EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
GINA CIACCIA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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The Bird’s Nest Vintage Boutique is NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!

Located at 102 Eagle Street, this fundraising venture was designed to create a revenue stream for Abraham House. Since we do not charge guests or families for our services, this store helps generate support to ensure that we can continue in our mission to provide care for the terminally ill.

Appointments preferred, but we are open Tuesdays from 10 am - 4 pm to accept “gently used” donations:
- home décor & housewares - paintings, candles, mirrors, baskets, figurines, appliances, glassware
- small furniture - end tables, chairs, plant stands, bookcases, lamps, dressers, desks
- personal items - jewelry, purses, belts, sunglasses, etc. NEW bedding only
- clothing and shoes - unworn with tags attached only!!
- electrical items - working CD players, DVD players, flat screen televisions
- large furniture - send us photos and we will sell via an online marketplace

According to 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.

Cosmetic improvements to this building, which served as Dr. A.L. Shaheen’s office for multiple decades, were made by the Dillon and Regan families in memory of Maureen Regan who was a guest with us this past December in appreciation of the care and attention she was given at the Abraham House.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

View of Hope Gala
Historic Union Station
Friday, November 3rd
7:00pm-10:00pm
Music by Last Left! Premium Open Bar! Cuisine by Trackside Restaurant!

MISSION STATEMENT:
Abraham House offers our guests a secure, loving home without charge while providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to the terminally ill.

FALL 2017
Dying is still alive! 
We pride ourselves on making every second count and providing our guests with services to maintain a high quality of life:

- Any hour is a visiting hour
- Music therapy
- Pet therapy
- Haircuts and shaves
- Reiki
- Massage
- Favorite foods
- Companionship

We love to show off our beautiful home. If you are interested in visiting, call (315) 733-8210 to schedule a visit.

Abraham House Rome Update

At her state of the union address, Rome Mayor Jacqueline Izzo announced, “We next identified end of life care as being a significant healthcare service gap in our City. We met the middle of last year with Gina Ciaccia of Abraham House to explore the possibility of bringing a second Abraham House to Rome. Gina enthusiastically supported the idea of a second Abraham House and the process began immediately to reach out to Rome Memorial Hospital who is fully on board, and then our community stakeholders to gauge interest in a project like this for Rome. I am very happy to announce today that, although the Rome Home no longer has the funding to remain an active adult home, the Board has graciously offered their facility to Abraham House for a community care facility which will service patients and families who do not have the resources at home for a loved one who is at the end of life, but will benefit by Abraham House Rome who will provide end of life care in a home environment for patients and families at the former Rome Home.”

A timeline has been established and we believe Abraham House Rome could be a reality in 2 years opening by Spring of 2019. To establish, open, and operate an additional home successfully requires funding. We launched a 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 any size. Please call 315-733-8210 if your business would be willing to join the 22 locations already running this campaign for us.

Thank you to the following companies for their contributions to our kitchen remodel!!

- Marand Builders & Renovators, LLC
- Barnes Bluestone Countertops
- Meelan’s Carpet One
- Morehouse Appliances
- Sexton Painting
- James Potrzeba Plumbing
- US Mail Electric Inc.
- Vetere Designs

Sexton Painting
Barbara Ryczek was one of the first caregivers I met when I arrived at Abraham House. Old school from Polish descent, Barb was very proud, hard working, and principled. She was the only staff member who wore a hospital gown over her clothes and she always had her lipstick on along with a fabulous pair of earrings. She was kind to me but guarded as if sizing me up as she had seen many Executive Directors come and go during her tenure at the house and she was understandably skeptical regarding my intentions and competency running her beloved Abraham House.

On Boss’s Day (3 months after I began) Barb sent me a card. Cards were very important to her as she was of a generation where choosing the perfect card with the perfect words was essential. The card read “You’re so nice to work for. You know how to make people proud of their work...you know how to give direction in a fair and easy way...and you know how to inspire people in good times and in hard times.” Beautiful sentiments but what meant the most in that card was that she had inscribed “Just to let you know I’m speaking for all of us!” That card hangs now and always on my bulletin board as a reminder that trust and respect must be earned.

Barb Ryczek requested a temporary leave in January of 2017 to tend to some health issues. While she appeared to be healing and regaining some strength, she died somewhat unexpectedly but peacefully on May 4th.

Carolyn Pendleton was another longtime Abraham House staff member. From the moment I met her I was admittedly a bit intimidated. She was very much in charge and exuded a tough persona. Opinionated and vocal, she let everyone know exactly what she thought at all times. I would go downstairs to visit with her when she came to work. She complained about the cupboards being disorganized and the windows needing cleaning. She was upset that the lawnmower she and her husband bought sits under the back porch every winter getting ruined by the elements. I just listened and took note. Months later we were able to purchase a shed. I proudly brought her into the backyard and showed her the shed built to house the lawnmower. She quipped that it was too tall and blocked sunlight from the yard and I smiled and gave her big hug...as this was just her way.

Carolyn Pendleton walked into my office last November and told me her cancer was back. She arrived at Abraham House for the final time in January, choosing to spend her final days in the home where she had spent 7 years caring for others. It was our turn to give back to her, and she died on February 11th surrounded by her Abraham House family as well as her husband, children, and grandchildren.

While the losses we’ve suffered this year have been significant, meaningful relationships are at the core of life and everyone put into our path has a gift to offer us. Barb and Carolyn were so different but they each added something unique and beautiful to our house. Barb brought motherly love, companionship, knowledge, humor, wisdom, and unending compassion while Carolyn contributed sensibility, organization, honesty, efficiency, sarcasm, and unending dedication.

As an Abraham House family, we thank and honor both of these amazing women for leaving an indelible impression upon our home and in the lives of the hundreds of guests and families they served with excellence and love. While their absence is undeniable, I know their spirits remain here in this home which they both loved so much.
MY SUMMER AT ABRAHAM HOUSE
by Zakaria Chakrani

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with the Abraham House. My project was to develop the Abraham House’s website and manage their various social media platforms. The finished website allows Abraham House to increase their community outreach, gain community support, but most importantly, it allows families to learn about their hospice care services. The Abraham House is supported by national, local, and family foundations, in addition to businesses and individual donors. I developed a donation page on the website to streamline the process to provide an easy and convenient way for people to donate, while simultaneously advertising ways individuals can get involved by volunteering.

The second half of my internship consisted of helping the organization set up a vintage boutique known as The Bird’s Nest. In an effort to diversify revenue, the Abraham House converted their unused property space, generously donated by Dr. And Mrs. A. L. Shaheen, into the Bird’s Nest which is filled with donations in excellent condition and sold at affordable prices. The funds raised from The Bird’s Nest help diversify revenue and create a sustainable source of income in hopes of achieving future endeavors.

This opportunity has not only exposed me to the diverse community of Utica, but has allowed me to help serve the community. As a molecular biology major and pre-med student, my work at Abraham House has pushed me outside of my comfort zone. I’ve gained the skills necessary to develop a website, manage social media platforms to solidify the public image of Abraham House, and gain insight in strategies to diversify revenue, while simultaneously learning the ins and outs of nonprofits.

I’ve been fortunate enough to experience a different side of healthcare, more intimate and community based in comparison to large hospitals and healthcare networks, as well as the administrative side of the organization which allows it to continually serve its community. My experience has been memorable and hopefully my work will continue to benefit Abraham House after my internship is over.

Zakaria Chakrani, Colgate University Senior, in front of Abraham House during his summer internship. Check out the new and improved website he designed for us at www.theabrahamhouse.org
Welcome New House Caregivers and Volunteers!

VOLUNTEERS: THE ♥ OF ALL WE DO!
GRACE MARTIN
FELICIA KLEIN
IAN POTTS
SHARON SMITH

VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS:

Tori Barone
Lisa Dillon
Thalia Wright Perkins
Marjorie Weaver

NEW STAFF:
Yanique Forsythe
Kham Sourakakone
Alex Sourakakone
Kourtney Bolton
Kalynn Kiley

“ONLY A LIFE LIVED IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS IS WORTH LIVING.”
- Albert Einstein

What gift can you offer someone else?
- Caregiving
- Be a buddy 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 your clean, healthy, loving pets to visit our guests
- Hold workplace donation drives, wish list collections, or bottle drives
- Help run our vintage boutique thrift shop
- Assist with landscaping, planting and maintaining flowers, and lawn care
- Offer your painting services

CALL ABRAHAM HOUSE TODAY TO VOLUNTEER!!!!!
315-733-8210

THANK YOU TO OUR BIRDS NEST VINTAGE BOUTIQUE VOLUNTEERS!!!

Teresa Blank
Rosann Graziano
Norma Gemza
Sharon Smith
Felicia Klein
Lillian Mody
Lauretta Taurisano
Anne Dunn
Jan Rumbutis
Theresa Collicco
Teresa Spiridiglozzi

Volunteer Teresa Spiridiglozzi is all smiles while working at The Bird’s Nest!!
2016 March Meatball MADNESS!!

Our Meatball Madness event, held in March each year, continues to be a highly successful well attended fundraising event. After outgrowing several local hotels, this year’s venue was the Tom Clark Gymnasium at Utica College. This space gave us ample room for the event and a setup that allowed all attendees space to sit or a place to watch the meatball eating contests. Putting on an event this large requires the efforts of a great team, the participation of local businesses, and community attendance. Thank you to all who had a role in making this year’s event a success once again!!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to our 2016 Meatball Madness Committee:
Joe Aiello • Andrea Barbato • Martin Ciaccia • Paul Colburn • Irene D’Onofrio
Jackie Faga • Judy Galimo • Julian Galimo • Beth Guzski • Sharon Longo
Gina Pristera • MarieAngela Spataro • Kim Todd • Carol Trinco • Vicki Vomer
Arianna Westfall • Colette Zawada

Thank you to Joe LaPaglia who once again donated his time and talents for this event!

Thank you to Krista Pristera aka “Spicy the Meatball!!”
Thank you to our 2017 participants and their 18,900 meatballs!

AMBASSADOR RESTAURANT  Ancora
AQUA VINO RESTAURANT  BBG’s
Café Canole  Carmella’s Café
Charlie’s Pizza  Chesterfields Restaurant
Court Vue Luncheonette  Gerbers Tavern
Joey’s Restaurant  Kitlas
LaFamiglia Bossone  Lukin’s Brick Oven Pizza
Old School  Ricks Place
Savoy Restaurant  Swift’s Restaurant
Tony’s Pizza Wash. Mills  Village Pub

Memorial Meatball prepared by:
Dino’s Sausage & Meats

Congratulations to this year’s winners!!

Most Creative: Tony’s Pizza Washington Mills
People’s Choice Best of the Best: LaFamiglia Bossone
Judge’s Choice Best of the Best: LaFamiglia Bossone

Just Like Grandma’s: Old School
Favorite Original: Courtvue Luncheonette

Thank you for your photography services!!!! (315) 797-5053

Stephanie Lynn Photography
Abraham House: Fall 2017
MEATBALL EATING CONTEST!!

Max Cohen, of Meyda Tiffany, beat out competitors to win the Meatball Eating Contest by consuming 24 meatballs in 2 minutes.

In the Battle of the Bars round, Paul Calogero took the prize home for Café CaNole eating 23 meatballs in 2 minutes.

Thank you to our “Local Celebrity Judges!”

BRAD VIVACQUA - TWC Morning Reporter
FATHER CESTA - ST. MARY MT CARMEL
DAVE ZIMPANO - ESTATE PLANNING LAW CTR
BILLY SCZERBA - ARTIST ULTA I IT COSMETICS
FATHER FARIS - ST. LOUIS GONZAGA
SCOTT GRATES - STATE FARM AGENCY ILION
ARICCA ARCURI - ADIRONDACK BANK
DEREK CLARK - BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE
RICK GREEN - PJ GREEN
JASON ALLEN - OWNER/OPERATOR BITE BAKERY
STEVE BULGER - EXEC DIRECTOR KIDS ONEIDA
GERALD CAPRARO - CAPRARO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
ADAM LAWLESS - MPW MARKETING

Thank you to CR Images for the photo booth!!!
(315) 527-8874

THANK YOU TO OUR “LOCAL CELEBRITY JUDGES!”

STOCK MEATBALL SPONSORS:

Adorino Construction  Frank Basile, CPA
Bremer’s Liquor  Korin Carville, DDS
Central Paving  CNY Creative Concepts
Dr. John Giovannone  Herb Philipsons
Eannace Funeral Home  Friends of Rob Palmieri
Northern Safety  Utica Signs & Graphics
Geneseo Orthopedics  The Dental Office
Steve and Beth Guzski  NYS Police Investigators
Gigliotti Siegfried & Assoc.  Surgical Associates of Utica
James Giruzzi, Livestock  Tom & Carol Trinco
Ralph and Jackie Faga  David and Joan Lansing
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Giovinozzo  New Hartford Chiropractic
Richard and Judy Smith  

BRONZE MEATBALL SPONSORS:

Soothing Touch Laser Hair Removal  CNY Construction
Adirondack Equipment  Nimey’s Auto
Vincent Pristera (In memory of Marie Pristera) D’Agostino Group
Kevin Fahy Kitchens  Nancy Eannace
Marr-Logg Restaurant  Parkinson & Associates
Danielle and Ryan McEwen  Engler Electric

RAFFLE GIFT CERTIFICATES & DONATIONS:

Charlie’s Whitesboro  Meyda Tiffany
Little Italy Imports  Franco’s Whitesboro
Pittsburgh Steelers Office  NY Giants
Maria’s Pasta Shoppe  Little Roma’s Pizza
Utica Coffee  Comprehensive Dentistry
Prop’s Inn  Harley Davidson
Danelle’s @ Valley View  Café Del Buono
Stephanie Lynn Photography  Marie Angela Spataro
Theresa Costanza, Park Lane  Waterfront Grille
The Willow’s  Hummel’s Office Plus
Rita Aid  Trackside Restaurant
Security  Wilcoir International
Casa Imports  

IN KIND & SERVICE DONATIONS:

Joseph Flhan, Co.  CR Images
Rosa’s  NY Dough Co.
Salvatore’s Italian Bakery  Casa Imports
Holland Farm’s  BOCES Food Service
CNY Apparel  Friendly Bake Shop
Jeana Nicotera, Cooley Group  Florentine Bakery

Thank you to CR Images for the photo booth!!!
(315) 527-8874
St. Louis MYA hosts Social Hour to benefit Abraham House

On Monday, June 19th, the Maronite Young Adults from St. Louis Gonzaga Church hosted a sold-out Summer Social Hour to benefit Abraham House. Attendees enjoyed delicious food and drinks at Aqua Vino along with the musical stylings of PoorTim.

Huge thanks to Zach Lewis and Melissa Ziena for planning and co-hosting this spectacular event!! A total of $4,500 was raised as a result of their efforts and the financial support of all involved.

UNIQUE WAYS YOU CAN HELP....

Join our monthly donors!!!! A small monthly donation is a huge help to a local non-profit like Abraham House. Just $5, $10, or $20 per month makes a big difference!! Contact us to inquire about scheduling a monthly gift.

Drop off your bottle returns at Stash’s Hit n Run, 917 Oriskany Street West, Utica...just tell them to put the money towards the Abraham House’s account!!!

Consider naming Abraham House as beneficiary of a life insurance policy so that your gift can make a difference to others long after you’re gone...

Hold a workplace dress down day or donation drive to support the Abraham House!!! Include us in your holiday giving!!
Donations to our Abraham House Rome Fund via Hummingbirds of Hope Campaign:

- Gerald McDonald
- Shirley Finley
- Rome Memorial Hospital
- Antoinette Belmont
- Baum’s Castorine Co., Inc.
- Nunn’s Hospital Medical Equipment
- Mr. and Mrs. Chico Pendrak
- Lisa Mennig
- Utica First Insurance Co.
- M. J. Gaetano
- Rome Rotary
- NBT Bank
- Rome Medical Group
- Madeleine and Renae Rokicki
- Adirondack Bank
- Newman Community, Faith in Christ Fellowship Church, Cortese Family, and Estate Planning Law Center
- Tioga Construction
- $2,000 for program support
- Tioga Construction for building improvements to The Bird’s Nest and repointing of the brick exterior of Abraham House
- $3,500 in event tickets
- Distribution Center $2,500 for program support
- Mohawk Valley Lunch Club $2,000 for program support
- Tioga Construction

To contribute to this campaign, hummingbirds may be purchased at select NBT Banks, Rome Teacher’s Federal Credit Union, Rome Community Banks, and Englebert’s Jewelers.
**COMFORT * PEACE * **
**COMPASSION * DIGNITY**

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 hospice care. Our door is always open and families of our guests are encouraged to use our house as if it is their home.