2017 Hummingbirds of Hope Campaign

Abraham House is the only comfort care home that exists within the 3 counties of Oneida, Madison, and Herkimer. Between Abraham House and Seigenthaler Center (run by Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc.), only 6 beds are available to serve the needs of the terminally ill from our local communities. Couple that with the need for hospice care increasing due to aging baby boomers, and our services are in growing demand.

Abraham House is interested in expanding to add an additional location to help address this rising need. Rome Mayor Jacqueline Izzo is focused on bringing programs to Rome so that Romans do not need to travel to other communities to access needed services. Rome Memorial Hospital President and CEO David Lundquist is dedicated to providing patients with continuum of care to address their individual healthcare needs. Working together, we believe Abraham House Rome could be a reality in 2 years.

To establish, open, and operate an additional home successfully requires funding. Therefore, we are launching a 2017 campaign entitled “Hummingbirds of Hope” in order to raise seed money specifically for a Rome location. We are seeking the support of local businesses willing to partner with us and offer their customers the opportunity to help out by purchasing one of our “Hummingbirds of Hope” for a donation of $1.00 or more. (article continued on page 2)
2017 Hummingbirds of Hope Campaign cont’d

Purchased hummingbirds can then be displayed (with the purchaser’s name) in the participating business. Anyone who donates $25.00 or more would also receive an Abraham House mug as a token of our appreciation. Similar campaigns have raised millions for children’s hospitals and medical research. Our goal is to raise $500,000 to enable us to purchase a home (or renovate a donated home) in order to suit our care needs, furnish the home, hire caregivers, recruit volunteers, and have a cushion available for operating expenses.

We know our care model works and provides a valuable once in a lifetime service to our guests and families. Don’t you agree that anyone facing terminal illness deserves to spend their final days receiving quality care within a loving home environment? If you are willing to join us in this venture, please call Gina Ciaccia, Executive Director, at (315) 733-8210 or contact her via email at gciaccia@theabrahamhouse.org.

OPENING SPRING OF 2017!!!!

We are excited to announce that we plan to open The Bird’s Nest Vintage Boutique in a few months. The boutique will be located at 102 Eagle Street in our annexed building that was formerly Dr. A.L. Shaheen’s office. This fundraising venture is a wonderful opportunity to repurpose a vacant building and also create a revenue stream for Abraham House.

Keep us in mind as you are spring cleaning! We will be making appointments to accept the following “gently used” items:

- media items - books, Cds, movies
- home décor items - paintings, sconces, baskets, figurines, pictures
- small furniture - end tables, chairs, plant stands, bookcases
- personal items - jewelry, purses, belts, sunglasses, etc.
- housewares - dishes, glassware, small kitchen appliances, vases
- electrical items - working CD players, DVD players, flat screen televisions
- household textiles - curtains, table runners, doilies, NEW bedding only
- holiday items - Christmas ornaments, trees, Halloween decorations, etc.
- children’s items - books, toys, and select baby items

Please note:

- Clothing and shoes will ONLY be accepted in NEW condition with tags still attached!!
- Larger furniture (couches, dining sets, bedroom sets, dressers, etc.) will be sold through photos in store and online as display space is limited.
- According to the CPSC guidelines, we cannot sell pre-owned cribs or car seats, bean bag chairs, halogen lamps, hairdryers, bunk beds, toys with magnets, unsafe nursery items, etc.
In the past year and a half as the Executive Director of Abraham House, I have witnessed many guests transition through their final days. Nothing has taught me more about living life than the way they have lived their deaths.

“Living death” may seem like the ultimate oxymoron. It is, in fact, the pinnacle of living. At no time in one’s life is the sacredness of compassion, dignity, time, or kindness more evident than when life itself is limited. Ironically, never is one’s spirit brighter than when their time is diminishing.

Our guests have a heightened appreciation for the simple things in life: a smile, hand holding, music, storytelling, a cup of coffee or tea, laughter. They do not intentionally impart their wisdom. It is something that happens in the way they conduct themselves. They tolerate their pain without complaint. They are gracious, polite, and thankful. They listen more than they talk. They focus intently on their loved ones. They acknowledge their shortcomings.

Through the deaths of our guests, I continue to understand what’s most important in life. These amazing people, bravely facing the unknown with integrity, honor, and grace are the greatest teachers I’ve ever known.

Each and every guest is valuable, precious and unique. I do not know what each of them has given the world, but I do know that each of them gives me an increased desire to live each moment to the fullest. They help me appreciate the kindness of others. They allow me to forgive myself when I make mistakes. They instill in me a hope and commitment to use my life the best I can.

How grateful I am.

Welcome New Caregivers and Volunteers!

What do YOU do to give back to the community?

Have you been wanting to help out but you’re not sure where you could fit in?

Consider Abraham House! We are most in need of volunteer caregivers, but we are also looking for volunteers to:

- Be buddies and provide social support in the House
- Assist with fundraising efforts by serving on planning committees, soliciting donations, running events, etc.
- Provide guest services such as haircuts, manicures, pedicures, massages, etc.
- Bring their clean, healthy, loving pets to visit our guests
- Run workplace donation drives, wish list collections, or bottle drives
- Help out in our vintage boutique thrift shop scheduled to open this spring
- Paint the interior of our annex building
- Assist with landscaping, planting and maintaining flowers, and lawn care

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

- Mohammad Ali
MY SUMMER AT ABRAHAM HOUSE
by Meagan Herlihy

Last summer, I completed a 10 week internship with the Abraham House through the Upstate Institute at Colgate University. Born and raised on Long Island, I’m a senior majoring in molecular biology with aspirations to attend medical school. During the school year, I’m also a part time nursery school teacher, student athletic trainer for the Men’s Varsity Soccer team, and volunteer EMT with two local agencies. When offered a position with the Upstate Institute, they precisely matched my capabilities to a deserving organization. With my background in emergency medicine, interests in the medical field, and the comfort I have with death, Abraham House was a perfect niche.

During my time at the House, I was able to compile years of medical records into a database in order to manipulate the information. This statistical analysis of guest demographics, diagnosis, donation profiles, and length of care yielded numerical evidence in support of the good done in the community and the demand for Abraham House to serve more guests and their families. I’ve not only gained valuable knowledge and technical skills to assist me in an office position or non-profit work, but have made unbelievable human connections. The Abraham House staff members are kind, supportive and nurturing. Even when the basis of my work left me tied to a computer, the caregivers and volunteers never forgot to ask about my day or wish me a safe trip home. Abraham House fosters a supportive environment not only in their care for the terminally ill, but within the staff and volunteers, a family built on altruism and volunteerism.

When I mention I work in a comfort care home, people are taken aback; few youth are involved in palliative care. From my experience however, I voice the importance of what Abraham House does for the dying population. I describe how conversations involving death are often avoided, even though inevitable. We as a society are uncomfortable with death and our own immortality affecting the discourse around terminally ill patients of all ages. My work at Abraham House has allowed me to open up this discussion on death with the people in my program and my generation.

I’m excited to continue relations with Abraham House through volunteering and support. I extend the warmest thanks to the staff and volunteers of Abraham House for making my experience one of a kind. Abraham House is truly a home.

Meagan Herlihy, Colgate University Senior, and Missy Biamonte, Abraham House Office Manager, are glammed up to work the door then dine and dance the night away at the Abraham House Gala.
IN MEMORY...

We fondly remember our guests from 2016. Abraham House appreciates being chosen to share such an intimate time. We are honored to have provided a safe haven and caregiving within our loving home.

Henry Zebrowski
Gloria Bean
Ellis "Lee" Shuford
Anthony "Chuck" Busciglio
Anthony Kwansniewski
Steven Andrecheck
Daniel Leguelaff
Carl F. Couchman
Gerald Pine
Jennifer Chatmon
Joseph George
Harry Mandeville

June Fletcher
Michael Kelly
Alice Gigliotti
Nancy Simbari
Carol Gilbert
Wesley VanNort
Sharon McEwen
Linda Harris
Bernard Schwiler
Ross Tarbox
Mary C. Landers
Margaret Kelley

Marion Jabour
Joseph Valenti
Edith James
Olga Melnyk
Barbra Knight
Kathleen Gaffney
Frank Powers
John Rumbutis
Edith Pilla
Maureen Regan
Lynn Fisher
Earl Brown

LOOKING BACK...

Howard Peters, the father of one of our current volunteers, Tom Peters, was one of Abraham House’s very first volunteers. Tom recently found these stories written in his father’s journal:

Memories of Abraham House

There is a spiritual part of Abraham House that love occurs from the volunteer to the guest. Sometimes it occurs from guest to guest. John knew that Trudy felt bad because she could not color Easter eggs so he took over the project so that Trudy could help do some of the work. She had tears of joy. Trudy sent Easter candy down to John’s room she was so grateful for his help.

Alice’s sisters came each week and sometimes they would cook a roast dinner using the kitchen. They were thankful for their sisters help over the years. When my shift was over, I would always say goodbye to Alice. Then I would add “Now be good to your sisters,” and the sisters would laugh.
Dear Friends of Abraham House,

One of the rewards of preparing an annual report is that it gives us the opportunity to reflect on our past accomplishments as we continue to make progress towards future goals.

Our highlights for 2016 include:
- Increased fundraising profits 42% from 2015
- Covered 55% of our annual expenses with donations and another 44% through fundraising profits
- Focused on building awareness via social media and networking
- Explored endeavors for future expansion in regards to both availability of care locations and generation of sustainable income streams
- Reviewed our Strategic Plan and assessed future goals and objectives

Gina Ciaccia
Executive Director

2016 GRANTS
Colgate Summer Institute Fellow - 10 week summer internship program
Excelsus BlueCross BlueShield - $3,510 Community Health Award
Bonide Foundation - $1,000 grant award
Presbytery of Utica - $500
Community Foundation - $1,500 Capacity Building Grant

A Welcoming Home for the Terminally Ill
1203 Kemble Street, Utica, NY 13501
www.TheAbrahamHouse.org
Family, Finances, Fundraisers & Facts

INCOME

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<th>MD</th>
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<td>AA</td>
<td>ANNUAL APPEAL</td>
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| GA | GALA |
| MM | MEATBALL MADNESS |
| OF | OTHER FUNDRAISERS |
| GS | GRANTS |
| BS | BEQUESTS |

**TOTAL INCOME**

$297,386

Donations: $153,260
Fundraising: $122,959
Grants: $6,010
Bequests: $15,157

FUNDRAISING PROFITS (after expenses):
- 9th Annual Gala: $36,600
- Holiday Letter Annual Appeal: $27,652
- Meatball Madness: $23,621
- Newsletter Donations: $6,548
- Donation Boxes and Other Efforts: $5,901

EXPENSES

Our 2016 average cost per guest per day was $464. While donations are encouraged and appreciated, Abraham House never bills our guests or families nor do we collect insurance reimbursements. Donations, fundraisers, & small grants sustain us.

% of ANNUAL EXPENSES:
- Program and Services: 63%
- Fundraising: 21%
- Administration: 16%

**2016 TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES:** $277,424

OUR FAMILY:

Please call (315) 733-8210 if interested in volunteering in any of the following areas:

- **Caregivers:**
  Based on the model of a family caring for their loved one at home, our surrogate caregivers provide 24 hour care to our guests as well as social and emotional support for our families.
  We have a mixture of per diem and volunteer caregivers.

- **Buddies:**
  Our buddies are volunteers who assist caregivers and have direct interaction with both guests and families.

- **Community Volunteers:**
  We have a team of over 50 volunteers who support Abraham House throughout the year with fundraising, house-cleaning, maintenance, and guest services.

**Abraham House Board of Directors:**

Aricca Arcuri, Maria Alberico-Brindisi, Judy Galimo, Vin Gilroy, Geoff Henderson, Anthony LaPolla, Roger Moore, MD., Ron Paradis, Joyce Rossi, Al Shaw, Don Shipman, Carol Szatko, Vicki Vomer

Abraham House is tax-exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
2016 “View of Hope” Gala Event

Our Gala, always held the first Friday in November, continues to be a highly attended premier event. We drew our largest number of attendees yet and the evening resulted in our largest profits to date for any fundraising event in Abraham House history. This is due to the efforts of our Gala Committee chaired by Judy Galimo. Her dedication to this event and our organization shows in the details and the passion with which she represents Abraham House...and who can forget that stunning red dress?!?

A VERY special THANK YOU to our 2016 Gala Committee:
Judy Galimo, Gala Chair / Abraham House Board Member
• Allene LaBella • Colette Zawada • Gail Manfredo • Danielle Padula • Rosemary Talarico • Vicki Vomer • Denise Flihan • Cindy Roefaro • Kelly Parsons • Julian Galimo • Dena Gorea • Kelhi Giarusso • Maria Brindisi • Lenora Murad • Cindy Reed • Sean Farrell • Kim Todd •

Last Left once again donated their time and talents playing to a packed house. Thank you!!
TO OUR MANY SPONSORS...YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ALLOWS OUR SERVICES TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU!!!

PREMIER SPONSOR:

STUNNING VIEW SPONSORS:

BUBBLY BAR SPONSOR:

DELECTABLE DELIGHTS SPONSOR:

BEAUTIFUL LIFE SPONSORS:

Breath of Hope Sponsors:

Newman Community of Utica College and SUNY Polytech
Patricia & James Salerno

Ray of Light Sponsors:
- Adjusters International
- Basloe, Levin and Cuccaro, Ltd.
- Adorino Construction Inc.
- Anthony and Lenora Murad in memory of Mary Steet
- Athari & Associates, LLC.
- Black River Systems Company
- Birnie Bus Service Inc.
- Burrows Paper Corporation
- Caruso Orthodontics
- Caruso McLean Investment Advisors
- Cooley Group/Jeana Nicotera
- Daughter For Hire, LLC
- Dave Scharf, Morgan Stanley
- Dental Arts Office
- Dr. and Mrs. Fred Talarico
- Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
- F & P Distributors
- “Herb” Philipson’s
- Jay K Lumber
- Jessie Verna
- Joseph Corr PBA
- Liuna Laborers Local 35
- Louis Aiello
- McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors
- McQuade & Bannigan
- N.J. Flihan & Company Inc.
- Paradigm Consulting, Inc.
- Parkway Drugs
- Paul’s Provisions, Inc.
- Raouf Kodsy, Phy PC
- Rick Wilson
- Scala & Rosfaro Funeral Home Inc.
- Vincents Heating & Fuel Service

In-kind Sponsors:

The “Click” Photography
Coriale Flowers
Testimonials

What our families are saying....

“They took care of her as if she was their mother, with love and they showed me the same love and care.”

The care and kindness Cindy received was way beyond what I expected. I am thankful she was allowed to keep her dignity until the end of her life.”
- Gary, husband of Guest

“Understanding of our family dynamic without being judgmental. We as the family felt cared for as well as caring for our mother.”

“Caring staff and an institutional ethic that understands the burden on a family. Abraham House was a godsend to me!”

“What a wonderful service for people and families at a time so few of us prepare for. Special people special place.”

“We didn’t know what to expect but knew we didn’t want our mother to die in a nursing home. Abraham House gave us a wonderful alternative to home.”

“The care was phenomenal; the kindness and compassion was exceptional.”

“We are most appreciative of the continuing care and interest in our well being.”
Grants & Gifts:

- **David and Janet Griffith Charitable Lead Trust** for program support
- **Indium Corporation/Macartney Family Foundation** $13,000 for program support
- **Colgate University’s Konosioni Senior Honor Society through Madison County Gives** $5,000 for program support
- **Excellus BlueCross BlueShield** $3,510 for volunteer recruitment and training supplies
- **Community Foundation** $1,500 for technology
- **Presbytery of Utica** $1,500 for Guest Services
- **Bonide Products Inc.** $1,000 for program support
Abraham House has been serving the needs of the terminally ill free of charge since 1998. Operating in the former family residence of Dr. A. L. Shaheen, our model of care is based on that of a family caring for their loved one. We provide a safe haven by offering a secure, and loving home environment.

Abraham House is the only comfort care home within 3 counties. We offer 24 hour a day hospice care. Our door is always open and families of our guests are encouraged to use our house as if it is their home.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please notify us!