Thank you for joining us at the 28th Annual



Together we raised over. \$68,000!



Learn more in

our 2021

Program Book.



THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL



Friday, February 26, 2021 **7-8 p.m.**

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At M&T Bank, we know how important it is to support those organizations that make life better in our communities. That's why we offer our time and resources, and encourage others to do the same. Learn more at mtb.com/community.

M&T Bank is proud to support Kevin Guest House.



Online Bibling!

Kevin Guest House is going high-tech by going mobile with our silent auction bidding. You can now place bids online with your smartphone or mobile device.

Register online at **AOH2021.givesmart.com** or text **AOH2021** to **76278**. You'll receive a text message with a link to your own personal bidding center.

LET'S GET STARTED!

Click on the link within the text message you received. This will log you in automatically to your own personal bidding center.

- ▼ View All: See all auction items
- ♥ Categories: Browse items by category
- ▼ My Items: Items you've bid on or are "watching"
- **▼ Donate:** Make a tax-deductible donation to the organization
- ♥ Items Without Bids: List of items with no bids
- ▼ Item # or Keyword: Enter the item name or number and hit Go! which will take you to the item page to place a bid

NOW LET'S BID!

- ♥ **Bid:** Automatically enters the next minimum bid amount; you will be asked by pop-up screen to confirm your bid
- Change bid amount: You can manually enter any amount that is greater than the "next bid"
- ▼ Set Maximum Bid: So that you don't risk getting outbid at the last minute, everyone is encouraged to set a max bid. The auction software will automatically raise your bid by a pre-determined increment until your maximum bid has been met or the silent auction ends
- ♥ Watch Item: Adds items to your "My Items" list for easy reference later
- ♥ Buy Now: Enables you to purchase an item outright instead of bidding

You can also purchase Raffle, Wine Wall & Mystery Hearts. Wine wall and auction items can be picked up at Kevin Guest House located at 782 Ellicott Street, Buffalo NY 14203.

DEAR FRIENDS OF KEVIN GUEST HOUSE.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our 49th anniversary of opening our doors at Kevin Guest House and our 28th Annual Affaire of the Heart, which certainly looks different this year. We are grateful to all of you that opened your hearts to our guests in this new format. Our co-chairs Kristen Domino, Jennifer Kishpaugh Stotz, Emily Smaldino Wallace, and Catherine Whitehead and their committee have put together a fabulous evening to enjoy from the comfort of your home, that will hopefully not only entertain you but inspire you to pay it forward for our quests.

We are honored that our last Kevin Garvey Award Winners from our 2019 event, Henry and Judy Gorino have partnered with us to bring a new twist on our signature event Affaire of the Heart. With Henry as founder, together they are owners of Local Boys Restaurants including the spectacular Siena, JT's Urban Italian, 800 Maple and Rocco's, which continue to be on the top restaurant lists for many Buffalonians. We are thrilled JT's Urban Italian is providing tonight's decadent meal which includes their delicious appetizers and famous "Brookie" dessert. Dinner is paired with wines from Premier Wine & Spirits and chocolates by Sweet Jenny's.

Join us for our virtual presentation hosted by our House Manager, Betsy Stone. Enjoy listening to the musical stylings of KGH friends, Russ Burton Entertainment and co-chair Cathy Whitehead from Common Love; and learn how to make some new cocktails by JT's very own bar manager, Tony Mauro. Don't forget to take a chance at winning some of fabulous prizes thanks to our online bidding partner Howard Hanna, including the wine wall, mystery bags, our online silent auction that stays open until Sunday night. You won't want to miss the opportunity to win one of the raffle prizes that we will announce live for either a \$500 AirBnB gift card or a 4-night stay at any Buffalo Lodging location anywhere in the US.

Affaire of the Heart has traditionally brought the annual funding support needed to keep us operational in the first half of the year, keeping our doors open and helping to maintain our four-building campus. That is true again in a year that our costs have tripled for us to keep our quests and staff safe. We had to restrict the number of guests in the house to ensure social distancing. Restricting the number of guests in the house resulted in less guest donations, which we rely on weekly. This is why your involvement tonight means so much to us, YOU are literally keeping us going with every gift you give and directly helping our families stay together. If you don't win that auction item, we ask that you consider supporting our Pay It Forward Campaign in honor of all our quests this past year who risked much to be away from home. Your gift helps "pay it forward" for a quest who otherwise couldn't afford a place to stay during one of the most difficult times in their lives. Every gift you give will help us ease the financial and emotional burden that often accompanies serious illness.

On behalf of our guests, thank you for the important impact you are making for Kevin Guest House tonight in a year we would all like to move forward from & make positive change!

Lynsey Zimdahl Weaver Executive Director





THE KEVIN GUEST HOUSE STORY

We are fortunate to have state of the art health care right in our backyard. Imagine if you had to travel many miles and stay away from home for days, weeks or even months to receive critical care for either yourself or a loved one. Where would you stay? How would you afford it? That is the reality for the families that stay at Kevin Guest House.

It was January 1972 when 13-year-old Kevin Garvey passed away. He had spent the last 18 months fighting leukemia, spending much of that time at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Care. While at the hospital, Kevin's parents, Claudia and Cyril, witnessed the hardships of other families, who slept in their cars and waiting rooms because they were unable to afford lodging.

The Garvey's wanted to help those families, so they purchased the property at 782 Ellicott Street and opened their doors in July 1972, welcoming people to Kevin Guest House. More than 60,000 guests, coming from Western New York, 49 states, Canada and 11 other countries, have stayed with us since then.

Located on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Kevin Guest House was the first healthcare hospitality house in the United States. We provide a comfortable home away from home for patients and their families who are seeking critical medical treatment at Buffalo-area hospitals and medical centers.

In August 2018, our campus grew to four properties as we opened the **Russell J. Salvatore Hospitality House** on the Kevin Guest House Campus, making us fully accessible for the first time and allowing us to serve more families. Our two main houses combine to offer 10 guest rooms, four family suites, common living and dining areas along with amenities from free laundry service and breakfast to our beautiful garden. The Russell J. Salvatore Hospitality House also includes two apartments, giving our campus a total of eight units which allow bone marrow and other transplant patients an environmentally safe place to recover within the required distance to their medical facility.

Please visit us kevinguesthouse.org to learn more and learn how you can help.

thank you!

VIP Ticket Holders

David & Kathy Carlson
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Carolyn Leed
Jim & Diana Lougen
Carl & Amity Mann
Bob & Elaine Marinucci

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Jonathan Orlow
Matt & Sara Schuster
Jamie & Gail Scotland
Jourdan Stevenson
Adam Stotz
John Vaeth
Samantha Willhauck



Virtual Program ♥

TEXT AOH2021 to 76278 to register for online bidding!

7 p.m. Program Begins

Open that wine and pour yourself a glass to enjoy during our evening program. Our House Manager, Betsy Stone will be hosting. We will begin with a short performance from Russ Burton.

Russ Burton Performance

Russ is a friend of KGH, local actor, DJ and entertainer and will be starting off our night with some music.

Cocktail Demonstration by JT's Bartender, Tony Mauro.

Tony will be showing us his spin on the Aperol Spritz and unique burbon cocktail.

Thank You from Executive Director Lynsey Weaver

Guest Speaker: Joann Carkner

Joanne will speak to her experience here at KGH.

Auction Items

See some of the premier items in our auction.

Pull Raffle Ticket Winner

Performance by Common Love

Sick back and enjoy your meal as Co-chair, Cathy Whitehead, stars in musical duo Common Love with Larry Maciejewski.

Enjoy the rest of your night, continute bid ding until Sunday and check out the AOH spotify playlist on our social media.

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The warmth, hospitality and safe, secure atmosphere this house offers respite of patients, outpatients and their loved ones is second to none.



◆ Annual Spring Flower Sale ◆

Our spring flower is sale is back for 2021!

Adapted for the times, spring flowers can be ordered for contactless pick up at Kevin Guest House on April 1st & 2nd from 9-5 p.m. Deadline to order is March 26th.

You can order online or by emailing tmenneto@kevinguesthouse.org. www.kevinguesthouse.org/events/spring-flowers



Giving Hearts ▼

In an especially challenging year, this dedicated group of young professionals helped raise critical funds and awareness to support the KGH mission.





Congratulations

to the 2020 Class for raising more than \$25,000!

2020 Program & **Event Chairs**

Angela Dowdell Carolyn Leed Lindsay Pohlman Brooke Smith Marie Stoklosa

2020 Ambassadors

Adam Brasky James Lougen Adrianna Redman **Emily Smaldino Wallace** Aubrey Stevenson Mehreen Khan Odochi Uwazurike

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Do you know a young professional looking to give back to the community? Nominate them for Giving Hearts 2021!

Visit kevinguesthouse.com/give/givinghearts or Email Marianne, mpotratz@kevinguesthouse.org

Volunteer Opportunities V

The heart of Kevin Guest House comes from the dedication and support of our fantastic volunteers. We invite you to give the gift of your time. We will work with you to determine the best opportunity for you!

Contact **Betsy Stone** at **716-882-1818** or **bstone@kevinguesthouse.org** for more information.

WAYS TO GET INVOVLED

While we're hoping to have volunteers return to the house this year, you can always cook a meal at home and drop it off for our guests.

Help with Events by joining a committee (not as scary as you think!), volunteering at events or helping with our annual flower sale.

Become a Corporate Partner and sponsor one of our events, underwrite an item, a service, or promotional advertising for the house, donate in-kind products for our guests or host your own fundraiser (we have ideas!).



Brandon & Alexis Purdon ONTARIO, CANADA



Brandon & Alexis Purdon of Sudbury, Ontario, were married in early September 2019. Their first year of marriage was nothing they would've ever expected.

In Summer 2018, a little over a year before Brandon & Alexis tied the knot, Brandon, 25, noticed a lump on his arm. Being young and healthy, he thought nothing of it at first. It wasn't until his ear began to swell that he knew something wasn't right. Initially the doctors told him it was probably nothing to worry about, but his biopsy revealed the unimaginable. Brandon was diagnosed with Lymphoblastic Lymphoma, a rare type of fast-growing non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Brandon's initial treatment in Sudbury consisted of four months of chemotherapy. Following this treatment, Brandon and Alexis traveled to Ottawa for four months of radiation and a stem cell transplant. Brandon was in remission, but only for two short months. Over Labor Day weekend he was hospitalized after experiencing a high fever and flu-like symptoms.

Having exhausted all of the first choice options, Brandon's best chance was Car T cell therapy. This therapy was not available in Canada, bringing Brandon and Alexis here to Buffalo, NY for treatment at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. This treatment would require a long recovery stay. Upon learning they had to be here for four months or longer, they had no idea where to stay.

Brandon & Alexis were referred to Kevin Guest House by the social work department at Roswell. The only other option was a hotel that had no kitchen facilities. Brandon had a number of dietary restrictions during his treatment. The couple is also vegan so getting takeout was not an option. Alexis prepared 2 meals a day in the KGH kitchen and brought them to Brandon while he was in the hospital. Then they stayed in one of the KGH transplant recovery apartments where they had their own kitchen to prepare meals.

Brandon and Alexis will be back in Buffalo twice a year for the next 15 years for follow-up testing at Roswell Park. While the first few years of marriage were not a typical fairytale for this couple, they have found a way to share laughter, love, and enjoy the little moments along the way.

Brandon & Alexis will always have their "home away from home" here in at Kevin Guest House.

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Pathway to Rembembrance & Healing

Julia's Story

Eleven-year-old Julia was a guest for several weeks while her father, Ryan, was undergoing treatment at Roswell Park earlier this year. Unfortunately, Ryan passed away in June.

To honor her father and raise money for Kevin Guest House, Julia sold orange ribbons for \$.50 with the goal of purchasing a paver in memory of her dad. The whole family got involved in the fundraising efforts, including Ryan's fiance, Gabrielle, and his sister and bone marrow donor, Helen, who were also guests during his treatment. It didn't take long for Julia to reach her goal of raising \$500.

We look forward to seeing Julia and her family when the weather gets warmer so they can see their "WE LOVE YOU, RYAN" paver.



Help create tranquility in our healing garden by purchasing a personalized paver. Together we can create a beautiful and peaceful space for the patients and their families during the time they call Kevin Guest House their home away from home.

To purchase a paver, visit KevinGuestHouse.com/Give/Garden If you have questions or would like more information, please call us at 716-882-1818.

SUZANNE

LET'S START TO HEAL.

The outpouring of support from our community over the past year has done so much good – more than you'll ever know.

Together, we're making an impact and fostering hope in our patients and throughout our communities because celebrating even the small victories, can mean something big.





Thank you for always being there for us and just know that Roswell Park will always aspire to bring hope to those who need it.

RoswellPark.org/StartToHeal

Tom & Dorene Sorensen

Life changed dramatically for the Sorensen family in November 2019 when Tom was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Tom and Dorene, who live with their four children in Freeville, NY, uprooted up their lives to be near Roswell Park for a stem cell transplant treatment. It was there that they found out about Kevin Guest House.

"When we first found out we'd need to stick around for 100 days after [the stem cell transplant] you think, How do we do that? Where do we even begin?" says Tom. "Having a place near-

by that was all set up for exactly this situation, and then to get there and talk to other people about their experiences - it's so helpful to have people who are going through the same thing we are, and talk about how they were dealing with it."

In the beginning of the treatment process, both Tom and Dorene were staying at KGH as Tom had daily appointments at the hospital. The proximity to Roswell was a big help. Prior to the local COVID outbreaks, Dorene traveled back and forth to be with their four kids, who are ages 16-20 – one with special needs. "The other guests would offer to help me," said Tom, which also gave Dorene peace of mind. "'If you need to go somewhere, I'll take you,' they offered, so having that communal atmosphere was nice."

They also got to know the staff well, who Dorene joked have helped with everything from delivering mail and helping when she locked herself out, to facilitating a connection when her transmission blew on the family van, and they needed to purchase a new car. "It's amazing," she says. "Silly things that come up every once in a while, there's always someone you can ask for help."

Like so many of our guests, the donated meals were something they also really appreciated, especially once they needed to worry about COVID exposure. "The meals were really a blessing because it was so hard to get groceries."

Tom was discharged from the hospital in May 2020. He and Dorene moved into a transplant recovery apartment for two months per treatment protocol. They finally returned home in September 2020 after a long stay here at KGH. We look forward to seeing them when they return for follow up appointments.

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Rhonda is a current guest who will be staying with us on and off for five weeks while she receives raditation treatment at Roswell Park.

Rhonda's treatment requires her to be in Buffalo frequently. Since winter weather is always a threat at this point and the year, and the exhaustion from her treatment, Rhonda is thankful to have Kevin Guest House close by.

As someone who loves to socialize, Rhonda enjoys the opportunity to confide in other guests about their experiences. And, of course, she is a huge fan of the dinners donated by our wonderful volutneers and community partners.

"It's awesome to have a place like this to stay at when you're not sure of the weather to commute everyday! So this is my home away from home, on and off for the next 5 weeks, while I do my radiation. KGH helps so many patients and family members with the help of donations. Surrounded by Roswell, Buffalo General and Children's."

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Cathryn and John Heinz were Summer 2020 guests at KGH. They stayed with us for a few days while Cathryn underwent a heart valve procedure at Gates Vasulcar. Their family was grateful for the location of the house.

A message from the Heinz Kids:

I would like to thank everyone involved in making Kevin Guest House available to my Mom. She and my Father much appreciate having such a nice place to stay during a time of need. Your house made a stressful time for my elderly parents more manageable. Being able to stay a walking distance away from Gates vascular center during my mothers heart valve procedure was a God send for them. It is nice to know that such a place exist for out of town patients that need the specialized services that Buffalo General and Gates vascular provide our region.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



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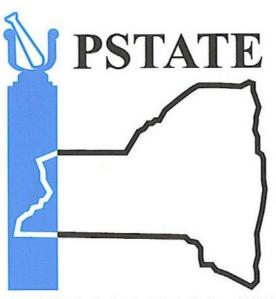
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-Dr. Thomas Schwaab & Christina Tobin

