



"Your home away from home."

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Jon Cross Family & Benefit
- New Executive Director
- A Grant
- Ameren Volunteer Day
- Cookout for Our Cause
- Happy Birthday
- Request for Volunteers
- Our Events

FAMILY HOUSE BY THE NUMBERS

6-20-2011 – When Family House moved into new house

29 – How many years we've been a hospitality house

29,000 – The guests we've served

24 –The hours we're open, every day of the year

20 – Bedrooms available for nightly rental

10 – loads of laundry run per day

50 – The percentage of guests here receiving medical treatment for children

4 – Local Hospitals Served

2 – Number of paid, full-time staff

6 – Part-time paid staff

49 – States (outside of Illinois) from which guests come

39 – Dollars charged per room night

8 – Usual length of stay (days)

11 – Unusual length of stay (months)

"We needed the Family House to help us take care of ourselves as we cared for Jon."

The Jon Cross Family

Residents of Family House in the Fall of 2013.



Kendal, Wanda, Jon and Janel Cross

Last Fall, on Saturday, September 14, our family's life was turned upside down and forever changed. My husband, Jon, had been in Indiana for several days getting his parents' farm home and furnishings ready for an estate sale. That afternoon, he called me and was in really good spirits. He said the auction had gone well and he was going to be heading home shortly and should be home by early evening.

I don't remember exactly what I did that afternoon, but I do remember finishing up the barn chores and then going out for a bike ride. It was a beautiful evening. When I got home, Jon hadn't arrived, but I figured he'd be home shortly. I tried calling him, but there was no answer. I started to get concerned after the sixth time I tried calling, with still no answer. I kept telling myself that he probably forgot to charge his phone. As I sat on the living room couch staring out the front window waiting for his car to come down the road and up our drive, my hope faded along with the day's light. I knew something was wrong and I began to cry and pray. I prayed that God would bring my husband home safely to me. (Jon did eventually make it home 12 weeks later.)

I finally called our county's sheriff department to see if they had any news about any accidents. As soon as they heard my name, they said, "Oh Mrs. Cross, we have been trying to get a hold of you." My heart sank and I braced myself for the next words, "Your husband was in an accident earlier this evening with a semi-truck. He was airlifted to OSF in Peoria. It was very serious, but the last we heard he was still alive and going into surgery." I immediately threw some things in a suitcase and headed off to Peoria, not knowing if Jon were dead or alive. Needless to say I prayed for a solid hour as I drove there. What I did find out later was that Jon was about an hour and a half from home when he had gotten in an accident with a semi-truck. We still are not clear on what happened, because Jon has no memory of the accident. All we know is that the whole driver's side of his small Toyota Prius was bashed in and he had been pinned in the car. It took them 20 minutes to extricate him from the wreckage and he was airlifted to OSF hospital in Peoria.

When I finally arrived, I was assured that Jon was still alive — a sigh of relief from me. But, then

BOARD OFFICERS

President ▶ Tim Hickey
Vice President ▶ Leslie Williams-Seiler
Secretary ▶ Patrice Walker
Treasurer ▶ Amanda Lowry

DIRECTORS

Matt Allen
Robert Anderson
Andrea Dean
Robert Dewey
Gail Eaton
Paul Gaeto
Nikki Garcia
Ambra Haake
Toni Jurgensen
Karen Kendall
Matthew Koch
Mary Peterson
Ann Roa
Rhonda Skelton
Janet Stephens
Jill Terry

FAMILY HOUSE STAFF

Executive Director

Laura Clark

Event Coordinator

Alli Turner

Office Manager

Wykisa Odom

Housekeeper

Marcia Frakes

Clerks

Steve Katlack
Christina Odom
Dolores Ortiz
Georgia Stevenson

CONTACT US

- 309-685-5300
- famhouse@familyhousepeoria.org
- www.familyhousepeoria.org
- Facebook: Family-House

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

We need your help to keep in touch with you! We're building an e-mail list to keep everyone updated on our news, events and announcements. Please send an e-mail to famhouse@familyhousepeoria.org to be added to the list.

New Executive Director

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce Laura Clark as the new Executive Director at Family House — her first day of work was April 14th. Laura comes to Family House after serving nearly 10 years at the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service where she was CAO & Vice President of Community Renewal Programs. She was also previously the Director of Dress for Success Peoria. She brings more than 15 years of non-profit management experience to Family House. She is a recipient of the 40 Leaders Under 40 Award and the 25 Women in Leadership Award.



“It is my privilege to serve as the new Executive Director of Family House. I could not be more thrilled for this exciting opportunity and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we take Family House to the next level. The mission of Family House is near and dear to my heart and I, along with the staff are committed to continuing the excellent tradition of Family House providing a “place to call home” for families during their time of need.

As we prepare for our upcoming 30th Anniversary next year we have reflected on the more than 29,000 guests that have found comfort and healing within the walls of Family House. What a difference Family House has made in their lives. As we look forward, we are committed more than ever to meet the needs of our guests. What a blessing it is to me, as Executive Director to have such a caring and compassionate community that understands the value of Family House — for our guests and their loved ones.”



A Grant...

from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois

LOADS OF LOVE — How many loads of laundry do YOU do in a week? Here at Family House, helpful volunteers do up to 10 loads each DAY! And since we are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year — that's 3,650 loads

a year. That's a lot of laundry and our washers were starting to require a lot of maintenance.

But, we have great news. Family House was recently awarded a grant to purchase two commercial washers by the **Community Impact Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois**. Once the washers arrived from Sherman's our volunteers kicked off the weekend with “Loads of Love” in our *new washing machines!*

Ameren Volunteer Day

On Saturday, April 26, 2014 several Ameren employees and their families spent the morning “summer-izing” Family House. Thanks to the volunteers, our landscaping looks fabulous and the patios are ready to offer our guests a peaceful place for reflection.



Our Events

PRIME RIB DINNER

On April 10, 2014, Family House hosted the largest crowd to date at the 8th Annual Prime Rib Dinner. The IT00 Hall generously hosted 230 guests to a four-course meal prepared by Greek cuisine chef, Phil Harris. Volunteers from the Peoria Area Illini Club served guests to live music performed by the Central Illinois Youth Symphony. A silent auction offered packages ranging from museum memberships to pieces by local artists. Overall, \$11,000.00 was raised to keep families together during their greatest time of need. Next year, Family House looks forward to celebrating it's 30th birthday in conjunction with the 9th year of this event.

CAROLYNN MANNLEIN FAMILY HOUSE RACE

May 31st marked the 25th anniversary of the Carolyn Mannlein Family House Race. The 5K, 1 Mile Fitness Walk and Kid's Fun Run brought 160 people to The Clubs at River City on Saturday morning. After the race, guests enjoyed an Awards Breakfast sponsored by OSF featuring the tradition of Nick-N-Willy's Pizza. Victors of each age division, kids to seniors, took home medals. Raffle winners claimed prizes including an iPad Mini, Russell's Cycling bike, and Taste of Peoria dinner package. Patty Caudill, Program Director at The Clubs at River City, was honored for her 25 years of volunteer service, as well as the owners, Lee & Dan O'Connell, for generously hosting the event each year. The race raised \$12,000.00 to benefit families traveling to Peoria for medical care.



Cookouts for Our Cause

Summer is a great time for families to get together and have fun. For the guests at Family House the summer days can linger on when their loved ones are in the hospital and they are away from home. Good times are harder and harder to come by. A network of support is vital during this time. An opportunity to share and laugh (or even cry) can be the ray of hope they need. "Cookouts for Our Cause" are weekly cookouts for the guests of Family House providing an opportunity to experience some of the joys of summer. The cookouts are conducted every Friday during the months of June, July and August. The cookouts are also open to the community as an opportunity to stop by our house, interact with the guests, take a tour and learn more about what we do.

Cookouts are hosted by individuals, service organizations or businesses. There are still Fridays that need a HOST. If you are interested in hosting a cookout please contact Alli at 309-685-5300.

Thank You to ...

2014 "Cookouts For Our Cause" Hosts

- Alli and Jake Turner
- Target
- Walmart
- Slater Family
- Lowry Family

Grill Donations

- Target
- Heartland Manor Care
- Riverview



Happy Birthday to Our New House

On June 20, 2014 we celebrated our 3rd Anniversary at our new house!!! If you haven't seen the new Family House, please stop in a tour. We love visitors.

Family House Wish List

If you or your club/organization is looking for ways to assist Family House, we have needs for kitchen, bedroom and household items. Of course, gift card donations are also appreciated.

Donations are appreciated all the time — *new items only, please.*

GIFT CARDS

- Lowe's
- Target
- Walmart
- Menards
- Home Depot
- Bed Bath and Beyond

DAY-TO-DAY

- Indoor, small garbage bags (4 gallon)
- Storage bags, foil, wax paper
- Paper towels
- Sugar
- Non-dairy creamer
- Coffee
- Coffee cups with lids
- Dishwasher soap-powder/packets
- Air freshener (solid/spray)
- Windex
- Laundry detergent – HE only
- Light Bulbs: 3 way, 40 & 60 low watt fluorescent and 65 watt fluorescent floodlights
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C & 9V)
- **Fiber** filled bed pillows
- White mattress pads (twin & queen)
- White fitted sheets (twin & queen)
- White wash cloths
- Kitchen hand towels (color to complement Sage Green decor)

A heartfelt “Thanks” to our donors ...

from the Family House Board, staff and guests. The following list represents cash donations to the **OPERATING FUND** of Family House from December 2013 thru July 2014.

IN MEMORY OF ...

Harold Aubry ... Mrs. Margaret Aubry
John Barnes ... Mrs. Patricia Bartlett
Dominic Cantello Jr. ... Mr. Paul Cantello
Jodine Harney ... Ms. Joyce Bernard
Mr. Wayne Borchsenius
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Bowen
Mrs. Judy Hapke
Mr. & Mrs. James Hoffman
Ms. Nancy Hunt
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Rich
Ms. Connie Simpson
Ms. Michel Walker
David Sauter ... Mr. Henry Hackman
Diane Workman ... Mr. & Mrs. Mike Welch
In Honor of...Joseph Colbert
Mrs. Carol Michau

IN HONOR OF ...

Jon Cross ... Ms. Barbara Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Anderson
Bank Orion
Mr. & Mrs. John Baraks
Beulah Presbyterian Church
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Carlz
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crane
Mrs. Wanda Cross
Kendal Cross
Ms. Jean Daves
First Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Mr. Grant Gainey
Mrs. Carol Gombert
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Heald
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Hills
Mrs. Suzanne Hoke
Mr. & Mrs. Orlin Johnson
Ms. Joyce King
Ms. Tereasa Laverenz
Ms. Dena Lindquist

Ms. Colleen Lohr
Mrs. Donna Metzler
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mueller
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Nightingale
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Passini
Mr. John Peterson
Ms. Carol Schoening
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Snipes
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Teerlinck
Mr. & Mrs. John Wyant
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Zwicker
Bill & Gail Eaton ... Mr. John Hession
Mulham Ibrahim ... Mr. & Mrs. Alaa Mansour
Krista & Mychaela Kingery ... Mrs. Linda Kingery
Wanda Thomas ... Mrs. Brenda Shields

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS ...

Ms. Mildred Anderson
Ms. Janice Blagg
Mr. John Blair
Bradford Apostolic Christian Church
Ms. Michelle Burks
Dr. & Mrs. David Chan
Mr. Carl Clough
Mrs. Candace Crupi
Mrs. Jo Doubet
East Peoria Boat Club
Ms. Linda Honts
Illinois Mutual
Ms. Denise Joos
Ms. Norma Just
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kellogg
Kiwanis Club of Peoria
Ms. Bonnie Lyman
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Menold
Monicals Pizza
Frances O'Connell
OSF Saint Frances, Inc.
OSF Saint Frances Learning Academy
Social Committee

Mr. & Mrs. Piyush Patel
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Pflederer
Progressive Business Group
Dr. Susan Ramiro
Ms. Marsha Ray
Mr. Samuel Rogal
St. James Hospital ED
Mr. Michael Strode
Vandenberg Media Arts & Marketing
Mr. & Mrs. John Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Weaver
Dr. Ronald Winek

IN KIND DONATIONS ...

Accurate Homecare
Alpha Beta Sigma Phi
Alpha Delta Kappa Eta Sorority
Bradley College Volunteers
Caterpillar Global Marketing Group
Church of Christ Northwest
Ms. Barbara Clary
Ms. Kyla Clevenger
Eureka College Volunteers
Alena Fishkin Jewish Community
Ms. Stacey Hale
Ms. Nancy Hamerlinck
Heart of Illinois Harvest
Terry Heyndrickx
Mr. Richard Jacobs
Ms. Laurie Judd
Just Faith- St. Jude Church
Ms. Brenda Keller
Howard & Diana Kreps
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Paula LaFond
Shoshana Pearce Jewish Community
Peoria First United Methodist Church
Peoria Jewish Federation
Peoria Sewaa Mandal
Mr. Gary Neuhaus
Preceptor Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Ms. Sherry Sherman
Ted & Mercy Taber
Target Group
Daksha Shah
Slater Family
Terri Smith
Washington Moms Group

Leaders Change Peoria Grant

Family House received a \$1000 grant from Chuck Weaver's "Leaders Change Peoria" program. The money will be used to develop a Family House Strategic Plan 2015-2020. As we prepare to celebrate our 30th Anniversary next year the vision for the strategic plan is to provide a blueprint for growth and revitalization as we look to the future.

Laura Clark, Executive Director and Chuck Weaver



The Jon Cross Family ... *continued*

the doctor proceeded to list off all of Jon's injuries starting from the head down. He had numerous skull and facial bone fractures, a laceration to the side of his left eye and his right eye was swollen shut. His C2 vertebrae in his neck and T3 vertebrae in his spine were fractured and he would need to be in a neck and body brace for quite some time. He also had several broken ribs which would make wearing the body brace painful. When he got to the part about Jon's left arm amputation, I gasped. At that time, little did we know that injury would be the least of our worries. He said he was lucky to have survived. The only thing holding his left arm in place was the main artery and a small flap of skin. If that artery would have been severed, he would have bled out at the scene of the accident. He said he must have had an angel watching over him.

The doctor told me to be prepared to be there at the hospital for 2–2½ weeks. I was so relieved to find out that Jon was alive, but so worried about his well-being. It was around 11 p.m. before I finally notified our daughters, Kendal and Janel. They were devastated and arrived in Peoria in the wee hours of the night. We spent the first night in the waiting room, taking turns staying in the room with Jon. At that time, we couldn't have anticipated the many complications that would stretch his hospitalization from the first expected 2–2½ weeks into 12 weeks.

For me, going home was not an option. Even leaving the hospital didn't seem like an option at the time. It became evident from the very beginning that Jon needed eyes on him 24 hours a day. He had very good care from the doctors and nurses while he was there, but he needed someone there at all times to tend to him and be his advocate.

Jon spent most of his first 2 months in the ICU units where families are not allowed to sleep in the patients' rooms. The girls and I managed for the first couple weeks taking shifts and sleeping in the waiting rooms. Jon was moved frequently to different parts of the hospital, depending on which medical condition had become the most critical at the time. I lost count after 13 moves. We were always on the move dragging our suitcases and stuff with us each move.

We discovered that sleeping in hospital waiting rooms was not a good long-term solution. The comfort level varied significantly with each waiting room. Even with the most comfortable of waiting rooms, it was difficult to sleep well when you were sharing a space with other people or when you heard new groups of families coming in and grieving for their loved ones who had just been hospitalized. It was difficult to sleep each time you heard the helicopter take off or bring back yet another person who had suffered some sort of tragedy. It was also difficult to sleep through the hospital announcements, especially the code blue calls.

Then we learned about Family House, which is just a mile down the road from the hospital, and realized that was where we needed to "set up camp". We had a room with two twin beds and a private bathroom. No longer did I have to hunt down a place to shower at the hospital. I had a private bathroom where I could unpack my toiletry supplies. No longer did we have to lug a suitcase around with us. We had a closet and dresser to hang and store our clothes. We also had a laundry room to clean our clothes. No longer did we have to eat hospital cafeteria food or vending machine food. We now had access to a large well-furnished

kitchen to cook and store our own food. At times, we also had great meals cooked for us at the Family House by various volunteer groups. I took full advantage of leftovers and packed wonderful meals to bring to the hospital each day. Very quickly the Family House became our "home away from home."

A couple weeks into Jon's hospital stay, family members started to come in from all over the country to help us out. They sat with Jon during the night, so I was able to go to the Family House and get a full night's rest, allowing me to spend the days with Jon and to speak with the various teams of doctors that were caring for him. Because I had a good night's rest, I was better able to face the new challenges and decisions that came with each new day at the hospital. The 3rd shift person then slept during the day at the Family House so that they could be well rested to tend to Jon during the night. At times it seemed like "musical beds," as there always seemed to be someone sleeping in our room.

Without a place like the Family House, we wouldn't have been able to give Jon the care he needed and also take care of ourselves. Thanks to our daughters, friends, and my family – Jon had 24-hour care, 7 days a week, for 12 weeks.

We had such a wonderful support network back home to help us get through this difficult time, **but we needed the Family House to help us take care of ourselves as we cared for Jon.** The Family House gives some stability during what can be the most turbulent times in a family's life. We thank the Family House and all the staff there for all they have done to help us get through this roller coaster.



COMMUNITY BENEFIT TO SUPPORT FAMILY HOUSE

On Sunday, June 22nd, 2014 at Beulah Presbyterian Church in Orion, IL the Cross Family hosted a Community Benefit for Family House. More than \$3,000 was raised for Family House for the "One More Night" fund to assist families who are unable to cover the \$39 room donation. In addition to the money raised the benefit also helped stock our pantry and supply cabinet with items off of our wish list.

Request for Volunteers

*Make our house feel like their home...
become a house receptionist!*

- Greet guests as they enter and leave Family House
- Answer phones
- Check guests in and out of rooms
- Assist with laundry (washing, drying and folding clean sheets and towels)

Lend a helping hand...tidy guest rooms!

- Clean and change linens/towels
- Dust furniture and appliances
- Vacuum guest room floors and hallways, if needed
- Sanitize bathroom fixtures and floors
- Replace toiletries

"Serve up supper...with love"

- Volunteers that our interested in hosting a meal are responsible for planning the menu, purchasing the ingredients, and preparing the meal within our full-equipped kitchens. At any given time, there are approximately 50 guests in-residence.



1339 E. Nebraska Ave.
Peoria, IL 61603

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 692
PEORIA, IL

SAVE THE DATE

Family House presents

Christmas Magic

Saturday, December 6th

Noon

Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette

Julie K is coming ...

