



SUMMER 2017

A Family When You Need It Most

FRANCIS HOUSE NEWS

Resident Spotlight:

WILDA LOOS, A RAY OF SUNSHINE

Ask any volunteer or staff member – if you want to brighten your day, visit Wilda. Her positivity is contagious. A great listener, Wilda’s smile and welcoming presence make you feel special. Maybe that is why there are always visitors in her room. Wilda says, “I was surprised by how many visitors I have had, but I really love it!”



Caregivers Mary Jane Tripp (left) and Annie Wilcox (right) enjoy a few smiles with Wilda

Life has not come without many challenges. In 2013, Wilda’s world changed dramatically. Her husband of 60 years, John, died from ALS. Her son Bradley died from pancreatic cancer. Her daughter Jaqueline was diagnosed with breast cancer. And Wilda was diagnosed with lung cancer/COPD.

“We were talking about the sad things happening in our world and we said, ‘where did all the good people go?’ And when I came to Francis House I realized, they are here. They are all here.”

When asked how she survived such a devastating time Wilda responded, “That’s easy. God loves me. And I love Him.”

Wilda was born in Syracuse and grew up in the North Syracuse area. After graduating from North Syracuse High School, she worked as a stenographer and in the public relations department at ECHO Easy Washing Machine Co. She met John on a blind date and they married several years later in 1953. John was immediately deployed by the Army to fight in Korea. After two long years, he returned to Syracuse and began his career at Niagara Mohawk.

Wilda left work to start their family. She and John had three children: Bradley, Jacqueline and Janet. John’s work meant moving around the Central New York area. Wilda says she was “the typical 50s mom.

I stopped working to take care of my family. I made all my kids clothes.

I volunteered at our church and for our village activities.” She fondly remembers the days when kids played outside all day.

“I was the only one on our street with a cow bell. When it rang, the kids knew dinner was ready and it was time to come home.” Wilda returned to work when the children were grown. “My door-to-door Avon sales in Rome helped put my kids through college.” Wilda also worked as a house parent for the New York State School for the Deaf.

Wilda and her family had heard about Francis House over the years, and when her illness progressed she hoped there was a place for her. “I was so glad when Francis House called,” explains Wilda, “It immediately lifted the burden of

Continued on Page 3

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For more information, comments or address changes contact:
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Today when we hear news about a courageous act, it may be linked to a dramatic rescue from flood or a burning building.

Certainly, we have seen heroes in our modern day, putting themselves in harm's way for another. Through the decades we have witnessed or been taught about examples of personal courage and selflessness in the face of great danger. Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom in her novel "The Hiding Place," describes how she and her family rescued many Jews from the Nazi Holocaust, and experienced arrest and imprisonment in a concentration camp. After WWII she was named "Righteous Among Nations" by the State of Israel for her efforts. Without regard to personal safety, Albert Schweitzer and his wife spent years in Africa, treating the sick and the dying; going where colleagues at the time did not even dare to visit. And, of course, our own St. Marianne Cope who left all that was familiar and traveled thousands of miles to care for the lepers of Molokai. She never feared leprosy; her courage was always seeing the image of God in the faces of those who were stricken with this terrible illness.

Poet Karle Wilson Baker has defined courage as, "fear that has said its prayers." That is the kind of courage we witness at Francis House. Small and large acts of courage are visible to those with eyes to see. The volunteer who provides a loving presence to a resident needing to talk, all the while remembering the pain of a recent or anticipated loss. The mother who visits every day, not knowing if this day will be the last day. The grandchild who is losing her best friend and companion, but still looks for ways to bring a smile or a laugh to brighten the day. This spirit of courage may be the quality that enables us to hold on and to keep up our morale in the face of overwhelming difficulty.

Perhaps the first few lines of the "Serenity Prayer" can be a source of strength to each of us.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference."

May each of us find what we need to help us live our lives with courage everyday.

Peace and Blessings to you.

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

Nancy Light, Executive Director

WILDA LOOS *Continued from Page 1*

being at home. My house was too much to take care of. It was difficult for my daughter to coordinate the care that I required. I have everything I need here and more.”

Although she thought she knew what to expect, Wilda was surprised when she arrived at Francis House. “I’ve never seen anything like this. It is like you are home and everybody cares about your well-being without expecting anything in return.” She is overwhelmed by her caregivers. “They are outstanding; always going the extra step. It’s not that they have to do something for you, they want to. And when it can be a difficult situation, they still give with all their heart. They are very special.”

Sister Colette Walter, Francis House Household Coordinator, says she is inspired daily by Wilda. “I love her smile. And even when she is having a tough day she’ll enjoy it and enjoy those around her. She lives our philosophy of taking one day and a time and living it to the fullest.”

Wilda says she has always looked toward the positive. And she’s tried to instill that view in her children. “When they fell or faltered I didn’t always help them up,” Wilda explains “They had to learn to pick themselves up and move on!” Wilda says she is the one who is lucky and inspired by being surrounded by the unbelievable people at Francis House.

Wilda recalls visiting with her friends when she was still at home several months ago. “We were talking about the sad things happening in our world,” Wilda explains, “and we said, ‘where did all the good people go?’ And when I came to Francis House I realized, they are here. They are all here.”

**Wilda passed away May 17th.
We were blessed to have her as
part of our family.**



(left to right) Tom and Nancy Monti enjoy the evening celebrating Francis House volunteers



(left to right) Bobbie Finlon and Bobbie Procopio, two long-time Francis House volunteers share a hug

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Francis House staff celebrated National Volunteer Month at our Annual Appreciation dinner on April 25th. We would like to give a special thank you to Driver’s Village for once again donating the venue for our celebration. Bill LaFluer and John Borchardt from Carnegie Catering provided another delicious meal for our volunteers and staff Francis House Staff, Board Members, Auxiliary Board Members and all Francis House Volunteers were recognized for their gifts of time, talent and energy. Without them our ministry would not be complete.

Thank you to all our volunteers who are the extended family for our residents. Each day they give of their time and support, for which we are truly grateful.



Volunteer Spotlight:

MIKE BLEEM

It's All About Family

Family is the center of Mike Bleem's life.

That's why you will only see Mike six months out of the year. His free time May through October is dedicated to spending time with his parents at his family's cottage on the St. Lawrence River. Those are the months his parents come from Florida for the season.

Of course, he sneaks up to the River as much as he can during the rest of the year. Mike says his favorite hobby is "spending time with family." His family's land is on an island, shared by extended family members. "There's nothing like the feeling of walking around that beautiful space and every face is a friendly face, someone I am connected to in some way," says Mike with a smile.

Mike's strong sense of family was instilled in him just blocks from Francis House. He was born and raised on Syracuse's North side. Mike's parents raised him and his three brothers and sister in the same neighborhood they grew up. Mike attended St. Vincent elementary school, Christian Brothers Academy and Le Moyne College.

Mike believes his professional life also gives him a great sense of community. After working as a CPA at Coopers & Lybrand and then Pyramid Companies, Mike found a position as a general manager at Rome Specialty Company, a family-built company of 90 years, making components for fishing lures. "I've been there 21 years and have loved every minute of it," explains Mike. "we are a smaller company with employees and we all know each other and support each other."

It is no surprise that Francis House was the place Mike would find to volunteer his time. He was introduced to our ministry years ago by co-worker Bill McAvoy, who volunteered every week. "Hearing how he talked about the love in the house and the camaraderie of the volunteers definitely sparked my interest. When I had time in my schedule, I called and started volunteering every weekend-that was in 2014."

When you ask Mike about his favorite moments at Francis House, he speaks as if he is recounting family



Volunteer Mike Bleem with Rea Carver, Volunteer Coordinator

memories. "There was the beautiful 100-year-old lady that was in the fourth bedroom was amazing. She was married at 17 and had to move from the city to help run a farm....Remember the lady who was down the hall, she had such a great sense of humor, and her daughter was so dedicated to her...I was so touched by the Mom whose young daughter was in the first room. She had such a difficult time accepting her daughter's illness, but it was such a privilege to be there for her to listen and comfort her...And Wilda (our Resident Spotlight), she is sunshine on legs!" The stories continue on and on. Mike remembers every detail about every resident he has cared for.

Mike says all volunteers agree that you gain more than you give. The residents and their families inspire him every day with their strength. He says Francis House is not a sad place, but a place where everyone belongs and feels supported. "Interaction with other volunteers inspires me. You walk in and they say, 'Mike's here!' with a big smile. That's a true feeling of acceptance."

"Every person has holes," shares Mike, "some holes are huge, some are little gaps. They are made by life's challenges, disappointments or lack of something in your life. When you are here your gaps are filled. Everyone gets what they need to be a little more whole."

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are blessed to welcome Mark Martino and Lisa Pachmayer Plumley to the Francis House Board of Directors. Both Mark and Lisa have been long-time supporters of Francis House and we are grateful for their commitment to our ministry.



Mark Martino

Mark Martino has supported Francis House for over 17 years. He was a member of the There's No Place Home event steering committee, including serving as co-chair of the event in 2002 and 2003.

Mark is a Syracuse native and graduate of Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) and Syracuse University Whitman School of Management. He lives in DeWitt with his wife Jody and they are the proud parents of Alexander and Melina.

Mark is the President of Modern Kitchens of Syracuse and MKS Industries, Inc. He has served on several boards and is currently serving on the board of directors for The First Tee of Syracuse.



Lisa Pachmayer

Lisa Pachmayer Plumley has been involved in Francis House since 2003, including serving on the Francis House Auxiliary Board from 2004-2010.

Lisa has 28 years of experience in non-profit management. A native of Michigan, her career in the YMCA brought her to Michigan for nine years and then to Syracuse. She has been the Executive Director of the North Area Family YMCA for 19 years. Lisa also is the Executive Director of the Northwest Family YMCA and manages the Fulton Family YMCA through a management agreement. She serves on the New York State YMCA Foundation Board.

Lisa lives in Baldwinsville with her husband Stewart Plumley and their son Becket.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY RAFFLE WINNERS



Thank you to everyone who supported our St. Patrick's Day Giveaway. All 600 tickets were sold.

Congratulations to our winners Don and Terry Dixon, Laura Kendrick and Silveo Iorio.



Check presented to Don Dixon (right) our first place winner, by Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development



Check presented to Laura Kendrick (right) our second place winner, by Adrienne Kelley, development and special events



Check presented to Silveo Iorio (left) our third place winner, by Adrienne Kelley, development and special events



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, 2017.

For your donation of \$100, a brick is installed.

To purchase a brick, call (315) 475-5422 or email info@francishouseny.org with the subject: "A Blessing Brick" and we will email you a form to complete with your payment.

SILVER SUNDAY AND OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 17 | 2pm - 4pm

At the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dracker
7717 Summerwood Place, Liverpool NY

Silver Sunday...It's Not Your Average Silver Tea

The Auxiliary of Francis House has hosted one of the most successful and long-standing silver tea events in our community. Over the past six months the Auxiliary Silver Tea Committee has discussed ways to update the Silver Tea and provide an opportunity for more of our Francis House friends to attend.

We are excited to announce some new changes for this year's event beginning with a new name ***Silver Sunday and Open House.***

The event will take place on Sunday, September 17th, from 2pm to 4 pm. We are grateful for Dr. Robert and Mrs. Maria Dracker for hosting the event at their home at 7717 Summerwood Place in Liverpool, NY.

The event will include a wine tasting provided by Owera Vineyards, owned by the Muserlian family, long-time Francis House supporters.

In honor of the Auxiliary's 25th anniversary, a raffle will be held featuring a Stickley Harvey Ellis Rocker donated by L. & J.G. Stickley and silver jewelry donated by Diana Jewelers.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20 and will go on sale in August. To purchase tickets, contact Holly Dowd at 315-682-8080.

Invitations will be mailed in August to Auxiliary members, however the public is invited. Donations graciously accepted at the door.



SAVE THE DATE



*There's
no place
like home*



**Wednesday, October 11, 2017
5:30pm - 8:30pm**

New York State Fairgrounds, Horticulture Building

Be a part of our annual signature fundraiser as a sponsor, advertiser, prize donor or purchase a ticket to attend our signature event.



For more information please go to our website www.francishouseny.org or you may contact Adrienne Kelley, development & special events at 315-475-5422 or email akelley@francishouseny.org.

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.

FROM SISTER KATHLEEN OSBELT: MISSION OUTREACH

While much time is being spent in organizing speakers, schedule, and venue for the National Conference of homes for those at end of life, called Omega Home Network, we continue to host visitors who want to start a home or want more information to help them operate their home.

Presentations are also being offered to those who would like to dialogue with your family, group, or organization about Advanced Care Planning.

For More Information Contact:

Sister Kathy Osbelt
Director of Mission Outreach
kosbelt@francishouseny.org
315-475-5422

THANK YOU



Phyllis Kehoski (second from right) and AT&T employees present a check and food pantry items to Judy Frank, Francis House Volunteer (center)

Thank you AT&T for your collection of food pantry items and over \$900 in support for our resident care.



Bernice Buck (1st row seated second from left) hosts her annual Super Bowl party

Thank you to our Volunteer Gardeners for cleaning up and planting in our gardens.

Thank you to The Masonic Home for the generous donation of food for our residents.

Thank you Bernice Buck for hosting another successful Super Bowl party and raising \$1625 in memory of Helen Day for The Caring Fund, Francis House's Endowment.

Thank you to Al and Sue Antonini who donated flowers for Christmas and Easter for our residents and families to enjoy in the Great room.



Gary Wood President of Cruising Knights (right) presents a check to Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development

Thank you Cruising Knights Car Club, Car Show for their generous donation to Francis House for resident care.

Thank you to the Solvay Middle School cast and crew for donating a portion of the proceeds from The Lion King, Jr performance in memory of their beloved teacher and friend, Andrea Dowling.

Thank you to the Stahl family is four beautiful girls whose angelic voices recently serenaded our residents with their songs.



The cast and crew of The Lion King, Jr.

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



Pete Bronsted (left) Vietnam Veterans of CNY Foundation chapter President and Bob Quirk (right), chapter Vice-President present a check to Adrienne Kelley (middle), Francis House development and special events

JUDY CHANATRY

*From Volunteer to Assistant Resident
Care Coordinator*

“Every person has a story,” explains Judy Chanatry, Francis House’s Assistant Resident Care Coordinator.

“I feel so blessed to learn about the life of every resident. To witness the love and devotion of family members and that they trust us to take care of those most important to them is such a privilege.”

Judy shares that she also gains her inspiration by witnessing the work of the Francis House caregivers. “They give so much of themselves with their care. They love residents as if they were their own family. They experience great loss often and grieve for those they’ve loved, but still give that same level of dedication to every resident we welcome into our home.”

Judy’s compassion has touched the lives of Francis House residents, family members and staff since 1998. “She has taught me what it means to live with Franciscan values,” says Sally Manahan, Francis House Resident Care Coordinator. “She holds everyone of equal value from residents to volunteers to staff. She lives our mission, and when I’m having a tough time she reminds me of that and rights me to continue my work.”

Judy was born and raised in Amsterdam, New York. She went to college at SUNY Potsdam, thinking her career path was music. She was a member of the Crane Chorus and was an accomplished oboe and saxophone player. However, a love for caregiving solidified by her time as a candy striper at Amsterdam Memorial Hospital, pulled her into medical studies. She received her RN from Albany Medical Center.

Judy moved with friends to Syracuse and began working at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital on the floor. It was there she met her husband, Brian Chanatry, an anesthesiologist. They were married in 1981. Brian’s job relocated them to New Mexico, Vermont and Alaska before relocating back home to Syracuse.



(Left to Right) Sister Colette Walter, household coordinator, Judy Chanatry, assistant resident care coordinator, Sister Kathleen Bruzga, volunteer and Sally Manahan, resident care coordinator, enjoy a break in their day!

Judy says her greatest satisfaction in life is her family. Lauren is a practicing attorney in Boston. Kathleen is finishing her residency as an OB/GYN and will be married this summer. Ned, who married last year, is completing his degree in mechanical engineering at The University of Utah.

Judy joined the Francis House family in 1998 when her friend and nursing colleague Sheila Austin asked her to volunteer with her at Francis House.

“I wasn’t sure about coming, but I trusted Sheila. I’m grateful that she brought me to this wonderful ministry.”

Judy volunteered for several years before joining the staff as an on-call administrator. She has worked in various capacities including resident admissions. In April Judy accepted the position of Assistant Resident Care Coordinator. Says Sally Manahan, “It’s a new title for an old friend.”

The Caring Fund

We ask you to consider leaving your legacy to support our ministry at Francis House.

YOUR LEGACY OF LOVE THROUGH THE CARING FUND

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 Flora Rockburn for her generosity.

By naming Francis House's endowment **The Caring Fund** 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 or contact Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development at 315-475-5422.

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 more efficient, cost-effective program for both you and Francis House.

For more information, please contact Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development at 315-475-5422 or email blhoey@francishouseny.org.



AUTO DONATION

Did you know you can donate your car to benefit Francis House?

Visit www.cardonationwizard.com and choose Francis House as your charity or call 877-957-2277 for more information.

WISH LIST

Miscellaneous

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

Paper Goods

- Coffee stirrers
- Flexible straws
- Freezer & storage bags (all sizes)
- Parchment paper
- Snack bags

Supplies

- Alcohol pads
- Baby wipes, unscented

Household

- Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt
- Bleach
- Dish detergent
- Dishwasher detergent gel pacs
- Disinfecting wipes
- Glass cleaner
- Liquid hand soap & sanitizer

- Lysol kitchen cleaner
- Masking tape and painter's tape
- Swiffer sheets (dry)
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Trash bags (13 & 30 gallon)

Food

- Applesauce snack cups
- Bisquick
- Broth: beef, chicken, 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 snack cups

- Gravy: chicken, beef, pork
- Honey
- Juice: cranberry juice cocktail, apple
- Mayonnaise (30oz)
- Pancake syrup, molasses syrup
- Peaches (small cans)
- Peanut butter (16oz. jar-creamy)
- Pie fillings: cherry, apple, blueberry
- Pineapple (canned) crushed & chunks
- Quick bread & muffin mix
- Soda (liters and cans)
- Soup: chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable
- Sugar: granulated, brown, confectioners
- Tomatoes: diced, crushed, pureed
- Tuna (cans): solid white & light

MISSION STATEMENT

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.



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**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.

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 FEBRUARY 1, 2017 – APRIL 25, 2017

Anna "Abby" Bahouth
Geraldine "Gerry" Bastable
Janice Bonnell
Sandra Bostrom
James Cheslik
Margaret "Peggy" Clancy
Raymond Culotti
Gladys Deptola
Laura Doolittle
Andrea Dowling
Steven Effler
Marilyn Faucher
Susan Ferstler
James Fiorino, Jr.
David Fulmer
Rose Gallo
Patricia Graham

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Patricia Millman
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Thomas "Tim" O'Brien
Carol Osbeck
Joanne Patrie
Howard "Howie" Pearl
Lena Piselli
David Prieto
Olympia "Lee" Raab

Charles Rauschkolb
Patricia L. Reney
Wayne Robinson
Patricia Rockwood
Jane Saya
Beatrice "Betty" Smith
Carole Sponable
Deborah Taube
Elizabeth "Betty" Thomas
Patricia Wall
Julia "Judy" Waugh
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Karen White
John Wilkins, Sr.
Hans "Rudy" Wirth
Flora Workman