



www.AmandasHouse.org
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What a comfort it has been to stay in a place like this that reflects such obvious caring and goodwill of community. Our world is so much warmer because of your work for us. - Pam

Autumn 2010 Newsletter

Almost every guest that has stayed at Amanda's House has met Bill and Harriet Rogers. They have been two of the most generous volunteers. The Rogers began their time at Amanda's House shortly after it opened. They have watched other volunteers come and go. They have seen changes in management and Board members.

Now it is time for Amanda's House to say thank you. Bill and Harriet, you are what Amanda's House is all about. Thank you!

In Our Own Words – by Bill & Harriet Rogers

One day in the summer of 1999, when our 46 year old son was visiting us, he called our attention to a Post-Star article regarding formative plans for Amanda's House. This house was to be a respite facility for patients and/or family members of patients who were undergoing medical procedures within a five mile radius of the Glens Falls Hospital. Our son was so enthused about the entire concept that he immediately made a donation in its support. Little did we know at that time that in a matter of months we would be in dire need of such a facility.

On October 31, 1999, our son was diagnosed with a blood disorder and scheduled for chemo and radiation in preparation for a bone marrow transplant. While awaiting the transplant from the United Kingdom, he/we commuted from his home to Leahy Clinic every few weeks for blood transfusions. The transplant was to take place at the Dana Farber Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. Even in 2000, we were elderly and commuting from Bedford, MA on a 6-lane expressway into the heart of Boston was extremely daunting. We soon realized we would need a place to stay near the hospital so we could be with our son.

In Boston, there was a Hospitality Program which had 150 families with whom patients' family members could stay for a small fee. They also screened prospective guests and made arrangements for placement. Fortunately, we met the criteria and were assigned to live with and be sheltered by a lovely couple who truly treated us as part of their family. However, these people would not accept any money for our stay. We figured the minimum we would have paid for a 3 1/2 months stay in Boston in a rundown motel, cold in winter, hot in summer would have been \$18,000 plus tax.

On June 14, 2000, he succumbed to transplant complications and we brought him home to Glens Falls for burial. Now, we had to decide on a recipient for any memorial donations. That's when Amanda's House, whose concept our son was so taken with in Life, became our choice.

Late in 2000, we read in the Post Star that Amanda's House would be opening soon and was in need for volunteers. There was the answer to our quest for a way to repay that family who had been there for us in our time of need. We understood first-hand the need for such a facility in Glens Falls - a place where worried patients and families could be spared from traveling, performing mundane daily chores, not to mention incredible expense. Here would be a haven where they would be free to direct their attention to medical issues for themselves or a family member in a clean, comfortable and safe atmosphere

For 9 years our goal has been to ensure that our valiant guests would have that spotless, comfortable and care-free refuge as they coped with life-threatening issues. For us personally. It has been a pleasant obligation, our second home, a wonderful opportunity to meet guests from far away places, like England and Israel. We have consoled and listened to distraught family members, and laughed and cried as we shared experiences. We also have been privileged to work with truly wonderful managers and fellow-volunteers.

But now we are really elderly, so it is time to say, "goodbye". It has been such a pleasure!!!



2009-2010 Fund Raising

In 2009 and 2010, Amanda's House continued its upward trend in occupancy and fundraising.

Maintaining Amanda's House takes money. Along with higher than usual occupancy rates, Amanda's House had a busy year. The last newsletter, in the spring of 2008, raised over \$2300.00. The following is a list of many of the fundraisers and community support that helped us be here for those who need us.

Adirondack Car Enthusiasts held another classic car show at Crandall Park in Glens Falls. This event featured a variety of classic cars, vendors selling everything from memorabilia to tie-dye shirts. There was food and trophies, camaraderie and competition. The event had an amazing turn out and raised \$1500.00 for Amanda's House after expenses.

Amanda's House provided volunteers to help Lake George Rotary sell ticket for their annual fund raiser during Americade week in Lake George. In return for providing volunteers for the event, the Lake George rotary donated \$1500.00 to Amanda's House.

Castaway Marina in Queensbury held their Boat Clinic again in July 2009 and 2010. The two summers clinics raised nearly \$4000.00 for Amanda's House. The Boat Clinic provided the opportunity for women to learn to pilot boats on Lake George in a casual and fun atmosphere. This event was so well received it was expanded to two weekends instead of the originally planned one weekend.

Amanda's House volunteers organized a Pay-to-Park fund raiser in the Lake George OTB parking lot during the Americade in June 2010 and the September 2010 Classic Car Show. These weekends were a lot of work for everyone involved. All the efforts paid off by raising just over \$7000.00! This was our best parking lot fundraiser to date!

Keller-Williams Realty and Woodmen of the World donated a great deal of time and many needed items for Amanda's House in 2009-2010. These items included a new television, new computer, sheets and more. K-W Realty also brought volunteers to Amanda's House to for two full days of household repairs and care. They painted and weeded and planted until everything looked new.

One of the biggest fundraisers of 2010 was organized by the South Glens Falls Tai Kwon Do. This group puts together a charity "board break" every spring and gives all the proceeds to a local program. Amanda's House was honored to be chosen

The home atmosphere communicates such love and care when you really need it. Thank you so much. - Joanne

A very heartfelt thank you to every single person and group that helped Amanda's House keeps its doors open. Unfortunately this newsletter is not long enough to list every person who contributed or volunteered their time. Please know that your help was appreciated and valuable! Amanda's House is what it is because you took the time to help.

Amanda's House is a community effort. All of this love and support given to Amanda's House is important to each guest, patient and family member that comes and stays with us.

THANK YOU! **2009-2010 Top Contributors to** **Amanda's House**

\$1000.00 +

A.C.E. (Adirondack Car Enthusiasts)
Castaway Marina, LLC
Charles R Wood Foundation
C.R. Bard Foundation, Inc.
Glens Falls Foundation
William & Gale Kernitz
Knights of Columbus; Glens Falls Council 194
Northern Conference Adirondack Golf Challenge
The Evelyn & Paul Robinson Family Trust
Foundation
Stony Creek Inn

\$500.00 +

Cedar River Golf Club
First Baptist Church's Bargain Basement
Glens Falls First Presbyterian Church
Glens Falls National Bank
John Paul Memorial Golf Tournament
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation

\$250.00 +

Thomas & Ardell Arsenault
C.R. Bard, Inc.
Michael & Madeline Colleary
Ruth Goyer
Oropallo's Wine & Liquor, Inc.
Larry & Janice Vadnais
North Warren Teachers Association
Rozell Industries, Inc.

Invaluable Services

A-2000 Ink & Toner Refills
Binara, Inc.
County Waste
Finch Paper
Glens Falls Hospital
Post Star
Time Warner Cable

this year and flabbergasted at the outpouring of support and donations. Through a series of smaller fundraisers leading up to the big day, combined with the donations for the event itself, this organization raised over \$17,000.00 in funding and services for Amanda's House!

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Amanda Rose Cafaro December 6, 1997 – September 24, 1998

At her scheduled 4-month check-up Amanda Rose Cafaro was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. She was admitted to Maine Medical Center and eventually transferred to Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts where, after an unsuccessful experimental bone marrow transplant, she passed away.

During her struggle, the communities in the Greater Glens Falls area rallied to the aid of Amanda and her family. To offset the extremely high cost of her treatment, numerous fundraisers were held including Lake George's "Amanda Week" that included a different event on 8 consecutive days. Prayers and good wishes were received from congregations of all denominations from Albany to the Canadian border.

After her death it was suggested that some memorial be established for this little girl who united the community in such a loving manner. Amanda's House is that memorial.

A Warm Welcome To Our New Board Members

Amanda's House would like to introduce and welcome three new Board Members. Barbara Sponzo, Judith Tholl and Michael Hackenburg.

Barbara Sponzo was involved with the creation of Amanda's House and has been active in a variety of non-profit programs. In the past, Barb has been on the Board of Directors of American Cancer Society, Family Services of Glens Falls and the Warren-Washington County Medical Auxiliary. Currently, she is working with the American Cancer Society's annual fund raiser for the tri-counties. Judith Tholl knew about Amanda's House from the very beginning. She worked with Tony Cafaro at Glens Falls National Bank and participated in several of the fundraisers. Her mother, Fran Gamble, was one of our most treasured volunteers until she passed away.

What a blessing! You thought of everything. I was even able to have my cup of tea in the morning! - Janet

Judy has never served on the Board of Directors for an organization before, but brings with her energy and dedication to the cause. Michael Hackenburg learned about Amanda's House from his co-worker of Jon Stephenson, Amanda's House's current Treasurer. He recently volunteered for Amanda's House during our last parking lot fund raiser in Lake George. He also currently sits on the Board of Directors of the

Queensbury Kiwanis Club.

Amanda's House looks forward to years of great things from all of the experience and ideas brought by these unique and caring people. Thank you for giving your time and energy to a wonderful cause!

A Special Thank You From All Of Us At Amanda's House – Written By Tony Cafaro

Wow! \$10,000 and counting! That's the total that has been raised, over the past 4 years, for Amanda's House thanks to the generosity of Susan and Ed Shovah. The Shovahs own and operate the Country Meadows Par 3 Golf Course located on Route 149 between Lake George and Fort Ann. Since 2006 Susan and Ed have donated the greens fees - and the brunch! - for an annual golf tournament to benefit Amanda's House.

The popularity of the tournament coincides with the popularity of the 14-hole course. (That's right, fourteen holes). It's a challenging course for anyone's short game yet forgiving enough for beginners. Each year the number of 4 person teams signing up to play in the scramble grows. They had 16 teams last year (when there were only 12 holes) and are expecting an even better turnout for 2010.

Numerous merchants and individuals donate door prizes and raffle items which play a large part in the success of the tournament each year. For the past several years Livingston's Quality Manor Furniture has provided the "big ticket" item for the raffle. Last year their leather LaZBoy sofa was won by Neal Iverson of Queensbury.

Ed and Susan selected Amanda's House, once again, for their 2010 charity tournament.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the tournament, to the golfers who have played rain or shine, and a very special THANKS to Ed and Susan Shovah!

Thank You For Your Support!

Amanda's House continues to have ongoing success due to the generosity from the community in the form of donations and volunteers. Every little bit you give helps us give back to those who need us.

Would you rather give a donation of food? Or household supplies? Or maybe you have some free time? Learn more about how you can help by calling (518) 792-7212 or visit our website www.AmandasHouse.org.

Remember, Amanda's House is a 401(c)3 not for profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!

Please Mail Donations to:

Amanda's House
22 Henry Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801



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John Brodt – Secretary
Barbara Bianco
Michael Hackenburg

Virginia Quirk – Vice-President
Jon Stephenson – Treasurer
Barbara Sponzo
Robert Sponzo, M.D.
Judith Tholl

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