

*Cheers!*



Affaire of the Heart raised **\$78,000**  
for Kevin Guest House!



*Welcome To*

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL



*A Golden Anniversary*

**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022**

**6:30 - 10:00 PM**

**The Buffalo Club**

**388 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY**





## Getting involved is important.

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\*\*.](https://mtb.com/community)

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

**M&T Bank**  
Understanding what's important®



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Support provided by The M&T Charitable Foundation and its corporate sponsor, M&T Bank.



## ♥ Evening Highlights ♥

TEXT AOH2022 to 76278 to register for online bidding!



### **6 PM VIP Pre-Party Lounge (1st Floor)**

Featuring sommelier wine and hors d'oeuvres pairing along with KGH's "Golden" Shimmer Anniversary toasting signature cocktail. Bourbon expert Aaron Glauser will be pouring, along with certified sommelier, Anthony Pandolfi pouring red and white wine for tastings. The Kristen Smigielski Quartet will provide entertainment.

### **6:30 PM Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in four lounge rooms (2nd Floor)**

Mystery heart bags, basket and grand raffle at check-in  
Each room has something for everyone!  
Music by Vincent Bonelli  
Passed chef's selection hors d'oeuvres  
Wine and food pairing stations  
Kevin Guest House merchandise  
Spectacular basket raffle  
Wine wall  
Online auction displays  
Wine, beer and liquor vendor sampling

### **8:30 PM Program & Live YouTube feed**

Seating for desserts and coffee  
Welcome and Introductions by Lynsey Weaver, Executive Director  
Remarks by Founding Family Member, Hugh Garvey  
Kevin Garvey Award Presentation, honoring The Durawa Family  
Basket raffle closes

### **8:45 PM Raffle winners announced**

Congratulations to grand raffle and basket raffle winners

### **10 PM Event concludes**

## **2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Jamie Scotland  
*President*  
Jennifer Mergl  
*Vice President*  
William Turkovich  
*Secretary*  
Douglas C. Muth  
*Treasurer*

### **DIRECTORS**

Adam Bellomo  
Mark Brown  
Dianne Charsha  
Karen Cummings  
Stephen B. Edge, MD  
Hugh Garvey  
Sheila Hartwell  
Martin Krebs  
Timothy Kucinski  
Marc Martis  
Jonathan Morris  
Amy Nagy  
Richard Schott  
Andrea Tarshus  
Dr. Christina Tobin

### **HONORARY LIFE MEMBER**

Dean Drew

### **PRESIDENT EMERITUS**

Kevin Durawa

### **FOUNDERS**

Claudia and Cyril Garvey

### **CO-CHAIRS**

Emily Smaldino Wallace  
Cathy Whitehead

### **COMMITTEE**

Rosanne Braxton  
Dianne Charsha  
Karen Cummings  
Kristen Domino  
Kathy Fassl  
Judith Gorino  
Molly Kiesel  
Amity Mann  
Jonathan Morris  
Norma Snyder  
Andrea Tarshus  
Dr. Christina Tobin





# 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.

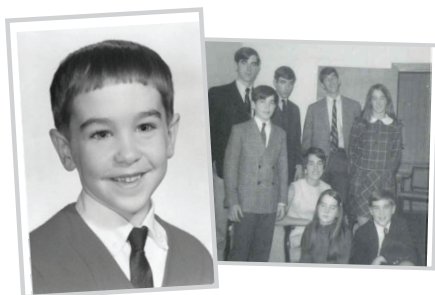


Thank you for always being there for us and just know that Roswell Park will always aspire to bring hope to those who need it.

[RoswellPark.org/StartToHeal](https://RoswellPark.org/StartToHeal)



Cyril Garvey once said, *"If you are lucky enough to have just one good idea and work really hard on it, it makes life all worthwhile."* The house at 782 Ellicott Street, Buffalo was just such an idea.



## 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 who 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 Memorial Hospital. 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 Garveys 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 at [kevinguesthouse.org](http://kevinguesthouse.org)  
to learn more about how you can help.**



## DEAR FRIENDS OF KEVIN GUEST HOUSE,

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our **golden 50th anniversary year** of opening our doors at Kevin Guest House at our **29th Annual Affaire of the Heart**. Our co-chairs, **Emily Smaldino Wallace and Catherine Whitehead** along with their committee has put together a fabulous event tonight that we are so grateful to finally be returning to the historic Buffalo Club but also allowing guests to be a part of the celebration virtually from home and still make an impact for our patients & caregivers.

The chef at Buffalo Club along with our member hosts, Henry & Judith Gorino have selected a delectable array of food stations paired with a variety of wines from **Premier Wine & Spirits** while listening to the musical stylings of **Vincent Bonelli**. Don't forget to take a chance at winning some of the fabulous prizes, each highlighted in different rooms including our themed baskets, wine wall, mystery bags, and online silent auction you can continue to bid on until 8:30 pm on Sunday, May 22nd. You won't want to miss the opportunity to win one of several prizes in our grand raffle including a \$500 Airbnb gift card, \$500 Southwest Airlines voucher and a bundle of three Meta Portals.

In our 50-year history, there are not many families that have continued to make an impact for Kevin Guest House as much as the **Durawa family** and we are honored they've accepted our **2022 Kevin Garvey Award**. Mari, Kevin & Karen's daughter, is graduating from nursing school this evening, yet the family is here in spirit supporting the event, we will formally honor them at our 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 26th.



**50th Anniversary - The Garvey's helped to start the healthcare hospitality movement that continues to directly impact guests today...**

Our namesake Kevin Garvey was nicknamed "heart" by his family, which inspired our logo and that of hundreds of homes across the world. Before Kevin sadly succumbed to his illness, he was able to see the houses that would be named after him, but passed on January 14, 1972. His parents Cyril & Claudia continued their work to honor Kevin's legacy and opened the house to its first guest on July 26, 1972, with the support from then Roswell Park Memorial Hospital, so that future generations of patients & caregivers could focus on their health and worry less about the financial burdens that accompany life threatening illnesses away from home.

As brother Denis said, over the last 50 years, "Kevin Guest House has become a beacon of hope providing shelter, comfort, and understanding to those in times of incredible need." Now there are more than over 600 similar organizations worldwide and that small idea of the Garvey family has impacted millions along with over 60,000 families traveling to Buffalo for life-saving care. A treasure in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and one of the very best examples of the City of Good Neighbors, the work we do, directly provides the dignity, compassion and the "family" our guests need in some of the hardest days.

In 2016, we delved into our history writing a book about the house and you can learn more about our history by purchasing a KGH Book or view a fascinating virtual tour360 online experience donated by Peter Schiffmacher, a Reality Capture Expert that allows you to click through our campus as you were walking through yourself. View now at [KevinGuestHouse.org/virtualtour](http://KevinGuestHouse.org/virtualtour).

**Affaire of the Heart**, as our signature event, helps support a significant portion of our annual operating budget to maintain our four-building campus and provide quality service to our guests. If you do not find that perfect item tonight, we ask that you consider supporting our **Pay It Forward Campaign in honor of extended Durawa family's contributions**. Your gift can literally help pay it forward for a guest who otherwise couldn't afford a place to stay during one of the most difficult times in their lives.



We hope you enjoy tonight's festivities and will celebrate with us throughout our golden anniversary year and honor all those moments that made a difference for our guests. You are the reason that Kevin's legacy lives on for our families and will continue for the next 50 years.



Cheers!  
*Lynsey Zimdahl Weaver*  
Lynsey Zimdahl Weaver  
Executive Director





THANK YOU TO OUR *Sponsors*  
FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!

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# CARMINAWOOD DESIGN

[carminawooddesign.com](http://carminawooddesign.com)

Proud Sponsor of the 29th Annual **Affaire of the Heart**  
Benefiting Kevin Guest House

THANK YOU FOR  
SPONSORING

*Guest Meals*

Rosanne Braxton

Dianne Charsha

Dr. Boris & Barbara Kuvshinoff

Rodman & Amy Nagy

Elizabeth Starkey

Kevin & Adrienne Thompson

Steven & Deborah Toth

Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation





# KEVIN GARVEY *Award*



Kevin Garvey was nicknamed "heart," given after a family vacation because of his kindhearted nature. His mother Claudia said, "in the eighteen months that Kevin lived with his illness, that finally conquered even his stout heart, he served constantly as a model and an example for all of us." Reflecting on the past 50 years, much has changed on campus, but the heart of our mission has always remained. As brother Hugh said, "Kevin was only with us here on Earth for 13 short years, but he has left a good and kind and everlasting footprint on our world. May Kevin Guest House continue to serve those, like Kevin, at their most

needed time, with a place of comfort, love, and life. As sister Mary said, Kevin Guest House "shines through all of you who open his doors to all those in need".

As the inspiration for the Kevin Guest House, he was known of his open heart and loving spirit. In that tradition, the Kevin Garvey Award is given to a unique individual or organization that opens their heart to our home, showing their support and devotion to our guests and to the mission of Kevin Guest House. Kevin's siblings and family are asked to consider some of the most influential supporters of the house in recent history to honor with such an award.

***This year, they couldn't think of any one more deserving to represent their brother than to honor the Durawa family, the late Kevin Durawa, his loving wife Karen, children Mari & Michael and immediate family for their unwavering support over the last two decades.***

## *Tribute to Kevin Durawa*

**"I'M EXCEPTIONAL! JUST HANGING OUT ACTING COOL."**



***The Impact of President Emeritus Kevin Durawa keeps the house going...***

If you had the privilege to meet Kevin Durawa, you couldn't help but react to his positivity. If he didn't convince you to donate within a few minutes, he would find a way the next day. The kind of person who brought all walks of life to our campus because you couldn't help but have fun with Kevin.

Over nearly two decades, the Durawa family found unique ways to involve their circle of friends. Kevin was nominated as President Emeritus well before his diagnosis of ALS in 2020, an honor presented to him last year before he sadly passed in November 2021. Along with Dean Drew & Neil Farnelo, often attributed with saving the house from closing in the 90s, Kevin

can be attributed as one of the single most important influences in our organization's history.

Kevin served 11 years on the Board of Directors, with six as President. The capstone event in Kevin's time with KGH was his leadership of the House's first capital campaign during his time as President. It took a strong leader like Kevin to get constituents from all over the community to pull together to get us over the finish line of this transformational expansion. Kevin was the perfect person for this demanding job and the results laid a solid foundation for KGH to build upon in the decades to come.







Even after he left the Board, and as he fought through his illness, he continued to work on moving the house forward by serving on our Buildings and Grounds, and Special Initiatives committees.

Countless community leaders have worked alongside him to raise funds for the house. Kevin founded our Blues & Brews event, competed for most tickets sold with Al Ryer at Oktoberfest, raised the most online during our Fallfest Family Fun Run, chaired our Celebrity Golf Tournament, convinced vendors to donate services ranging from IT Support to building water trenches on, he always found a way to connect everyone to KGH. The most significant connection during his career at RealtyUSA was the years of support from Merle Whitehead's family and employees, which continues today at Howard Hanna. As a past Kevin



Garvey Award winner, there isn't one aspect of the house Kevin didn't have an influence on, but he and Karen never wanted recognition, always raising their hand when no one else could.

***Current President, Jamie Scotland said "For many of us at KGH, Kevin was our leader, mentor, advocate, and cheerleader. I was privileged to call him my friend. KGH will miss the man who truly represents the heart and soul of Kevin Guest House."***

## THE IMPACT OF THE DURAWA FAMILY & EXTENDING FRIENDSHIPS

Even during his illness, Kevin and Karen considered his legacy to the house and his family, including kids Mari and Michael, how they would continue to support our guests. Over the years, while Kevin stood at the podium, Karen and immediate family often were the quiet influence that brought people back each year. All that he accomplished couldn't have been possible without them. Collectively, we can proudly say that with the help of Kevin & Karen's network, that our doors remained open during some of the most financial trying periods for KGH. All the "FUN"draisers they helped to organize and most especially, realizing the dream of over 20 years of expanding for the first time to serve double the number of guests. If you look around the room at our events, their influence is ever present, and we are certain many of you would raise your hand that you were first introduced in some way to our mission from their network of family.

While she doesn't feel worthy, Karen Durawa stood by her husband and impacted our successes more than she would ever recognize. While she prefers to stay out of the limelight, doing good deeds for our guests in the background, often the one out bidding you in our auctions, Karen continues to support the house and encourages her children Michael and Mari to continue to volunteer. Even a group of Checkers Club runners organized a run in Kevin's memory, where the family showed up in droves on a chilly December to show support. Yet most significantly, Kevin and Karen are the first to leave a legacy gift to our guests in Kevin's memory, an important gift to both to always have their family connected to the house. ***The Garvey siblings have selected the Durawa family as our Kevin Garvey Awardee this year, which will be presented to Karen & her children at our Anniversary Celebration on July 26th, where we will unveil the entryway dedicated to the Durawa's that will welcome every guest to our main house. Mari, their daughter is graduating from UB Nursing School tonight and of course, Karen has made a personal gift and asked friends to attend in her place today.*** We hope you will join us at our upcoming events where we will feature the many ways this incredible family has impacted our guests. For now, as he would want it, let's raise a toast to Kevin & Karen and their extended family.





# Online Bidding!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Real Estate Services

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 **AOH2022.givesmart.com** or text **AOH2022** 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.

Items won that need to be shipped  
outside of WNY will be charged the shipping costs.

Contact **Rebecca Nason** at **RNason@kevinguesthouse.org** or  
call **716-882-1818** to coordinate receiving your winning item.



# About Giving Hearts



Giving Hearts is engaging young, entrepreneurial and philanthropic individuals who are on the rise in the Buffalo-Niagara community.

Together we will ensure that every patient and family member traveling to Buffalo for medical care will be welcomed through our doors, regardless of their ability to pay for their stay.

**Join a dynamic group of individuals who have committed for one year to:**

- **LEARN** about non-profits, the medical campus and how to fundraise for a cause.
- **SUPPORT** the patients and families who call KGH their “home away from home” with hands-on volunteering and fundraising.
- **NETWORK** with other young professionals who are looking to contribute to a cause, as well as KGH board members and other community supporters.
- **SHARE** your knowledge with friends, family and co-workers as we look to increase awareness of KGH and grow our network.

**Do you, or someone you know, want to support KGH  
and gain non-profit experience?**

**Visit [kevinguesthouse.org/give/givinghearts](http://kevinguesthouse.org/give/givinghearts) for more information to  
join Giving Hearts!**



*Change the world with a Giving Heart*



# ♥ Giving Hearts ♥

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



## Thank you

**to the 2021 & 2022 members of Giving Hearts. It's not too late to join us!**

### **2021 Program Chairs**

Carrie Leed  
Adrianna Redman  
Jourdan Stevenson  
Marie Stoklosa

### **2021 Event Chairs**

Jessica Fike  
Brooke Smith

### **2021 Giving Hearts**

Laura Amantia  
David Blaszak  
Wendy Burns  
Michelle Calabrese  
Karl Chodora  
Megan Crawford  
Kelly DeBerg  
Elizabeth DiNardo  
Natalie Hathaway  
Tom Jost  
Lisa Felgemacher  
Susan Mailman  
Lesley Maloney  
Amy Nagai

### **Ally Pawarski**

Luigi Rodo  
Joe Schillace  
Jennifer Shiao  
Taylor Stuart

### **2021 Ambassadors**

Kristie Andrews  
Keith Bryan  
Mark Glieco  
Kelsey Gregorie  
Chandra Hoyt  
Alyssa McNulty  
Amy Prinzbach Bonnette  
Jackie Ruotsi  
Anna Stolzenburg

### **2022 Program Chairs**

David Blaszak  
Karl Chodora  
Carrie Leed  
Susan Mailman  
Adrianna Redman  
Jourdan Stevenson

### **2022 Event Chairs**

Jessica Fike  
Ally Pawarski  
Brooke Smith

### **2022 Giving Hearts**

Krista Anastasi  
Kristen Bishara  
Wendy Burns  
Erica Chiodo  
Ashley Coder  
Kevin Doherty  
Amy Hemenway  
Courtney Kramer  
Julia Lindner  
Lesley Maloney

### **2022 Ambassadors**

Laura Amantia  
Amy Prinzbach Bonnette  
Megan Crawford  
Natalie Hathaway  
Joe Schillace

**Do you know a young professional looking to give back to the community?  
Nominate them for Giving Hearts 2022!**

Visit [kevinguesthouse.org/give/givinghearts](https://kevinguesthouse.org/give/givinghearts) or  
Email Marianne, [mpotratz@kevinguesthouse.org](mailto:mpotratz@kevinguesthouse.org)



# The KGH50 CAMPAIGN

During the pandemic, shared common spaces & bathrooms in the aging original properties revealed greater risks to immunocompromised guests, with old HVAC systems and decades old materials being difficult to thoroughly clean. This campaign will allow the KGH to add private bathrooms in the main house, make durable upgrades in structure & safety and materials that are easier to clean and meet healthcare standards now requested to serve the most compromised patients & caregivers. The “KGH50” Campaign is a \$1.5 Million multi-project initiative to bring our three original properties up to the same standard of hospitality achieved by opening our newest building at 766 Ellicott Street for the long-term health, safety & comfort of guests.

[KevinGuestHouse.org/KGH50](http://KevinGuestHouse.org/KGH50)



## 1 TRANSPLANT APARTMENTS



UPGRADE BATHROOMS, KITCHENS & COMMON SPACES IN EXISTING FOUR ISOLATED TRANSPLANT RECOVERY APARTMENTS

## 2 PRIVATE BATHROOMS

ADD PRIVATE BATHROOMS & SUITES TO OUR MAIN HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY



Similar materials to Salvatore House

## 3 IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND FILTRATION

IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND FILTRATION BY REPLACING AND ENHANCING DECADES OLD HVAC SYSTEMS TO INTRODUCE REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY THAT TRAPS MICROORGANISMS, SUCH AS BACTERIA, MOLD & VIRUSES.



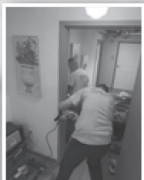
New systems clean air quickly

## 4 UPGRADE MATERIALS



INSTALL DURABLE, EASY TO DISINFECT, COMMERCIAL GRADE MATERIALS AND FURNITURE IN ALL THREE ORIGINAL PROPERTIES.

## 5 ENHANCE SECURITY



ENHANCE OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES THAT EASE ABILITY TO VACATE OUR BUILDING FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS

## 6 EXTERIOR CAMPUS

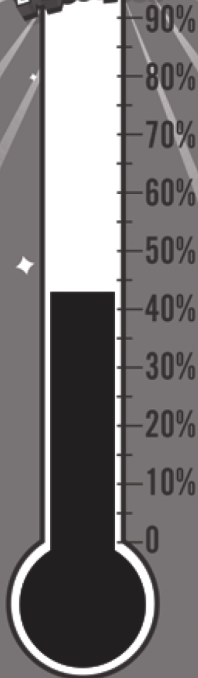


REFRESH OUR EXTERIOR CAMPUS TO ITS ORIGINAL GLORY INCLUDING PAINTING THE ORIGINAL HOMES.

This campaign is critical now so that we are able to return our occupancy to pre-pandemic levels and serve the most amount of guests by providing the dignity of private spaces critical to help them recover & stay safe.



**GOAL!**  
\$1,500,000



Hugh Garvey, brother of our namesake Kevin Garvey, is chair of the KGH50 campaign, and we're grateful to him and wife Nina for kicking off our fundraising with a **\$100,000** donation.

“50 years ago, when others couldn't see through their tears after the tragedy of losing a child to cancer, Mom and Dad envisioned Kevin Guest House.

*Please help others by joining Nina and me by donating to our one and only 50th Anniversary Campaign. Your donation will be used for vital upgrades to Kevin's House, bringing it up to 21st century standards and ensuring 50 more years of love, hope and compassion for those less fortunate. Many thanks and God Bless.”*



– Hugh & Nina Garvey

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RESTORE THEIR VISION.

“The house that mom and dad started is in disrepair and this campaign helps to return it to the standard needed today.”

– HUGH GARVEY

# Thank you

to these generous donors for kicking off our campaign!

#### \$25,000+

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation  
Garman Family Foundation  
KeyBank/First Niagara Foundation  
Hugh J. III & Nina Garvey  
Robert & Wendy Evans  
James H. Cummings Foundation

#### \$5,000 – \$24,999

Josephine Goodyear Foundation  
Klug Family Foundation  
Anonymous

#### \$1,000 – \$4,999

Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund  
Jamie & Gail Scotland  
Karen & Christopher Cummings  
Jonathan & Wendy Morris  
Dianne Charsha  
Martin & Nancy Krebs  
Andrea Tarshus  
Frank & Linda Evans  
Jason & Alexandra Friel  
Rodman & Amy Nagy  
Rebecca Walsh

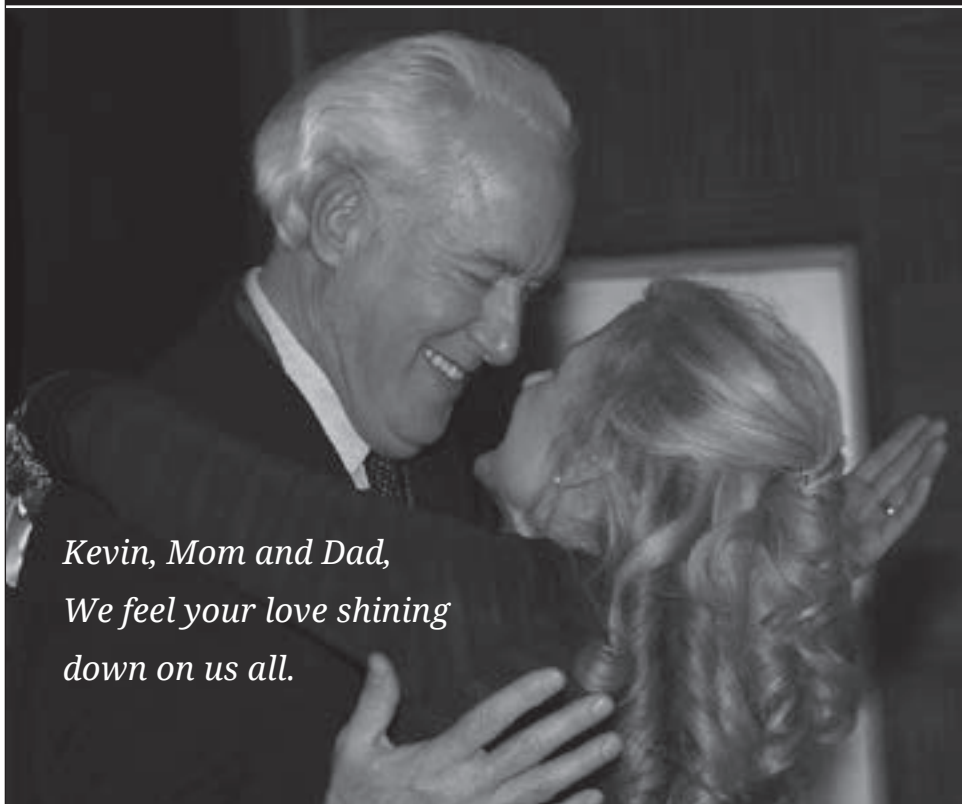
#### \$1-\$999

Mary Garvey Grenier  
Gary & Shirley Johnson  
Bradley & Lynsey Weaver  
Marianne & Seth Potratz  
John & Sheila Hartwell  
Timothy & Tori Kucinski  
Jennifer & Frank Mergl  
David Delinski  
Jeffrey & Brenda Paddock  
Diane & Kenneth Kosela Long  
William J. Joyce  
Nick & Kate Heidinger



# *We Celebrate* **50 YEARS**

*of providing a home away from home for thousands of families*



*Kevin, Mom and Dad,  
We feel your love shining  
down on us all.*

*Love,*  
Tom & Mary Garvey



# Amy and Max Mantrow

ROCHESTER, NY



Max Mantrow is a 28-year-old bone marrow transplant patient who received treatment during his stay at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center from September 23, 2021 through the first week in November 2021. He was then given clearance to recover with his mother and caregiver, Amy in one of our transplant apartments! Amy found unique hobbies to stay busy at KGH since her check in with us during the fall. Additional family members back in Rochester included Max's father, Michael, sister, Gabriella, girlfriend, Michalena and son, Jesse.

Max had an Allo transplant, a procedure in which a patient receives healthy stem cells to replace their own stem cells that have been destroyed by treatment with radiation or high doses of chemotherapy. While Max received weekly treatments and physical therapy, he remained immune compromised and needed his mom to aid him with every step of the way before they could officially go home after their 104 days stay. While his close family visited on weekends from a safe distance, they celebrated most of the holiday season via Facetime and socially distanced to keep Max safe. This meant that they spent Thanksgiving, Christmas, Max's birthday and rang in the New Year with us. They celebrated the holiday season by decorating their apartment and baking Christmas cookies. They are both doing well back in Rochester and plan to visit during the summer to volunteer at the house!

Amy has always enjoyed teaching exercise and cleaning, but developed a new hobby during her time at KGH by learning to play ukulele. Amy said "I've been using this meditation bowl to instruct Max on how to meditate in order to decompress and relax while improving his health. We also find unique ways to exercise in the kitchen of the apartment". She also learned a new incredible strength in herself that she never experienced before. Max used his free time in the apartment to play video games and creating his own electronic music.



They both thanked KGH for letting them stay at the apartment and for making them feel so comfortable. Amy started to tear up while talking about their journey, but they both agreed that KGH has become a second home for them, and it's been a blessing for their family during one of the most difficult times in their lives.

**Sponsored by:**



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# Linda and Robert Cochran

ONEIDA, NY



Staying in a relationship with the same person for 40 years, like Linda & Robert Cochran is truly a devoted, profound and significant achievement. It's not only a testament to being committed to one another, but also displays everlasting unity. The traditional gift for a 40th Anniversary is the ruby gemstone, which is a symbol of passion and strength. They celebrated this impressive milestone in April 2022; however, the strength and love in their family (and hometown) extends well beyond their relationship.

The Cochran's reside three hours away from Buffalo, in Oneida, NY. Since the summer of 2019, they've become quite familiar with WNY, as Robert underwent a bone marrow transplant at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute in August. He learned of his illness in January, but due to his age, the procedure shortly followed as soon as a match was located.

The couple considered Kevin Guest House "home" from August 2019 until two days before Thanksgiving, when they were able to safely return to Oneida to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. During their

stay, Robert caught up on some much-needed rest, participated in word puzzles and took walks to regain his strength post-procedure. They stayed in the Upper Brick Apartment, where they enjoyed observing the traffic on the medical campus through the dining room windows. Linda commented that "the apartment felt homey and comforting, especially the front porch, to sit out on and get fresh air."

Unfortunately, there were other illnesses in the family, causing Linda to assist out of state. As a result, Robert's siblings and children served as an incredible support system, by taking turns visiting from across the country. He grew up in a large family and was able to reconnect with his nine siblings (Robert is a twin!), six children and grandchildren throughout his treatment in one way or another. Although it wasn't an ideal situation, looking back, Robert was thankful for the time to catch up with family. "Everybody was so excited and happy to see such a nice, clean and bright place to be in" according to Robert. He also added that Kevin Guest House "has helped many people get back on their feet."

The couple agreed that meals at night helped out a lot. It took one more burden away from them, so they could spend more quality time together. They both agreed that "if you needed, anything, the staff was always accommodating." The Cochran's found comfort in safely communicating with guests going through the same thing. They cannot thank the Kevin Guest House staff enough for "being so caring and accommodating. There's no stress when we stay here. We feel a sense of calmness being in the house."

After retirement, Robert stayed busy by making building repairs for nearby businesses. He was a regular at his local Lowes, so the staff became very familiar with the friendly and sociable customer. When he was away for many months receiving medical treatment, the Lowes employees were concerned of his whereabouts. After his recovery, he visited them and took a Kevin Guest House brochure. He explained to the staff what had happened, and after learning about the treatment Robert received at his "home away from home", the managers were inspired to show their love. Each visit the Cochran's make to KGH for checkups, they always show up with a carload of donations from Lowes, including hand sanitizer, facemasks and cleaning supplies. We can't thank Linda & Robert enough for their kindness and dedication to spreading our mission to help future guests feel the love.

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George Leedom, from Saranac Lake, NY is a previous KGH guest, having stayed with us for several weeks in 2019 while his late wife Eloise received a bone marrow transplant. In addition to honoring her memory with a paver in our Healing Garden, he has made

donations for KGH logo pavers on the entrance and exit paths in the garden and contributed to our operating funds.

Among the reasons he chooses to support Kevin Guest House is knowing how impactful his contributions are to a small organization. We are grateful to George for being our first donor to set up a Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit Kevin Guest House, and he hopes to inspire others to do the same.

"Why KGH??? It was a super place for somebody or family to stay when a member has cancer. Under treatment or confined to the hospital, it sure took the burden of finding what to do with myself for an extended stay."

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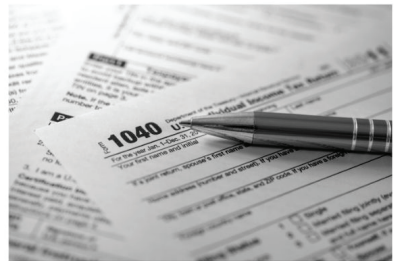
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-Drs. Thomas Schwaab & Christina Tobin

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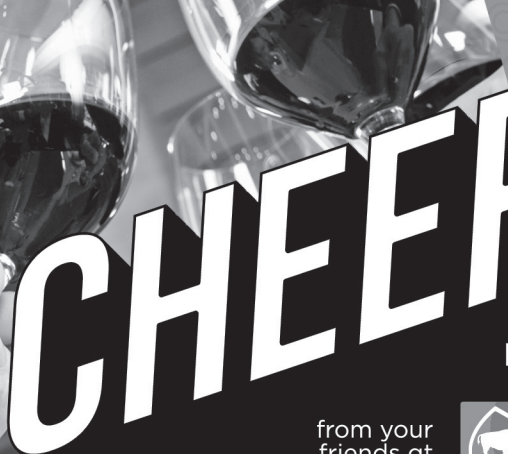
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We're fortunate to have hardworking volunteers throughout the pandemic like Arlene Larry, Karen Vasbinder and Fran Thomas. We asked their thoughts on volunteering through the pandemic.

*"It was a way to stay connected to people and to help any way I could to help the house continue to stay open."*

*Arlene*



*"I was happy to help in any small way that I could, knowing that all COVID protocols were being followed in a most conscientious manner."*

*Karen*



*"The need for help never stopped, and I always feel fantastic working with the people there."*

*Fran*



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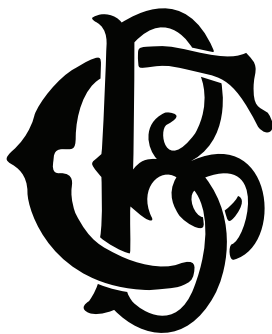
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*Nina and I are both thankful and grateful for the wonderful staff, volunteers and loyal patrons of Kevin Guest House.*

*It is the kindness, generosity and devotion of each of you that nurtures the Heart that warms this magical House.*

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Kaleida Health Foundation signature events help support our mission. Check out the following events this year. For more information visit [foundation.kaleidahealth.org/events](https://foundation.kaleidahealth.org/events).



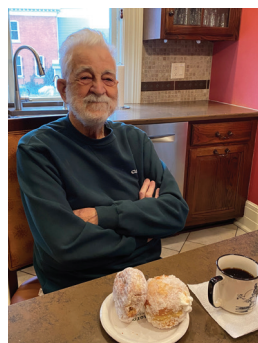


# Pay it Forward

## DONATION

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You can also text **AOH2022** to **76278**.



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