



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.

Thanksgiving at Kathy's House



Friends and guests gather for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at Kathy's House

There is no place like home for the holidays. Things happen and one finds themselves at Kathy's House and it becomes your home away from home.

Thanksgiving found sixteen of us, family and friends gathered together. Food was plentiful, with an interesting variety of dishes. Everyone enjoyed the meal. More important, no one was alone for the holiday. We were with friends. All shared thoughts of home and other Thanksgivings. For a while we put aside the reason for being at Kathy's House. All gave thanks for the blessings we have received and friendships made. "For those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on the wings of eagles." Next year may we all be home for the holidays, and give thanks for a special home away from home.
- a guest of Kathy's House

P.S. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare the meal and furnished desserts and other items

Reflections

from our guests and friends

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is a small donation for Kathy's House. I will never forget the kindness shown to me last spring when my husband was a patient at Froedtert.

The staff at Kathy's House, especially Herb, Dick, Julie, and Robert, always lent a sympathetic ear, as well as a cozy home away from home. I don't know what I would have done without you. I'm happy to say that, by the grace of God, Bill has returned to good health.

Lois and Bill P.
Oshkosh, WI

We want to thank you so very much for everything. Kathy's House and the staff is wonderful.

Darlene L.
Clintonville, WI

Wonderful! What an excellent idea.

Donna Galvin
Napa, CA

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Rainbows

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My Observations - Views from a Guest's Perspective

In an early morning hour on October 18th, I was getting ready to go to work. I received a phone call from my Mother that morning, unusual at that time of day. My 79 year old father had suffered a heart attack the night before. They were moving him from our local hospital into St. Luke's heart hospital in Milwaukee. He had a blockage. At St. Luke's they had determined that he had to have surgery to survive. Living so far away from my family left me feeling so helpless. After talking to my husband and sons, we all decided I had to go home to be with my family. I made arrangements to take an early morning flight to Milwaukee the next day.

I live in Santa Fe, New Mexico and work at Los Alamos National Laboratory. It seems like the only time people hear about Los Alamos, is when there is bad press in the news. My primary job is to work on process improvements at the laboratory; my small team was able to demonstrate institutional savings of upwards of \$8 million this past year through better utilization of commodities purchased for the laboratory. Scientists are developing the technology to be able to identify liquids with X-rays so that we will once again be able to take some liquids on airplanes with us. There are teams working on alternative fuels sources, studying bees, there are all sorts of research and science projects. There are many wonderful things happening at Los Alamos that the media does not publish.

While I sat in Santa Fe, waiting for the results of his surgery I asked my sister if there was anything I could do to help. She said, perhaps I could

make arrangements for us to have a place to stay while my Father was in the hospital. She suggested I check with St. Luke's ICU desk about accommodations and also contact this place she had heard about called, "Kathy's House" with a "K". She thought it was similar to the Ronald McDonald house that she and my Mother had stayed at when my niece had surgery for her Cerebral Palsy.

I looked up "Kathy's House" on the web, their web page

"Kathy's House helped us through our challenging time."

<http://www.kathys-house.org/> was very informative, "Home away from Home". I called and a woman named "Julie" answered the phone and immediately made

me feel comfortable. She answered all my questions about their accommodations, their goals to create a home environment while you are caring for a loved one at one of the local hospitals or centers. She explained what I needed to do to make the arrangements and confirm the reservation for our room.

I arrived in Milwaukee on Friday evening after traveling all day from New Mexico. I was taken from the airport to the hospital where I found my Father in ICU. Everyone looked so exhausted. My sister, who had come in from Northern Wisconsin, volunteered to stay at the hospital with my Father that evening. My other sister took my Mother and I over to Kathy's House to spend the night. In the living area, there was a piano and organ. Growing up in a house filled with music, I immediately felt at home. I could tell my mother felt safe.

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Observations - cont.

We had a comfortable nights sleep and went down to the kitchen the next morning for breakfast. We had a delicious breakfast before catching the Kathy's House van back to St. Luke's at 9:00am.

We had made arrangements for the van to pick up my Mother that evening at 4:30 from St. Luke's so she could get some rest. My mother and I rotated between the hospital and Kathy's House and it was so much better than a cold hotel. As the weekend and the following week progressed my father continued to make progress and we made new friends. Other guests of Kathy's House were faced with fears and challenges of their loved ones that were at the hospitals in the area. To be able to share good news, fears and disappointments with others that are experiencing similar circumstances is a wonderful source for building strength

and faith through life's difficult times. "Kathy's House" helped us through our challenging time.

Having returned home to Santa Fe, on the twelfth day following my fathers triple by-pass surgery, I received another call from my Mother. My father had experienced another heart attack and was once again at our local hospital in ICU. They were going to treat him for three days and if they were not successful, he would have to return to St. Luke's for further treatment. I felt comforted that if he had to go back into St. Luke's, my mother would have a safe place to stay to be near to him at "Kathy's House". My family thanks "Kathy's House" for being there for our family.

Patti N.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Passages

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

Mary Bartelme
William "Musky Bill"
Meyers
Kathy Kuettner
Cheryl Ruebesam
Russell Skorik
Richard Baehmann
Gary Van Ess
John Birmingham
Christine Lamers
Dennis Mulzer
Dick Nelson

Rainbow Kitchen Update

Thanks to all who contributed to the support of our new kitchen. Plans and flow patterns are being designed by Norm Peterson. His student volunteers built the sturdy linen cabinet in the office at Kathy's House and his cabinet makers constructed the cabinet addition in the dining room.

We plan to expand into the former television room bar area and increase preparation and storage space. Due to municipal insistence demanding an expensive sprinkler system update in all of the common areas if we expand the present building, we will rearrange the existing kitchen space in lieu of new construction.

The City of Wauwatosa's determination in October that the real estate leased by Kathy's House from the St. Camillus Health Care System would be placed on the tax roles has been shelved. Until this decision is finalized, an expensive expansion is not prudent considering the short time duration of our lease and lack of options to extend the lease or to purchase the facility.

Sketches and a progress report will be included in the spring edition of Rainbows.



Reflections

from our guests and friends

Dear Mr. Vogel,

We appreciated very much the hospitality and shelter offered to our family when our grand daughter was in a serious accident. It was nice to have a house to come back to rest and restore ourselves so we could be at our best to help her.

Know that Kathy's House will always be in our prayers. Thank you for all you do.

Thomas and Laurie G.
Newport News, VA

Kathy's House does meet the need it was intended for. I was truly grateful to have a place to stay so close to the hospital. The staff was extremely helpful and understanding.

Thank you.

Kenneth M.
Green Bay, WI

The occasional free breakfast and dinner was greatly appreciated. Thanks to Robert and Randy.

Sharon K.
Dwight, IL

What a wonderful place. Truly a home away from home. Thank you.

Char S.
Delevan, WI

PS. The transportation was excellent.

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LobsterFest Reprise

Nearly two hundred hungry diners enjoyed the best and biggest lobsters ever seen. They were only matched by prime filets for those who preferred their protein to be grass fed. Thanks to everyone who planned and worked at the event, provided supplies and those who attended the event to make it an overwhelming success. We look forward to another LobsterFest next year.

Staff from the Lewis Rathbun Center, a hospital hospitality house in North Carolina, flew to Milwaukee from Asheville to savor, enjoy and learn from Dan Chaudoir and the Port Washington Kathy's Club about LobsterFest. They returned home and excerpts from their thank you letter follow.

Tuesday 10/30/07

Dear Dick,

We are still raving about our weekend in Milwaukee and the hospitality shown to us by you, Judy, your staff and volunteers. It was such a great experience for the three of us and I want to thank you for all you did to make our trip a success.

Kathy's House is a wonderful home and we were so comfortable during our stay. I know your guests must feel so happy to be able to stay there.

Karen and I left for a week long conference Tuesday and by Friday we were ready to drop. We have so many ideas about how we can make our LobsterFest a successful fundraiser. We will keep you informed as we move along. Thank you for all your sharing about your event. It was so helpful to talk to those who had been doing it over the years.

Take care and congratulations on your outstanding event.

*Warm wishes,
Kay*

We look forward to the next fundraiser planned by Kathy's Club in June. Pirates Fest is scheduled for the first weekend in June 2008 on the Port Washington lakefront. Mark your calendars for June 6, 7 & 8. Plan to attend or offer to help. Details will be in the next newsletter.

Support Kathy's House - Donate through the Website

Kathy's House is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization operating a hospital hospitality house and depends entirely upon the generosity of the community for support and fulfillment of our mission. Donations can be made in person, by mail, or over the phone. We accept cash, checks, MasterCard or VISA.

The newest way to donate to Kathy's House is through www.Justgive.org. This site accepts all major credit cards and funds go directly to Kathy's House. To find the link, go to Kathy's House website, then to How to Help, click on Contributions and find the DONATE NOW box. Or go directly to this address: <http://www.kathys-house.org/help/contributions.asp>.

We participate in Corporate Matching programs and can readily provide any information to facilitate receipt of matching funds from your employer.

Gifts to Kathy's House can be made in memory of a departed loved one or in honor of someone. Special events, such as birthdays and anniversaries, are appropriate for honoring friends and family.

We also accept in-kind donations. See our Wish List or information on the website about In Kind Donations. You may also call 414-453-8290 with questions about donations and contribution.

Holiday Decorating



Honor Society Students
from The Milwaukee School of Languages

Students from the Milwaukee School of Languages Honor Society volunteered to decorate Kathy's House for the holidays as a community outreach project.

And in a wink of an eye and a twist of their heads, they spoke not a word (not really), but went straight to work.

The tree was trimmed, the garlands were strung, the

lights were lit, all the stockings filled and they turned with a jerk.

And laying a finger aside of their noses, and giving a nod, up the chimney they rose (oops). And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

We thank them one and all and wish them the best of the season.

Woman's Club of Wisconsin

The Woman's Club of Wisconsin was founded in 1876 and has become a strong and active force in the community. The mission provides its members with philanthropic, cultural, educational and social activities; is dedicated to the support of and involvement in community service, and is also committed to the preservation of its registered landmark building.



Recently, Kathy's House applied for a grant from the Woman's Club and we were visited by a member selected to evaluate our application and to make a recommendation to their board. The following note was received as a result of a visit to Kathy's House.

Dear Dick,

I so enjoyed my tour of Kathy's House yesterday on behalf of the Woman's Club.

I've been reading the "Rainbows" newsletters which have given me great materials to help us "win" our case before the Grant Allocation Committee in January.

The enormous variety of volunteers and donors shows the care and need Kathy's House has in the community. You share her love in a wonderful way.

*Happy Thanksgiving,
Maj*

Reflections

from our guests and friends

"A hospitality house is like a life insurance policy. You hope you never have to use it, but it is priceless if you do. Hospitality homes create immense value exactly at times when help is needed the most – when families are facing medical emergencies."

From NAHHH President
Larry Hildebrandt

A wonderful place to stay. You make your own hours, meals, and beds allowing for the utmost of flexibility. Note to Robert: thank you for the conversation and good cheer. Good luck to you.

It would be great to upgrade to wireless (computer/internet) – a big help for checking e-mails, looking up patient conditions and keeping private or personal info confidential.

Kristen R.,
De Pere, WI

House note: Anyone have an idea for Kristen?

Everything and everyone were accommodating and convenient.

Thank you.

The R. Family
Green Bay, WI

You know how to treat people. I've never felt more welcome.

Louise H.
Chatham, MI

Room Redecorating Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recycling fundraiser helps beat the budget crunch at Kathy's House.

Kathy's House has been earning cash through a Recycling Program. We collect empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones from the community and send the waste products to a recycler in exchange for cash.

Community groups, business supporters and friends can drop off cartridges and cell phones at Kathy's House, 600 N. 103rd Street, Wauwatosa. If you have a large a quantity, please call to arrange a pick up.

To learn more about supporting Kathy's House please call 414-453-8290.

People will ...

People will forget what you said.
People will forget what you did.
People will never forget how you made them feel.

--Unknown

Is something missing in your life? Maybe you need to reach out and offer a helping hand. One way to do this is to become a volunteer at Kathy's House.

Call for a conversation about how you can help. 414-453-8290

Room Number Sponsor Freshly Painted by Newly Redecorated by		
Room 20 Tehan Family StillWaters UMC StillWaters UMC	Room 30 Shop on the Lake Kathy's Club Kathy's Club	Room 40 Kuehl Family WE Energies Radley & Sweet Families
Room 21 Van Fossen Family New Berlin Lioness New Berlin Lioness	Room 31 Froedtert Hospital US Coast Guard Froedtert Spinal Cord Unit	Room 41 Spooner Family Three Friends from Cedarburg
Room 22 Kailas Family United Way Days of Caring	Room 32 Vogel Family Columbia-St. Marys Clinics Ann Meyer	Room 42 Kiwanis of Tosa Elmbrok Church High School Youth Group
Room 23 Chaudoir Family Rockwell International Jo Shoemaker	Room 33 Wuesthoff Family Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Room 43 Kuich Family WE Energies
Room 24 LaChey Family Northwestern Mutual	Room 34 Petersen Foundation Rockwell International Dawn Petersen Foundation	Room 44 Zilber Family Rockwell International Irene Schelman & Friends
Room 25 Duell Family Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary	Room 35 Ducks Unlimited Sarah Dunkelmann & Friends	Room 45 Blue Cross Blue Shield St. Boniface Church of Mequon

The past 12 months have seen a transformation of our guest rooms from "Early Modern Motel" to elegant, personalized, homey, warm and comfortable guest suites. Each room has been painted and decorated by some of the countries finest interior decorators and we are greatly appreciative of their efforts. Many of the rooms are totally completed but a few still need some minor touches. Thanks to everyone involved, the rooms look really great!

Meals at Kathy's House add to Homey Environment

Our cups (and plates) overflow from the kindness of community groups and friends who have provided easy to reheat dinners for our guests. Returning from a long day at the hospital is brightened when a tasty meal has been prepared and is ready to enjoy.

Perhaps you, your church, or friends would like to take a turn at this most gratifying experience. Call Kathy's House to pick an open date. 414-453-8290

Year End Foundation Grants

Providing temporary residence and support to families who are fiscally challenged due to medical and related expenses is a goal of Kathy's House. Often guests are unable to contribute to help defray house the costs of day to day operations. As the year comes to an end, we have been assisted by the following foundation grants this fall:

Schoenleber Foundation	\$5000
Marjorie Siebert Aylen Foundation	\$5000
Kuehl Family Foundation	\$1500
Ellamae Siebert Foundation	\$5000

In addition to the foundation grants, Kathy's House was elated to receive many donations from friends, former guests, corporations, churches, and service clubs. These donations are greatly appreciated to help support the ongoing mission of Kathy's House. Thank you to all.

Rainbows over Ozaukee

May 3, 2008 will be the date of our major annual fundraiser to be held at the Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon. Event coordinator, Jean Storer, has arranged an excellent venue for "Rainbows over Ozaukee."

Arriving guests will be greeted by courtesy valet to park your car. A trip for two to Seattle and Victoria British Columbia will be awarded for the lucky raffle winner (need not be present to win).

Event team members are hard at work scouring fun and unique auction items for eager bidders. The famous creme brulee dessert will top off Prime Filet Mignon and fresh seasonal vegetables. A new feature will be a \$25 credit for each event attendee who wins an auction item. Cocktails and a silent auction will commence one hour prior to dinner.

A playhouse for special little people will be on display in the parking lot and will be part of the auction frenzy.

Does an inland waterway cruise following a historic tour of Charleston, SC arouse your interest? The cruise includes deluxe cabin accommodations with a balcony and stops to visit the "old south."

These and many other special items await you on May 3rd. Plan to join us.



Wish List

Supply Drives

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

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

SPECIAL REQUESTS:
call for details
office computer printer
Showtime rotisserie
knife set - call for details
commercial pots & pans
heavy duty microwave

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



Rainbows

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
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Member, National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses
www.nahhh.org

Upcoming Events

Annual Event

May 3, 2008
Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon

Pirate Fest

Port Washington
June 6, 7, 8, 2008

Help for 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.

Red Banks for Kathy's House

Is your Red Bank full?
Do you need another?
Do you have one?

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.