

A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

FRANCIS HOUSE



NEWS

WINTER 2012

Resident Spotlight: Dorothy “Dottie” Hickok

As you walk by Dottie’s room, you will be immediately drawn to the beautiful paintings that decorate her walls. The 2’x 4’ original paintings are portraits of her own grandchildren. Even more amazing is that Dottie painted them herself.

A self-taught artist, Dottie’s artwork has adorned magazine covers and newspapers and has been featured in exhibits throughout the country. Dottie insists the work is not hers, but an inspiration from God. She begins every painting with a prayer saying, “this is your work, not mine.”

Dottie is a native of Buffalo, NY and shortly after finishing her undergraduate degree at University of Michigan Dottie married George Bangert. After several years, George’s job transfer brought the family to St. Petersburg, FL. Dottie enjoyed her role as homemaker and mother to three beautiful daughters, Leigh Ann, Maureen and Michele.

Michele, the youngest, remembers the first time her mother picked up a paintbrush. She painted a seascape and boat and Michele recalls her mother having so much fun. Dottie’s subjects

of choice were flowers, seascapes and children. In the early 1960s Dottie was given the opportunity by the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus to sketch and paint their famous clowns.

Dottie has been commissioned by hundreds of families to create portraits of their loved ones. Her advice to painting a good picture is “Don’t set out to create the best painting ever, it puts too much pressure on you – just paint.”

In June 2011, Dottie came to Syracuse to visit her daughter, Michele. Her short visit was extended when Dottie fell and needed knee surgery. She eventually moved in next door to Michele.

In December, after not feeling well for a few days, Dottie was admitted to the hospital. It was devastating to learn the news that she had cancer. The doctor told Dottie about Francis House and she knew that’s where she wanted to be.



Dottie and Michele recall the day Francis House said there was a bedroom available for Dottie. “We just cried and cried, it’s a blessing... God answered our prayers,” says Michele.

Every day that Dottie is here she says, “Thank God I’m here, thank you God for putting me here.”

Michele spends most of the day and evening by her mother’s side. Both Dottie and Michele feel every moment is a gift. They spend time sharing stories of the past, learning new details of each other’s lives and being “the best friends that they always have been.”

Michele says it is hard to express the comfort she feels in knowing her Mom is lovingly cared for. “The second you walk into Francis House, it’s a breath, a sigh of relief.”

FRANCIS HOUSE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Genevieve Saya, Chair
Sister Jane Bourne, OSF
James Connors
Dennis DePerro
Maureen Drescher
Susan Duerr
Ronald Himberg
Matt Lumia
Joseph Mancuso
Margaret R. Martin
Deborah Moore
William McAvoyn
Kirk Narburgh
Sister Kathleen Osbelt, Emeritus
Indi Shelby
Benjamin Sio, Ex-Officio
Nancy Light, Executive Director

AUXILIARY OF FRANCIS HOUSE DIRECTORS

Christine Connors, President
Kathleen Cahill
Caroline Calimlim
June Casey
Katherine Considine
Marge Daily
Nancy Detor
Barbara Doyle
Maureen Drescher
Dawn Falge
Debbie Greiner
Maureen Hartnett
Beth Hertel
Patricia Himberg
Mary Kennedy
Cindy Koolakian
Mary Jane Lowery
Nancy Marsden
Janice McCarthy
Kim Narburgh
Carol Pietraszek
Nancy Skahen

ADVISORS

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:

Francis House
108 Michaels Ave
Syracuse, NY 13208-1718
(315) 475-5422
E-mail: info@francishouseny.org

Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

Waiting. It seems that among all the things we do each day, waiting takes a prominent role. We wait for returned phone calls, for an e-mail or text message reply, for news from family and friends, for a plane, train or bus. We wait in line at the checkout, to see a play or for a movie to begin. If we counted the minutes we wait, we might be very surprised at the number of hours in a month waiting consumes. If we are waiting for good news, we experience a joyful anticipation. Perhaps we will find out whether our new child or grandchild will be a boy or girl or learn our son or daughter has just set a wedding date. Many happy hours are then spent planning for the wonderful event or waiting for the day to arrive.

Many of us, though, have experienced the uncomfortable anxiety of waiting. Perhaps we are waiting for the outcome of serious surgery for a loved one or for the confirmation of a diagnosis. The waiting may seem interminable. We ask ourselves, "How long can this possibly take?" Even in these instances, though, there are minutes of time when waiting is overtaken by the need to be present in the moment. As soon as that moment passes, however, the anxiety of waiting begins again and we are once more focused on that uneasiness of not knowing what is to come.

It is at these moments when the knowledge that we are never alone is so very comforting. We know that when we are least able to "be in charge" it's alright to let go and give our waiting over to God.

With the guiding principle of unconditional love, Francis House allows those who enter here to let go. The journey will continue, the awaited outcome will be known, but the waiting will not be sad. At Francis House we are present in the moment. The laughter, joy and love felt throughout our home is God at work through others; guiding, comforting and supporting us each and every day. As we embark on this New Year, may your lives be blessed in abundance and may you spend all your waiting moments in joy.

In peace and gratitude,



Nancy Light, Executive Director

“It’s All Good”

We Remember Father Gregory LeStrange

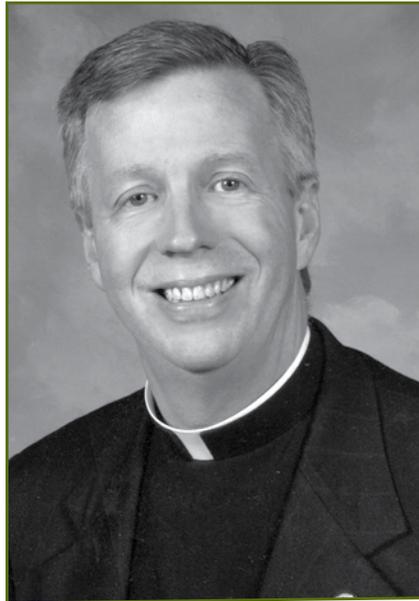
On December 13, 2011, Father Gregg LeStrange closed his eyes for the last time. All who knew him were deeply saddened at his passing. Father Gregg had a way of making every relationship special and unique. That’s how he made you feel, as if you were the most special person in the world. And he did this effortlessly.

Francis House remembers Father Gregg in many different ways. He was first and foremost a priest and pastor to his people. He visited Francis House on numerous occasions to spend time with parishioners and friends who were living their final days as residents in our home. He brought his ever-present smile and lighthearted step – always to comfort and encourage.

Father Gregg was a friend. He was very good to Francis House and to many other organizations in our community. He was a member of the Francis House Board of Directors. He faithfully attended meetings and always offered helpful, mission-focused comments. He truly understood our ministry and supported it in word and deed. He was the celebrant at our annual Memorial Mass from the time he became a Board member up until December 2010. Even on the evening of our most recent Memorial Mass on December 5, he told us that he could see the Motherhouse chapel from his bedroom window and was celebrating with us in his heart.

We remember Father Gregg during the last month of his life, where he spent those days as a resident in our home. He came to us with relief. He spent his days, up to and including the day he died, preparing his family and friends for his death. He made sure that everyone who knew and loved him was assured that he was at peace with the end of his journey and ready to accept new life, unafraid and with great joy.

God puts people in our lives to help us know, love and serve God better. Father Gregg was such a person. We miss you dearly Father Gregg but we know that “It’s all good.”



What Does It Mean To Leave a Legacy?

There are so many messages from non-profits asking people to “leave a legacy” or “make a legacy or planned gift.” But what does it mean?

“You do not have to be rich to touch someone’s life forever,” explains Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development. “A legacy gift simply means you have planned to make a gift to your favorite charity or charities.”

Did you know?

*The most popular planned gift, or legacy gift, is a bequest in your will. You can make a gift of a specific dollar amount or percentage of your assets after all designations and expenses are paid.

* There are giving vehicles that provide income for you or a loved one while you are alive.

*There are giving vehicles that provide for your loved ones first and give a remainder of your assets to your favorite charity.

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.



LEAVE A LEGACY®

You can make a difference in
the lives that follow.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Sister Kathleen Bruzga



Sister Kathleen B. shares a laugh with resident Joe D.

Every weekday you will see Sister Kathleen Bruzga walk across the parking lot from the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse on Grant Boulevard to Francis House. She spends all morning at Francis House, walks back to the Motherhouse for lunch, and then comes back to spend all afternoon. Sister Kathleen “B” is a pastoral volunteer. Her tremendous gift of time is devoted to being present to every resident and helping them feel part of our Francis House family. Sister Kathleen volunteers her time as a pastoral volunteer. “It’s a blessing to serve in this ministry,” says Sister Kathleen. “I hope I’ve helped in some way.” She explains that her role is to provide emotional and spiritual support and to be present and accepting of every person. “I’m not here for conversion, but to show love, care and compassion.” Sometimes her visit is spent saying a prayer or sharing a funny story but it is always spent listening.

It has been an interesting journey to our ministry for Sister Kathleen. She was born and raised in a small town of Dubois, PA with 6 sisters and 2 brothers. Her father immigrated from Lithuania and her maternal grandparents also immigrated from Lithuania. They were a close family and made do without much. “Since I was 7th in line, I always wore hand-me-downs. My mother sewed most of our clothing. I remember in high school my parents bought me a new coat—it was the first coat that was ever just mine.”

Sister Kathleen witnessed a strong faith in both of her parents. She felt the call to religious life in 10th grade. After graduating as one of six in her whole graduating class, Sister Kathleen entered the convent at age 17. She became a Sister of St. Francis of the Providence of God. It wasn’t until several years ago that a family friend shared that her father secretly had hoped one of his daughters would be a nun.

After her first vows, Sister Kathleen went to Los Angeles for two years to teach. She then spent time in Pennsylvania and Michigan to work with the Sisters in education, formation and administration.

Sister Kathleen then had an incredible opportunity to work with the Sisters in Brazil. She fondly remembers the 18 years she spent in Brazil teaching English to

students from first to eighth graders. Sister is fluent in Portuguese.

She then returned to Pittsburgh where she worked in Administration for the Sisters of St. Francis. Her first time caring for those at the end of life was when she volunteered at Kane Hospital, a nursing home that focused on hospice care. She loved serving those who were dying and felt a tremendous sense of satisfaction. In 1997, Sister Kathleen took leave of her duties with the Sisters to care for her sister Evelyn who was seriously ill. She took care of her until she died in February 2010.

During a visit to the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse in 2010, Sister Kathleen visited Francis House. “I knew immediately that Francis House was where I wanted to serve,” she recalls. “Jesus gives each of us gifts and grace to care for others. You are truly the hands of Jesus here at Francis House.” Soon after her visit, Sister Kathleen decided to move to Syracuse. This past December, she officially became a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities.

Sister Kathleen says every day she gives of herself, but receives so much more. “I have learned so much from our residents. I’ve witnessed such deep faith and acceptance of the final journey. I ask myself ‘Do I have that much faith? Am I that close to God?’”

Sister Kathleen has also learned from the staff and volunteers. “Everything is done with such care. From making breakfast to personal care, there is such compassion here.”

We are thankful for the gift of Sister Kathleen “B” Thank you for being part of our Francis House family!

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

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 16th.

It is a fun way to support the ministry of Francis House. You can purchase a ticket individually, or have friends, 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. 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.



Thank You For Your Gifts

We are thankful for the many thoughtful gifts we have received in honor of birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Christmas and other occasions. We are happy to acknowledge your gift to those being honored. Thank you to all those who asked for donations to be made to Francis House in lieu of gifts for their special occasion.

Dearest Angels of Francis House,

I have tried to write this letter many times, but it was so very difficult because losing my mom, Sharyn Roe, was so painful. The bright spot in her illness are the friends who soothed our souls at Francis House. What an amazing, angelic haven for residents and their families. We really witnessed a miracle there with your constant love, support and caring. You treated my "mama" and us like royalty and we felt so at home there. The caregivers and volunteers are true angels with hidden wings. I know God smiles upon you all because you truly carry out His work behind the doors there.

While we were there we discovered (my husband, Joe and I) that we were miraculously carrying our 3rd child. My "mama" somehow orchestrated it (I am sure) with Jesus himself! We gave birth to, Ryan Francis on August 10th, 2011. He weighed 6lbs 13oz.

His middle name is Francis in honor of all of you and my mother! Much love to all of you Angels and know you are always in our prayers and your have our deepest gratitude.

*Joe, Jessica, Joey, Genevieve
and Ryan Cummings*

Auxiliary News

Auxiliary Board Members Celebrate Christmas and a Successful Fall



Auxiliary Board Members (from left to right) Kathleen Cahill, Nancy Skahen and Marge Daily



Auxiliary Board Members (from left to right) Mary Kennedy, Mary Jane Lowery and Debbie Greiner

Save the Date

Auxiliary Annual Luncheon
Thursday, May 10th
Doubletree Hotel, Carrier Circle

Invitations to be mailed in late March. All are welcome. If you do not receive an invitation and would like to attend please contact, Mary Jane Lowery, Luncheon Chair at mj5912@twcnny.rr.com

Youth Auxiliary Members Sweeten Residents' Day



Youth Auxiliary gathered in December to make homemade cookies and apple pie for our residents and family members.



Pin Sales a Success

The holiday season is always the busiest time of year for our Auxiliary pin sales. We thank all the volunteers who gave their time to sell pins at Carousel Center and other venues during November and December. We are so grateful to Nancy Skahen, Roxanne Kopecky, Kathleen Cahill and Susan Duerr who gave hours of their time to organize the sales.



How Can I Help?



There are many ways you can help the ministry of Francis House. Here are some ideas:

Donate Online

You can make a donation directly from our website at www.francishouseny.org. Just click on the "Make a Donation" and follow the instructions through PayPal. (Note: we are charged a 1% processing fee for any credit card donation and when using PayPal.)

Donate Your Car

You can donate your used vehicle from anywhere in the United States. Go to www.donationwizard.com. Under "Choose A Charity" you will see our Francis House logo. Click on our logo, and the site will take you through a four-step process. Your car will be picked up from your home; you will receive a receipt for your tax deduction and Francis House will receive the proceeds from the sale of your car. You can also call (877)957-2277.

Become a Member of Monthly Giving Club

By becoming a Monthly Giving Club member, you will receive 12 envelopes for the year. Monthly givers receive two giving statements per year as receipts, which saves Francis House postage expense. To become a Monthly Giving Club member contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at blhoey@francishouseny.org or 475-5422.



Walkway of Blessings

We install additions to our Walkway of Blessings in late 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 May 1, 2012. 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 and we will send you a form to complete with your payment

Annual Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported us through our Annual Appeal. There's still time to participate. You can send your gift in the red giving envelope that was sent with your letter in December, or you can use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter and mark it "my annual appeal gift".

On behalf of the many residents and families who will benefit from your generosity, thank you.

Founders Corner

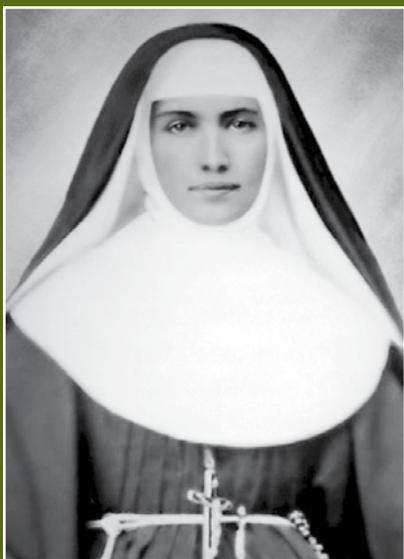
Founders Corner is a new section of our newsletter that will provide some personal, spiritual thoughts from Francis House Founder Sister Kathleen Osbelt.



January 23rd was the feast day of Saint Marianne Cope, the day on which her life's work from 1838-1918 is recognized and celebrated. Although Saint Marianne is most known for her work in caring for those suffering from leprosy in Hawaii, she made a huge impact on caring for those most in need in our community as well.

Saint Marianne ensured those most shunned in society received the care they needed and were treated with dignity. Saint Marianne was instrumental in making sure St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica served those who were otherwise rejected at the time. She and the Sisters of St. Francis cared for the poor, substance abusers, prostitutes and unwed mothers.

Saint Marianne taught the value of acceptance to all caregivers. She instituted practicums for interns coming from the medical school in Geneva, New York. She insisted on cleanliness and universal precautions. In addition, Saint Marianne started schools for immigrants. She spent the last 30 years of her life serving those with leprosy on Kalaupapa, Hawaii.



Her legacy lives on in the many works of our Sisters and those who minister with us. Our 20 years of service to those who have terminal illnesses is certainly reminiscent of Saint Marianne's love and care for those who are sick, poor and dying. We are reminded of this in the words of the Francis House mission statement "to provide a home and family to those with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity and experience the unconditional love of God." May we all pray that Saint Marianne intercedes for us.

WISH LIST

Grocery store gift cards
Postage stamps
Post-Standard subscription

FOOD

Applesauce snack cups
Bisquick
Broth: chicken, beef, vegetable
Cake mix
Cereal: Cream of Wheat, oatmeal, corn flakes
Chocolate chips
Coffee: regular & decaf
Cookie mix
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
Muffin & quick bread mixes
Mushrooms (small cans)
Pancake syrup
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

PAPER GOODS

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

HOUSEHOLD

Dish soap
Disinfecting wipes
Dishwasher detergent
Dryer sheets
Laundry detergent (phosphate free)
Liquid hand sanitizer
Liquid hand soap
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

Thank You....

☞...Sugarman Law Firm: donated cookies baked by their employees.

☞...St. Mary's Baldwinsville donated food for Thanksgiving dinner.

☞...Welch Allyn choral group came to sing Christmas carols for residents.

☞...Lockheed Martin employees donated food for Thanksgiving dinner.

☞...Curves from Fairmont location collected food donations for Francis House.

☞...Liverpool Christian Church donated shower curtains and table cloths.

☞...Rich Resig made two banners stands for our banners.

☞...Solvay Bank donates calendars for residents' rooms each year.

☞...Upstate Freshwater Institute collects cans and bottles for Francis House.

☞...Jesuit Novices decorated the outside of the house for Christmas.

☞...Francis House youth group decorated inside of house for Christmas.

☞...Damon Villnave donated TV remotes through Best Buy.

☞...Badman family donated Christmas lights for outside tree at 114 and decorated the trees.

☞...Filipino American Association of CNY Carolers.

☞...Ted McMahon for always delivering milk to Francis House.

☞...Music Ministry members of St. Joseph's Church donation to purchase kitchen items in memory of Fr. Gregg LeStrange.



Members of the Valley Desperados dropped off donated goods for the pantry. Pictured with Sister Colette Walter.



Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development accepts a check from Lisa Hetko, Branch Manager from Seneca Federal Savings and Loan Association for proceeds from their Halloween costume contest fundraiser.



Hildegard Shulze (far right), Francis House volunteer coordinated a day of caroling with her friends from the Syracuse Opera.

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

Tillie Antonini	Elinor Donovan	Florence Lipari	Richard Nelson
Daniel Bailey	Dolores Felicia	Mary Lipari	Salvatore Panetta
Korleen Brady	Sandra Fialkovic	Frank Lorenzo	Richard Piper
Cynthia "Cindy" Briggs	Barbara Filosi	Mary "June" Marte	Mary Roberts
John Cifaratta	Albert Freedman	Rose Mariano	Michael Shostack
Joseph Colavencenzo	Suzanne Gocklin	Eleanor "Ellie" Martin	Lorraine Spoelstra
John Czebiniak	Maude Haskell	Ursula Mastrogiovanni	Dolores Thompson
Douglas Culotti	Nancy Lentz	Diana McDonough	Bettie West
Bertha "Bea" DeSellems	Fr. Gregg LeStrange	Bernie Miller	Phyllis Zullo

We Also Pray for Our Current Residents

Paulette Ackerman	Joseph "Joe" Donahue	John "Jack" Hill	Timothy Penson
Franz Brunner	Grace Hall	Harvey Loshaw	Michael "Mike" Reidy
Jean Congdon	Dorothy "Dottie" Hickok	Diane Miller	Grace Rose



A FAMILY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST



108 Michaels Avenue
Syracuse, New York 13208-1718