



A Family When You Need It Most

FALL 2017

# FRANCIS HOUSE NEWS

## Resident Spotlight:

### SUZANNE PAYNE

#### *Our Honor To Care for The Caregiver*

Our resident Suzanne Payne is a self-proclaimed “ordinary” person. However, her entire life has been dedicated to helping others and putting others first and that makes her truly extraordinary.



*Suzanne Payne says her greatest accomplishment is her son John, pictured here with her.*

"Suzanne's strength and giving spirit has inspired us all at Francis House."

Our resident Suzanne Payne is a self-proclaimed “ordinary” person. However, her entire life has been dedicated to helping others and putting others first and that makes her truly extraordinary.

Suzanne was born and raised in Camillus, NY with her two sisters and brother. On her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, her father died suddenly. She remembers that time vividly, “It was obviously a very tough day. Two days later I had to take my biology regents exam. It was at that moment I knew I wanted to be a nurse.”

Suzanne received her bachelor's degree at Niagara University and went on to Syracuse University to earn her master's degree. She received her Nurse Practitioner certification at Upstate Medical Center and worked there from 1983 to 1994. In 1994, Suzanne went to St. Joseph's Hospital to work with the anesthesia team. “I loved my job so much,” shares Suzanne. “It was our job to make sure the patient was comfortable and felt safe – whatever it took.”

With a successful career in nursing, Suzanne says her greatest accomplishment and her greatest joy has come from her son John. She was a single mother from the time he was 8. John, now 20 years old, just began his senior year at Niagara University, majoring in Business. For half of his life,

Suzanne has been battling cancer and it is their special bond that has kept her going. “He is just such a great person, his humor has let us laugh during really tough times. And even when I looked my worst because of treatment – with no hair and a neck brace – it never phased him, we just kept doing the things we wanted to do.” She says it has been an answer to her prayers to be able to see him finish grade school; graduate from high school; and now attend college.

Suzanne's motto is ‘work hard, play hard,’ and although her work schedule was demanding, she has always found time to travel, including two cruises with John. Three years ago she went to Ireland with her two sisters. They met their third cousins in Kilkenny. Suzanne remembers eating a lot of the Irish

*Continued on Page 3*

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Beth Lynn Hoey  
Nancy Light

News From Our House is published three times a year by Francis House. The newsletter is distributed free to friends of Francis House.

For more information, comments or address changes contact:

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It was the summer of 1998 and our resident Steve, had a front row seat at the groundbreaking for the first new addition to Francis House.

It was a time of excitement and promise for the future. As the site work began, Steve was able to be up and about. He stood on the wheelchair ramp attached to our original house and “supervised.” With his engineer’s eyes, he watched each turn and cut of the excavator, nodding in approval at the work. Steve did not expect to see the completion of the project given his prognosis, but he had faith and hope that our home would be built and would serve the needs of even more people in the future.

We are a people of hope. We hope that the life of spring will come after the bleakness of winter because our experience tells us that it will. Even in the most desperate situations, we are hopeful that something good will come. We look for the positive, the glass half full, and reach for that which sustains and supports us.

I recently heard a very wise man say “Perseverance is patience. Patience is God.” Perhaps as we hope for the best, we are given the patience that is won through perseverance. We know because of the past, that God is with us for the present and we hope with faith that God will be with us for the future, as we persevere in our day to day lives.

Steve did live to see the completion of our new home. Not long after construction was started, he went into remission and was able to return to his own home. As a retired engineer, organization and order were very important to him. His months at home gave him an opportunity to create that order for his family. During the months that ensued, Steve downsized his home and helped his wife learn how to drive so that she could remain independent. In April of 1999, just 10 months after construction began, Steve was welcomed back to Francis House. He spent his last weeks in the home he had hoped would be there for the future and died there surrounded in love.

Like Steve, the residents who come to Francis House, look to the care staff and volunteers as they hope for a peaceful journey. Our ministry looks to all of you as we hope for the things we need to carry out the mission of our home. Hope allows us to persevere in faith, with the knowledge that the love of God surrounds us every day and in every way. May you always hope in that love.

In peace and gratitude

Nancy Light, Executive Director

food she loves, “it was delicious – the stews and even the porridge!”

Suzanne admits it has been hard to be “on the other side” through her treatments and hospital stays. “I always liked to be in control and make sure things were right. This has taught me to let go and let those caring for me do things their way.” She often jokes with Sally Manahan, Resident Care Coordinator. “I sometimes catch myself telling her what to do and Sally looks at me as says, ‘who’s in charge?’ and we laugh.”

Suzanne was a Francis House volunteer for many years and will always be thankful for the time she was able

to serve our residents. “I had several friends and family who were residents here and I was so happy to be able to give back and be a part of this special place.”

Suzanne says she is overwhelmed with the support she has received from her friends. She often has visitors in her room. She says everyone has their own way to face the end of their life. “For me, it’s having my friends over to sit on the porch, share a beer, and laugh until we cry.”

Suzanne’s strength and giving spirit have inspired us all at Francis House. We are grateful for the opportunity to be able to care for someone who is the true example of a caregiver.

## Volunteer Spotlight:

# PATTI COWLES & DEBBY EILER-CRUMB

### *Our Monday Ladies!*

Every other Monday morning when you walk into Francis House you are guaranteed the comforting, sweet smell of chocolate chip cookies. Patti Cowles and Debby Eiler-Crumb have been volunteering together and baking cookies on Mondays since 2007.

Debby began volunteering in 2004 and met Patti when she began volunteering in 2007. It didn’t take long before Patti and Debby became the dynamic duo, always volunteering together in the kitchen! They cook, they clean, they bake and visit with residents, which is what they enjoy most.

Debby was born in Meadville, PA and has operated her own interior design business for the last thirty years. She is married to Dr. Donald Crumb, a Syracuse dentist. They have two children, Jameson and Ashley. Jameson is a physician assistant at Crouse Institute of Neuroscience and resides in Skaneateles with his wife Jill. Their daughter Ashley is a school psychologist at



*Volunteers Patti Cowles (left) and Debby Eiler-Crumb enjoying the sunshine during their volunteer shift.*

CNS High School and resides in Camillus with her husband Craig and their three children; Allison, Quinn and Tanner.

Debby is hospice trained and says after her losing her dad to pancreatic cancer she wanted to help others with the loss of their loved ones. Her friend Carol invited her to visit Francis House and she knew immediately that she wanted to become a volunteer. Debby loves interacting with residents. When asked why she volunteers at Francis House Debby replied, “I believe the residents really need the attention and touch of the volunteers and I am happy to provide that. When a resident arrives I always try to welcome them and tell them they are in exactly the right place, because this is where all the angels are.”

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★ SAVE THE DATE ★  
**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30pm-8:30pm**  
*New York State Fairgrounds, Horticulture Building*

We welcome you to be a part of our annual signature fundraiser as a sponsor, advertiser, prize donor or purchase a ticket to attend our signature event. 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 provide loving care to our residents with terminal illnesses.

For more information please go to our website [www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org) or contact Adrienne Kelley, Development and Special Events Coordinator at 315-475-5422 or email [akelley@francishouseny.org](mailto:akelley@francishouseny.org).

**Special Thank You To Our Event Sponsors:**

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**RAFFLE**  
*You Could Win!*

VISA Gift Card, Value \$1500  
*Donated by Anonymous Donor*

\$500 Gift Card  
*Donated by Nichols of Liverpool*

\$500 Gift Card  
*Donated by DestinyUSA*

**Dinner-Of-The-Month For One Year**  
*Donated by 12 Local Restaurants*

\$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.  
 All proceeds to benefit Francis House.  
 Please contact Adrienne Kelley at 315-475-5422  
 or email [akelley@francishouseny.org](mailto:akelley@francishouseny.org)  
 to purchase tickets.



**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 gifts.

We would especially like to thank the Estate of Raymond A. Stummer for their generosity.

For more information on **The Caring Fund**, go to [www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org) or contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development at 315-475-5422.

Patti was born and raised in Syracuse, where she attended Henniger High School followed by Onondaga Community College and Syracuse University. In 1981, Patti married Dennis Cowles. They are the proud parents of three children Kimberly, Kristin and Kendall. Kimberly and her husband, Brian reside in Camillus with their children Brayden and Bryce. Kristin and her husband, Brian, a Francis House volunteer, live in Manlius. Kendall resides in Lyncourt with her children Reilly, Taylor, Oliver and Finnegan.

When Patti is not working as an independent contractor hairstylist at Rapunzel's Hair Salon, she gives of her time at Francis House and says "I wouldn't have it any other way." After her mom passed in 2002, Patti heard Sister Colette Walter, Household Coordinator talk about Francis House at St. Daniels Church in Lyncourt and realized she wanted to do something for other people. "I get more out of it than I put into it. I start my day with a list of things I need to do, but after I leave Francis House that list just doesn't seem as important anymore."

We are grateful to Patti and Debby for giving of their time to spend with us at Francis House. Our residents and their families enjoy their visits and the aroma of chocolate cookies when they come through our doors. We are blessed to have them a part of our ministry.

## MOBILE BIDDING FOR THE SILENT AUCTION!

Once again we have teamed up with GiveSmart, to provide mobile bidding for our silent auction items. Guests of the event (and those who are not able to attend) have the ability to bid on a smart phone, iPad, tablet or computer.

You may start bidding September 27<sup>th</sup> and throughout the night of October 11<sup>th</sup>. You will receive notices when you've been outbid and if you are the winner.

**How to register in advance:** Go to [tnplh17.auction-bid.org](http://tnplh17.auction-bid.org) and click the "Register" tab at the top of the page. It is a secure site and your information is confidential. Fill out the information, accept the terms and conditions and input your credit card information. You will receive a text message from 24700. Respond with YES to receive your outbid notifications. You will receive one more message and you are ready to bid.

This is a fun way for our out-of-town supporters to be a part of the excitement of the event!

**How to register the night of the event:** Register your phone with of the GiveSmart staff members (in red shirts) at the event. Look for your "Welcome" text message from GiveSmart.

**Unable to attend the event but would like to donate:** Open the blue link in you registration text from GiveSmart. Click the Green "donate" tab and type in your donation amount. No dollar signs or decimals needed.

**To donate via text:** Respond to the text message from GiveSmart (24700) with the word "GIVE" a space and the amount of your donation. No dollar signs or decimals needed EX. GIVE 500 just made a donation of \$500!

We hope our out-of-town benefactors and family members will be a part of our event through mobile bidding.



## MOBILE BIDDING PRIZES INCLUDE:

- **Costa Rican Vacation:** One-week stay for 9 people at Baypoint Condo, Costa Rica
- **Bonnie Castle Resort & Marina:** Jacuzzi Room for one evening
- **Antique New Boston Rocker**
- **(2) Yankee Tickets:** One regular 2018 season home game with food, non-alcoholic drinks and a parking pass
- **Liquor Basket:** Jose Cuervo, Gordon's London, Dewar's, Fireball, Bacardi and Chambord



*Omega Home Network Conference Attendees*



*Francis House caregiving staff members enjoyed participating in the conference.*

*Pictured here (first row from left)*

*Sally Manahan, Resident Care Coordinator, and Caregivers; Carmen Yackel and Annie Wilcox (second row from left) Judy Chanatry, Assistant Resident Care Coordinator and Caregivers; Sally Whaley, Becky Shaver, Katie Holcomb, Ashley Zimmerman, Nancy Reilly*

# FRANCIS HOUSE HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, over 100 people from across the United States gathered at the Genesee Grande Hotel to participate in the 2017 National Omega Home Network Conference. The conference, titled ***Leading the Way to Compassion***, brought together those who operate homes like Francis House and those planning to establish a home.

The three-day event included a keynote presentation by Maryann Roefaro, CEO of Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY, who shared experiences that were detailed in her book *Leadership From The Inside Out*. Dr. Sharon Brangman, Chief of Geriatrics at Upstate Medical University began

the second day with a keynote address on "Important Issues in the Management of Advanced Alzheimer's Disease." Breakout sessions spanned topics from helping caregivers with grief and managing an emotionally charged environment to the effect of art and music in your home.

The biggest benefit for attendees was the opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences and offer advice on this special model of care. Most attendees toured Francis House to see our ministry first-hand. Connections were made that will continue to help our friends in this field develop their homes and further their missions.

## MOVING THROUGH GRIEF

Sister Kathleen Osbelt presents at Christ the King Retreat Center

**September 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am – 3:00pm**

She is also engaged with a group who will be providing the larger community of Syracuse with presentations on Life Planning, something we all need to consider!

## YOUR PLANNING TOOLKIT Starting the Conversation

**November 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm  
Soule Branch Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*101 Springfield Road Syracuse, NY 13214*

We are faced with healthcare decisions throughout our life. In this session we will begin the conversation about values as they impact our health and quality of life decisions.

Join a team of community service providers for an interactive discussion to help guide you as you begin thinking about your own health and life planning process. Specialists for resources and discussion include medical professionals, hospice and caregiver experts, research specialists and more!

Please RSVP to 315-263-3997.

*Hosted by: Peter Sinatra, NP and Barbara Carranti, RN  
Sponsored by: Francis House, Hospice of CNY and Clarity Clinical Research*

# THANK YOU...



*Anaren employees ready for work at Francis House!*

*We are grateful to the employees of Anaren for volunteering at Francis House every summer. This year employees placed bricks in our Walkway of Blessings; washed windows inside and out; and helped to make Francis House look great.*



*Sr. Eileen Derrick*

*We are grateful to Don Geisser, husband of past Francis House volunteer Maureen for organizing the annual Maureen Geisser Memorial Golf Day and BBQ. Since 2008, Don has single-handedly run this event raising thousands of dollars for our ministry.*



*Our celebrity chef team from Sodexo at LeMoyne College (from left to right): Sue Wetzel, Catering Manager, Drew D'Angelo, Executive Chef; and Molly Naylor, Unit Marketing Coordinator.*

*Thank you to Sodexo at LeMoyne College for being our July Celebrity Chef of the Month. You provided another delicious meal to our residents and families.*

*Congratulations and thank you to Sr. Eileen Derrick, OSF who has become certified as a music therapist. Bringing her harp into Francis House every week, Sister Eileen offers to play at the bedside of any resident who wishes to hear her music. The music is quiet and peaceful, often helping to calm anxiety and bring a sense of tranquility. We are grateful to Sister Eileen for sharing her beautiful talent with our residents.*

*Thank you Laci's Tapas Bar for being our August Celebrity Chef of the Month and for providing our residents and families with a delightful lunch.*



*Owners of Laci's Tapas Bar  
Cindy Seymour (left) and Laura Serway*

*Thank you to all who hosted a prize party to support There's No Place Like Home: Roxanne Kopecky, Barbara Houk, Nancy Skahen, the staff at King + King Architects, Joe Russo, Sharon Craig and Ted Scallon.*

## AN EASY WAY TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT

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

ACH debit allows you to make your donation electronically.

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

For more information, please contact Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development 315-475-5422 or email [blhoey@franchishouseny.org](mailto:blhoey@franchishouseny.org).



Did you know you can donate your car to benefit Francis House? Visit [www.cardonationwizard.com](http://www.cardonationwizard.com) and choose Francis House as your charity or call 877-957-2277 for more information.



Choose Francis House as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile and a percentage of your qualified purchases is donated to Francis House.

## CELEBRATING THEIR ANNIVERSARY IN FASHION



*Auxiliary President Roxanne Kopecky congratulates Annual Luncheon Co-Chairs Betty Hatem (left) and Caroline Calimlim (right) on a successful afternoon.*

The Auxiliary of Francis House celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The ballroom at the DoubleTree Hotel was full with 283 guests in attendance. The highlight of the afternoon was the fashion show by Jane Morgan's Little House. Owner Randi Zabriski commented and shared the newest fashion trends.

Auxiliary President Roxanne Kopecky thanked all the past Auxiliary Presidents and Board Members, as well as ongoing Auxiliary members for the many years of support that have helped Francis House to flourish. Outgoing Board members recognized for their hard work and dedication to Francis House included Kathleen Conway, Mary Jane Lowery, Carol Pietraszek and Louise Sessa. Nominating Chair, Holly Dowd welcomed new Board members Lisa Collins, Kathy Sportelli and Mary Virgil.

Lilli Foote, president of the Youth Auxiliary, gave a report on the many youth auxiliary activities throughout the year and presented a check for \$800 from bracelet sales. Assistant Treasurer Lisa DiMiceli presented Nancy Light, Executive Director, with a check for \$15,000, representing fundraising profits the Auxiliary made over the past year.

We thank Luncheon Chairs Caroline Calimlim and Betty Hatem for leading such a successful event.

The Auxiliary of Francis House is gearing up for a busy holiday season of selling Francis House pins, earrings and note cards. If you are interested in volunteering at their booth at Destiny USA between Thanksgiving and Christmas, please contact Patte DeStaffan at 315-454-0814.

## GAZEBO MEMORIAL MASS

December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
Blessed Sacrament Church

127 James St., Syracuse

Dedicate lights on our Gazebo for your loved ones. Look for our mailing November 1<sup>st</sup> and online form available at [www.franchishouseny.org](http://www.franchishouseny.org).



# HOME AT LAST

## The renovation of our original Francis House is complete!!

Our administrative staff moved out of our office space to the former Sisters of St. Francis General Offices located just across the parking lot from Francis House on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and returned exactly six months later on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The project allowed us to update all three floors of our house with new wiring, insulation and fire protection. The General contractors, Rich and Gardner did a wonderful job of bringing our home into the 21<sup>st</sup> century while maintaining the look and feel of the original Francis House. We thank Kirk Narburgh, partner at King and King Architects and Francis House Board member, and Ed King of the Syracuse Diocese. Each donated their time to the project.

Jennifer Barnes, project manager, and Marcel Pouliot, on-site supervisor for Rich and Gardner, were always sensitive to the Francis House mission and ministry, going out of their way to be sure there was no negative impact on our home. There was never an interruption in resident care. Our volunteers were so patient with the disruption of their routine.

Francis House would also like to thank Francis House board member Todd Klaben of the Bonadio Group for offering their conference room for many meetings during the time we were renovating;

Greater Syracuse Moving and Storage for a successful move out of and back into our home; Mark Martino CEO of Modern Kitchens of Syracuse and Francis House Board Member, for the donation of cabinetry; Roma Tile for the donation of granite countertops and Jack Needle of Fleetwood Drywall for donating the insulation and drywall installation.

A blessing for our remodeled space was held on September 13. We are most grateful to everyone who worked on this project. We are looking forward to many years in our beautiful, new home. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by for a visit.



*Marcel Pouliot, Nick and Dave Socklowski.*

# WISH LIST

## Miscellaneous

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

## Food

- Applesauce snack cups
- Bisquick
- Broth: beef, chicken, vegetable
- Brownie mix: fudge, dark, milk
- Cake mix: yellow & chocolate
- Canned fruit (small): fruit cocktail, pears
- Chocolate chips (semi-sweet)
- Coffee: decaf & regular
- Cookie mix
- Cooking oils: olive & canola
- Cooking spray
- Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster, saltine
- Cremora creamer
- Flour
- Frostings: fudge, vanilla, cream cheese
- Fruit snack cups: cherry & mixed fruit
- Gravy: chicken, beef, pork
- Honey
- Jello snack cups: strawberry & orange
- Juice: cranberry juice cocktail, apple
- Keurig coffee K-cups
- Mayonnaise (30oz)
- Molasses syrup
- Pancake syrup

- Peaches
- Peanut butter (16oz. jar-creamy)
- Pie fillings: cherry, blueberry, pumpkin
- Pudding snack cups
- Quick bread & muffin mix
- Soda: colas, root beer, ginger ale
- Soup: chicken noodle, tomato, cream of chicken
- Sugar: granulated, brown, confectioners

## Paper Goods

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

## HOUSEHOLD

- Bleach
- Dish detergent
- Dishwasher detergent gel pacs
- Disinfecting wipes
- Glass cleaner
- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid hand soap
- Lysol kitchen cleaner
- Swiffer sweeper cloths
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Trash bags (13 & 30 gallon)

## Supplies

- Alcohol pads
- Baby wipes (unscented)



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this newsletter and other  
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[www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org).

Many of you have asked  
for this option for your  
convenience and to save  
Francis House resources.

## WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM APRIL 26, 2017 – AUGUST 16, 2017

Annette Andrusyszyn  
Eldred "Al" Avery  
Gabriele "Gabe" Barbieri  
Edward Bargelski  
Cecilia "Ceil" Barnell  
Sandra Barnes  
Jenifer Battilana-Russell  
Rose Cali  
Patsy Campolieta  
Rose Caprilozzi  
Katherine Christiana  
Linda Damiano

Frederic Demarest  
Christine Falchi  
Thelma Fuhr  
Patricia Gapski  
Madelyn Gewinner  
Illiana Gilbert  
Edward "Bud" Gilkey  
Suzanne Goodie  
Mark Graf  
Margaret Grenier  
William "Butch"  
Hassett

Harold Hopkinson  
Jacqueline Humphries-Iacovelli  
Victor Kimball  
Robert Lindberg, Jr.  
Margaret "Betty" Link  
Wilda Loos  
Debra Martin  
Mary Neary  
Robert Neilon, Sr.  
Irene Newell  
Rocco Oriend  
Donna Phillips

Joanne Pike  
Maryann Ricci  
Ann Schmutzler  
Michael Sluzar  
John "Jack" Stelle  
Marion Tripp  
Christine Vannelli  
William Watrous  
Theresa Watson  
Lisa Zukher

**Francis House 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.