



A Family When You Need It Most

WINTER 2018

NEWS

FROM OUR HOUSE

Resident Spotlight:

SHIRLEY & LOU

A 64-Year Love Story

Lou describes the day his wife Shirley left home, “when our transport arrived to take us to Francis House I felt it was so important. It was our last ride together – and like always, we were together and I’ll never forget it. It was a beautiful ride.” Shirley entered the doors of Francis House with Lou by her side, another moment in a life-long love story.



Lou and Shirley have spent the last 16 winters in Florida.

Shirley first met Lou in the 1940s when they met at a youth group rally. Shirley was always involved in East Genesee Presbyterian Church and, as a teenager, volunteered to plan the city-wide rallies. “I couldn’t help myself but to fall in love. We were just drawn to one another,” says Shirley smiling. Lou adds that he got the better end of the deal. “She was so good-looking, so smart, one of the nice girls...and she still has those million-dollar legs!”

The two were separated when they went to college. Even with Shirley in Marysville, Tennessee and Lou in Kansas City, Missouri, they continued to correspond. “I was determined to keep her attention,” confesses Lou. He had many creative ways to court Shirley. When he returned to Syracuse to work in his family’s business,

Marble Farms Dairy, Lou arranged for a pint of chocolate milk to be delivered to Shirley’s dormitory. “It worked,” says Shirley with a nod.

After receiving her degree in education, Shirley and Lou were married in 1953 at East Genesee Presbyterian. They soon relocated to Valpariso, Florida where Lou was stationed in the Air Force. Shirley was a third grade teacher. When asked how her calm demeanor worked in the classroom Shirley shared, “the best advice I ever got from an experienced teacher was to get the children’s attention you needed to raise your voice to a whisper.”

After two years in Florida, Lou and Shirley returned to Syracuse to raise their four children – John, Beth, Cindy and Chuck, in the

Camillus area. Shirley was able to continue her love of teaching as a substitute teacher for the West Genesee School District. Lou worked at Marble Farms Dairy and then Barnes & Cone. Shirley continued to volunteer her time as a church school teacher and Christian Education Director for Pebble Hill and First Presbyterian churches. Family time was important and some of Shirley and Lou’s best memories include vacation time at the family’s cabin in Twitchell Lake in the Adirondacks.

Shirley and Lou’s family has grown. Her bedroom wall displays pictures of their 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Lou admits that the idea of Shirley coming to Francis House was hard at first. “We wanted to be home.”

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News From Our House

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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

There are many types of awareness. The Oxford English Dictionary defines awareness as, "knowledge that something exists, understanding of a situation or a subject at the present time based on information or experience."

Do you remember learning to drive? One of the rules was called situational awareness. It was being alert and ready to respond if something unexpected occurred. Situational awareness may also be defined as "to see with an open heart." A young girl returned to family after being evacuated from Hurricane Irma. When the child first saw her equally young cousin, she was greeted with a hug and the words, "I'm sorry your house got hurt." No need for details of the event or description of the damage. Awareness of sadness and worry was answered with a hug that said, "I love you. You are not alone."

We are bombarded with "Breaking News" banners running in a continuous loop across the television heralding a new tragedy at home or across the globe. We are certainly aware of these situations but it is so hard to take it all in. Perhaps we can take a lesson from the six-year-old boy whose ten-year-old Wolfhound died at home as a result of cancer. As the child's parents talked about how sad it was that dogs live such a short time, the boy said, "People are born so they can learn how to live a good life, loving everybody all the time and being nice. Right? Well, dogs already know that so they don't have to stay as long." The circumstance was heartbreaking, but that little boy gave his pet's life new meaning and purpose.

Responding with awareness deepens the meaning of life at Francis House. Dame Sicily Saunders wrote, "You matter to the last moment of your life and we will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but to live until you die." Attending to details both large and small, our volunteers, staff and benefactors help our residents to live until the time of a peaceful death. They are aware and see our residents with the eyes of an open heart.

I sincerely thank all the members of our Francis House family. You respond generously to help us make our house a home for the residents we serve. As we begin a new year, I wish all of you peace, joy and an open hearted awareness of all the good that you are and do for others. May God bless you in abundance.

In peace and gratitude

Nancy Light, Executive Director

But when Shirley’s care required more help, they were grateful there was a space at Francis House. And from the moment they came in the front door, they say they felt loved. Lou says, “Everyone is so helpful – and they mean it. They are always watching out for us. This place is an answer to our prayers. I think Francis House is a training ground for Heaven.”

Every day, Lou is by Shirley’s side. Volunteers and staff agree that it is hard to separate the two. Even cards arrive in the mail at Francis House for “Shirley and Lou Marble.” “When you visit Shirley, you visit Lou. When you support Lou, you support Shirley,” says Sally Manahan, Resident Care Coordinator. “They are an inseparable pair and a great inspiration through their love for one another.”

We said goodbye to Shirley on December 19th. We are grateful for our time with her and keep Lou and her family in our prayers.

CELEBRATING HOME



Over 2,400 of our ministry family and friends gathered at the New York State Horticulture Building on the beautiful evening of October 11th to celebrate There’s No Place Like Home. Over \$315,000 was raised in net proceeds for our ministry.

Guests enjoyed the delicious food provided by Carnegie Catering and live music from Paul Fey. There was much laughter and cheers as guests won 450 prizes playing the popular key game. The mobile bidding featured 200 items for the silent auction, guests were able to bid from their phone or available ipads.

We are grateful for our dedicated volunteers who spent three days preparing the Horticulture Building for the celebration. Guests were reminded of the true meaning of the evening as they viewed our resident banners featuring the 2,900 names of every resident in our Francis House family. Thank you to all our sponsors, advertisers, prize donors and all those who supported the event you helped make it a huge success!



TNPLH CHAIRS: Adrienne Kelley, development and special events (right), and Nancy Light, executive director (left) enjoy the evening with event co-chairs Jim and Christine Connors and event vice-chair Joe Russo (second from right).

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and Joe Jackson*
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The Russo Family:
Joe, Andy and Paula
Salli and James Tuozzolo
Upstate Radiation
Oncology

SAVE THE DATE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY RAFFLE

Friday, March 16th, 2018

Tickets are on sale for our annual St. Patrick's Day Giveaway. Only 600 tickets are sold at \$100 each. (Note: raffle tickets are non-deductible.) 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, 2018.

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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE

AUXILIARY ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING & FASHION SHOW

Thursday, May 10th, 2018
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
on Carrier Circle

Fashions provided by Jane Morgan's Little House.
Invitations will be mailed in April.



AUXILIARY OF FRANCIS HOUSE

25 YEARS OF SUPPORT

The Auxiliary of Francis House wrapped up their year-long 25th anniversary celebration with a Christmas luncheon on December 13th. Executive Director Nancy Light thanked the current and past Auxiliary board members for their dedicated service over the years. Francis House Founder Sister Kathleen Osbelt shared stories of the Auxiliary's creation with Marie Grabowski, founding member of the Auxiliary.



Past Auxiliary board members Elaine Scuderi (left), Mary Ann Zimmerman (center) and Marie Grabowski (right) braved the snow and cold to celebrate the anniversary and recall memories of the early days of the Auxiliary.



Founding Auxiliary board member Marie Grabowski (left) celebrates with past board member Nancy Marsden (center) and Francis House Founder Sister Kathleen Osbelt.

Volunteer Spotlight:

JEFF & ELLEN SCHARDT ANSWER THE CALL

Jeff has greeted many residents when they first arrive at Francis House. "It's important that they know they matter. Welcome is a powerful word and I always greet them by their name and let them know we are here for them," says Jeff. Ellen agrees and adds, "it is an extremely emotional day for the resident's family." Jeff and Ellen's warm and welcoming personalities put new visitors at ease.

"It is our job to welcome them with open arms and let them know that we are here for them. I always let them know how wonderful our caregivers are and that this time is for them to just be present to their loved one."

Jeff says Ellen has a natural sensitivity to peoples' feelings, "she always finds the right words to say." Ellen returns the favor, "Jeff loves people and loves to talk, but more importantly he is a good listener and values every person's story."

Entering Francis House for the first time can be daunting because many people do not know what to expect. Jeff and Ellen's warm and welcoming personalities put visitors immediately at ease.

Ellen's story began in Palmyra, NY. She is the oldest of three children. Jeff was born on the Northside of Syracuse and is the oldest of eight children which includes two sets of twins.

Ellen's and Jeff's paths would cross at Oswego College. Jeff was in his junior year and Ellen was a sophomore when a mutual friend introduced them. Ellen said she knew on their first date that she would one day marry Jeff.

After graduation both pursued teaching careers working for 33 years in the Central Square School District. Ellen taught grades K, 1st and 2nd and Jeff taught high school English. They lived in Liverpool and raised two children: Gregory and Andrew.

Jeff's mother, Eleanor Schardt was one of the original volunteers at Francis House in 1991. Even when Eleanor's health was declining, she insisted on continuing to volunteer on the weekends. Ellen decided it would be best if she joined her mother-in-law and help with whatever needed to be done. It wasn't long before Ellen was "hooked."



If you visit or call Francis House on Wednesday mornings from 8am-12pm you will be greeted by the smiling faces of Jeff and Ellen Schardt. You will always find Jeff greeting friends and family members in our 114 reception area and Ellen will be at the 108 desk.

Ellen joined the Auxiliary of Francis House Board, where she served a 6-year term. When there was a need for receptionists at both houses, Ellen and Jeff answered the call.

Both look forward to coming to Francis House every Wednesday and try to schedule appointments so they don't interfere with their volunteering time.

Says Jeff, "It is a pleasure to be at Francis House, each week is different and filled with a joyful experience. We feel it is a privilege to volunteer and are allowed to be a part of our residents' and their families' lives." Ellen added, "Francis House is a sacred place. I believe that every time a resident passes the Lord was just in this very hallway."

When they are not at Francis House, Jeff and Ellen visit their son Gregory's family in South Carolina and their son Andrew's family in Pennsylvania. They are the proud grandparents of Kinley, Owen and Lucy. They also belong to Assumption Church, where they serve as Eucharistic Ministers and bring communion to the home bound.

"You can feel how much Jeff and Ellen love being part of our family," says Rea Carver, volunteer coordinator. "Whether it's helping a resident answer a phone call or comforting a loved one who is visiting, they are both so accepting and giving."

Thank you, Ellen and Jeff, for being a part of our family.

Make a Difference in Someone's Life

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

For more information, contact Rea Carver,
Volunteer Coordinator at 315-475-5422.

Donor Spotlight:

VALLEY DESPERADOS

In 1978, Al and Maureen Wrightsman and a handful of friends were sitting on their front porch on Valley Drive in Syracuse. "We all loved to ride and were as close as family," explains Maureen. "Someone said, we should call ourselves the Valley Desperados." They agreed their motto would be "no rules" with a focus on making strong friendships. And the rest is history. Forty years later, this Syracuse group has grown to hundreds of members with chapters in Florida, Maryland, Virginia and Hamilton, New York.

One of their original members, Tim O'Herin, passed away in 2004. "We couldn't believe it when we walked into this place called Francis House," says Maureen. "you felt the love and



Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development (far left) and Sister Colette Walter, household coordinator (far right) accept annual financial and in-kind donations from the Valley Desperados.

the spirituality when you walked in. And they treated this gentle, honest man that we loved with such compassionate care. We were called to do something."

The first Valley Desperado ride for Francis House took place in 2005, with proceeds to benefit our ministry. The event grew and a few years later Chuck and Robin Orlando, owners of local restaurant Limp Lizard, provided delicious barbeque for participants.

Every year, the day after Thanksgiving marks their ride for Francis House. The ride ends at the Limp Lizard restaurant where Maureen collects both financial and in-kind donations for the Francis House wish list. "It is part of our annual tradition," shares Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development. "Staff members love to join the party at Limp Lizard every year. Then, the next Monday a group of Valley Desperados arrive at Francis House with carloads of donated items and a generous check. It kicks off our Christmas season!"

Over the years the Valley Desperados have donated over \$11,000 with an additional \$5,500 worth of pantry items. We thank all the members of the Valley Desperados who have become dedicated members of our Francis House family.

JOIN OUR FRANCIS HOUSE PRAYER COMMUNITY

There are many ways to be present to our residents and family members. We are grateful for our volunteers who are able to give hands-on help at our home. Our benefactors' support enables us to continue our work. And we know that the prayers that are said for our residents, families and staff make a difference.

We invite you to be a member of our newly created Francis House Prayer Community. It is an opportunity for you to be involved with our ministry even if you are unable to come to our home. We ask you to pray daily for our residents. Every week we will send you the names of three of our current residents.

If you would like to be a founding member of the Francis House Prayer Community, please contact Sister Kathleen Osbelt at kosbelt@francishouseny.org or 315-475-5422.



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 gift of \$100 with completed reservation form must be received by June 15th, 2018.

Brick forms can be downloaded from our website www.francishouseny.org or email info@francishouseny.org with the subject: "A Blessing Brick" and we will email you a form to complete.

THANK YOU...



Special thank you to (left to right) Dr. Michael Stirpe, Tracy Stirpe, Carly Burgess and Kayla Valenza for organizing a holiday wish list collection at Stirpe Chiropractic and Wellness.



Thank you to The Inn of The Season owners, Carol and Brad Wiese (not pictured) for asking attendees of their Holiday Extravaganza Wine Dinner to bring wish list donations for Francis House. (Above, from left to right) Nancy Light, executive director, Sister Kathleen Osbelt, director of mission outreach, Bruce Light, Lisa Verzino, Irene Hess and Sgt. Susan Izzo enjoy the evening.



Thank you to the Welch Allyn Singers (above) for gracing our residents with your beautiful Christmas Carols.

Thank you to G & C Foods for your generous donation. Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, (center) receives check from Sara Johnson, Director of Organizational Development, and Rich Chapman, President, G & C Foods.



Thank you to the "MANNA," group of women who sang for the residents.



Thank you to the Jesuit Novices for working at Francis House this year! You made a big difference in the lives of our residents and their families by working in the kitchen, serving meals, spending time with each of them and decorating our homes for the holiday season. We look forward to having you return next year.

Francis House was awarded the Pieces of the Puzzle Community Award from Marriott Syracuse Downtown. Above Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development (5th from left) accepts the award and donation from Ed Riley, owner, and staff members of Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

SAVE THE DATE

Living the Final Chapter

*A Symposium for Compassionate Care
for Persons at the End of Life*

Friday, March 9, 2018

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Genesee Grande Hotel

1060 E Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY

Major Sponsor:



Keynote Speakers

B.J. Miller, Jr., M.D.

Hospice and Palliative Care Specialist, UCSF Medical Center

Sharon Brangman, MD

Director, Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Breakout Sessions Including:

Signposts of Dying, Healing Music, Social Model Hospice, Life Planning, Care for Caregivers

Who should attend?

Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Health Aides, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, Social Workers, Grief Counselors, Therapists, Long-term Care Administrators, Pastoral Care Providers, and anyone involved in providing end-of-life care.

For more information, visit www.francishouseny.org

Questions? Contact kosbelt@francishouseny.org



**Thank you to an anonymous donor
for sponsoring the cost of our new
resident banners.**

Shown above at our Memorial Mass in December, these banners will be displayed at There's No Place Like Home and gatherings during the year.

*The
Caring
Fund*

**YOUR
LEGACY
OF LOVE**

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 recognize the gift from the Estate of Raymond A. Stummer.

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 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@francishouseny.org.



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.



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

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.

Core Values of Francis House:

Compassion, Unconditional Acceptance, Respect and Dignity.

WISH LIST

Miscellaneous

- 8 ½ x 11 white & colored 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
- Mayonnaise (30oz)
- Molasses syrup
- Pancake syrup
- 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)
- Paper Towels
- Parchment paper
- Snack bags

Household

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

Supplies

- Alcohol pads
- Baby wipes (unscented)
- Body Wash
- Mouthwash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste



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for this option for your
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WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM AUGUST 17, 2017 – DECEMBER 13, 2017

Alfred "Fred" Antonello

Joan Bellso

Patricia Besanson

Mellie Bergren

Lisa Bogin

MaryAnne Burhans

Jeannette DeJohn

Selma DelPrato

Edward Donnelly

Marilyn Edwards

Nikki Dougherty Fenmore

Joan Downes

Amelia "Bobby" Draper

Stephen Durham

Glenn "Ike" Eichelberger

Evelyn Fisher

Winifred "Winnie" Frey

Virginia "Ginny" Fuller

David Gidley

Raymond Gorman, Jr.

David P. Hall

Claudia Hanai

Bruce Hertzberg

Gary Hotaling

Michael Iacampo

Helen Keys

Marcia Kincella

David Kuss

Patricia Leaf

Carl Lepinske

Robert Livesay

Joan Madigan

Arnold "Arnie" Manheim

Mary Maleski

Michael Marlow

Sonia Martin

Msgr. James McCloskey

John "Jerry" Mulherin

Helen Myrdek

Dorothy "Bonnie" Nafi

Suzanne Walker Payne

Arnold "Arnie" Peters

Leila "Lee" Pfohl

Mary Ellen Pieklik

Julia Rioux

Sharon Rutledge

Geraldine "Geri" Rydelek

Carrie Scherzi

Patrick Simiele

Stanley "Jerry" Sizing

Harold Stegemann

Anne Stott

Richard "Dick" Taylor

Theresa "Terri" Torrick

Angeline "Angie" White

Karen Wilkinson

Rita Windland