



A Family When You Need It Most

FALL 2018

NEWS

FROM OUR HOUSE

Resident Spotlight:

VIOLET LEYLAND, OUR VERY OWN MOUSEKETEER

One afternoon while talking with a Francis House staff member, resident Violet Leyland shared that she had always wanted to go to Disneyland but realized she would never get to go. Sister Kathleen Osbelt, director of mission outreach, contacted Disney Corporation and shared Violet's wish. They responded with a special gift package and signed picture of the major Disney characters.



Resident Violet Leyland reacts to her Disney surprise.

"We are grateful for our staff members who give so much of themselves to ensure our residents feel loved."

But the Francis House staff wanted Violet to have a Disney experience. So one afternoon they surprised her. A staff member asked Violet to close her eyes. Other staff members quickly put up Disney decorations around the room that they

had gathered. A Mickey Mouse cake, decorated by one of the staff, was placed on the table in front of her.

Violet heard someone whisper in her ear, "We know you wanted to be at Disneyland so much. And since we couldn't get you there, we brought Disney to you.

Open your eyes!" Violet opened her eyes and staff and volunteers yelled "Surprise!" Disney music was playing.

Violet was overwhelmed, "I can't believe all of this is for me!" She enjoyed her gift basket with the autographed picture, Mickey ears, pins and a figurine. She also loved her big piece of Mickey Mouse cake. For the rest of the day, volunteers and staff came to Violet's room to see the Disney transformation. Violet was all smiles as she recounted what happened over and over again. "I really loved it!"

We are grateful for our staff members who give so much of themselves to ensure our residents feel loved. We feel blessed to have Violet part of our Francis House family.

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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

I recently was blessed to spend time at Rose Hill Retreat, a lovely home located on a small lake in Central New York. It had beautiful views of the water, wooded hillsides and glorious sunsets. Late in the afternoon each day, the sun cast stunning rays across the surface of the water creating what the home owner called, "diamonds on the lake." It was a very peaceful experience and offered many opportunities for contemplation.

On one day, as I sat looking over the water, my eye was drawn to a mature ash tree located at the edge of the lake. In early morning light, the body of the tree seemed full, branches and leaves stretching upwards as if reaching for the sky. As the sun rose a bit higher, light filtered through the branches illuminating the center of the trunk and making visible many leafless branches. The branches appeared sturdy, but had no new growth.

The sun continued its rise and the bare spots became masked by shadows and the play of light off the water. At sunset, light again pierced through the leaves revealing the bare branches. But at this time of day, they appeared more subdued, less striking. Finally, at dark, the ash tree assumed a full and vibrant look. The ash tree had one odd branch at almost a 90 degree angle to the trunk, as though it had carried some constant, steady weight through the years. That burden had caused the branch to bend, but it had not caused it to break. The branch persevered.

It occurred to me that this tree might be seen as symbolic of our human condition. At any given time, we may be the strong, green leafed branch, ready to face the future with assurance, confidence and energy. At other times, troubles, anxiety and the pain of loss weigh us down, bending our spirit almost to the breaking point. Our inner branches can't cope and little by little we lose some of our "leaves".

In some situations, those branches are never able to produce leaves again. We are left with a permanent hole in our inmost being. We experience the lack of wholeness and the feeling of being forever broken in some way.

In his book, *A Hidden Wholeness; The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*, Parker J. Palmer writes, "Wholeness does not mean perfection; it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life."

And so like the stately ash tree, we continue to stand, to bend with the wind, to accept the bare branches that are a part of life and that help to make us who we are. Through it all, each of us has gifts that will nourish and sustain us just as the rain and sun sustain that tree. Despite our broken wholeness, we will remain a sturdy shelter for those who seek the comforting embrace of our branches. Thank you for all you do to make Francis House a home where we can offer that welcoming embrace of love to our resident friends.

In Peace and Gratitude,

Nancy Light, Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight:

ANTOINETTE "TONI" R. GRAHAM

Every Tuesday and Friday afternoon you can expect a warm welcome when you enter Francis House 114. Our receptionist Toni Graham is always there to greet you with a smile. You will often find Toni crocheting as she chats with residents and their families.

When Toni was a young, single mother her doctor suggested a hobby to help with her anxiety. She learned to crochet and quickly turned her hobby into a way of giving back. "I love to see the joy in people's faces when I give them a gift," says Toni. She makes decorative holiday hangings for staff and volunteers. She also makes potholders for the Sisters of St. Francis to sell in their gift shop. But her favorite creations are the booties and hats for the preemie babies at St. Joseph's Hospital. She has made over 2,000 sets!

Toni agrees it can often be intimidating to walk into the doors of Francis House. "People don't know what to expect," explains Toni. "I just try to tell visitors that their friend or relative is still the same person, just living here now. I remember one gentleman who was so nervous when he came to visit. He told me, 'I don't know what to say.' I told him, 'Say the same thing you always do, it's just him. You can do it.' When he was leaving he thanked me and said he was grateful for the special visit."

Visitors also appreciate Toni's sense of humor. She loves to laugh and make others laugh as well. And you always know what sport season it is depending on Toni's hat. She is a devoted fan of baseball's San Francisco Giants, football's San Francisco 49ers, and basketball's San Antonio Spurs.

Toni grew up in Syracuse with her parents Dominic and Rose DelPriore and five siblings. After graduating from North High School and Central City Business Institute, Toni found clerical work at a furniture company, followed by working for the Department of Transportation in Oswego, NY. Toni decided to move to Los Angeles, California with a friend. "I was young and wanted to experience life outside of my hometown," says Toni. She lived in California for one year then moved to Texas where she met her future husband James Graham who was stationed at Kelly Air Force Base in



San Antonio, TX. After they were married and Jim was done with his service, they moved back to Syracuse and had four children: Thomas, Robert "Bob", Richard and James "David".

After retiring in 2003 Toni was looking for something to fill her time. "I worked a lot of years and then it was my time to do something for others." One day in her bank she saw a flyer that read "Volunteers Needed at Francis House." She immediately called and has been answering the phones and greeting guests at the 114 reception desk since.

Toni also feels blessed to have had the loving care of Francis House for her younger sister Joanne who was a Francis House resident in 2015.

Toni's passion for travel has meant many family vacations to Disney World, Nashville, Cape Cod and Myrtle Beach. Toni has visited New York City and Toronto, Canada many times to see Broadway shows. Her favorite trips might be to Las Vegas and Atlantic City to play the slot machines because she has been very lucky. Toni is most proud of her Alaskan Cruise to which she treated herself for her 80th birthday! Toni you are a treasure to all of us at Francis House. We are blessed to have you a part of our family and ministry.

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.



Special Thank You To Our Event Sponsors:

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, October 10, 2018
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. 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 or contact Adrienne Kelley, development & special events at 315-475-5422 or email akelley@francishouseny.org.

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NBT Bank
The Russo Family: Joe, Andy and Paula
Phil and Lucy Van Horne
Upstate Radiation Oncology

RAFFLE ~ YOU COULD WIN!

\$2,018 Cash Prize

Donated by Various Donors

\$500 Gift Card

Donated by Nichols of Liverpool

Destiny USA Staycation

2-night stay at Embassy Suites by Hilton with dining, shopping and entertainment package.

Donated by Destiny USA

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 to purchase tickets.

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 26th and throughout the night of October 10th. You will receive notices when you've been outbid and if you are the winner.

How to register in advance:

Go to tnplh18.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 one 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 your 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:

Buffalo Bills Game Package:

2 VIP Buffalo Bills Suite Tickets in the BlueRock Energy Suite on Sunday, December 16th, Bills vs Detroit Lions, roundtrip transportation provided, food and beverage provided.
Donated by BlueRock Energy

Chick-fil-A Birthday Party:

10 kids meals, ice cream cone, mini plush cows, special appearance by Chick-fil-A cow.
Donated by Chick-fil-A

TOPS \$250 Grocery Shopping Spree

Donated by TOPS

AAA \$200 Travel Gift Card

Donated by AAA

Compass Collection, Keith Jack Designer:

Sterling Silver 18" necklace with 10k Yellow Gold and White Topaz, \$480 value
Donated by Welch & Co. Jewelers

And Many More!

THE AUXILIARY IS EXCITED TO SHOWCASE THEIR EXPANDED LINE OF JEWELRY!



We are offering beautiful stained glass jewelry by local artist, Tina Barry, made exclusively for Francis House – new pendants, earrings, and pins. Debuting this September is our

new addition – a butterfly pin! These pieces make wonderful gifts for a friend, loved one or yourself. You can see our entire line of jewelry at the Auxiliary's upcoming events: Silver Sunday (September 16th); There's No Place Like Home (October 10th); Junior League's Holiday Shoppes (November 9th-11th); and DestinyUSA (Thursdays thru Sundays starting November 23rd thru December 16th). Of course you can always stop by the House to take and look and shop!

We also are offering our unique notecard sets made especially for Francis House by nationally-known artist Michelle Masters. She is a local artist who specializes in topiary artwork. We are lucky to have two sets of notecards – one special for the holidays! Get yours at the upcoming venues!

Mark Your Calendars: MEMORIAL MASS AND GAZEBO LIGHTING

December 4, 2018, 7pm
Blessed Sacrament Church
127 James St., Syracuse

Dedicate lights on our Gazebo for your loved ones. Look for our mailing November 1st and online form available at www.francishouseny.org.



Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, receives a check from Maddie Brown-Paul, Brynn Patrick and Gabrielle Guptill representing proceeds of the Tully 6th Grade Carnival.

Donor Spotlight:

6TH GRADE CLASS AT TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One of the most anticipated June activities at Tully Elementary School is the sixth grade carnival. Students work in groups to create their own carnival games. Other students can play the games for a quarter per game. The sixth graders run the games for the day and record the attempts and wins to calculate statistics for math class.

The focus of the day is not only fun, but helping others. In the months before the carnival, students research different non-profit organizations. They present their findings to the entire class for a vote on which organization will receive the profits of the carnival. This year, Francis House was honored to be chosen.

Maddie Brown-Paul, Brynn Patrick and Gabrielle Guptill were the students that presented Francis House to their class. They wanted to give back to the place that helped their classmate Delaney last year. Delaney's mom Andrea Dowling, was a Francis House resident. Even though Delaney had moved, the girls said they "wanted to do something special in remembering Delaney's mom and the people who helped her."

Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, was presented a collection of paper towels for use at the house along with a check for \$1,250 from the proceeds of the event—representing 5,000 tickets sold! "Andrea was an amazing mom and teacher," says Beth Lynn Hoey, "it was a privilege to have her part of our family. And her legacy of love continues as these young people give back to help our residents. They are a beautiful example of celebrating life, finding joy and continuing the circle of caring for others."

THANK YOU...

Thank you Roxanne Kopecky, Barbara Houk and Patte DeStaffan of the Francis House Auxiliary for hosting a wonderful prize party in support of "There's No Place Like Home" event.



Thank you Kirk Narburgh for your many years of service on the Francis House Board of Directors. We are grateful for your leadership and your hands-on help for the many projects and activities of our ministry.

Pictured Left: Kirk Narburgh



We are grateful to the Anaren employees for placing bricks in our walkway of blessings, cleaning windows and helping make Francis House look great.

Pictured Left: Employees from Anaren

Thank you McKenzie Macko, owner of McKenzie Elizabeth Salon for a fun evening with your clients in support of "There's No Place Like Home".

Thank you event Chair Joe Russo and Vice-Chairs, Phil and Lucy VanHorne along with Sharon Craig and Ted Scallon for hosting a beautiful gathering at Onondaga Country Club.



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

(Pictured Left)

Thank you St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church for your generous donation of pantry items from our wish list.

Dear All,

I cannot thank you enough for the love and welcome I had this year at Francis House. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to work with such a loving and dedicated group of people. I am in awe of the love shown here every day. Thank you for teaching me the gift and honor it is to share this sacred time with the residents and their families, and how to enter into that time with love and compassion. I have truly felt at home here from my first day, and leaving is going to be very hard.

Love you all,
Clare



Clare Meland, FrancisCorp Volunteer holds her "Amazing Grace" gift to Francis House, handmade by her sister.



A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

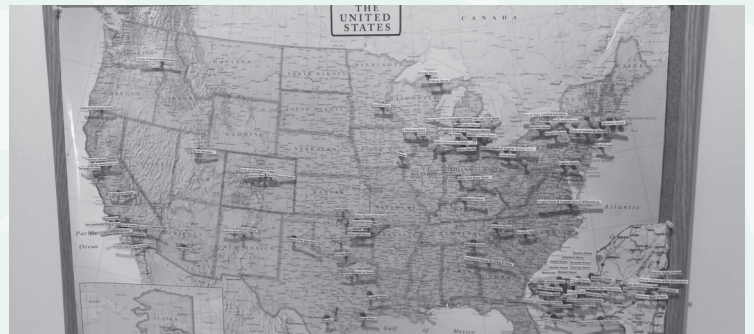
Every May, in remembrance of her father, Francis House caregiver Ashley Braunitzer organizes a collection for a local non-profit organization. This year she chose Francis House because her father was a resident, for just one day before he passed away in 2014. We are so grateful that Ashley has chosen to celebrate her father's life by touching lives here at Francis House. The collection took two cars to deliver and included \$1,597. Thank you for being part of our family, Ashley.

WELCOME KATE FLANNERY



We are pleased to welcome Kathleen K. Flannery, MSW, CSW, as the newest member of the Francis House Board of Directors. Kate is the Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. A position she has held since 2006. Kate's experience in non-profit leadership includes serving

as Executive Director of Vera House and the Rape Crisis Center of Syracuse. Always supportive of our ministry, Kate says she gained a new perspective on our ministry when her brother-in-law was a resident last year. She says she is honored to serve the mission of Francis House. "In the words of Anne Frank, 'How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.'"



A SHARED VISION

As you can see from this map of the US, there are many homes like Francis House now operating across the country. Some are as small as two beds while others are as large as 13. We have 8 residents in two houses so Francis House is among the largest. It is such a wonderful experience when we know that a new house is opening. Many belong to our national organization called the Omega Home Network. Let us pray for those who are working to develop homes for those who are dying.

AN EASY WAY TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT

You can have your donations to Francis House deducted directly from your bank account. ACH (Automated Clearing House) debits are a more efficient, cost-effective program for both you and Francis House. You can arrange to have monthly or quarterly gifts.

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, vegetable
- Brownie mix: fudge, dark
- Cake mix: yellow & chocolate
- Canned fruit (small): fruit cocktail, peaches
- 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
- 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
- Pudding snack cups
- Quick bread & muffin mix
- Soda: colas, root beer, ginger ale
- Soup: chicken noodle
- Sugar: granulated, brown, confectioners

Paper Goods

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

Household

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

Supplies

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



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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 4, 2018 – AUGUST 1, 2018

James "Jim" Adydan
Diane Austin
Richard Bousquet
John Caselle
Lloyd Cole
Rev. Joseph Conti
Rebecca Cross
Carol Daly
John "Jack" Dee
Kenneth Divers
Gelene Doolittle
David Drane
Mary Dunham
Phyllis Durney

Joyce Feldman
Thelma Fitch
Amy Gallagher
Lawrence "Larry" Gardiner
Kenneth Graff
Joanne Griffith
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Rose Marie Hardenburgh
Jeanne Hart
James Hinman
Stephanie Holmes
Jerald "J.R." Jones
Donna Joyner
Rosemary Koppel

Vassil "Vik" Kostadinov
Josephine Lampasona
Lynette LeVan
Lena "Lee" Lewis
Barbara Mahan
Ruby Messina
William "Bill" O'Toole
Cindy Pederson
Linda Perry
Kathleen "Katy" Pomeroy
Emily Ponto
Alexander "Alex" Rinaldi
Greg Rueppel
Laurie Sentz

Daniel "Ray" Slater
Alyson Scro
Anthony Signorelli, Jr.
Crystal Smith
Gladys Stevenson
Edward Swartz
Regina Testa
Stephanie Tidd
Sr. Elizabeth "E.J." Timson
James Warren
Kevin Wilson
Wayne Wilson
Delores "Deigh" Weaver