

FALL 2010
VOLUME 36

Rainbows

Kathy's House is a hospital hospitality house dedicated to providing lodging and a supportive environment in "a home away from home" for patients and their caregivers traveling to Milwaukee area hospitals for medical treatment.

Rainbow Promise

A reprise of the success of Rainbow of Hope is planned to allow us to continue the "Support a Family Program."

Since the program was started, well over 100 families have been provided with financial assistance during their stay at Kathy's House.

After brief rain showers, over two hundred supporters of Kathy's House enjoyed complimentary appetizers while strategically placing bids on silent auction items. Prizes were awarded to the highest bidder.

After an excellent steak dinner, we conducted a brief program including a heart warming anecdote by Renae MacCudden about her experiences with Kathy's House.

Al Benson, our auctioneer for the evening, coerced and cajoled us to step up our bidding on special vacations, unique events and very interesting

items. A weekend at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan saw spirited bidding for this first time award. We thank fourth generation owner, Dan Musser, whose family has operated this classic summer resort since it was built in the early 1900's.



Bel Canto Boy Choir

Our premier 2011 fund raiser, Rainbow Promise, will be held at Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon on Saturday, April 30 beginning at 6pm. Event co-chairs would make this evening special with their fresh ideas and energy. Call Dick or Herb to arrange a meeting to consider volunteering your talents.

A variety of silent or live auction items are needed to entice and stimulate attendees on April 30th. Please keep your eyes open and gather up those special items. Thanks for all your support.

- Dick



Al, the auctioneer



Jean and Peter, the hosts



Mary, the bidder

Reflections

from our guests and friends

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to meet the staff, stay in a great place, and be a part of the house during my time in the area.

*Mark R.
Alameda, CA*

Thank you so much for such a beautiful facility. I especially appreciated the fact that it is so close to the hospital.

*Elizabeth C.
Ogema, WI*

What a wonderful resource for families and friends in need.

*Thank you.
Louise C.
Santa Barbara, CA*

Thank you so much for everything. It is so appreciated!

*Susie O.
Manitowoc, WI*

I appreciate everything Kathy's House did for us. It was very comforting to know I could have a home away from home during Philip's illness.

*Alberta H.
Green Bay, WI*

Board of Directors

Janine Arseneau

Community Volunteer

Herb Ayres

*Director of Operations
Kathy's House*

Michael Bennett

Attorney - CPA

Daniel Chaudoir

President, Central File Inc.

Elaine Hoth

Community Volunteer

Katie Jackson

Community Volunteer

Gil Nock

Community Volunteer

Dawn Kiel Nord

*Treasurer, Kathy's House
CPA*

Marty Kraninger

President, Hydro Platers, Inc.

Jo Shoemaker

Community Volunteer

Jean Storer

Community Volunteer

Glen Van Fossen

Board Chair, Kathy's House

Dick Vogel

*Executive Director
Kathy's House*

Judy Vogel

Community Volunteer

Harry Wallace

Attorney, Retired

Julia White, MD

*Radiation Oncologist
Medical College of WI*

Rainbows

*Published quarterly by
Kathy's House, Inc.*

Editor: Herb Ayres

*600 North 103rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53226*

Phone: 414-453-8290

Fax: 414-453-8292

www.kathys-house.org

email: mail@kathys-house.org

Executive Director's Thoughts

The Art of Hospitality

Our National Association of Hospitality Houses (NAHHH) held their annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA September 20 -23. Over 200 Houses were represented including three that Kathy's House has sponsored and will continue to support them during their development and growth. We are proud to have mentored these new Houses in Illinois, Indiana and North Carolina. Houses currently under development are in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Sessions at the conference included volunteer appreciation, improving communication, partnering and collaboration and concluded with "No Money, No Mission."

We have attended ten annual NAHHH conferences and found the input and mission sharing with other Houses to help the mission of Kathy's House to prosper and grow.



LobsterFest 2011 ... One More Time!

Who ever heard of lobsters going on strike? This year the Maine lobsters decided not to travel to Wisconsin for the annual LobsterFest. We're sure that you are as disappointed as we are but never fear, LobsterFest 2011 is already in the preliminary planning stages.

Several of Kathy's House college interns have suggested that LobsterFest be held at Kathy's House – in the backyard under a festive tent. Maybe you and a group have another venue idea that would be perfect for a fundraising dinner. We'd like to hear from you with your thoughts and ideas.

Rainbows Newsletter

Our popular newsletter, Rainbows, has come to a crossroads. The Summer edition was skipped for financial reasons. We're looking for a sponsor for each edition and unless a benefactor appears, we'll probably skip the Winter edition reducing the publication to two issues per year.

If you are interested, please contact Dick or Herb. A recognition box would be provided for a sponsorship or part supporter, if desired.

An alternative would be to post an electronic copy on the website and send an e-mail announcement to all interested.

Please share your thoughts and ideas with us at 414-453-8290 or mail@kathys-house.org.

Meet the Live-In Volunteers



Amber



Carolyn



Melissa



Kayla



Maggie

The current live-in volunteer staff is a group dedicated to the mission of Kathy's House. They are tireless, caring, compassionate volunteers who have the safety and emotional well-being of all our guests as their primary focus. We appreciate their hard work and commitment to Kathy's House.

Cyclists aim to fight leukemia, lymphoma. - Tom Held

Donations raised by cyclists who pedaled in the Scenic Shore 150 topped \$590,000, nearing a record for the ride benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

As in past years, a large portion of the contributions were generated by mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters and friends, riding on July 24 and 25 in memory of a loved one who died of a blood-borne cancer or someone who has survived leukemia or lymphoma.



Riders at the Port Washington rest stop.

Close to 300 of the 963 registered participants signed up to ride for a friend; another 84 were riding for a parent and 25 were survivors themselves.

That included Kevin Shannahan, a real estate executive from suburban

Volunteers and the Health Benefits of Service

The health benefits of volunteering have been reported before, but much is still unknown about the causal relationship between giving time and personal health. Does volunteering make you healthier, or do healthier people volunteer? Should service be prescribed for those with cancer or chronic illness? Are there health benefits to volunteering that working for pay cannot provide?

That picture is a little clearer thanks to a report VolunteerMatch released with UnitedHealthCare. The new UnitedHealthCare/VolunteerMatch Do Good, Live Well survey provides compelling evidence that volunteering not only enhances volunteers' physical and mental health but also strengthens relationships between employers and employees.

Among the key findings:

- More than 68% of those who

Chicago, who once again set the fund-raising standard. Still being treated for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Shannahan biked the 150 miles from Mequon to Sturgeon Bay and raised \$48,575 through his efforts. His team of 34, nicknamed Riders of the Storm, once again led the groups by raising more than \$170,000.

Kathy's House again was host for the Port Washington stop on the Scenic Shore 150 bike ride from Mequon to Sturgeon Bay. We were among the 189 volunteers who supported the 963 riders. It was a wonderful experience for all the volunteers and participants.

volunteered in the past year report that volunteering made them feel physically healthier.

- 29% of volunteers who suffer from a chronic condition say that volunteering has helped them manage their chronic illness.
- 89% of volunteers agree that volunteering improved their sense of well-being.
- 73% of volunteers feel that volunteering lowered their stress level.
- 92% of volunteers agree that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life.
- More than three-quarters of volunteers who participate in service activities through work report that they feel better about their employer because of the employer's involvement in their volunteer activities.

Passages

Donors to Kathy's House have recently honored the memory of:

Fred Gruner

Kathleen Thicke

Russ Skorik

Keith Kullmeyer

Ron Ebert

Steve Przbylski

Gretchen DeGarmo

Palma Rose Venezia

Wynona Shell

Patrick Blessing

Geraldine Schwandner

Susan T Hasenjaeger

Craig Menne

John Anderson

MCF Lindert

Wynona Shelly

Dawn Petersen

Reflections

from our guests and friends

The stay here was quiet and pleasant, much different than I expected. Thank you.

We are immensely grateful for your loving kindness and the awesome accommodations!! Needed improvements? It's hard to improve perfection.

*Kimberly D.
Racine, WI*

A wonderful and caring place for those who are stressed enough being away from home and dealing with their medical issues. Everyone is made to feel welcome, even the caregivers. I wish I lived closer so I could be a volunteer. Many thanks for all Kathy's House does for everyone.

*Joyce D.
Kaukauna, WI*

Equal to a high quality hotel, or better due to the "homeyness".

*Peter V.
DePere, WI*

Hi everyone!

My name is Barbara and my sister Geraldine is in Froedtert Hospital for a number of things. Through the grace and mercy of God she's coming through. She still has a little ways to go but prayerfully she's going home this week.

I thank God for Kathy's House and it's wonderful staff.

God Bless

*Barbara B.
Georgia*

Dick & Staff: Thank you all for your kindness. We made it though my surgery smoothly. Staying at Kathy's House made this possible. Words aren't enough to express our gratitude. Thanks again.

Joann & Jeff

Volunteers...Volunteers



Community Involvement class from Cardinal Stritch

Youth group from Spring Creek Church



Cookie Bakers

Circle K Group from Marquette University



Local Walgreen Stores contributed wish list supplies and prepared a dinner for guests

We continue to be extremely gratified by the number of groups that offer their volunteer time and services to help us continue the mission of Kathy's House. Activities include outside yard work, baking, cooking and cleaning.

In addition to the groups pictured above, we send a big thank you to The W-Girls, EZ Window Cleaning Crew, and Park Bank.

If you or your group is interested in a project, please contact Kathy's House mail@kathys-house.org or 414-453-8290. See the article on the health benefits of volunteering on page 3.

Kathy's House Proposed Projects

As our ninth year draws to a close, a number of improvements have been identified and tentative budgets established for each project. Sponsors are being sought and will be recognized appropriately. Please help make these improvements a reality. You can express your interest by using the enclosed donation envelope along with your contribution or pledge. Or stop and visit Kathy's House and we'll discuss the needs for continuing the success of our mission at Kathy's House.

PROJECT ONE: Upgrade lights in the office, hallway and dining room. \$1900



PROJECT TWO: Replace the south exit door with an insulated exterior door. \$1000



PROJECT SIX: Replace existing room door locks and all exterior door locks. \$1500



PROJECT SEVEN: Replace nine year old mattresses. \$5000



PROJECT THREE: Add a bathroom to Room 10 downstairs to add additional volunteer live-in space. \$4900

Your participation and contribution to these projects is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your consideration. - Dick Vogel

Community Days 2010 - November 13, 2010

Go shopping to support Kathy's House. From now until November 13th, Kathy's House is partnering with the Bon-Ton family of stores (including the Boston Store) through the sale of coupon booklets, good toward store merchandise. With 100% of booklet sales benefiting Kathy's House, you can feel good going shopping and great about giving back!

This valuable coupon booklet can be purchased for just \$5 each, good toward great merchandise during the special One Day Community Day Sale on Saturday, November 13th.

Take advantage of:

- \$10 off coupon featuring minimal exclusions
- 30% off early bird coupon
- six additional savings coupons
- exclusive Community Day Bonus offers
- three amazing web -exclusive offers

If you would like a coupon book or would like to help sell booklets, please contact Kathy's House at 414-453-8290.



Reflections

from our guests and friends

The Milwaukee Lois Club had a lunch on Aug. 31st and Lois Haataja, a member of our club, provided a wonderful BURMA SHAVE presentation. She requested that we make a donation to KATHY'S HOUSE in her name for the presentation.

The Milwaukee Lois Club is happy to make a donation to your wonderful facility.

Thank you, KATHY'S HOUSE for providing a safe and supportive harbor for all those in need of your services.

*Sincerely,
The Milwaukee Lois Club*

Ed. Note: Lois H. has been an avid supporter of Kathy's House since opening in 2001. Her Clown performances are excellent and highly entertaining. Kathy's House appreciates her event donations.

I had brain surgery one week ago.We are so very thankful for this house. I don't know what we would have done without this help. God bless all of you for your generosity and kindness.

... I met Kathy's dad today - what a beautiful place he has in memory of his daughter. He has helped so many people. Thank you and God bless.

*JoAnn S.
Bergland, MI*

Here again. This time the same wonderful love and caring folks here at Kathy's House - a home, a repose, a joyful loving place in a time of transition and "fear with hope". Thanks. May you, too, find peace.
MarGee and Tom

Reflections

from our guests and friends

When you arrive at Kathy's House you are engulfed with love. By the time you leave you are able to share more of that love with others.

*Ann L.
Luxemburg, WI*

*Dear Staff of Kathy's House,
Thanks so much to all of you for providing such wonderful shelter - a home away from home - for us during the Milwaukee part of Steph's AML journey. Can't imagine how we would have managed so well any place else. God has used each of you to touch our lives in the special gifts that you each have.*

To all the volunteers – thanks for your help in making Kathy's House work so well.

May you all be blessed in all you do to serve those who need shelter during their storms. Keeping you in prayer.

*Sincerely,
Diane and Dave*

Our stay, though only overnight, was wonderful. Thank you for giving us a "homey" place to stay while here.

*Julie B.
Menasha, WI*

*Clean and well-equipped guest room;
Well-stocked kitchen;
Laundry and recreation room are nice amenity;
Friendly and helpful staff.
Value is unsurpassed. We will recommend this house to others and may use it in the future if surgery becomes possible.
Burt and Cynthia G.
Atlanta, GA*

Guest Log Comments

I am so grateful for your accommodations. My family and I had a wonderful stay, despite the circumstances. The loving kindness we experienced here has indelibly benefited us. We hope you will continue in your endeavors. Kathy's House is a home in times of distress – all who stay are privileged and truly blessed.
Zondra, Lillie, Jessica, Joseph, Kimberly and Sadie

This place is definitely a home away from home. The staff is so friendly and nice. As the patient, I felt very comfortable here. It's clean and the free donated food was a plus! Thank you for making us feel like family. Thanks to everyone at Kathy's House! Best of luck to everyone!

Michelle, Annmarie and Tom Q. Yorktown, NY

I am so grateful for Kathy's House. This is a beautiful place to stay. I am not sick, but I came from Montana to be with my brother who is dying. His last wish was to have me come to be with him. I told his doctors that I didn't know anyone and had no where to stay, so they set me up to stay at Kathy's House. I just want to thank everyone at Kathy's House for everything and for making me feel welcome and very comfortable. I will be forever grateful to you all. Thanks again! God Bless Every One!

Robin M.

My Mom and Dad were here for six months last year. Dad had a stem cell transplant. The staff here at Kathy's House are like a second family. It is so convenient to stay here as it is so close to Froedtert Hospital. My parents live 3 ½ hours away. We are here for 1 night this time as Dad has a doctor's appointment tomorrow.

Stacy S.

Hi. My son Tom had a bone marrow transplant in May 2009, so our stay here was a long one. What is Kathy's House to me? Kathy's House is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Everyone who stays here is given an infinite wealth of compassion, support, friendship and assistance. If Kathy's wishes that have been fulfilled were stars in the night sky, there would never be darkness again, for those who loved her have exceeded in their efforts to fulfill her dreams. Are people really blessed? Do miracles ever happen? Does God watch over us? Look at a rainbow and you shall have your answer. Follow the rainbow and you shall find Kathy's House. Thank you.

Nancy O. of Appleton, WI

I would like to share some good news with you regarding our family. Jim's cancer is in complete remission. That is truly a "Praise the Lord". He still gets tired and thinks he should be able to do all the things he did 10 years ago. He's "older", but I know his strength and stability will come back in time. Patience is the magic word. I am able to walk with a cane by myself at home and practicing walking solo in the kitchen with cooking and clean-up. My balance and "confidence" is coming back. Another "Praise the Lord"! Kathy's House and each of you have been a true blessing and help in our lives. We thank you so much and trust you are all doing well.

In His love,

Jeannie W.

A Volunteer Shares some Thoughts

Herb,

I thought you might be interested in something I submitted to my on-line laryngectomy group. I've seen a few posts where some of our members have to go to a hospital that is not close to where they live.

"We went to Boston when I had my laryngectomy in 1996, and we live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We did find cheap housing accommodations but a few years ago, when I retired, I started volunteering for a hospital hospitality house. If you google nahhh.org (National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses), you can look up a House near the hospital. My hospitality house is for everyone whereas some are specialized i.e., cancer patients, children patients, etc. They've typically offered more affordable rooms than hotels and have plenty of amenities. Kathy's House, where I volunteer, has individual private guest rooms but no maid service. Guests

help out by making their own bed, cleaning the room, doing the laundry and cooking your own food. Kathy's House operates on the generosity of the community and guests also contribute to the expenses of operating this home away from home. They have fundraisers to supplement donations. Both the patient and the family can stay at Kathy's House.

I'm sure each House has its own way of doing things, but I think it would be worthwhile checking them out."

Vicki M.
Lary since 1996
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Ed. Note: Vicki has many talents. She is great at gardening, sewing and envelope stuffing. We greatly appreciate Vicki's help at Kathy's House.

Kathy's House is honored with a Dream Catcher

August 6, 2010

We the Mitchell P. Waukau Sr. family would like to present this Dream Catcher with eagle feathers on it to Kathy's House. May it protect and spiritually heal every one who stays at Kathy's House.

May this token never be removed from these premises because we are all enrolled Menominee's who have given the dream catcher to Kathy's House.

We thank you for your hospitality extended to my family while I was in the VA Hospital.

Wae-wae-non from the Menominee Indian Reservation
Mitchell P. Waukau Sr., Lisa A. Waukau, Mitchell P. Waukau
Jr., Lance J. Waukau and Meshan J. Waukau
Enrollment U00005297

Editor Note:

A dream catcher is a handmade object based on a hoop, on which is woven a loose net or web. The dream catcher is decorated with feathers and beads.

Some consider the dream catcher a symbol of unity among the various Indian Nations. It is said that the dream catchers "catch any harm that might be in the air as a spider's web catches and holds whatever comes in contact with it."

Kathy's House is very appreciative of this unique gift that was personally presented to all of us.



**Dream catcher
hanging in the office
at Kathy's House.**

Wish List

COFFEE:

*coffee - regular and decaf
creamer
sugar substitutes*

PAPER:

*paper towels
toilet paper
facial tissue
copy paper
trash bags*

LAUNDRY:

*detergent
bleach
fabric softener
dryer sheets*

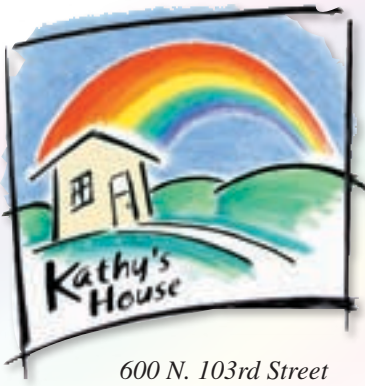
FOOD:

*non-perishable food
mixes
soups
breakfast cereal*

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

*towels
pillows
gas cards*

Kathy's House, Inc.
*is a 501(c)(3) not for
profit organization.
Donations are tax
deductible as
allowed by law.*



600 N. 103rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53226
phone: 414-453-8290
fax: 414-453-8292
www.kathys-house.org
mail@kathys-house.org



Member, National Association
of Hospital Hospitality Houses
www.nahhh.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 3231

Rainbows

INKJET IMPRINT AREA

Upcoming Events

**Kathy's House
Annual Fund Raiser**
April 30, 2011
6pm - 10pm
*Ozaukee Country Club
Mequon, WI*

Community Days
November 13, 2010

**HELP NEEDED
FOR ALL EVENTS.**

Different Ways to Help Kathy's House

Food Shopping Helps Kathy's House

Kathy's House participates in the Pick 'n Save WE CARE program, designed to donate a portion of your grocery bill to non-profit organizations like Kathy's House. To join, you must be enrolled in the Advantage Plus Saver's Club with the six-digit identification number for Kathy's House (410010). You can sign up at any Pick 'n Save store. Do it the next time you shop. Thanks.

Think Green

– Recycling Helps Kathy's House

We recycle aluminum soda can tabs, empty ink cartridges, used cell phones and nearly new hardcover books. Bring these recyclables to Kathy's House and we will turn them into cash for operating Kathy's House.