



A Family When You Need It Most

FALL 2023

# NEWS

FROM OUR HOUSE

## COMING HOME TO FRANCIS HOUSE

Thomas Edward Teelin spent his entire career finding houses for people to settle into comfortably.

As part of his own life’s journey, Tom has found a sanctuary that he and his family say is as warm and welcoming as any they’ve ever been in. The well-known and highly regarded real estate broker came to Francis House as a resident this past summer. He and the Teelin clan are in awe of the entire staff’s compassion and supportive nature — not just for Tom, but for each one of them.

“The moment he arrived,” says wife, Maureen Byrne Teelin, “we knew he was in good hands and that he would be well taken care of,” adding that she and their three children, Shauna, Timothy, and Christopher, never expected that they, too, would be embraced with such concern and empathy.



In addition to being a REALTOR®, Maureen is also a nurse, making her keenly aware of what comprises quality care. “She’s made my life so much better,” says Tom. “After 62 years of marriage, I discovered that Maureen was my perfect partner.” The couple met at Most Holy Rosary High School in

Syracuse. After graduating from Le Moyne College, Tom started working for Eagan Real Estate, becoming the residential sales manager six years later.

The Teelin’s son, Timothy, is a computer specialist in the Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District,



while Shauna and Christopher followed in their dad’s footsteps, each now as managers at Howard Hanna Real Estate. Tom was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors (GSAR) in 2011.

Aside from spending time with family and entertaining, Tom says his favorite pastime was selling houses. “I was very fortunate because I loved finding homes for people!” His wife and children credit his success to the connections he made during his career, along with his “uncanny ability to make everyone feel respected, listened to, and validated.”

Lynnore Fetyko, GSAR CEO for the past 28 years, wholeheartedly agrees. “Tom was very involved with our association, sharing his passion for real estate,” she says. “In terms of my career, he was almost like a father, providing indispensable advice and guidance.”

The saying goes, “There’s no place like home.” Tom spent years helping clients to invoke those words. Now he and his family — like countless others — express that same sentiment about Francis House.

*Written by Cheryl Abrams*

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Sister Kathleen continues to guide me in so many ways. Most recently, she led me to reflect on a recent presentation given to the staff of Francis House by Sister Colette Walter. Titled "What is a Ministry?" her teaching reminded us that when we lead, work, and interact from our hearts, we are able to carry a ministry forward, maintaining its intended direction, dedicated to its intended purpose.

In return, the ministry delivers to its participants the gifts of inner peace and a sense of satisfaction in knowing that each person is living beyond themselves. Sister Colette also taught that serving a ministry's purpose elevates an individual's self-image and self-awareness, and reveals each person's gifts and talents.

Gifts, as we believe here at Francis House, come from God. They are unique to each individual and are meant to be shared. And in doing so, a loving community – a ministry – flourishes.

*"The things that matter most in our lives are not fantastic or grand. They are the moments when we touch one another, when we are there in the most attentive way."*

*From Jack Kornfield's prayer "A Path with Heart" from the book "Boundless Compassion" by Joyce Rupp*

A core value of the Francis House family is acceptance. We accept every person and see them for their gifts. We are blessed by each resident, family member, volunteer, board member, donor, sponsor, and supporter of Francis House. May God bless you for the unique and wonderful gifts that you share with us.

Mary Anne Hankins

Executive Director

*Join Us November 30th*

## FRANCIS HOUSE MEMORIAL MASS AND GAZEBO LIGHTING

Join us Thursday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m. for our annual Memorial Mass at St. Daniel's Church, 3004 Court St., Syracuse. This year we will honor and remember the more than 4,000 residents who have called Francis House home in their final days.

We invite you to purchase a light on the Francis House Gazebo to honor a resident or to celebrate the life of someone who was – or is – a light in your life. Visit [francishouseny.org](http://francishouseny.org) for details.

*The Francis House gazebo lights will shine from November 30, 2023, through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2024.*

Welcome, Meg and Jess!



## FRANCISCORPS VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE THE MISSION OF FRANCIS HOUSE

Please join us in welcoming FrancisCorps volunteers Megan Metzger and Jessica Hyde to Francis House. The FrancisCorps volunteer experience is one year of service rooted in Franciscan values, faith, and community. Megan and Jessica will be serving at Francis House through June 2024.



### JESSICA HYDE

Jessica studied biology at St. Edward's University and works with our resident care team.



### MEGAN METZGER

Megan attended The Catholic University of America, where she studied mechanical engineering. She works with the administrative team.

## Volunteer Spotlight: MEET JOHN THORNTON



John Thornton lives a life of service to others. He has been spending his Saturdays volunteering in the Francis House kitchens since March 2010, after retiring from teaching. Before then, John taught special education, including 24 years in the Onondaga Central School District, where he was known to his students as "Mister T.J."

John taught his students how to cook, and they would prepare a meal for him and a couple of other teachers at the end of each week to show off what they'd learned. John brought his love of the kitchen with him to Francis House. He is especially known for his baked goods, including the Irish Soda Bread he makes every March, and the chocolate chip oatmeal cookies that are always gone by the end of the day (butterscotch chips are his secret ingredient). John's teaching experience makes him an excellent trainer and he often helps orient new volunteers. We asked John a few questions about his 13 years as a Francis House kitchen volunteer.

### What brought you to Francis House?

I started with my family. My aunts brought homemade soup, cookies, and other food for the residents. I would drive them when my uncle wasn't available. Over time, I got to know the House and the people here. I've been involved with Francis House ever since. When I retired from teaching, I knew I wanted to continue as a volunteer. I'm happy to do whatever is needed.

### What has been your favorite part about volunteering here?

I love meeting and getting to know the residents. That's what it's all about at the end of the day. We are here for them. I would say to other people or volunteers: do what you can to lift them up. It can be tough for residents to leave home to come to Francis House. Sometimes, they don't want to be here when they first arrive. But we can help them feel at home, and after a couple of days, they realize this is exactly where they want to be.

### Do you have a favorite memory from your time volunteering with us?

In one of my first years as a volunteer, we were decorating for a Christmas party. We brought the residents into the great room to help hang ornaments on the tree. With other holidays too, I always love when the residents are included. Just like when you decorate the tree in your own home, Francis House is your home at that moment.

Another memory that stands out: I remember a resident who played the lap harp. She would ask volunteers for requests. We had so much fun with it and she really enjoyed it. Sometimes, I would bring other residents into the chapel and we would play the piano together. Moments like that open your heart to others.



*Written by Michelle Kirsh, Francis House Volunteer Coordinator*

**Are you or someone you know interested in volunteering at Francis House? Contact us today to learn more about how you can get involved. Email Michelle or Rea at [volunteer@francishouseny.org](mailto:volunteer@francishouseny.org) or call 315-475-5422.**

# AUXILIARY NEWS

## Fabulous Fall Raffle

Thank you to all who supported the 2023 Auxiliary Fabulous Fall Raffle! Winning tickets were drawn September 17 at Francis House. Winners of the raffle grand prizes and themed baskets are listed on the Auxiliary web page at [francishouseny.org/auxiliary](http://francishouseny.org/auxiliary). Congratulations to all!



## Auxiliary Auction Items

Thank you to Auxiliary President Anne Palermo for hosting a “There’s No Place Like Home” event Prize Party at her home on August 3. Guests brought amazing items that were featured in our auction and at our prize houses on October 11! (See page 7 for event details.)



## Join Francis House Auxiliary!

Contact Membership Chair Bette Thoreck at [ebthorec@syr.edu](mailto:ebthorec@syr.edu) for more information. Or, visit the Auxiliary web page at [francishouseny.org/auxiliary](http://francishouseny.org/auxiliary).

Below are just a few ways Auxiliary members can support and serve the mission and ministry of Francis House:

- Caregiver Appreciation
- Christmas Luncheon
- Cooking and Baking
- Fall Raffle
- Gratitude Note Writing
- Merchandise Sales
- Spring Luncheon



## MEET LILLY FOWLER *Youth Auxiliary President*



Lilly lives in Cazenovia and is a senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School (FM).

### Lilly, who makes up your immediate family?

My immediate family consists of my parents, Kate and Bob, as well as my sisters, Sophie and Lucy.

### What's your favorite subject in school?

Science, specifically Chemistry.

### What is your favorite after school/out of school activity?

My favorite after school activity is swimming. This year will be my third year on the varsity swim team at FM, and it truly is an amazing group of girls. I'm also planning on swimming in college.

### What inspired you to join the Youth Auxiliary?

My Nana was a resident at Francis House in 2017, and my family and I visited her daily. The environment was so welcoming, and I knew Francis House would hold a special place in my heart. After my Nana passed away, I started my journey of volunteering and giving back to Francis House; the Youth Auxiliary was the perfect place to begin.

### What Youth Auxiliary activities have you been involved in?

Throughout my time with the Youth Auxiliary, I've been involved in many activities, including volunteering at luncheons, auctions, fashion shows; cooking monthly dinners for the House; and making gifts for Francis House residents during monthly meetings. However, my favorite activity is organizing paper towel/supply drives. These drives are extremely beneficial for Francis House and provide them with supplies that are truly needed and appreciated.

### In February 2022, Sister Kathleen Osbelt spoke to the Youth Auxiliary about the founding of Francis House. What were your takeaways?

I found Sister Kathleen Osbelt so inspiring! She was an amazing woman whose goal was to provide a house where individuals could pass away peacefully rather than in a medical setting. My main takeaway from Sister Kathleen was how she was truly there for people and wanted the best for them. Her goal was for everyone to die with dignity, surrounded by unconditional love.

### What do you think makes Francis House so special?

When you walk in the doors, everyone is so cheerful and comforting, despite the hard times. It's truly amazing to be surrounded by people who love and care about you, regardless of how long you've been at Francis House.

### Have you thought of a career path?

My goal is to become an elementary school teacher!



## WELCOME TO FRANCIS HOUSE

Francis House welcomes Emily Young as a full-time member of our care staff. Emily is the Day In-House Administrator and oversees House operations and assists with admissions and communication with Hospice.

## HOT DOG, IT WAS A GREAT EVENT



Thank you to John Bertolero for hosting the first annual Jillie Dogs Memorial Bean Bag Tournament, raising \$2,757 for Francis House. The tournament was held in memory of John's wife, Jill, his high school sweetheart and wife of 32 years, who passed away in 2021. John

recently launched The Jillie Dogs Food Truck business in Jill's honor.

*Pictured right : Francis House Executive Director Mary Anne Hankins, Francis House Event Manager Laura Grasselli, John Bertolero, and John's sister, Linda Seeley.*



To contact Jillie Dogs for catering or events call 315-546-3687 or email John at [jilliedogssyracuse@gmail.com](mailto:jilliedogssyracuse@gmail.com). Follow their social media pages @jilliedogs to track their events and locations.



## LOCAL TEAM SERVES UP KINDNESS

Thank you to the Baldwinsville Field Hockey Team and its Booster Club for preparing meals for Francis House and for making greeting cards for our residents in August. We wish the team a great season ahead!

*Go Bees!*



## WISH LIST

### FOOD

- Campbell's Soups (10.75 oz): Tomato, Chicken Noodle
- Coffee: Decaf, Regular
- Cookie Mixes: all types
- Cooking Oils: Canola Oil, Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Fruit and Granola Bars
- Hellman's Mayonnaise (30 oz)
- Individual Snack Items: Nuts or Dried Fruits, etc.
- Juice (64 oz): Apple, Cranberry Juice Cocktail
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Pudding Snack Packs: Vanilla, Chocolate
- Soda (2-Liters): Ginger Ale, Pepsi/Coke
- Sugar: Confectioners, Granular, Light Brown
- Tuna (5 oz Cans): Solid White Albacore in Water

### HOUSEHOLD

- Dishwasher Tablets
- Fabric Spray
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Febreze Air Freshener Spray (Linen & Sky)
- Hot Liquid Cups with Lids
- Hydrogen Peroxide Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Laundry Detergent Liquid
- Laundry Detergent Sheets
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Liquid Fabric Softener
- Napkins
- Paper Towels – always in need
- Room Deodorizers
- Swiffer Sweeper Cloths: Dry and Wet
- Toilet Paper: Septic System-safe
- Trash Bags: Unscented 13- and 30-gallon

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Batteries: 9-Volt
- Copy Paper (8.5 x 11): White
- Food Gift Cards: Aldi, Price Chopper, Tops, Walmart, Wegmans
- Home Improvement Gift Cards: Lowe's, Home Depot
- Postage Stamps

### SUPPLIES

- Adult Briefs with Tabs (Not Pull-Ups): Unisex, Extra Large
- Baby Wipes: Unscented – always in need
- Chapstick/Lip Balm
- Denture Cups
- Essential Oils: Eucalyptus, Lavender, Peppermint
- Exam Gloves: Latex-Free, Powder-Free, Size Large
- Microwavable Heat Packs (Neck and Shoulder)
- Medical Chucks
- Mouthwash (No Alcohol)
- Shampoo Caps
- Toothpaste
- Unscented Lotion
- Women's Deodorant (No Aerosol)

## DEAR FRANCIS HOUSE...

*"No words can express the profound gratitude we have for the loving care you provided to our brother."*

*"Our family gathered around my sister and shared stories that were the source of laughter and fond reminiscing. Thank you all for giving her the gift of a peaceful death in a loving, tranquil setting."*

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!



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# EXPOSITION CENTER

*Thank you!*

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

*"This is our  
favorite  
annual event!"*

*"I loved going  
house to  
house trying  
my keys!"*

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Exposition Center on October 11 to celebrate Francis House!

Congratulations to all of our auction winners, raffle winners, to our diamond pendant winner, and to all who won a prize at one of our prize houses. And a special thank you to all of the businesses and individuals who donated prizes and auction items to our event.

*"The food was  
phenomenal!"*

*"The best \$50  
night out!"*

Visit our website at [francishouseny.org](http://francishouseny.org) for details on winners, funds raised, and more!  
Visit us on social media to see event photos!



@francishouseny.org



facebook.com/francishouseny

## WE INVITE YOUR FEEDBACK

We would love to hear about your "There's No Place Like Home" event experience. Email us at [events@francishouseny.org](mailto:events@francishouseny.org).





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**WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED SINCE JUNE 2022**

Edward "Ed" Grabowski  
Marian Smith  
Steven Correia

Antoinette Salisbury  
Donald "Don" Phillips  
Frank Gigliotti

Margaret Stratton  
Douglas "Doug" Vandermark

**WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM APRIL 1, 2023 – AUGUST 31, 2023**

Debra Alexis  
Catherine Baracco  
Patricia Becker  
Frances "Emily" Bowles  
Judith "Judy" Calistri  
Jeannine Call  
Michael Condon  
Mary Anne Cooper  
Earle Crowell  
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Richard Gardner  
Clayton Green  
Kathryn "Irene" Hall  
Rosemary Hallett  
Phillip "Phil" Hayes  
Christopher Hinton  
Kara Horvath  
Mary Ihle  
Ronald "Ron" Jardin

Mary Jo Kolczynski  
Kathleen LaBar  
George Lisi  
Joyanne Long  
Dinita Machlin  
John Marsala, Sr.  
Larry Metcalf  
Mary Louise Meyers  
Robert Miller  
Barbara "Barb" Moot  
Mary Morley  
John Mosca  
Rose Murphy  
Mary Mychalczak  
Joyce Naples

Gerald Napierski  
Emanuel "Mannie" Neri  
Ole Steen Pederson  
Theodore "Ted" Phillips  
Linda Pier  
Margaret "Peg" Price  
Terence Ramsey  
Margaret Ranz  
Karen Riordan  
Phyllis Ross  
Susanne "Sue" Rossiter  
Kathleen Sauro  
Frederick "Fred" Sevier  
Rosemary Shaver  
Richard Socin

Evelyn Spring  
Robert Steele  
Francis "Frank" Suits Sr.  
Marcia Sullivan  
Rosery Togni  
Rose Marie Train  
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Sandra Vaughn  
Betty Vincent  
Elizabeth Vreeland  
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