitement as over 450 prizes were won. New this year was the 50/50 raffle which was a huge success and will be back next year. The silent auction featured over 60 prizes including art, home accessories and travel packages.

Volunteer crews spent three days preparing the Horticulture Building for the event. The highlight of the decor were the resident banners in the middle of the building, bearing the the name of every resident welcomed into Francis House, since 1991.

“Another amazing year and another amazing event,” shared Adrienne Kelley, special events and development coordinator, “I am in awe of the continued generosity Francis House receives from our community throughout the year and at this event. Over 2,400 guests gather to share their love and support of our ministry, we are truly grateful.”

Thank you to all of our sponsors, advertisers, prize donors and all those who supported the event.

A special thank you to the volunteers who worked at the event and helped with set-up and take down. We could not have done it without you!



Debbie Greiner and June Casey volunteer at the raffle table.



Event Chairs Kirk and Kim Narburgh (left) with Event Vice Chairs Heather and Mike Hennigan.



Youth Auxiliary members and Francis House volunteers meet early to pack up the truck for event set-up day.



Banners featuring the name of every resident who was part of the Francis House family hang in the center of the Horticulture Building.



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Volunteer Spotlight:

Anaren

We are grateful for the many years of support Anaren has given to our ministry. “Throughout the year, at every activity, we have benefitted from the support of Anaren and its employees,” says Nancy Light, Executive Director. “They have had a tremendous impact on our ministry.”

Anaren has been a sponsor of There’s No Place Like Home since it began in 1997. Many Anaren employees attend the event every year. But Anaren’s involvement in our ministry began many years ago.

Anaren’s President and CEO Larry Sala has been personally involved as a board member since the 1990s. Says Larry, “Given how important family is to Francis House at so many levels, it won’t come as a surprise to say I first learned of the important work done there through my mother-in-law, Joan Cincotta, who was a dedicated volunteer. Right from the start, the overarching mission resonated with me. I was impressed with the amazing professionalism and diligence that the team shows in executing their mission. When families walk in the door, they immediately feel welcome, they feel the warmth of the organization and they instinctively know this is a place where they’ll be treated with utmost dignity and understanding. That experience is no accident, since Francis House is absolutely driven and dogged about ensuring this happens, up to and including the training that all volunteers and even board members must do.”

Every summer, Anaren holds a Community Service Day when they close all of their facilities and have their employees spread out across the community to help 25 non-profit and community organizations. Francis House has been one of the lucky organizations to benefit from this activity since it began in 1998. One of the tasks every year is to wash every window, inside and out. “They brighten our home in more ways than the windows,” says Sister Colette, household coordinator. “They are so happy to help and they spend time with our residents as they are cleaning. There is a lot of joy during their visits!”



Anaren employees give a day of service every year at Francis House. Pictured at right, Anaren employee Mike Lugert (left) with Anaren President and CEO Larry Sala.



Another huge support Anaren gives is the many St. Patrick’s Day Giveaway tickets their employees purchase every year. Anne Savage, Executive Assistant, coordinates sales for the tickets, selling at least 20 every year. We are grateful to Anne for the time and effort she gives to make every project a success.

Anaren has also supported The Caring Fund campaign, ensuring that they will continue to impact the lives of Francis House residents and families for many years to come.

Larry remembers when he first visited Francis House, “I was struck by the totally supportive atmosphere, which is precisely what you would hope for in an organization helping whole families overcome the most difficult and heart-wrenching experiences any of them will ever encounter in life. Making this look easy does not come easy. It takes dedication, attention to every aspect of the operation, and a genuine concern and empathy for the families in their care.”

Founded in 1967, Anaren is a Syracuse-based provider of RF technology for space, defense, wireless infrastructure and consumer electronics applications. The company has 550 local employees.

Thank you Anaren for being part of our extended family!

**Make a difference in someone’s life—become part of our family.
Call Rea Carver, Volunteer Coordinator at 475-5422**



Christmas at Francis House



Left: Resident Lloyd Potter shares a Christmas hug with caregiver Tammy George. Above: Resident Rita Lavine and her family enjoy Christmas dinner in the Great Room.



Thelma Bonzek, wife of a recent Francis House resident John Bonzek, visited on Christmas and played carols on the piano for residents and guests. Vera is pictured here with Francis House caregiver Mary Jane (right).



Save the Date! Annual Auxiliary Luncheon and Fashion Show May 9, 2013 Doubletree Hotel, Syracuse

With fashions by:
Jane Morgan's Little House, ltd and Koolakian Menswear.

Happy Anniversary Francis House Auxiliary

January marked the 20th Anniversary of our Francis House Auxiliary. Over the years, the Auxiliary has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for our ministry, in addition to raising awareness about the work of Francis House. They celebrated their anniversary at their annual Christmas luncheon.

Pictured at right: former Auxiliary board members (front row left to right) Jo Oliva, Joanne Speach (back row left to right) Bea Malfitano and Cecile Ianno.



Pictured at above: (from left to right) Judy Zdep, former Auxiliary board member; Christine Connors, Auxiliary immediate past-president; Sister Kathleen Osbelt, Francis House Founder and Nancy Skahen, Auxiliary president.

Thank You...

✂...To the many groups who came to sing Christmas Carols for our residents in December, including the Filipino-American Association, Welch Allyn Singers, The Albanese family. Thank you to Tom Gafrancesco for his wonderful guitar playing.

✂...Dave Cortese for hanging the lights on our gazebo for our memorial lighting ceremony.

✂...Pete Guinta & Son Produce for donating our gazebo Christmas tree and fresh wreaths for the gazebo and our houses.

✂...Students at Holy Family School for their donation of paper products at Halloween.

✂...Home Headquarters for collecting and delivering wish list items in December.

✂...Jesuit novices for putting up all our outdoor Christmas decorations and the Youth Auxiliary for taking them down.

✂...Noah and Molly Kotzin for choosing Francis House as their B’Nai Mitzvah project. They hope to raise \$7,000 in memory of their grandmother, Jennifer Hamilton, who was a resident at Francis House.

✂...Pyramid Companies for donations raised in memory of their beloved co-worker Tina M. Felt, who supported Francis House and volunteered her time to support There’s No Place Like Home.

✂...Students for BOCES for creating ornaments and treats and delivering them to our residents.



Adrienne Kelley (left), Francis House special events and development coordinator, thanks Kelly Schroth, niece of a former resident, who organized a collection at Siemen’s Industries for wish list items.

Youth Auxiliary’s Year Is Rolling Along

One of this year’s goals for our Francis House Youth Auxiliary, is to get 2,200 rolls of paper towels donated to Francis House. After successful paper towel



drives at St. Joseph’s Church in Camillus, St. Francis Xavier Church in Marcellus, Seneca Data, and various area schools, they are well on their way. If your school, parish or company would be willing to



hold a paper towel drive, please contact Dawn Personte, Youth Auxiliary Advisor, at 488-1354.



Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, (far left) and Sister Colette Walter (first row, right) give thanks and hugs to Valley Desperados for their annual collecting wish list items and donations. This year they raised funds and items totaling over \$2,300. A special thank you to Maureen Wrightsman (third from left) who organized the project.

FOUNDERS CORNER

Dear Friends,

The theme of Christmas in our culture seems to be presents: given and received. The theme of New Year's is the making of resolutions. The ministry of Francis House reminds us all to resolve to be grateful for the many presents we are given everyday: the gift of another day to love, the gift of health, the gift of family and friends, the gift of a community that cares about one another. I am making one resolution and that is to spend the year in gratitude for all the blessings and presents God gives to us daily.



A. Kathleen O'Neil

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 additional information, contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at 475-5422.



You can make a difference in the lives that follow.



May The Luck of The Irish Be With You

Tickets are on sale for our annual St. Patrick's Day Giveaway. Only 600 tickets are sold at \$100 each. Your ticket enters you for a chance at winning \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500. Winners will be drawn at Francis House on Friday, March 15th.

It is a fun way to support the ministry of Francis House. You can purchase a ticket individually, or have your family members or co-workers purchase a ticket together.

To purchase a ticket, send your payment with your name, address and phone number and the name as it should appear on the ticket to: Francis House, 108 Michaels Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13208. If more than one person is buying the ticket, please include all names and addresses. You can use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. We will complete the ticket for you and return your portion of the ticket.

Note: raffle tickets are non-deductible.



WISH LIST

Grocery store gift cards
Postage stamps

FOOD

Applesauce snack cups
Bisquick & pancake mix
Broth: chicken, beef, vegetable
Cereal: Cream of Wheat, oatmeal
Chocolate chips
Coffee: decaf & regular
Cookie mixes
Cooking oils: olive & vegetable
Cooking spray
Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster
Cremora: plain & flavored
Dessert mix (No bake cheesecake, etc.)
Flour (5 lb. bags)
Frosting mixes
Fruit snack cups: mandarin oranges, mixed fruit, pineapple tidbits
Jam/Jelly
Jell-O snack cups (regular & sugar free)
Juice: cranberry, apple
Muffin & quick bread mixes
Mushrooms (small cans)
Pancake syrup & honey
Pasta (small) shells, elbows, orzo, etc.
Peach/Pear halves (canned)
Peanut butter (creamy, 18 oz. jars)
Pie fillings: raspberry, cherry, etc
Pineapple (canned) slices, crushed
Pudding snack cups
Pudding, instant & cook-n-serve
Soda: 12 oz. cans (diet & regular)
Soup: cream of chicken, cream of celery, cream of mushroom, tomato
Spaghetti sauce (24 oz. jars)
Sugar: regular & brown
Tomatoes: stewed, diced
Tuna: (cans) regular & light

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

RESIDENT SUPPLIES

Baby wipes: unscented
Body powder
Mouthwash (travel size)

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Alcohol pads
Bag Balm
Benadryl
Immodium

The Caring Fund

in honor of **Sister Kathleen Osbelt**

We Need You To Reach Our Goal

We are pleased to announce that we have raised \$1.6 million towards our goal of \$2 million for The Caring Fund. We ask for your help to reach our goal. The success of this campaign is crucial to the future of our ministry.

The Caring Fund is Francis House's newly established endowment. This campaign will provide support for those in need who come to us for care. Your gift today, will continue to support our residents for many years to come.

We thank our resident family members, staff, volunteers and benefactors who have already made their pledge to this campaign.

For those who have not yet made a commitment to The Caring Fund, we ask for your support. You can make a one-time gift or make a multi-year pledge to the campaign. Below is a pledge card for your convenience. Please complete, sign and mail to: Francis House, The Caring Fund, 108 Michaels Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13208. For more information on The Caring Fund, contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at 475-5422 or blhoey@francishouseny.org.



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



Compassion
Unconditional Acceptance
Respect & Dignity

We are wrapping up the campaign by April 2013. We ask for your support to help us reach our goal.

Thank you for caring about our ministry!

Yes, I would like to make my pledge to Francis House's endowment, The Caring Fund in Honor of Sister Kathleen Osbelt.



Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I/we will pledge \$ _____ towards The Caring Fund, with a one-time payment of \$ _____.

or {

I/we will pledge \$ _____, with an annual payment of \$ _____ for _____ years.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I/we wish to remain anonymous.

The Caring Fund

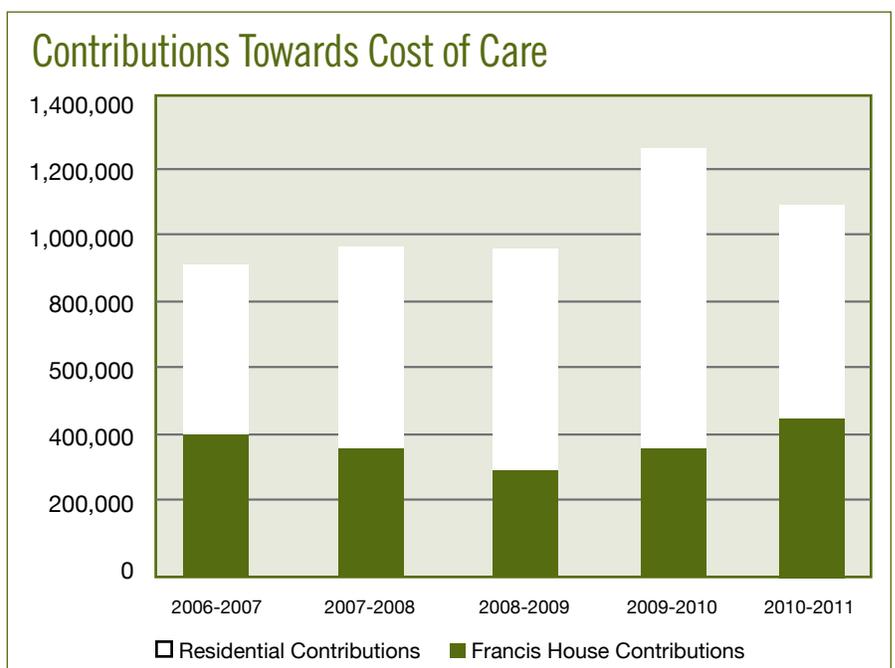


Sally Whaley, Francis House caregiver, shares a laugh with resident Marlene K.

“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. Francis House is truly a home, a comfort during the most trying time. Nothing is better than that.”

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.

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.

The Caring Fund Permanent Endowment for Francis House

The Caring Fund will be a restricted fund. Investment return generated by the fund will be used to offset the cost of care for those in need who come to Francis House.

Gifts to The Caring Fund permanent endowment are governed by the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (NYPMIFA) which provides that, unless otherwise restricted by a gift instrument, Francis House may expend so much of the endowment fund as it deems prudent after considering the eight factors contained in the law. While this law allows for limited invasion of principal where warranted, it is Francis House’s Board of Director’s policy to maintain and grow these funds over time.



A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

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

Debra Adams	Bruce Eddy	Mary Anne Manley	Christopher Ross
Debra Ahearn	Notburga "Chris" Hart	Edward Manuel	Linda Sabin
Cliff Auth	Charles Harty	Mary Maples	James Schultz
Rose Anne Barker	Gloria Holmes	Elizabeth "Beth" Markowski	Paul Scully
David Barecca	Vincent Horner	IvaMae Marsala	AnnaMae Seeley
Joseph Bonzek	Victoria "Vicki" Fiesinger	Guy "Tom" Marsello	Linda Severance
Marjorie Brumfield	Debrianna "Deb" Gunning	Madeline "Lolly" Mazzochi	Robert Skurk
Stanley Buder	Joan Jones	Donald McArthur	Donald Suavé
Roberta "Bobbie" Burkey	Jeanette Keefer	Rose McCarthy	Roberta Tompkins
Amanda Carnie	Florence Knapp	Philip McGovern	Joyce VanDenburg
James Cruikshank	Shirley LaManna	Edith McKinnon	Gordon "Dan" Wade
Marijane Devona	Rita Lavine	John O'Neill	Edward Walker
Budd Deyo	Victor Liberatore, Jr.	Cesario "Chet" Palucci	Jacqueline Weber
Antoinette "Ann" Ditoro	Roy Lockett	June Perkins	Charles Welch
Edward Domres	Frederick "Jeff" Lonagan	Nancy Poillon	Barbara Weston
Timothy Drazek	David Long	Alvin Ricks	Mark Wysokowski
			Claire Yeomans

We Also Pray for Our Current Residents

Andrew "Andy" Allen	Gwyn Comstock	Jeanette McCormick	Barbara Schwarz
Patricia Brigandi	Therese Fredette	Delphine "Deb" Miller	Carol Tacea
Jane Coleman	Eleanor Kammer	Lloyd Potter	