



A Family When You Need It Most

WINTER 2022

# NEWS

## FROM OUR HOUSE

### Resident Spotlight:

## ROBERT “BOB” BISHOP



“I love people and I live every day with joy,” says Bob Bishop from the comfort of his chair in a sunny corner of his room. “It’s easy to do, just spread kindness,” he adds with a smile, as he reflects on 94 years of ‘a wonderful life.’ Framed photographs fill

Bob’s shelves and snapshots cover his bulletin board, displaying memories with Betty, his wife of 52 years, his seven children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Bob became a resident of Francis House in November 2021. He quickly became known for his smile, charm and quick wit. Bob says he enjoys visiting with the care staff and also watching sports, particularly the Buffalo Bills and SU football and basketball games. “It’s easy to smile surrounded by the people here. It really is a home away from home. Everyone is just wonderful.”

Bob was raised in the hamlet of Mottville, NY, one of seven children. In 1944 Bob’s older brother joined the Army. A year later, inspired by his brother, Bob enlisted in the Navy, foregoing his senior year at Skaneateles High School for basic training at the Sampson Naval Training Station. After training, Bob returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Betty, then he set off for gunnery training and an assignment on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt aircraft carrier. Following active duty during World War II, Bob returned safely home and joined his father-in-law in operating the family meat market in Weedsport, NY, a job he would enjoy for the next 25 years.

“Betty and I settled in Skaneateles Falls, NY, and raised our family. We did everything as a family – camping, boating, snowmobiling—we just loved being together.” When Bob learned that Sugardale Foods was looking for a salesman, he applied and began what would become a 22-year career with the company. “I loved my sales job. My philosophy in sales was to sell yourself first and the rest would come naturally, and that’s what I did.” An approach that earned him Salesman of the Year more than a few times. Last month, Sugardale Foods donated the Francis House Christmas ham – after receiving a request from Bob’s son. “That really made me happy!” said Bob of the donation.

Bob and Betty enjoyed a Panama Cruise in the mid-90s. Shortly after their travels, Bob recalls, Betty experienced a series of strokes and died in 1998. Bob also experienced the loss of three of his children. “Betty and I had great kids. I told them all I’d help them pay for college. It was important to me that they have a good education, especially since I dropped out of school at 17.”



Bob with Francis House caregiver Maria Garcia (left) and Hospice nurse Amy Hess.

After retiring, Bob took up golfing, enjoying regular tee times with his brother, Bill. “I played three times a week. I wasn’t very good but I enjoyed it anyway.” He also went on annual cruises – 11 total over the years. Retirement also provided Bob the time he needed to achieve one of his life

goals – earning his diploma. “I went to BOCES for two and a half years to earn my GED (General Education Diploma). I was constantly asking the teacher for help. She was a saint. She spent so much time with me,” he laughs. “It was math – that was the class that gave me a headache,” Bob says. “I invited my teacher to my graduation party to thank her for putting up with me.”

Bob says his determination combined with a sense of gratitude through the years helped to shape his wonderful life. That, and his commitment to kindness. “What can I say, I just love people.” 🍀

## Board of Directors

Barbara Carranti, *Chair*  
Robert Aber  
Sr. Jane Bourne  
Alicia Calagiovanni  
Janet Dauley Altwarz  
Daniel Gardner  
Heather Hennigan  
Todd Klaben  
Mark Martino  
Sr. Kathleen Osbelt  
Lisa Pachmayer Plumley  
Kevin Pole  
Joe Russo  
Nancy Skahen  
Mary Anne Hankins,  
*Executive Director*  
Patrick Mannion, *ex-officio*

## Auxiliary of Francis House Board of Directors

Mary Virgil, *President*  
Emily Alberts  
Melissa Braun  
Alicia Burgun  
Kate Bushnell  
Kim Caldwell  
Vicki Company  
Lynda Convertino  
Kathleen Conway  
Liz Griffith  
Karen Gross  
Barbara Houk  
Carol Marshall  
Kathy Martin  
Cheryl Maxian  
Sally O'Herin  
Anne Palermo  
Rita Romano  
Mandie Rossignol  
Kathy Sportelli  
Betty Szatkowski  
Bette Thoreck

## Advisors

Mary Ann Hankins  
Peggy Northrup

## News From Our House

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



Ready to go paperless?  
Opt in to be emailed a link to our digital newsletter three times a year. Email us at [info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org).

Send comments or address changes to us at:  
Francis House  
108 Michaels Ave  
Syracuse, NY 13208  
315-475-5422  
[info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org)

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on 2021 and the events and circumstances that were part of our 30th year of ministry, I feel a sense of gratitude – for the many ways our ministry was a blessing to those who needed us most, and for the unique ways we – our staff, volunteers, our leadership teams, and our community – responded to challenges.

There was no road map for navigating 2021 but together our staff and volunteers achieved milestones for Francis House. Our founder, Sister Kathleen Osbelt published a book, bringing inspiration and a reminder to all that God is revealed in our goodness. In 2021 we delivered loving personal care to a high number of residents while also achieving the highest level of safety amid the pandemic. Our signature event went virtual and we were blessed by the milestone of its outcome. A December vote by the community honored Francis House as Central New York's 2021 Reader's Choice for Favorite Nonprofit Organization. These milestones and blessings are a testament to the strength of Francis House and a reflection of the loving embrace of the community we serve.

Into 2022 I bring a renewed sense of clarity and purpose knowing we are delivering on our mission, meeting needs, fulfilling expectations, and as we are often told, 'an answer to prayers.'

Francis House is poised and ready for the next 30 years. With hearts open we will lean in to the blessing – the privilege – of sharing the last days, weeks, and months of life with strangers who become our family.

As Sr. Joette Ebert wrote in 1991 when Francis House opened, "As strangers, broken, pained they come.... looking for that welcome wherein one's name is Friend, and one's story, precious. When we become family, this becomes home."

Francis House has cared for more than 3,400 residents and 12,000 family members since its founding. I am grateful to all of you who are part of the Francis House family – you help to make our house a home. God bless you now and throughout the year ahead.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Hankins".

*Mary Anne Hankins, Executive Director*

## 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.



# WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS TO FRANCIS HOUSE



**Peggy Coholan Northrup** has joined Francis House as Director of Development.

Peggy is from Baldwinsville, NY, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from St. Bonaventure University. She most recently held the position of Director of Operations at Hendricks Chapel of

Syracuse University. She brings extensive experience leading outreach and engagement efforts in support of development and communication priorities.

As Director of Development Peggy will lead fundraising, planned giving, communications and events for Francis House and will serve as the liaison to its auxiliary.

Peggy has served as a board member and volunteer for a variety of local nonprofits. Her connection to Francis House began in 2005 when her father was a resident and led to her role as a volunteer with her children. "Francis House was truly the answer to prayers for the care of both my mother and father. It's a very special place. We loved our time as volunteers, and now I am honored to serve its mission in this important role." Peggy can be reached at [pnorthrup@francishouseny.org](mailto:pnorthrup@francishouseny.org).



**Angela Cameron** has joined Francis House as Menu Coordinator. Angela is from Jamesville, NY, and holds an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration from Mohawk Valley Community College and most recently held the position of internal underwriter at Midstate Mutual Insurance Company.

Angela started as a volunteer at Francis House to fulfill her love of cooking and service. She moved to Syracuse from her hometown of Rome, NY, where she volunteered at various nursing homes from the age of 13. Cooking for family, friends and co-workers has always been a big part of her life.

"There was no question that volunteering at Francis House would be the perfect fit, then when the opportunity presented itself to apply for Menu Coordinator, I took that leap and it paid off. I am so happy to be here and to serve this mission while working with the absolute most wonderful people, preparing wonderful meals."

Angela will oversee and prepare the residential menus, manage in-kind donations of goods and supplies and work with the caregivers, residents and volunteers to ensure that all dietary needs are met. Angela can be reached at [acameron@francishouseny.org](mailto:acameron@francishouseny.org).



## SYRACUSE WOMAN MAGAZINE FEATURES PERSONAL REFLECTION BY SISTER KATHLEEN OSBELT

The "In Her Own Words" section of the magazine's December 2021 issue featured a reflection of the inspiration and dedication that led to Francis House's founding 30 years ago. If you didn't pick up your free copy around town, you'll find the digital magazine at [syracusewomanmag.com](http://syracusewomanmag.com) (article is on page 10 of the December issue).

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY RAFFLE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Feeling lucky? Tickets are now on sale for our annual St. Patrick's Day drawing. Only 600 tickets will be sold for \$100 each. Your ticket enters you for a chance at winning \$10,000, \$5,000 or \$2,500. Winners will be drawn at Francis House on Thursday, March 17th. Tickets can be purchased individually or as a group!

To purchase a ticket, use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter to send us your check. Complete the envelope information 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 a note with all names and addresses. We will complete each raffle ticket entry for you and mail you back your portion of the ticket.

## Auxiliary News

# WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Mary Virgil, center, Auxiliary president, welcomes new Auxiliary Board members Sally O’Herin (left) and Karen Gross (right) at the December Holiday Luncheon held at the Century Club.



# SELLING AT THE SHOPPES!

Auxiliary Board members Barb Houck (left) and Kathy Martin hosted a successful Francis House booth at the 2021 Holiday Shoppes event, selling pins, jewelry and Sister Kathleen Osbelt’s new book. Kathy reported after the event “We loved being there, we enjoyed the personal contact we were able to have with so many people!”

*Thank you Barb and Kathy!*



Auxiliary Board members Barb Houck (left) and Kathy Martin.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## Auxiliary Annual Luncheon Meeting & Fashion Show

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Doubletree by Hilton, East Syracuse, NY

Fashions provided by Bev & Co.

*Invitations will be mailed in April!*

For information about Francis House Auxiliary membership write to us at [info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org).



# YOUTH AUXILIARY NEWS



Jack Griffith and the paper towel drive.

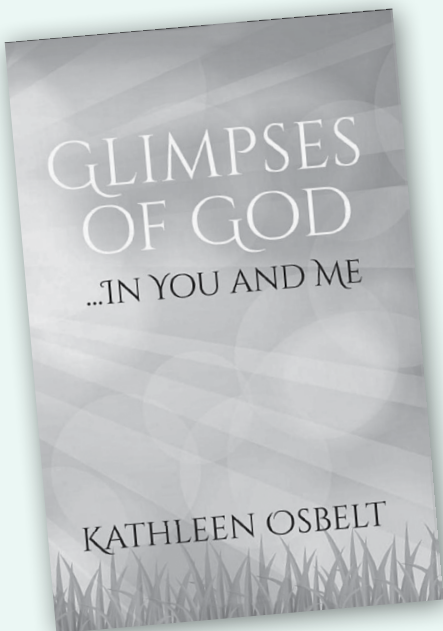
We are grateful to our Francis House Youth Auxiliary members for being part of our Francis House family. Even in a pandemic, they find a way to show their love and support for our residents! Jack Griffith, co-president of the Auxiliary and a junior at Christian Brothers Academy, recently hosted a paper towel drive at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and helped to stock our shelves! *Thank you Jack!*



## Youth Auxiliary: Calling all Alumni!

Where are they now? We are building a database of all those who were involved in the Francis House Youth Auxiliary! Were you a member? Or, was your child or grandchild? We would love to learn where our Youth Auxiliary Alumni are now, and what they're doing! **Send updates and contact information to us at [info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org)!**

## SISTER KATHLEEN OSBELT'S BOOK AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM



Winter is a great time to enjoy a good book. Find inspiration in *Glimpses Of God...In You And Me*, by Sister Kathleen Osbelt. It's available for purchase through Amazon.com. All profits from book sales are given back to Francis House. One recent reader posted on the Francis House Facebook page, "I will be re-reading this book... forever. Do yourself a favor and enjoy this book."



**FOLLOW US  
ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!**

Find us on Facebook at Francis House, Inc.  
and on Instagram @francishouseny!

## Volunteer Spotlight:

# MEET LOGAN BATTAGLIA

**High School:** West Genesee High School Class of '23

**Family members:** Mom is Katie Battaglia, Dad is Marc Battaglia, Liam is her brother

### *How did you become involved with Francis House and the Youth Auxiliary?*

I first heard about Francis House and the Youth Auxiliary from my mom – she received an email through her school that the Youth Auxiliary was looking for new members.

### *What inspired you to get involved?*

My family had told me about Francis House and all the great work they did so I thought it would be a fun and meaningful thing to do since I had free time.

### *What is your favorite part about being in the Youth Auxiliary?*

I really love all the outreach that I'm able to do with the Youth Auxiliary. The annual Remembrance Mass is one of my favorite things I've been able to do with the group. I got to see the strong community that surrounds Francis House and I could share in the remembrance of people who have died.

### *Have you had a family member here?*

I haven't, but my grandpa was in hospice at home and I could see how much more comfortable he was there than he would've been in the hospital so I really appreciated how important that was.

### *You also volunteer at Francis House in the reception area. What is your favorite part about that role?*

I definitely enjoy meeting the visitors and family members. Sometimes they'll share stories about the resident they're visiting and I get to hear about our residents' great lives!

### *Do you have a favorite story about your volunteer experience so far?*

One of my favorite stories about my volunteer experience is when a family member called the house to pick up belongings of a resident who had passed away, and she explained to me that being with her family member in their dying moments was the greatest



moment of her life. She said that she would never be able to thank Francis House enough for supporting her and her family and caring for the resident. It was very moving to hear that story because I was really able to see the impact that Francis House has on so many families by supporting them in a difficult time in their lives.

### *Have you thought about what career path you may take in the future?*

Francis House has definitely contributed to my passion for helping others. I am interested in possibly pursuing a career that has something to do with non-profit organizations or social work, largely because I've seen the impact that Francis House has on the community. I want to be able to help others in the future.

## 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.





# WE DID IT... VIRTUALLY! THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL 30TH ANNIVERSARY "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME" EVENT!

With restrictions in place for public gatherings in 2021, Francis House partnered with WSYR News Channel 9 to host the signature "There's No Place Like Home" 30th anniversary event as a live prime-time broadcast. The hour-long show on October 6 aired from 7-8 pm. Special thanks to Dan Cummings for hosting the show and encouraging donations and bids!

With the support of event sponsors, donors, and our active auction bidders, the event raised **\$292,000** for

the Francis House mission. The broadcast featured heartwarming interviews and presented stories and reflections of Francis House friends, families, staff members, and volunteers.

Although we were not able to gather and celebrate in person, together with you, our friends and family, we were together in spirit. We are grateful for your "going virtual" with us and for your unwavering dedication and commitment to this event.

## *Thank you to our 2021 "There's No Place Like Home" sponsors!*

### 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR

*Drs. Michael and Colleen O'Leary*

### MAJOR SPONSOR

*Ed and Emily Alberts*

### EVENT SPONSORS

Anaren, a TTM Technologies  
Company

Hematology Oncology Associates of  
CNY

M&T Bank

### RECEPTION SPONSORS

Anonymous  
CADimensions, Inc./  
Peter and Tara DiLaura  
Carrols Corporation  
CH Insurance  
Suzanne Congel

Marlene Costanzo Denney  
Robert and Judy Daino  
Janice and Howard McCarthy  
Nascentia Health  
NBT Bank  
The Russo Family: Joe, Andy and Paula

Jimmer and Betty Szatkowski  
Elaine and Joseph Scuderi  
Salli and James Tuozzolo  
Upstate University Radiation  
Oncology

### MEDIA SPONSOR

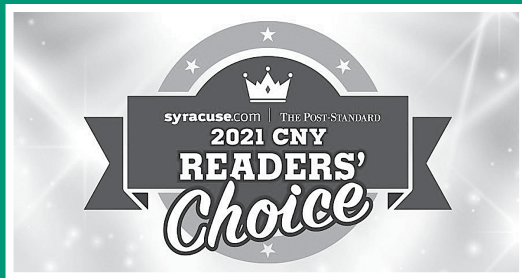
News Channel 9 WSYR

### GRAPHICS & PRINTING SPONSORS

Integrated Marketing Services

Seaboard Graphics, now a division of Dupli

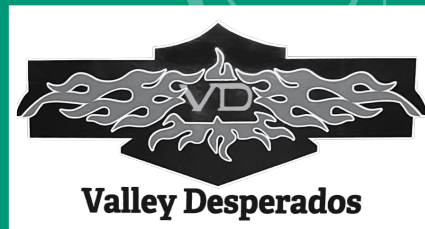
# Thank You!



Thank you Central New York for choosing Francis House as the 2021 Post-Standard and Syracuse.com Readers' Choice award winner in the nonprofit category! We are truly blessed. During the fall 2021 Readers' Choice campaign, The Post Standard and Syracuse.com received more than 8,000 nominations in more than 120 categories. More than 3,175 well-deserving and amazing businesses, places and people were nominated. After 94,000 votes were tallied, 121 winners were crowned as 2021 CNY Readers' Choice champions. We are honored to serve alongside the many wonderful organizations, businesses, and professionals nominated for the 2021 Readers' Choice Awards



Thank you to the Syracuse Corvette Club for its gift of \$1,000. The check was presented by club President James Ennis (left) and Vice President William Goode at the club's recent annual charity dinner. Twenty-six checks were distributed to local nonprofits from funds raised at the Corvette Club's 28th Annual "Vettes at the Beach" All Corvette Charity Car Show, which was held this past July in Sylvan Beach, NY.



Thank you to the Valley Desperados for contributing a truck-load of supplies for Francis House. Limp Lizard Grill on Onondaga Blvd. hosted the Desperados' November event and provided the buffet lunch. We are truly grateful to club president Al Sorenson and all the members who attended and donated.



Members of Camillus Elks Lodge #2367 delivered a generous donation of supplies to Francis House last November. Thank you to all of the members of Lodge 2367 for your generosity!



Thank you to the Salt City New Horizons Orchestra for the blessing of beautiful music at the Francis House December 1 Memorial Mass.

Thank you Ross Marshall for providing specialized cleaning services at Francis House.

A special thank you to Mike Wild, owner of Award Winning Landscapes, for donating gardening mulch to Francis House and for keeping our property looking beautiful. Thank you Mike.

Thank you to Sugardale Foods for donating the Francis House Christmas dinner ham in honor of our Francis House resident and Sugardale retiree Bob Bishop.



# The Caring Fund

## 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.

By naming Francis House's Endowment *The Caring Fund* in your will or 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](http://www.francishouseny.org) or contact Peggy Northrup, director of development at 315-475-5422.

## Become a Member of Our Monthly Giving Club

We thank the members of our Monthly Giving Club for your commitment to our residents. This group, now numbering over 100 donors, impacts our ministry in a significant way.

We invite you to become a monthly giver. You can make your gift with monthly checks in envelopes we provide. You can also schedule monthly or quarterly gifts to transfer electronically from your bank.

For more information, please contact Peggy Northrup, director of development at 315-475-5422.



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.

## Amazon Smile and Amazon Wish List

Did you know, you can shop for items on our wish list on Amazon.com and have them shipped directly to Francis House? You can also choose Francis House as your charity of choice while you shop for any items on Amazon. Select us on Amazon Smile and a percentage of your qualified purchases will be donated to Francis House.



# WISH LIST

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Grocery store gift cards (Wegmans, Tops, Walmart)
- 9 volt batteries
- 8 ½ x 11 white & colored copy paper
- Home improvement gift cards (Lowe's, Home Depot)
- Postage stamps

## FOOD

- Applesauce snack cups
- Fruit snack cups
- Pudding snack cups
- Jello snack cups
- Coffee: decaf, regular
- Herbal and decaf teas
- Sugar in packets
- Peanut butter
- Soda (the small cans are nice)
- Juice: apple, cranberry juice cocktail
- Assorted kinds of soups
- Broth: beef, chicken, vegetable
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Salad kits (salad in a bag)
- Salad dressings
- Heinz Ketchup
- Frozen hash browns or home fries
- Frozen fruit
- Almond milk (shelf-stable in boxes)
- Small containers of assorted yogurt

## PAPER GOODS

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

## HOUSEHOLD

- Paper towels
- Disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid hand soap
- Swiffer sweeper cloths (dry & wet)
- Trash bags (4, 8, 13 & 30 gallon)

## SUPPLIES

- Surgical masks
- Rubber gloves, sizes small and medium
- N-95 masks
- Adult briefs: Unisex taped briefs (not pull-ups) large, extra large
- Alcohol pads
- Aromatherapy diffusers
- Essential oils (lavender, eucalyptus, peppermint)
- Baby wipes (unscented)
- Chapstick/Lip balm
- Exam gloves: latex free, powder free, large
- Mouthwash
- Unscented lotion



108 Michaels Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13208-1718

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 1755  
SYRACUSE, NY

***Ready to go paperless?***

Opt in to be emailed a link  
to our digital newsletter  
three times a year.

Email us at  
[info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org).

## WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM SEPTEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

Patricia Babuts	Rose Gosson	Shirley Olivieri
Marilyn Bowman	Diane Green-El, M.D.	Theodora “Teddie” Owen
Elizabeth “Betty” Bush	Alexander Paul Gross	Michele Payment
Josephine Cerimeli	Rosemary Kearney	Wayne Pistello
Laurie Ann Cronin	Michael LaMontagne	Lynda Reynolds
Alfonso DeVivo	Stephen Macaulay	Therese Royal
Bruce Dickinson	Michele Mancuso	Jennie Sala
Kelly Duncan	Margaret Mazur	Ethelyn Sapino
Dale Duprey	Lori McCall	Jennie Seibt
David Duxbury	Thomas “Rusty” McHale	George Thomas
Paul Fiochio, Sr.	Earl McIntyre	Dean Van Epps
Dorothy Fire	Maureen McManus	Frances Van Horne
George Fleischmann	David Nervina	Colburn Wood
Kathleen Fuller	Kay Nieroda	
Richard Gordon	Helen O’Connor	

### ***We Remember...***

Francis House mourns the loss of staff family members and long-time volunteers who have recently died. Join us in praying for the families and loved ones of:

Noel Williams  
John Bort  
Michael Delaney  
Rich and Rosemary Resig  
Joelle Wood  
Paul Cotter  
Mary Kearney  
Ellie Benoit  
Lorraine Gruninger  
Ginny Tortorello  
Maureen Gridley