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# sarah's guesthouse

lodging for patients and families

## PILLARS OF HOSPITALITY 2022 ANNUAL APPEAL

Supporting our four pillars of hospitality - Lodging, Transportation, Meals, and Comfort for patients and their families

# “COUNTING MY BLESSINGS”

**My story of Sarah's Guest House, by recent house guest, Henry Wallis Walters, Potsdam, NY**

In today's society, it's hard to find people who care about the emotions and physical well-being of a complete stranger in their midst. Enter David Haas, Director; Kimberly Darling, Guest Relations Manager and Kim Snow, Guest Services & Housekeeping at Sarah's Guest House - a newly encountered blessing in my life.

My wife Nancy Adella [Petrie] Walters and I would have been married 56 years November 20, 2022. Neither of us have been very religious folk, but believed strongly in “Do Unto Others As You Would Have Be Done Unto Yourself.”

Those aforementioned named in paragraph one above, are only the “tip of the iceberg” of the countless volunteers who come periodically to the Sarah's Guest House kitchen and prepare meals for guests' consumption and

nourishment during their stay(s); and others who help with house grounds upkeep as well as decorating the house to make it a cozy and welcoming home.

My wife Nancy and I were fortunate to have been given Sarah's Guest House as a referral by a caseworker at St. Joseph's Hospital and Heart Center (Syracuse, NY) to help us with affordable lodging during her pre-op and admission for surgery in the latter part of June 2022. Traveling all the way from Potsdam, having a place to stay truly allowed Nancy the opportunity for her surgery. Without it, we would never have been able to try.

Unfortunately, Nancy's heart surgery, which was only to be a 4 to 5 day stay in the hospital, turned out to be just short of 5 weeks until her unfortunate passing on August 1, 2022. During my

stays at Sarah's Guest House each Friday through Monday during late June and all of July until August 2 the staff, volunteers and many other house guests were so supportive of my situation. I am certain their situations were just as important to them as mine was to me – and we shared that in common with one another, bonding together in support and genuine understanding.

I was fortunate to make good friends with every guest that arrived or stayed at Sarah's Guest House. For some, I even planned and reheated meals of their selection for both



breakfast and evening dinners. I prided myself with the ability to make good friends at the house.

During my time at the house, I was also joined by my daughter, Tammy, and her husband, William who offered further comfort and

*(continued on Page 3)*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### *In Loving Memory & With Gratitude to Our*

#### **Dick Keough - January 8, 2022**



Our beloved Dick Keough, the loving husband and number one fan of our House Founder, Mary Keough, passed away early on in 2022. Dick was adored by all of us at Sarah's Guest House and was a constant source of quiet and steady support to our staff, volunteers, guests and the house since its founding in 1994.

To those of us at Sarah's Guest House, Dick and Mary

Keough as a couple were truly inspirational. They dedicated themselves and their lives to spreading generosity and goodness to those in need as a team. Perhaps Dr. Sheila Lemke of our Advisory Committee said it best when she said: "Dick and Mary were one."

We are blessed for having known Dick Keough and having his gentle and unassuming presence grace

the house throughout the years. We are comforted to know that he is at peace after what he would often call his "graduation" to heaven and is now looking over us all. We are grateful to Mary Keough for continuing to be a constant source of love and guidance to all of us at the house, despite the profound loss of her beloved husband and life partner.

#### **Ed Keegan - June 17, 2022**

Ed was a volunteer at SGH for nearly 2 decades and would cheerfully deliver baked goods every Tuesday and Saturday morning as a treat for our house guests as he made his rounds from local grocery stores (primarily Wegmans)

who would donate their leftover sweet treats and baked goods to the house. With the abundance of pastries, danish, donuts, and breads - Ed's deliveries were lovingly known as our "Carb Corner" of the kitchen counter and this was a fan favorite and indulgence for all our house guests.

It is impossible to calculate the number of trips and deliveries Ed made throughout the years, but his early morning arrivals were always met with smiles and laughter. We still miss those morning deliveries and coffee with Ed at our kitchen island where his Irish grin would brighten our days!



#### **Dianne Koolakian - July 5, 2022**



Think of any event and you may all remember Dianne's friendliness, enthusiasm, and smile at our annual galas, the two 'Wine & Cheese Open Houses,' "Fall for Sarah's Guest House" event in 2019, the Drive & Drop events, and the 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Event at Embassy Suites last September. She was also the friendly, spunky, and upbeat woman in charge of selling items from our Specialty Shop at last year's (2021) Golf

Tournament with her energetic personality.

Her last hurrah in party planning was to help out the house by opening up *her* beautiful home to host an elegant Ladies Brunch on January 2, 2022 to gather auction item donations for Sarah's Guest House. As a valued member of the 2022 Gala of Giving Committee, she helped with every detail planned for the event – but sadly could only be with us

there in spirit, as she courageously battled her illness. We attribute much of our Gala's success to Dianne's involvement.

Dianne's caring friendship, zest for life, and her passion for helping others has left a positive imprint on Sarah's Guest House and all of us who knew and loved her.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Extraordinary Volunteers Who Passed This Year

#### **Terry Lee Shaler - September 6, 2022**

Terry was not only a personal friend - she was a dedicated volunteer at Sarah's Guest House for the past four years - serving on our Gala Committees and volunteering each year at our "Golf for Our Guests" Tournament where she would typically (and cheerfully) cover our 'Hole in

One' contest when she was not setting up signage and moving things around for us. She did whatever needed to be done, large or small!

Terry was also part of the Christmas/holiday decorating team at SGH for two years where she helped to make the house magical and festive at Christmastime to keep our guests in the holiday spirit.

Terry had a knack for decorating and loved to make things special!

Terry will forever be remembered as that vibrant, fashionable, and fiery redhead who was full of compassion, warmth and joy. Sarah's Guest House owes her our debt of gratitude for all she has done for the house throughout the years.



~ As we celebrate and remember these amazing volunteers who were valued members of the Sarah's Guest House family, we also want to thank and recognize the more than 150 volunteers who continue to make Sarah's Guest House a true home to all the guests who stay with us. We could not survive without them and are grateful for ALL of our kind and compassionate volunteers who help us each and every day. ~

### "COUNTING MY BLESSINGS" *(continued from Page 1)*

encouragement. The stays at SGH became a family affair which aided in my ability to care for Nancy and also to cope with her loss, with both of them right by my side with love. I imagine how much more difficult it would have been to have gone through this crisis alone. Instead, I had my family, other house guests, and the SGH staff hugging me and consoling me the entire way through.

I count my blessings for whoever helped create Sarah's Guest House and the generous and understanding folks who manage and volunteer their time and services to each guest. For two months, SGH

was my proverbial "Second Home." I'm sure that everyone who has ever stayed there or is planning to stay as a guest for however long it may be, will agree their meritorious and unconditional loving atmosphere which is provided to all who come there and stay, even for just one night at Sarah's Guest House, will be "Counting Their Blessings" as I have and continue to always say: "GOD BLESS THIS HOUSE"

It is my hope and prayer that you will extend your support to keep Sarah's Guest House a second home to people, like me, who need it during a

health crisis in their life - a welcoming oasis for the strangers who enter and leave the house as "family." It is so important and a true BLESSING to so many. **Please join me and help keep this beloved house strong by supporting this annual appeal (a donation envelope is enclosed). Your donation will go a long way to help other guests, like me, in their time of need.**

~ Henry Wallis  
Walters





# Celebrating 20K STRONG: Our 20,000 Guest Milestone!

This year, Sarah's Guest House celebrated a gigantic milestone in regards to our service – we surpassed 20,000 guests! This feat occurred in June – 28 years after we first opened in 1994. To honor the occasion, we held a Parking Lot Bash we called **20K STRONG** on June 11 right here at Sarah's Guest House.

We are humbled and proud that Henry & Patti LaCroix, our original house guest (Henry) lovingly by the side of his wife and then patient (Patti) when we first opened in 1994, were the Presenting Sponsor of our 20K STRONG Event.

The couple traveled to visit us in May from Hammond, NY with mother-in-law Merion Sullivan (who also was a first ever house guest!) to present us with a very generous check to sponsor and present the event in honor of 20,000 guests served throughout the years! Henry shared that “once he and Patti learned of this milestone celebration,

they immediately started talking about their plan to sponsor it as a way to thank the house for the impact it had on both of them all those years ago.”

Both Henry and Patti refer to the house as a “Godsend” and praised Henry's comfortable and loving stay at the house as a key part of Patti's ability to recover from leukemia, under the watchful eye and talented care of Dr. Richard Cherny. Now practicing at HOA of CNY, Dr. Cherny is a special part of this wonderful story and milestone anniversary. In his honor, Hematology-Oncology (HOA) of CNY stepped up as a generous Supporting Sponsor of 20K STRONG to join The LaCroix's; and Dr. Cherny himself graciously joined in also as a Supporting Sponsor of the milestone event!

Both the LaCroix's and Dr. Cherny attended the parking lot 20K Strong bash to help us celebrate this anniversary! All attendees were entertained by



*Merion Sullivan, Henry and Patti LaCroix, David Haas,  
Mary Keough & Renee McCaffrey*



*David Haas & Lawrence Jones  
(Executive Director of Harbor House in Rochester, NY)*

*Live entertainment provided by Third Stone*

— — —  
Henry and Patti  
LaCroix  
— — —





music from the band, Third Stone, along with treats provided by Gannon's Isle Ice Cream, Deli Boy hot dogs, River Valley Foods and the Popcorn Supply Company.

The 20K Strong event kicked-off a ten-day long campaign which raised over \$18,000 to honor this remarkable milestone. Our thanks to all who participated and supported us and, of course, to the 20,000+ guests who have graced the house throughout the years!

# SGH 20K STRONG

sarah's  
guesthouse







With Thanks to All Who  
Shared in the Celebration of

# MORE SPACE, MORE LOVE

at our 2022 'Gala of Giving'!



Renee McCaffrey & David Haas

A good time was had by all as we announced our **House Expansion 2.0** plans at our annual Gala of Giving on 4.22.22 at the DoubleTree by Hilton! Yes - guests had *double* the fun, enjoyed *double* the hospitality, and were "*seeing double*" by the end of the evening as we celebrated our plans to double in size from 11 to 22 guest rooms in 2022 – a project which has kicked-off with grant monies to install a long awaited elevator!

A special highlight of the event was honoring Most Holy Rosary Parish and its three sisters: **Sister Helen**

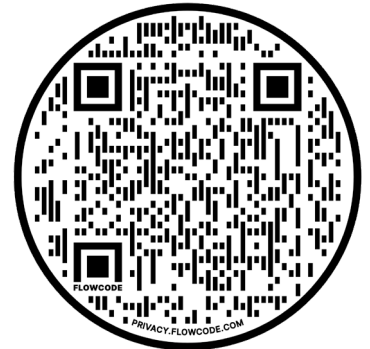
**Ann Charlebois, Sister Joan Ottman and Sister Grace Quartiero** who relocated from their home on one side of Sarah's Guest House (formerly the convent of MHR Church) to allow SGH to expand into their side of the building - thus making the house double in size to serve more patients and their families.

This tribute was followed by numerous presentations and the signature "FUND THE HOUSE" campaign game with a "*Let's Double Down!*" twist to raise double the funds to support essential needs of the house including the National

Grid and Spectrum bills, groceries, and the cost to lodge a house guest for a month long stay.

The evening was a great way to celebrate, socialize, and toast the future of Sarah's Guest House and featured a Silent Auction, musical entertainment, a bubbly beverage greeting, delicious cuisine, and an action packed program emceed by SGH Executive Director David Haas and Development Specialist Renee McCaffrey. It concluded with words of love and thanks from House Founder Mary Keough who is always a fan favorite!

Scan QR Code to view our  
Gala Program Booklet



Over 250 friends came out to support the event, which was presented for the third year in a row by **BHG Financial** with the help of other major sponsors including Carrols Restaurant Group, Jeff & Dot Booher, HOA of CNY, Rick & Betsy Saxe, Alan Byer Volvo,



Ballroom Scenic Shot



David Haas, Maria Pence Family & Friends





Mary Keough and the three Sisters - Our Honorees!



FUND THE HOUSE Let's Double Down Game!



Presenter BHG Financial - Francesca Esce & Family



Spruce Ridge Gal Pals

and River Valley Foods who were our "House Pillars." (Check out all the gala sponsors on the right! ).

Our "Gala of Giving" is a major source of our annual funding which has allowed us to proudly serve more than 20,000 out-of-town patients and their families since opening in 1994! We cannot thank our sponsors, gala guests, volunteers and donors who helped support the event enough for making it such a huge success - grossing just over \$115,000 to continue our mission to offer our house guests all the comforts of home!

With my heartfelt gratitude ~  
Renee McCaffrey,  
Development Specialist

## A Gala of Giving 2021 Event Sponsors

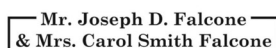
### Rooftop Presenting Sponsor



### House Pillar Sponsors



### Hospitality Ambassadors



## A Gala of Giving 2021 Event Sponsors

### Caregivers & Comforters



### Volunteer Champions



### Helping Hands



Sarah's Guest House sincerely thanks all of our generous 2021 *Gala of Giving* sponsors!





# Sarah's Guest House honored as the Winning Nonprofit Organization of the 2022 YOUR CAUSE Grant by TEAM UPSTATE!

TEAM UPSTATE works to promote public awareness of Upstate's contributions to the community and to encourage volunteer participation among Upstate students, staff, faculty and retirees. Team Upstate sponsors activities and events annually that promote quality of life and maintain Upstate's

mission, vision and values. Thanks to the outstanding nomination presented by Kelly Dolan, Assistant Director of Nursing at Upstate, we received a \$5,000 "Grant for Guests" to directly support house guests who are unable to afford the suggested daily donation of \$25. This grant will go a long way to benefit patients and their families who stay at the house while receiving medical care.

Additionally, Team Upstate has visited the house once a month to complete various volunteer tasks throughout the year. This has included meal making, painting, yard work and more!

Our thanks again to Team Upstate and Kelly Dolan, who is also a valuable member of our Advisory Committee!





# Golf for Our Guests September 16, 2022 ~ A Record Breaking Success!

Thanks to our very generous sponsors and players, Golf for Our Guests 2022 was a record breaking tournament raising over \$42,000 to support our house guests throughout the year!

Despite the chilly weather, the abundance of warmth and kindness of our participants and volunteers made for an AWESOME tournament on the beautiful course of Vesper Hills Golf Club overlooking

Otisco Lake. A very heartfelt thanks to the 18 volunteers who made the entire event run smoothly and added lots of fun to the day as well!

Our very special thanks to CNY Family Care, our Tournament Presenting Sponsor for the 4th consecutive year, and ALL our other major sponsors: Jeff & Dot Booher, Rick & Betsy Saxe, Carrols Restaurant Group, BHG Financial, S.J.

Thomas Co., Inc., IBEW Local 43, Joe Falcone & Carol Smith Falcone and ALL our sponsors for the contests, holes and flags for supporting our mission so generously!

Check them all out below:



Presenting Sponsor CNY Family Care Foursome



Carol Dixon, Barry Dixon, Mike Allen & Deb Allen



Team Sidello Associates Wealth Management



**Golf for Our Guests  
Annual Tournament**

*Thanks to our MAJOR SPONSORS!*

**Presented by:**



**Supporting Sponsor:**



**Snacks & Refreshments:**



**Golf Cart Sponsor:**



**Tournament Prizes Sponsor:**







**Birdie Sponsors:**





**Raffle Prizes Sponsor:**



**Auction Items Sponsor:**



**Chance to Win Hole in One:**



**Putt for Our Patients:**



**Longest Drive:**



**Closest to the Pin:**

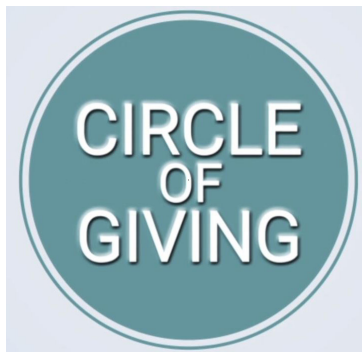




Team Steven Kelley (Board Treasurer)



Denise Coleman, Stacey Kelso-O'Connor & Julie Polka



## JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF GIVING!

our future with consistent monthly giving!

We offer three main levels of support, or you can choose your own monthly amount:

**FRIEND:** \$25 per month – supports the stay of a guest for 1-night.

**PATRON:** \$50 per month – supports a 2-night stay.

**CHAMPION:** \$100 per month – supports that actual cost to Sarah's Guest House to lodge a guest for 1 night. (although we ask for less from our guests – this is what the lodging actually costs us)

By joining our Circle of Giving, you are helping us generate a steady stream of financial support so we can fulfill our mission and serve even more guests! You can join our Circle of Giving by scanning the QR code to the right, or selecting the appropriate option on the remittance envelope included in this newsletter.

Sarah's Guest House has launched a new **monthly donor membership program** called our “*Circle of Giving*” to support our house guests.

This program is an easy and convenient way to donate to Sarah's Guest House through automatic monthly payments at the level of giving of your own choosing!

As many of our past guests know, we only suggest a \$25 per day donation for an overnight stay. Our cost to lodge a guest is actually \$100 per day; and nearly half of our house guests are unable to pay any amount. We never turn guests away for an inability to pay, but rely on the generosity of our donors to support this cost. This is why fundraising is SO important to us! The Circle of Giving helps sustain

*“My thanks go out to the staff, volunteers and all those who created Sarah's Guest House. Having a son who was facing major surgery and looking for a place to stay in Syracuse was a challenge – finding Sarah's Guest House was a blessing. When I walked through the door I felt complete comfort, warmth and compassion.”*

*~ Linda Renshaw, Redwood, New York*

Join our Circle and receive a complimentary silver plated keychain as our token of appreciation.



If you become a \$100 CHAMPION member, you will also receive 2 complimentary tickets to our annual “Gala of Giving.”

**AS PART OF THE SARAH'S GUEST FAMILY OF PAST HOUSE GUESTS, DONORS, & VOLUNTEERS, WE HOPE YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OUR FUTURE BY JOINING THE CIRCLE OF GIVING. IT WILL HELP SUSTAIN OUR FUTURE!**

Scan QR code to Join!



## Joining Our Circle Helps Sustain Our Mission for Future Guests!

### Please Mark Your 2023 Calendars & Save the Dates!

#### *“A Gala of Giving”*

**Saturday evening, April 22, 2023**

Shenendoah Clubhouse at  
Turning Stone Resort & Casino

Verona, New York

#### *“Golf for Our Guests” Annual Tournament*

**Friday morning/afternoon, September 8, 2023**

Vesper Hills Golf Club

Tully, New York



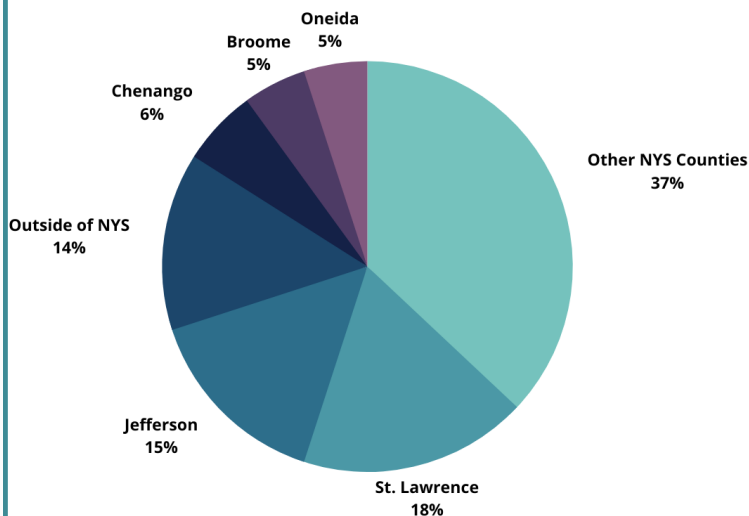
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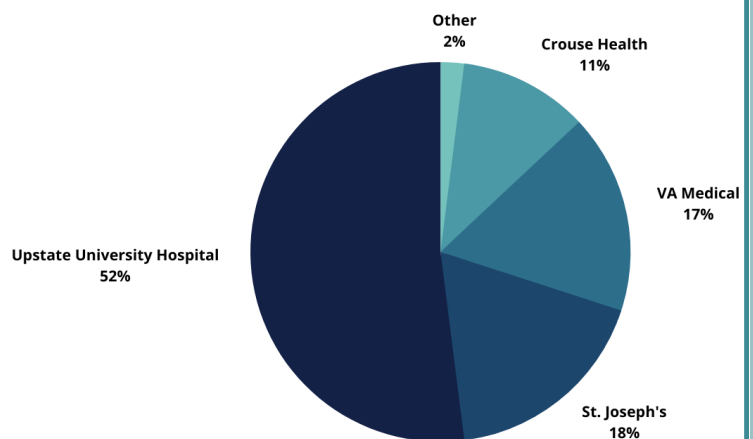
*"I cannot adequately put into mere words what this place has meant to me. It has been a home to come back to after hours in the hospital. It has been warm and delicious meals provided by loving hands. It has been new relationships forged over a common pain of unanswered questions. It has been a cozy room where I can rest my weary head and heart."*

*~ Kate, Ithaca, NY*

## Referring Counties



## Referring Providers



*Sharing Our Stories  
& Sending Our  
Warmest Wishes!*

## HOUSE EXPANSION 2.0 UPDATES!

Sarah's Guest House continues to move forward with our plan to renovate and expand into the former convent side of 100 Roberts Avenue. As you know, we purchased the property from Most Holy Rosary at the end of 2021. Since then, we have begun a five-phase plan that includes an elevator (phase 1) construction of four downstairs bedrooms and two bathrooms (phase 2), new front entrance / reception

lobby (phase 3), remodeling of entire upstairs (phase 4) and creating a guest fitness room (phase 5).

This expansion will move Sarah's Guest House from 11 bedrooms to a total of 22! The work will be completed by SJ Thomas Construction Specialist and has been designed by IN-Architects!

Phase 1 of the expansion will be completed by the end of



2022 and we hope to begin phase 2 in the first quarter of 2023. This initial work has been made possible through grants from the Mother

Cabrini Health Foundation, Project C funding through the National Grid and an anonymous donor.



**Mother Cabrini**  
HEALTH FOUNDATION