



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 Over Oz

– May 3, 2008 –

Saturday, May 3, 2008 began with a few rain showers but the clouds parted as volunteers set up the auction tables at Ozaukee Country Club to display treasures for all to bid on. Al Benson once again charmed the multitude of Kathy's House supporters to open their hearts and purses to assist those whose illnesses left them financially depleted. The event's focus, "Support a Family" project, will assist many families in need.

Unfortunately, I missed the wonderful dinner due to an inner ear infection which affected my balance

and caused vertigo. Rather nasty stuff but not life threatening.

It was a most successful evening and thanks to Jean Storer who graciously made the arrangements and all of the volunteers who helped her. Comments were so positive that the event committee immediately reserved Saturday, May 2 at the Ozaukee Country Club for our 2009 event. Please mark your calendars and save the date



Al Benson was the auctioneer for the 2008 Rainbow Over Oz

for the ninth annual Kathy's House gala event. Keep your eyes open for exciting auction items for all to bid on next May.

- Dick Vogel

Thrivent Supports Kathy's House

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has again participated in Kathy's House annual fund raiser. South Central Waukesha and Ozaukee County Chapters provided volunteers and matching funds for this year's event. Thrivent supports it's member by encouraging volunteerism which will make a difference in the lives of people.

Reflections

from our guests and friends

*This is a wonderful place.
We're so thankful to you all.
This has been the hardest
time of our lives. We thank you
all for the friendly faces
& encouraging words.*

Brenda & Raymond S.
Kenosha, WI

*Dear Mr. Vogel,
I recently visited my sister,
Mary Frances, at Froedtert
Hospital and stayed at
Kathy's House with two of
my brothers, Jim and Mike.*

*We all think the world of
what you're doing there.*

*I hope the enclosed
contribution can begin
to express our gratitude.*

Sincerely,

John S.
Fairfax Station, VA

*A lovely, quiet and
peaceful place to stay.*

*I felt very safe here,
away from home.*

Lois L.
Appleton, WI

Board of Directors

Janine Arseneau
Community Activist

Herb Ayres
Director of Operations
Kathy's House

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Kathy's House

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Rainbows

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Support a Family Project

Helping One Family at a Time

Debate during recent months has centered on whether we are in a recession or just experiencing an economic "blip". We do however see increased fuel prices, unemployment, higher food prices, public assistance, and housing foreclosures.

During the first half of 2008, the average guest donation per room per night to Kathy's House has declined. These gifts represent a critical portion of our operating expenses.

Only a few out-patients who stay at Kathy's House have insurance coverage for out-of-town lodging when receiving medical care away from home. Title XIX patients are eligible for transportation and lodging reimbursement but only when the patient is in residence. Medical approval must be received to verify the need for treatment while away from home.

Kathy's House is an independent hospital hospitality house not

supported by a sponsor, hospital or the government. We rely on the generosity of our friends and the community to sustain our mission. Won't you place us on your own charitable giving list for 2008 to help assure the continuance of our mission of helping those in need of a safe haven and support during their medical journey?

The Support a Family Fund is intended to supplement the donations of guests at Kathy's House. We know that a medical crisis often becomes a financial crisis. Your tax deductible donation will help those who genuinely need assistance.

The donation envelope enclosed with this issue of Rainbows provides you with an easy method to help us support a family in need. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

- *The guests, patients, volunteers
and staff of Kathy's House.*

Rainbow Kitchen Completed

Visitors to Kathy's House have praised the new Rainbow Kitchen with descriptions such as awesome, sparkling, homey, comfortable and most interesting as a hybrid. Our goal was to be both residential and "user-friendly" with commercial features and the ability to accommodate many cooks at the same time. We have succeeded in all aspects. Guests can easily store their groceries in their assigned spaces with everything in easy reach.

Community groups and volunteers can prepare meals or bake without disturbing guests. If your group would like to volunteer to prepare a meal, please contact us for additional information at 414-453-8290.

You are all invited to stop for a tour of the new Rainbow Kitchen.



Kathy's House Rainbow Kitchen

Neighborhood News

A New Standard of Cancer Care in the Neighborhood

The Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center is the fastest growing cancer treatment facility in southeastern Wisconsin, based on 2001-2005 market data for outpatient cancer surgery, radiation oncology and hematology/oncology services. To meet the growing demand for cancer care, a new and expanded Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center opened in May 2008.



The Froedtert and The Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center

This almost 300,000 square-foot facility will feature a unique “hub” approach, built around the concept that the patient is at the center of all care. For example, a patient who might otherwise require separate clinic visits’ for their chemotherapy,

radiation oncology and surgical needs could be treated in one clinic with their physicians coming to them. Another feature of the hub model is that every patient has a single point of contact throughout their care. Plans call for implementing this approach in all 13 disease-specific, interdisciplinary cancer programs at Froedtert.

Revolutionary technology will include TomoTherapy and image-guided radiation therapy for difficult-to-treat tumors; brain tumor mapping, using highly advanced software; and TheraSphere, an innovative treatment for liver cancer.

In this new space patients will have access to potential new treatments not available elsewhere in the region through national clinical trials. Currently The Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center offers 138 clinical trials - more than any other cancer center in southeastern Wisconsin.

The Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (a repository of data from 50 countries) will be housed here, as well as the local office of Susan G. Komen for the Cure (formerly the Susan G. Komen Foundation).

Random Act of Kindness

The Honor Society of the Milwaukee School of Languages performed a Random Act of Kindness at Kathy’s House. Unannounced, some of the members presented Kathy’s House with a check from Honor Society fund raising activities. This is not the first R. A. of K. from this group. Last winter, they helped decorate Kathy’s House for the Holiday season.



The BIG check presented to Kathy’s House.

Passages

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

Rick Bastian

Ray Fatla

Ann Gehrman

Judy Cherven

Jackie Mc Kerac

Mary Silhol

Susan Sipes, MD

Russell Skorik

Ruth Bender

Ed Ettl

Fred Gruner

Craig Hughes

Kathy Kuettner

Al Lechner

Norm Lewis

Gail Ortiz

Cheryl Ruebesam

Reflections

from our guests and friends

Kathy's House is a wonderful place. I couldn't have found a better place to stay. The staff and volunteers were all friendly and helpful. I'm coming back just for Robert's cooking.

Thanks for a great stay.

Julie J.

Cary, IL

I cannot say enough good about Kathy's House. The stay was wonderful. It was quiet and there were nice people to talk to. I only wish I could of spent more time here instead of the hospital. Thanks for everything.

Judy S.

Keil, WI

*Thank you everyone!
Your kindness and hospitality were excellent. Under the circumstances that I arrived in Milwaukee, I could not have been in a better place. Thank you again and may God continue to bless you in your work.*

Marion R.

Oconto, WI

*Kathy's House was a great "home away from home."
The staff is fantastic!!*

Rose F.

DePere, WI

Summer Service Series Cleans Up at Kathy's House

Back in 2003, the Quad-Parish Summer Service Series started with four Catholic Parishes coming together to provide an opportunity "to participate in direct service with people whose life circumstances were very different from the congregation members in Brookfield area." The parishes involved include, St. Dominic Parish, Brookfield, St. John Vianney Parish, Brookfield, St. Joseph Parish, Wauwatosa and St. Mary Visitation Parish, Elm Grove. The program has grown from six events in the first year to over thirty events this year.



Parish members can select from a variety of events, times and places. Each activity is a one-time commitment and has been planned to fit busy schedules. Event leaders coordinate and organize each event allowing the volunteers to concentrate on the activity and not the planning. At each location there will be time for theological reflection to consider each individual's faith experience as part of the activity.

Kathy's House hosted seven industrious ladies for Spring House Cleaning. They provided a little TLC and a thorough cleaning of the house. As a bonus, the volunteers were interviewed by Carole Meekins, Today's TMJ4 news anchor. Carole was gathering information on volunteerism for Positively Milwaukee, a special feature on Channel 4.

If you or your group would like to do a Service Project at Kathy's House, please call 414-453-8290 for details.

Dawn's Garden

It was a dark and dreary morning when they arrived. They were prepared to brighten the day via the garden at Kathy's House but rain threatened. The volunteers from the Dawn E. Petersen Foundation are a hardy stock and a little rain was not about to deter them. They planted the flowers, the day was brighter and the garden was set for another year.

The Foundation was started in 2004 in memory of Dawn Petersen of Appleton, Wisconsin who passed away from Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML) in April of 2002. Dawn was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend to many. She was an active community volunteer on the board of Project Bridges Day Care and Master Gardeners of Appleton among other things. Her spirit of giving back to the community has prompted those who loved her to start a foundation to help other families who are living with serious illnesses.

Dawn's family stayed at Kathy's House and has generously sponsored the garden at Kathy's House.



Volunteers from the Dawn E. Petersen Foundation

Guest Profile

Getting the right medical care sometimes means patients and their families must travel away from home, often to a distant city. The result can be an increased emotional and financial burden during what is already a challenging time.

The family of Gary Freischmidt from DePere, Wisconsin is one such family. His wife, Rose, and her family arrived at Kathy's House to be near Gary to support him during his recovery from cancer surgery. The family was directed to Kathy's House through their doctor's office at Froedtert Hospital and is very happy for the recommendation.

Kathy's House is trying to make this difficult situation easier for the patients and their families by offering comfortable, affordable, and safe accommodations near the hospital.

Gary's daughter, Sarah, related that "Kathy's House feels like home. It's comfortable and there are plenty of toys and activities for my three year old daughter, Ellie, to keep her occupied."



Ellie enjoying the horse in the lobby at Kathy's House.

But Kathy's House is more than just a place to stay. It's a place that provides a home-like nurturing environment, so patients and their families can get support from others going through a similar experience.

Sarah also noted "everyone was friendly and very willing to help. The House is exceptionally clean", she observed. And the proximity to Froedtert Hospital made it especially convenient.

A patient's recovery involves much more than medical care. It involves hope, caring, and family support.

Kathy's House offers the warmth and security of home in a setting where love and encouragement from others enlighten and inspire guests. At Kathy's House, guests support each other, build life-affirming connections and lifetime friendships.

As a side note, Sarah's sister-in-law (her husband Dave's sister) delivered a new baby at Children's Hospital while the family was staying at Kathy's House. Everyone, mom, baby and grandpa are all doing well.

Fifty Marvelous Years

Jan and Glen Van Fossen recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with friends and family at North Shore Country Club in Mequon. A delightful photo extravaganza showcased their life together. Comments were made about the young Glen looking like a typical "nerd" but it was only the dark rimmed glasses that we all wore back then.

They have been volunteers of Kathy's House since it's opening. They have worked extremely hard to help ensure our success. Glen currently serves as board chairman and uses his considerable energy to help whenever needed.

The couple requested donations to Kathy's House in lieu of gifts. Kathy's House has received over four thousand dollars from this generous request.

We thank Jan and Glen and wish them many more years together. And we pray for Jan's complete recovery from her cancer journey. Our love to you both.

Reflections

from our guests and friends

To the fine people who help at Kathy's House.

My name is Jerry H. I stayed a lot of days at Kathy's House when my wife Jean was sick. It was always a nice place to come home to after a day in the hospital with Jean. I want to thank you all for everything.

I'm enclosing a check to use as you wish and in memory of Susan Sipes, MD.

Thanks

Jerry H.

Green Bay, WI

Everyone was very kind and always willing to go the extra mile to make my stay one that felt like home.

Sheila H.

Lakewood, WI

Dana, Julie, Robert & Herb,

We just want to thank you again for letting us be a part of your "wonderful" House for a week. You were so friendly and considerate. It felt like a home not a hotel.

We hope we don't need your services again but if we do I know we're in good hands!!

Rose & Gary F.

DePere, WI

Thank you very much! Kathy's House is a blessing to us all!

Kara M.

Mosinee, WI

Reflections

from our guests and friends

A wonderful facility and place to stay. There are so many emotions running through our minds while having a patient at the hospital - it is great to have a "second home" to come to. Thanks so much!

Nancy W.
Greenville, WI

I appreciated so much to be able to stay close to the hospital. Your kindness meant a lot.

Jeannine H.
Leon, WI

Dear Staff at Kathy's House - especially Herb and Robert,

Thank you sooooo much for your gracious hospitality. I stopped in May 1st with my youngest son, Nathan. My mom was having a heart procedure and we weren't sure if she would need to stay overnight.

Herb graciously extended a tour of the home and Robert gave Nathan a little blue teddy bear.

Thank you for being so Christ-like as angels sent from above! God's richest blessing to all of you and your mission at Kathy's House.

Love,
Chris & Nathan W.
Fond du Lac, WI

Thank you for all that you did for our friend Craig Hughes and his family.

Mabel & Steve V.
Rock Island, IL

Fun Projects Contribute \$\$

At the May meeting of Kathy's Club held at the Chadoir Club House, Jodi Chadoir presented Kathy's House with Red Banks her friends had filled. An amazing total of \$296 in coins was counted and will be utilized for the Support a Family project. (See article on page two.)

A trip to Industrial Recyclers netted a donation of \$260 for the Support a Family project when we cashed in aluminum cans and tabs. Mrs. Bukoski's homeroom class at the Denmark Middle School surpassed their collection of tabs from last year.



A Tub full of Tabs



Red Banks: Small Change makes a Big Difference

Upon returning from the recycling center, a letter containing a check for \$400 was waiting in the mailbox from our ink cartridge and cell phone recycler. Not a bad day for recycling and helping to keep the environment "green."

We continue our efforts of collecting small pieces of metal – coins (Red Banks), aluminum tabs and cans and cell phones. We will have large containers for receiving your beverage cans and arrangements can be made to pickup larger quantities.

Thanks to everyone who has donated or collected recyclables. We appreciate the effort and hope you will continue to support Kathy's House. All proceeds will help fund the Support a Family project.

Volunteers Help In Many Ways

Kathy's House is highly dependent on volunteers to operate our hospitality house. We could never accomplish everything without volunteers. In the course of a month, volunteers devote hundreds of hours to the mission. The bottom line is that we are able to help many families because of our volunteer force.

The volunteers prepare meals, bake treats, clean, organize fundraising events, contact donors, spread the message about Kathy's House, transport guests, garden, maintain the computers and much much more.

If you have a desire to help, please contact Kathy's house at 414-453-8290 to obtain details about our volunteer program. We try to customize each opportunity to fit your goals and objectives and our needs. Call today!



A team of chefs from GE HealthCare Technologies prepared a wonderful meal for Kathy's House

"Volunteering is Good for the Soul!"
- unknown

AXA Day of Service at Kathy's House

Dear Mr. Ayres,

Under separate cover you will receive a check from the AXA Foundation in support of Kathy's House, and our involvement in AXA Day of Service – 2008, our national volunteer program.

AXA Day of Service is part of a global initiative that seeks to highlight and celebrate the community commitment and ongoing volunteerism of AXA people worldwide.

AXA volunteers across the country bring energy, commitment, and caring to the communities where they live and work. AXA Day of Service – 2008 is a special opportunity for AXA people to focus on giving back by partnering with organizations such as yours.

The AXA foundation is proud to add our financial support to our AXA colleagues' generous gift of time and dedication.

Sincerely,
Ines Morales
Project Manager



AXA volunteers from the Milwaukee office planted shade-loving plants and renovated the kids climbing area at Kathy's House.

A Fourth with a Bang!

In addition to the traditional blazes of fireworks celebrating our country's birth, Kathy's House was honored to dedicate our new kitchen and recognize all the volunteers and the many kitchen donors.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, West Allis, Wisconsin, church members again arrived with picnic baskets of food and quickly set to work firing up the grills to prepare burgers, brats and hot dogs.

The tables were laddened with salads, relishes, chips and the tasty desserts.



Volunteers and guests sharing the picnic on the patio.

New Team Members

Kathy's House welcomes Craig Jorgensen and Gil Nock to the Board of Directors and Dana Hansen as our newest live-in volunteer. We're glad that they have joined our efforts at Kathy's House.

Wish List

Supply Drives

FOOD:

Apr, Aug, Dec
non-perishable food
mixes
soups
canned vegetables
etc.

PAPER:

Jan, May, Sept
paper towels
toilet paper
facial tissue
napkins
office copy paper
trash bags

LAUNDRY:

Feb, Jun, Oct
detergent
bleach
fabric softener
dryer sheets

COFFEE:

Mar, Jul, Nov
coffee - regular and decaf
creamer
sugar substitute
sugar

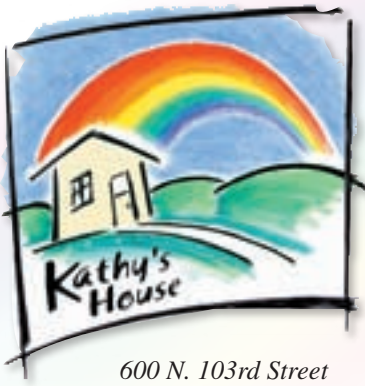
SPECIAL REQUESTS:

(call for details)

over the door towel racks
sturdy laundry baskets
gas cards
pillow covers

Kathy's House, Inc.

is a 501(c)(3) not for
profit organization.
Donations are tax
deductible as
allowed by law.



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
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MILWAUKEE, WI
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Rainbows

INKJET IMPRINT AREA

Upcoming Events

**Lions Corn Roast
at State Fair**
August 6

Annual Garage Sale
August 14, 15, & 16
Kathy's House Garage

LobsterFest
October
tbd

**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.

Red Banks for Kathy's House

Is your Red Bank full? Do you need another? Bring the full banks to Kathy's House or call 414-453-8290 for instructions or to learn more about the Red Banks and how to get one.