



A Family When You Need It Most

FALL 2021

NEWS

FROM OUR HOUSE

Resident Spotlight:

ANNE WEEKS TREASURING FRIENDSHIP EVERY DAY



Anne Weeks believes in making the best of every day and doing what makes you happy. For Anne, that means a daily walk around Francis House, a 4:30 cocktail and watching as many sports games as she can on television. Syracuse University basketball, the Buffalo Bills and the New York Yankees are her favorite teams.

Volunteers and staff look forward to visiting with Anne every day. Her smile brightens up a room. She has a love for conversation and learning about other people. When asked how she so easily forms friendships Anne replied, "It's just who I am. It is important to let people know they matter and you care."

Anne says she has many friends that she talks to on a regular basis. "Friendship doesn't demand anything much, just to be there. I have friends for 60 years, some 72 years, that still will call me on the phone every week, just to check in. That means so much."

Anne recalls many trips that she and her husband Jim, who passed away in 2015, went on with their friends Arnie and Mary Lou Cardillo. They traveled together to Hawaii, Alaska, Colorado and more. Anne is a great story teller and loves to share their many

adventures, including flying in a small plane around Mount McKinley.

Anne was born in Tully and grew up on the family cow farm, that also grew cabbage and potatoes. The cabbage was used by the sauerkraut plant in Amber. "When you are a farm family everyone pitches in. My brothers would help with the tractors and my sister and I would do whatever chores were needed."

Anne met her husband Jim at Forest Home, a popular hangout on Otisco Lake. "It took him three times to ask me out on a date before I said yes," laughs Anne. But from that first date onward, they were together.

Anne's love of sports was strengthened by Jim's love of sports. He was a decorated athlete being named to the SUNY Morrisville Athletic Wall of Fame as a national basketball standout. He led the nation for many years with an average of 35-38 points per game. "And that was before there were 3 pointers," adds Anne.

Anne and Jim married in 1958 and moved to Rochester where Jim played semi-pro basketball and worked as buyer for General Dynamics. Anne worked as the cafeteria manager for the Rochester City School District. They had three children: Karen, Janet and Michael.

While in Rochester, Anne and Jim bought a cottage on Otisco Lake, returning often to the area they loved. Two of their children, Karen and Janet moved back to the area, and Michael remains in Rochester. Anne cherishes the time she spends with her family. Jim passed away in 2015, but she knows he is still with her every day. She has 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She is now awaiting the birth of 3 great-grandchildren due in October, November and December.

Anne admits it is hard when life changes so fast. "I went from my home, to a small apartment, to Francis House in two years. That is extremely hard because I love my freedom and independence." Anne says she has learned to see the gift of receiving help from others. "Everyone here is so helpful. They know me and what I like and they often do things before I even ask!"

There's No Place Like Home.

October 6th. Details on page 4.

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News From Our House

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For more information, comments or address changes contact:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



*"There is nothing permanent except change."
~ Heraclitus*

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit my brother at his home in Punta Gorda, Florida. It was a wonderful visit after so many months. We did a lot of fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. I even caught a small shark!

Throughout the days, our conversation moved between funny stories of when we were kids to what was happening in our lives today. As with all reunions, the shared memories highlighted all the changes that had occurred throughout those years. We are not the same people today

as we used to be. Our lives have taken different twists and turns. As is the case with life, nothing ever stays the same.

We have had an unusually hot summer here in Central New York with uncommon amounts of rainfall. Nine Mile Creek recently overflowed its banks and flooded the area in Marcellus Park where we held our staff retreat this past July changing, even if only for a few days, that beautiful spot. But now we are moving into the fall, a lovely time of year in our area. The bright colors of summer are changing into the deeper hues of autumn. We welcome the brisk morning air, cooler temperatures and look forward to the sound of falling leaves.

Francis House too, has experienced many changes throughout the lifetime of our ministry. We have seen growth in our capacity to serve our brothers and sisters who are dying. Our wonderful volunteers have remained faithful to our mission. When circumstances prevented them from being physically present, they continued to support us with their prayers and good works. We have welcomed new caregivers and administrative staff members while bidding a fond farewell to others. The French philosopher Henri Bergson said, "To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly." That is certainly true of Francis House. However, one thing remains unchanged – our mission. We were, are and always will be a home and extended family for people facing the greatest change - the end of their lives.

We are able to be steadfast and unchanging in our mission to serve because of you and your great goodness. You have been, are and will always be in our prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Blessings,



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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SANDI GALLER AND SHARON ALLEN, THE DYNAMIC DUO



Left to right: Sharon Allen and Sandi Galler are all smiles under their masks while preparing dinner for our residents!

Sandi volunteered at Francis House when it first opened in 1991, just one year after her husband Joe had died. She knew she needed some time to grieve and took a leave from volunteering for a while. In 2007, Sandi returned but not alone. She brought her niece Sharon Allen with her and The Dynamic Duo was born. It is the nickname they gave themselves with the mission “to have fun, spread joy and share in our blessings.”

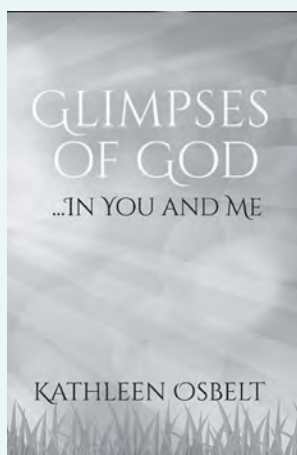
Sandi and Sharon are house volunteers. They are known for their cookie baking and staff always find their way

to the kitchen on Friday afternoons when Sandi and Sharon volunteer. However, visiting with residents and their family members is their favorite part of their shift. Says Sandi, “If you can make someone’s life a little easier. If you can give them relief through kindness and being present, it is the most important thing you can give.” Sharon agrees, “When you serve others, it changes your own life.”

Sandi and Sharon say that their volunteer experience at Francis House has helped them help their own family members at the end of their lives. They say their volunteering and their faith has helped them embrace every moment of life and accept that there is a time to say goodbye. “It is such an honor to be here for families and residents to give them a loving, nurturing temporary home before their eternal home,” shares Sandi.

They both agree that the pandemic brought an extreme loss when they had to pause their volunteering. After many months? Sharon told Sandi it was time to return. They are so grateful to be back and encourage others to become volunteers. “If you are looking to give more of yourself, to open your heart to someone, this is where you need to be. This is family,” says Sharon.

Rea Carver, volunteer coordinator, says Sandi and Sharon have modeled the values of Francis House for other volunteers. “Sandi and Sharon give so much of their time. When they enter the house, it is a breath of fresh air and joy. We are blessed by them both!”



SISTER KATHLEEN OSBELT BECOMES AN AUTHOR



Glimpses Of God...In You And Me, by Sister Kathleen Osbelt is now available for purchase!

“I am grateful for the impact every person in our Francis House family has made on my life. God is revealed in your goodness. As this book points out, you are the

image of God. Thank you all for inspiring me to share how God is made visible in each of us,” said Sister Kathleen.

Books can be purchased through Amazon. All profits from book sales are given to Francis House.

Mark Your Calendars:
**GAZEBO
MEMORIAL MASS**

December 1, 2021, 7pm

St. Daniel’s Church
3004 Court Street, Syracuse, NY



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



*Join Ed and Emily Alberts,
Co-Chairs and the family...
as we celebrate 30 years!*

30th Anniversary Sponsor

Dr's Michael and Colleen O'Leary

Major Sponsor

Ed and Emily Alberts

VIRTUAL EVENT

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 – 7:00pm to 8:00pm

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, an ITT Technologies
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Seaboard Graphics, now a division of Dupli

*Follow Us on
Facebook & Instagram!*

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 6, 2021

Join us live on Newschannel 9 from 7:00pm – 8:00pm

<https://www.localsyr.com>

Mobile Auction

**You can bid on over
150 items including:**

- ~1-week rental 5 bedroom 2 bath cottage in Cape Cod, MA
- ~ One-year (April-November 1, 2021) of unlimited private golf lessons with PGA Pro Joe Tesori
- ~ Fresh Water Pearl Necklace
- ~2-night stay for two at Mirror Lake Inn
- ~\$250 Shopping Spree at TOPS
- And more!

Virtual CHECKLIST

- ___ Made a donation via **TNPLH2021.GIVESMART.COM**
- ___ Registered for mobile bidding via **TNPLH2021.GIVESMART.COM** or texted **TNPLH2021 TO 76278**
- ___ Reserved raffle tickets by emailing **info@francishouseny.org** for a chance to win:
 - \$2,021 Cash Prize, donated by Friends of Francis House
 - \$500 Gift Certificate, donated by Nichols of Liverpool
 - Dinner-of-the-Month for One Year
 - Avicollì's Restaurant & Pizzeria | Bonefish Grill
 - Brian's Landing Jamesville | Francesca's Cucina
 - The Inn of the Seasons | Jake Hafner's Restaurant
 - Kitty Hoyne's Restaurant | Nestico's Italian Eatery
 - The Preserve | Prime Steakhouse | The Springside Inn
 - Vito's Ristorante
- ___ Emailed your friends and family and invited them to participate

*Join us live on Newschannel 9
from 7:00pm – 8:00pm*

<https://www.localsyr.com> | **OCTOBER 6, 2021**

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

www.francishouseny.org/tnplh

1991

30th Anniversary

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

2021



Sister Kathleen B. shares a laugh with resident Joe D.



Auxiliary Board Member Roxanne Kopecky (right) says, "Tina Barry is a complement to our Francis House family. She has such talent and is a pleasure to work with."

WINTER 2012

Volunteer Spotlight: Sister Kathleen Bruzga

Sister Kathleen says every day she gives of herself, but receive so much more. "Jesus gives each of us gifts and grace to care for others. You are truly the hands of Jesus here at Francis House. I have learned so much from our residents. I've witnessed such deep faith and acceptance of the final journey."

We continued to be blessed to have Sister Kathleen B. as a volunteer!

SUMMER 2014

Meet Tina Barry, Our New Pin Lady

Created in 2005, the Youth Auxiliary of Francis House is a volunteer-run membership organization led by youth. With adult members of the Auxiliary of Francis House and staff members of Francis House as advisors, the Youth Auxiliary Board manages activities and projects for the entire membership that support the ministry of Francis House. Members have been busy in the past few months participating in the Memorial Mass, Annual Auxiliary Luncheon, Anniversary Mass as well as taken volunteer shifts at the house.

WINTER 2012

Happy Holidays at Francis House

Thank you for making our holiday season filled with laughter, love and celebration. We received many generous financial and in-kind gifts. A special thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time and hard work to make Francis House look beautiful and to serve our residents and family members.



Resident Pat B. and her family enjoy Christmas Dinner.



Roger S., son of a former resident and Francis House volunteers.



From left: Beth Lynn Hoey, director of development, Nancy Light, executive director, Barbara Carranti, Francis House board member, Scott Simon, Sister Kathleen Osbelt, director of outreach and Dennis DePerro, Francis House board member.

SPRING 2016

Living the Final Chapter Symposium

Francis House's symposium, Living the Final Chapter: Compassionate Care for Persons at End of Life was preceded by An Unforgettable Evening with Scott Simon. Over 100 guests gathered at Le Moyne College to hear the remarks of Scott Simon, best known as the award-winning host of Weekend Edition Saturday on NPR. Mr. Simon shared stories recounted in his book Unforgettable. The book chronicles his time with his mother in her hospital room during the last weeks of her life in July 2013. It was a special night filled with laughter and tears.



Youth Auxiliary Board members show their hand painted support stones.

WINTER 2017

Support Stones: Reaching Out to Loved Ones

Members of our Francis House Youth Auxiliary created a special project this year. In addition to their current activities of household projects, making meals for residents and writing letters to residents, they wanted to support the loved ones of residents. The idea resulted in support stones.

Support stones are hand painted and decorated with words of encouragement including: love, family, faith and courage. With every stone comes a handwritten note. "I am so proud of our students," shared Jackie Popkess, volunteer Youth Auxiliary Advisor, "they have a lot of love to give. And we can learn a lot from them."



Jimmer Szatkowski, his family and volunteers.

SPRING 2018

Chick-fil-A Supports Francis House

Francis House was honored to be chosen by Chick-fil-A as one of the charities to receive community service as part of their opening Celebration. Thank you to Jimmer Szatkowski, his family and all the volunteers. We are truly grateful.



Resident Violet Leyland reacts to her Disney surprise.

FALL 2018

Resident Violet Leyland, Our Very Own Mouseketeer

Resident Violet Leyland had always wanted to go to Disneyland but realized she would never get to go. Sister Kathleen Osbelt contacted Disney Corporation and they responded with a special gift package and signed picture of the major Disney characters. The Francis House

staff wanted Violet to have a Disney experience. So one afternoon they surprised her with decorating her room with Disney themed posters; making a Mickey Mouse cake; and singing Disney songs. "I can't believe all of this is for me," yelled Violet. "I loved it!"

THANK YOU...

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



~ Thank you to our gardeners who do an amazing job keeping our grounds looking beautiful for our residents, family members and visitors.



~ Thank you to Jackie Popkess for volunteering your time as Advisor to our Youth Auxiliary Board.
~ Thank you to all who attended the 30th Anniversary Mass both in person and virtually. It was a beautiful evening recognizing all the residents and families we have cared for over the years.



~ Thank you to our volunteers Tom Richards, Wes Byrd, Gerry Grudzinski, Paul Simandle, Tom Long and Mike Delaney, and Bill and Edward from Abt plumbing for helping us clean-up from the flood.



Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the Auxiliary Fall Giveaway. Winners were pulled at Francis House on September 19.

Thank you to our prize donors including Stickleby, Chick-fil-A and Ed and Emily Alberts.



Make a Difference In Someone's Life Become A Volunteer

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Rea Carver at 315-475-5422 to discuss how you might become part of our invaluable volunteer family.



Beth shares a hug with resident Jan Cooper in 1997.

*Dear Members of the Francis House Family,
I have had the honor to call myself a member of the Francis House family for half of my life. As I say good bye after 24 years of service, I am filled with gratitude. Thank you for the privilege of being able to work beside you. You are the most talented, compassionate people and you have given me so many gifts. My heart will always hold sacred memories. Every resident, family member, volunteer, donor and staff member has taught me about true strength, love and joy. While my heart aches to move on, I take with me the inspiration to use what I have learned to touch other lives.
Thank you all for making me a better person!"*

Beth

BETH LYNN HOEY, THANK YOU!

It is with sadness that I announce the resignation of Beth Lynn Hoey, Director of Development, effective September 24, 2021.

For the past 24 years Beth has been a valuable member of the Francis House family. Through Beth's efforts, the development program at Francis House has seen significant growth especially in the area of the Francis House signature event, "There's No Place Like Home", the annual appeal and the newsletter. Beth has also worked closely as an advisor to both the Francis House adult and youth auxiliary programs.

Beth has always demonstrated a sincere commitment to the mission of Francis House and is a respected member of our family. She will be deeply missed.

On behalf of all the staff and volunteers of Francis House, I wish Beth success and happiness as she embarks on the next chapter of her career.

Kind regards,

Mary Anne Hankins
Executive Director

*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 or contact Mary Anne Hankins,
executive director 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 be made electronically from your bank account. For more information, please contact Mary Anne Hankins, executive director at 315-475-5422 or mahankins@francishouseny.org.

WISH LIST

MISCELLANEOUS

- AAA and D Batteries
- 8½ x 11 white & colored copy paper
- Grocery store gift cards
- Home improvement gift cards (Low's, Home Depot)
- Postage stamps (Forever)

FOOD

- Applesauce snack cups with sugar
- Broth (canned): beef, chicken, vegetable
- Brownie mix: fudge, dark
- Coffee: decaf, regular
- Cookie mix
- Cooking oils: canola, olive
- Crackers: Ritz, club, oyster, saltine
- Cremora creamer (no flavors)
- 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 to Juice: apple, cranberry juice cocktail (64 oz.)
- Mayonnaise (30oz)
- Nuts shelled: almonds, walnuts
- Pancake mix
- Pudding snack cups (with sugar added)
- Quick bread & muffin mix
- Soda: (Liters) ginger ale, Pepsi/Coke, root beer
- Soup: Campbell's chicken noodle, cream of mushroom
- Sugar: light brown & confectioners sugar

PAPER GOODS

- Flexible straws
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Snack bags
- Storage bags: quart size

HOUSEHOLD

- Disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid hand soap
- Lysol disinfecting air spray
- Swiffer sweeper cloths (dry & wet)
- Trash bags (13 & 33 gallon)

SUPPLIES

- Adult briefs: Taped briefs (not pull-ups) large, extra large
- Alcohol pads
- Aromatherapy diffusers
- Baby wipes (unscented)
- Body Wash
- Chapstick/Lip balm
- Essential Oils
- Exam gloves: latex free, powder free, large
- Masks
- Mouthwash
- Unscented lotion



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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 or by
contacting (212) 416-8401.

WE PRAY FOR OUR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE DIED FROM MARCH 27, 2021 – AUGUST 31, 2021

Harry Babcock
Sharon Bargabos
Jeannette Barry
Anna Marie Basile
Nancy Beil
Jane Bertrand
Gary Bradley
Daniel Briggs
Gayle Bright
Donna Buza
Ann Regina Byrne
Peter Cann
Joan Clary
Donna A. Corell
Catherine "Kay" Cudworth
Rosemary DeVito
Anthony "Diggy" DiGaspari
Arthur Donzella
Carol Ann Dooher
Mary Fantacone
George Feldman
Robert Ferguson

Eugene A. Ferris
Joseph F. Fiermonte
Barbara Glath
Robert "Bob" Goldman
Jerry Goodisman
John Goodman
Robert Grenyo
Gill Hockett
Tony Husak
Catherine Jackson
William "Billy" Jackson
Margaret "Peggy" Johnson
Margaret Jordan
William "Bill" Kelly
Marilyn Kerwin
Hilda Lasky
Kenneth LeRoy
Michael "Mike" Mancuso
John "Jack" McNeil
Dixon "Dick" Martin
Donald E. McBride
James S. McCann

Linda McHerron
Ann Meath
Gerald "Jerry" Millet
Jacqueline "Jackie" Moller
Dr. Ronald Naumann
David Newton, Sr.
Caissie Nighan
Claire Nolen
Norma Oddo
Thelma O'Malley
Sheila Ormsby
Adrienne O'Shea
Margaret M. Ostapaw
Patricia Ottaway
Virginia Perrotti
Timothy Peryea
Vincent L. Petralito
Kevin Pickard
Audry Piedmonte
Virginia "Ginny" Piscitelli
Marymargaret Raymond
Geraldine Revette

Donna Rose
Andrew Rotondo
John Rude
Barbara Rudy
Janet Samour
Ethylyn Sapino
William "Boo" Sarvey
Louise V. Sekula
Duane Smith
Helen Sobotka
Melinda Spielman
Caroline Stanistreet
Robert L. Stanton
Jean Sweeney
Sharon F. Tuthill
Alyce Walburger
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Dorothy Zebrowski