



A Family When You Need It Most

FALL 2020

# NEWS

## FROM OUR HOUSE

### Resident Spotlight



WILLIE  
"JACK"  
DYER

When Willie "Jack" Dyer arrived at Francis House in August his daughter Angela says, "We walked through the door and it felt just like home and my dad looked so at peace."

Home and family were the most important things in Jack's life. Although Jack was a fiercely independent and hardworking man, he loved being surrounded by family. When Jack wasn't working, he enjoyed the family's annual trip to Georgia visiting his siblings and extended family members. Holidays were marked by celebration and Jack's self-proclaimed "best BBQ ribs in Syracuse."

Jack was born in Cordele, GA in 1934 and grew up on a farm as the youngest boy of seven children. He joined the Army and served until he was 23. Soon after his return Jack met Janie on a blind date at the Georgia State County Fair. Their parents required a chaperone, Janie's older brother, on every date. Jack and Janie married in 1959 and had 7 children; 4 boys and 3 girls; Brenda, Angela, Jeffrey, Anthony, Jennifer, Theresa and Willie.

In 1965, Jack and Janie moved their family to Syracuse to be close to Jack's brother Jerry. Jack was trained as a car body repairman and worked for City Taxi and other car dealers in Syracuse. He eventually opened his own business. When Jack wasn't repairing cars he loved to fish, bowl, and watch his favorite baseball team, the LA Dodgers.

Jack was also an accomplished singer. He was the president and director of the male chorus at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. He helped start male choir groups at other churches. Jack and his brother, Jerry were instrumental in starting the quartet group "The New Hope Bible School Singers". The group loved to travel the east coast and sang for churches and church events. The group recorded a 45 record in the late 60's.

Angela witnessed many beautiful moments while her dad lived at Francis House. "Our family is grateful for the caregivers. Not only did they provide extraordinary care for my father, they were very attentive to us, always asking us if we needed anything." Angela and her family are grateful for Father Mike who came in regularly to pray with her father. "As Christians, this meant a lot because prayer is very important to us."

Angela recalls one day when Sister Kathleen Osbelt stopped in to see Jack. "I told her that my father had not responded to me that day as he had in the past days. Sister said a prayer and placed her hands on his forehead. His eyes opened up so wide and he looked towards her as if he could see her...I will always cherish that moment."

Jack passed away on August 25, 2020. We were blessed to have Jack live his last days with all of us at Francis House.



WELCOME  
MARY ANNE  
HANKINS

As we go to press, we have exciting news to share. The Francis House Board of Directors has announced Mary Anne Hankins as the new Executive Director of Francis House.

*"I am so happy to be a part of the loving and caring Francis House family. I look forward to working with the staff that lives the mission, vision and values of Francis House in all that they do every day."*

We welcome Mary Anne to our Francis House family. Please visit [www.francishouseny.org/ourfamily](http://www.francishouseny.org/ourfamily) to learn more about Mary Anne.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## Board of Directors

Patrick Murphy, Chair  
Stephen Block  
Sr. Jane Bourne  
Alicia Calagiovanni  
Barbara Carranti  
Dan Gardner  
Heather Hennigan  
Todd Klaben  
Mark Martino  
Sister Kathleen Osbelt  
Lisa Pachmayer-Plumley  
Kevin Pole  
Joe Russo  
Nancy Skahen  
Nancy Light, Executive Director  
Robert E. Myers, III, *ex-officio*

## Auxiliary of Francis House Board of Directors

Kathleen Conway, President  
Emily Alberts  
Melissa Braun  
Alicia Burgun  
Kate Bushnell  
Kim Caldwell  
Caroline Calimlim  
Lynda Convertino  
Patte Destaffan  
Barbara Doyle  
Lisa Griffith  
Ellie Grooms  
Betty Hatem  
Barbara Houk  
Carol Marshall  
Kathy Martin  
Cheryl Maxian  
Rita Romano  
Mandie Rossignol  
Kathy Sportelli  
Betty Szatkowski  
Bette Thoreck  
Mary Virgil

## Advisors

Sister Kathleen Osbelt  
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:

Francis House  
108 Michaels Ave  
Syracuse, NY 13208  
315-475-5422  
info@francishouseny.org



*“Psychologists have discovered that human resilience, the capacity to persevere, is like an emotional muscle. That is, we build stronger resilience through the right “exercises”, particularly these three: showing gratitude, being altruistic, and exhibiting a strong sense of life purpose....Do you want to make today matter? If so you will need to persevere.” – Chris Lowney, Make Today Matter.*

The pandemic has challenged our human resilience on so many levels. No person has been left untouched by the scourge of this disease. We have all made significant lifestyle changes. Almost everyone knows someone who has suffered from and maybe even succumbed to the virus. For Francis House, there was the real possibility of temporary closure. The idea of not being able to care for our dying brothers and sisters was too painful to contemplate. However, we were able to persevere.

We recently received a letter that read, “The very nature of what you do speaks to the foundational character of sacrifice for others.” This letter defines the emotional exercise of altruism. Everyone working together for a common goal. To be a home and family for people who are at the end of life, is that selfless exercise which helps build our human resilience. The capacity to persevere.

For almost 30 years, Francis House’s mission has never wavered. We have been a resource to others who want to provide this same care in their own communities. In this time of pandemic, we have mentored and been mentored by other social model homes like ours. Out of mutual respect, dignity and clarity of purpose, we have supported each other through these past months. We will continue to do so in the future, exercising our shared values and experience. The capacity to persevere.

All members of our Francis House family live an attitude of gratitude. This was never more evident than through these past few months. Our staff, grateful to be serving our residents and our ministry, revised their schedules and took on the volunteer duties that our beloved volunteers could not perform due to quarantine. Other staff members volunteered to work from home or take temporary leave. Volunteers sent meals, baked goods, cards and prayers. We received donations from the stimulus checks of benefactors who were grateful to be working. The capacity to persevere.

There is a peace in knowing your purpose. There is a humility in being grateful. There is a recognition of blessing when you are able to serve selflessly. There is resilience in perseverance.

As the fall approaches, we have been blessed by the return of many of our volunteers and have added new volunteers to our ministry. We have opened our home to almost full capacity and will diligently continue in our efforts to serve our brothers and sisters in need.

Through God’s grace, faith, “exercise” and your unfailing support, Francis House has persevered. We will continue to pray for you and for an end to this pandemic. We ask that you pray for us in return.

In peace and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Light". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Light

## SAVE THE DATE

We will hold our Memorial Mass on December 1, 2020. We will update you on our plans on our website [www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org). Look for our mailing in late October to dedicate lights on our gazebo.

## SHARING THEIR SPECIAL DAY

When the pandemic cancelled out of town plans for Breanne Geraldine Albright and Amar Arthur Anthony's wedding, they were searching for the perfect place to have their ceremony. They knew they wanted to keep their September 17th date. They also wanted to be close to her Breanne's grandmother Elizabeth, a resident at Francis House. The gazebo in our side yard was the perfect solution.

That day, caregivers helped Elizabeth get dressed for the special occasion. Liz Hahhr, menu coordinator, made a small wedding cake and cupcakes. Staff decorated the gazebo in white lights, tulle and flowers. Staff peeked out their windows at the ceremony with smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes. It was a beautiful moment.

Thank you to Breanne and Amar for letting Francis House share in your beautiful day. You reminded all of us of the gift of love and family.



The Francis House gazebo was the backdrop for the wedding of Breanne Gealdine Albright and Amar Arthur Anthony with Breanne's grandmother Elizabeth in attendance.



Pictured above Auxiliary of Francis House Board Members (left to right) Mary Virgil, Kathleen Conway, Alicia Burgun, Kathy Sportelli and Patte DeStaffan

## AUXILIARY FABULOUS FALL GIVEAWAY

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the Auxiliary Fall Giveaway. Winners were pulled at Francis House on September 2. Thank you to our prize donors including Sticklely, Chick-fil-A and Ed and Emily Alberts.

Look for upcoming Auxiliary activities including a special promotion for Jane Morgan's Little House in your email!



Youth Auxiliary Board Members (left to right): Emma Mulherin, Peggy Morocco and Luke DeLorenzo pick apples and take pictures to bring to Francis House residents. The Youth Auxiliary is planning special activities to connect with residents outside of visiting.

## YOUTH AUXILIARY BRINGS FALL CELEBRATION TO RESIDENTS

The Francis House Youth Auxiliary held its first meeting via zoom in September. The members set a goal to find creative ways to connect with one another while helping the mission of Francis House.

They will continue to write letters to residents and provide support stones to family members. They have committed to making dinners at home to deliver for our residents twice every month. Small gatherings are planned including pumpkin picking for residents and fall cleanup on the grounds of Francis House.



*Tara and Peter DiLaura,  
Co-Chairs and the family  
of Francis House  
invite you to join us as  
we celebrate 29 years!*

### *Major Sponsors*

**Drs. Michael & Colleen O'Leary | Ed & Teri Perry**

### **VIRTUAL EVENT**

*Wednesday, October 14, 2020 begins at 6:00pm*

Your support of *There's No Place Like Home* helps us provide a home and an extended family to people with terminal illnesses in our community. Thank you for enabling us to surround our residents with unconditional love.

### *Event Sponsors*

Anaren

Hematology Oncology  
Associates of CNY

M&T Bank

### *Reception Sponsors*

Ed and Emily Alberts

Anonymous

CADimensions, Inc/  
Peter and Tara DiLaura

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Jimmer and Betty Szatkowski

Elaine and Joseph Scuderi

Salli and James Tuozzolo

Upstate University Radiation  
Oncology

### *Graphics & Printing Sponsors*

Integrated Marketing

Seaboard Graphics

*Follow Us  
on Facebook!*

Help make our event a success and spread awareness about our ministry by following Francis House on Facebook. Like and comment on our posts and share your connection with us. Every click boosts our posts and increases exposure.

**You can make a difference!**

# *There's No Place Like Home*

## VIRTUAL EVENT

*Wednesday, October 14, 2020*

*Join us live on Facebook from 6:00pm - 6:30pm*

<https://www.facebook.com/francishouseny>

### *Mobile Auction*

**You can bid on 140 items including:**

- ~ 1-week rental 5 bedroom 2 bath cottage in Cape Cod
- ~ Syracuse Mets Luxury Suite Package
- ~ 2-Night stay at Mirror Lake Inn
- ~ Kate Spade black and white purse
- ~ iWave air cleaner and purifier (installed)

## *Virtual* CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_ Made a donation via [TNPLH2020.givesmart.com](https://www.givesmart.com)
- \_\_\_ Registered for mobile bidding via [TNPLH2020.givesmart.com](https://www.givesmart.com) or texted **TNPLH2020 to 76278**
- \_\_\_ Reserved raffle tickets by emailing [info@francishouseny.org](mailto:info@francishouseny.org) for a chance to win:
  - \$2,020 Cash Prize, donated by Friends of Francis House
  - \$500 Gift Certificate, donated by Nichols of Liverpool
  - Dinner-of-the-Month for One Year
    - Avicolli's Restaurant | Arad Evans
    - Dinosaur Bar-B-Que | Inn Between
    - The Inn of the Seasons | Jake Hafner's Restaurant
    - Kitty Hoyne's Restaurant | Nick & Angelo's Ristorante
    - Prime Steakhouse | Riley's
    - The Springside Inn | Vito's Ristorante
- \_\_\_ Emailed your friends and family and invited them to participate

*Join us live on Facebook from 6:00pm - 6:30pm*

<https://www.facebook.com/francishouseny>

**Go to our event page to find all the information you need to be part of our event!**

[www.francishouse-theresnoplacelikehome.com](http://www.francishouse-theresnoplacelikehome.com)

# THANK YOU...

*We express our thanks to the following for helping us through this time with various gifts and efforts:*

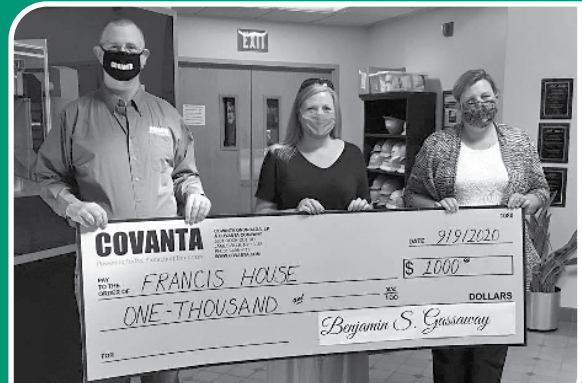
*~ To our faithful gardeners, thank you for the beautiful yard that you provided for us during the summer months. You worked hard watering, weeding, cutting and deadheading. Without your generous heart our grounds would not look as beautiful as they do today.*

*~ Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors who have graciously donated meals for our residents during this time. We appreciate each and every one of you!*

*~ Thank you to Father Tom Kobuszewski for his weekly pantry donations.*



*~ Welcome to our Jesuit Novices who will be volunteering at the house on a weekly basis.*



From left to right: Paul Abt, Environment Engineer at Covanta, Adrienne Kelley, assistant director of development and Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development

*~ Thank you Covanta for your continued generosity and support of our annual event, There's No Place Like Home.*

*~ David Hall, Gavin Hoey and Nolan Hoey for installing our bricks in our Walkway of Blessings.*

*~ Thank you Ted McMahan for his continuous donation of milk for our residents.*

*~ Welcome Dan Gardner and Sr. Kathleen Osbelt to the Francis House Board of Directors.*

*~ Thank you Ted Manahan for the beautiful handmade table for our 108 entry way.*

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE: BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Francis House is currently recruiting volunteers for a variety of positions. Our volunteers have always played an instrumental role in the care we are able to provide to our residents. In addition to serving a worthwhile purpose, volunteering affords you the opportunity to connect with

others, is good for your mind and body and brings fun and fulfillment to your life. If you have never before volunteered with us and would like to learn more, please contact Rea Carver at 315-475-5422 to discuss how you might become part of our Francis House family.

“Where the Eucharist of the ordinary happens, transforming our broken fragments into an eternal continuity that keeps us.”

— John O'Donohue

**To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Invocations and Blessings**

*Mom was dying, that much we knew. But how she would die was a perplexing and terrifying question that was faced by her brood, six children, six in-laws, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. So we did what we always do, divide the work. Visits were made to various nursing homes, investigations into the world of at home care and hospice were conducted. Even the option of one of us taking a leave from work and having mom finish her journey with one of us were considered. None of these fully fulfilled our desire to take care of mom. Then the call came from Francis House...our mother spent her final month in the care of Francis House. It was a loving environment that embodied her outlook. Mom always felt that the two most important things in life were faith and family. The quote above embodies what is provided by the Francis House. It transformed the broken fragments of pain into the formation of faith and family.*

*The family of Kay McAndrew*

## WISH LIST

### MISCELLANEOUS

- AA, AAA, C, D Batteries
- 8 ½ x 11 white & colored copy paper
- Grocery store gift cards
- Home improvement gift cards (Lowe's, Home Depot)
- Postage stamps

### FOOD

- Applesauce snack cups with sugar
- Bisquick
- Broth (canned): beef, chicken, vegetable
- Brownie mix: fudge, dark
- Chocolate chips (semi-sweet)
- Coffee: decaf, regular
- Cookie mix
- Cooking oils: canola, olive
- Cooking spray
- Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster, saltine
- Cremora creamer
- Flour
- Frostings: chocolate, cream cheese, vanilla
- Fruit snack cups: cherry mixed fruit, peaches
- Gravy: beef, chicken
- Jello snack cups: strawberry & orange
- Juice: apple, cranberry juice cocktail
- Mayonnaise (30oz)
- Nuts shelled: almonds, walnuts
- Pancake syrup & mix
- Peanut butter (16oz. jar-creamy)
- Pie fillings: apple, blueberry, cherry
- Pudding snack cups
- Quick bread & muffin mix
- Soda: colas, ginger ale, orange, root beer
- Soup: chicken noodle, mushroom, tomato
- Sugar: granulated, light brown, confectioners
- Tomato: crushed, diced
- Tuna: (canned) solid white, light

### PAPER GOODS

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

### HOUSEHOLD

- Bleach
- Dishwasher detergent gel pacs
- Disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid hand soap
- Lysol All Purpose cleaner spray
- Lysol disinfecting spray
- Lysol Kitchen Pro Antibacterial spray
- Swiffer sweeper cloths (dry & wet)
- Trash bags (4, 8, 13 & 30 gallon)

### SUPPLIES

- Alcohol pads
- Baby wipes (unscented)
- Body Wash
- Chapstick/Lip balm
- Mouthwash
- Unscented lotion

*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.

*We especially recognize the following contributions that will impact our ministry for years to come:*

Estate of Joseph Bitzel  
Estate of Savario Carbacio  
Estate of Eileen B. Kennedy  
Estate of Alyce M. McNamara,  
Lucky Irish Trust

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



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If you would like to receive  
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through your email, visit  
[www.francishouseny.org](http://www.francishouseny.org).

You can request a copy  
of our most recently filed  
financial report from  
the Charities Bureau  
Registry on the New York  
Attorney General's website  
[www.charitiesnys.com](http://www.charitiesnys.com) or by  
contacting (212) 416-8401.

## WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM MAY 15, 2020 — SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Thomas Allen  
Patrice Barber  
Patricia Betts  
John Bialobreski  
Hugh Blair  
Linda Lou Bradley  
Floyd "Skip" Brennan  
James Campbell  
Leland Cooper  
Carl Dantonello  
Daniel "Dan" DeSalis  
Eugene "Butch" Drugg  
Willie Dyer  
Anne Egleston  
Diane Evans  
Michael Farnsworth  
Grace del Fiero  
Susan Finocchio  
Julia Fletcher  
Clifton Gans

Helen Gatenby  
Mildred "Millie" Hayes  
Antoinette Jacob  
Barbara M. Johnson  
Paul L. Jones  
John J. Joyce  
Patricia "Pat" Koenig  
Carmen Longo  
Scott MacDonald  
Helen McGlown  
Isaida Acevedo-Mercado  
Elizabeth "Lil" Morrissey  
Ralph Myrdek  
Marilyn Natoli  
Kathryn "Kay" Nolan  
Dorothy Nunneker  
John Omicinski  
Mary Jane Osada  
Helen Pepe  
Merle Piraino

Norman Putnam  
Ann Rebuck  
Robert "Bob" Rickert  
Lona Roarick  
Jean Carlos Rodriguez  
Michael Rusyniak  
Thomas "Tom" Sallin  
Helen Schmitt  
Robert E. "Bob" Smith  
Olga "Kitty" Strange  
Rev. Vivian Summerville  
Marguerite Towne  
David Tucker  
Bruce Vetovick  
Peter Volcko  
Martha Walker  
Richard "Rick" Warner  
Thomas F. White  
Norma Wilensky  
Lauretta Wood