THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE:

NANCY BIERNAT
SUE BLACK
DIANE CARR
DONNA DORAN
BETTY HOLLIGAN

SUE BLACK
DIANE SMITH
SUSAN ZIMDAHL

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THANK YOU TO OUR HEART SPONSORS:

DAVID & KATHERINE CARLSON
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HEART AWARD HEALTHCARE PARTNER HONOREES:
Roswell Park
IT network team

HEART AWARD INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER HONOREES:
ARLENE LARRY
KAREN VASBINDER

HEART AWARD GARDEN SPONSOR:
STEPHANIE EDGE & CYNTHIA SWAIN

SPECIAL THANKS TO [BN] for supporting our Anniversary with complimentary advertising to commemorate the KGH50 Campaign.

Anniversary Sponsors:
ROSEWELL PARK
JAMES & MARY CONWAY
ROBERT & WENDY EVANS
TOM & MARY GARVEY

Garden Sponsor:
STEPHANIE EDGE & CYNTHIA SWAIN

Heart Award Heart Awardees:
DAVID & KATHERINE CARLSON
THE DURAWA FAMILY
KEVIN & SUSAN GARVEY
BUFFALO SPREE PUBLISHING

Cheryl Stein Law Firm PLLC

Thank you to our committee:

KATHY FASSL (Chair)
NANCY BIERNAT
CHARLENE LEISING
SUE BLACK
WENDY NAYLON
DIANE CARR
MARGIE PAVLOSKI
DONNA DORAN
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Kevin Guest House: The Little House With a Big Heart

Fall/Winter 2022

A Publication by Kevin Guest House

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KevinGuestHouse.org
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#KevinGuestHouse
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Thanks to our Building & Grounds committee and commitments from Carmina Wood Architects & Pike Construction for leading the effort to kick-off construction in targeted areas of our original three aging properties so we can stay open to serve as many guests as possible while closing key areas to move renovations forward. With the First Niagara Foundation & Mother Cabrini Foundation funding, we can begin transplant apartment renovations in the Carriage House & Brick House, with the original hope of closing only one apartment at a time.

As NEW RFP's were sent out, costs have nearly doubled causing us to raise our overall goal to $2 million to complete all the necessary changes to these spaces. An unexpected electrical upgrade located on the exterior of our Carriage building & plumbing changes have brought new challenges to close both these apartments simultaneously but necessary to provide the best environment for immune compromised guests. Once completed, we will upgrade the brick building apartments and once all fundraising is met, begin reconstruction of the original Main House.

Meanwhile Joe & Marla Coniglio (living in Florida) felt compelled to help “Adopt Room #14” in desperate need with new furnishings. To do renovations once on the 3rd floor, closing both #14 & #15 to combine into one private suite.

Can you join us to build for the future with an additional gift this year?

Hugh and Nina Garvey
FIRST INDIVIDUAL GIFT: $1,000

First Niagara & Keybank Foundation
FIRST FOUNDATION GIFT: $125,000

$2,000,000
AMOUNT RAISED TO DATE THROUGH 09/15/2022
$832,781
GOAL
$1,167,219
AMOUNT LEFT TO RAISE

Jeffrey Figliotti Coniglio
DONORS
55

First Niagara & Keybank Foundation

CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

The KGH Board of Directors because I was looking for an opportunity to “give back” to our community and saw a truly special organization where my experience and talents as an architect could be put to good use, helping their stewardship of beautiful, historic buildings that offer compassionate homes to families who are facing extreme medical challenges.”

– Jonathan H. Morris, AIA

Vice President, Architecture, Carmina Wood Design

is a proud sponsor of Affaire of the Heart and the KGH50 Campaign

DONATE TO KGH50 AT KEVINGUESTHOUSE.COM/KGH50
Barbara pictured left with sister Suzy and brother in law Denis Garvey on the KGH porch.

Barbara is a first ever known supporter to leave KGH in her will. She does this not only in memory of Joe, but in honor of all the families they got to know while they were here. The friendships that formed were a key part of coping with the difficult times then, and continue even now.

Michael & Lynn Fallon
traveling from California

“Dealing with my cancer diagnosis over the last year has been an emotional roller.coaster ride for me and my family, and Kevin Guest House has provided us a welcoming, supportive and warm environment, with easy access to Roswell and, at a time of uncertainty and fear, a safe harbor of comfort and peace and understanding. Our gratitude is boundless.”

- Michael Fallon

Barbara’s picture is featured with Suzy and brother in law Denis Garvey on the KGH porch.

It’s more like family for former guest Corlin Bauhofer, who came back to visit for our 50th Anniversary and is pictured here with our Executive Director, Lynsey Weaver and Hugh J. Gavey III.

Thank you Members

Thank you Members

Kevin Garvey Award

Kevin Garvey Award Winner: Karen, Mar & Michael Durawa with Lynsey Weaver and Hugh J. Gavey III.

A legacy of friends with heart

I wanted to honor one of my best friends Kevin Durawa with a brick at KGH. His life was cut short by ALS, a disease without a cure. Kevin meant so much to me and was a great leader at KGH. This brick, and others he has at KGH, represent how special and loved he was, and meant so much to me and was a great leader at KGH. This brick, and others he has at KGH, represent how special and loved he was, and

Karen, Mar & Michael Durawa seeing the first phase of the Durawa entryway completed

Karen, Mari & Michael seeing the first phase of the Durawa entryway completed

Our gratitude is boundless.

If you’d like to purchase a paver, call Marianna Potratz at 716-882-1818 or visit kevinguesthouse.org/give/garden.

Even though Joe lost his fight in 2020, Corlin continues to support the work of KGH through a monthly donation. She does this not only in memory of Joe, but in honor of all the families they got to know while they were here. The friendships that formed were a key part of coping with the difficult times then, and continue even now.

Michael & Lynn Fallon came back to NY to care for his aging father and never expected to find out Michael had a rare form of prostate cancer that had them staying in Buffalo for several months. Unfortunately, Michael’s father has since passed, but thankfully Michael’s quick response is improving & they’re grateful for the time with dad close by. The Fallon’s traveled home in September and will be back this winter for more treatment to their preferred doctors at Roswell Park.

At the 50th Anniversary Celebration, we also honored one of our most steadfast supporters, Kevin Durawa, her late husband, Kevin and their children, Mar & Michael with the Kevin Garvey Award, our highest award that holds the spirit, compassion & heart that young Kevin had during his life. The Durawa’s commitment spans several decades and continues to impact our guests with the generous spirit from those of influence who stand by our mission in their honor. We wanted a space on our campus that reflected the warm, welcoming & kind demeanor of the Durawas family & honor their service. A generous donor suggested the main house entryway was the perfect fit for that purpose. They entered or exited our campus, their impression would be of a bright & welcoming place that made them feel at home. The first step was to remove the dark wallpaper and we brought the same artist, Tim Martin, who installed a beautiful sky rendering in the 766 stairwell ceilings and match the same sky in the main house entryway calling. Adding a lovely rendering of a tree with the inscription “Kevin” etched inside to be a reminder of our namesake, Kevin Garvey & Kevin Durawa’s family who the space is dedicated to. The Interior Design Association added a bright glass light fixture & we hope to finish the remaining touches soon. As one of Kevin’s last wishes for KGH; he and Karen decided to leave a legacy gift in his honor to the house that he presented to us last year. Karen may be a little softer spoken, but Karen stays as committed as always to our guests, volunteering her students to provide holiday treats & guest surprises and still rallying the troops to attend all our events. A true representation of what it means to pay it forward for the next person in need & thinking about others in your own time of need.

We are honored to celebrate what the Durawa’s mean to KGH.

Kevin Garvey Award Winner’s Mar, Mar & Michael Durawa with Lynsey Weaver and Hugh J. Gavey III.

Our gratitude is boundless.”

I strongly believe in the mission of KGH. After visiting the houses, viewing the beautiful grounds, and meeting the caring staff, I have made Kevin Guest House a top priority in my estate planning.”

- Barbara Mellerski-Farkas

I am very familiar with Kevin Garvey’s struggle with leukemia. Kevin’s brother Denis was dating my sister Suzy when I heard of Kevin’s passing forty years ago. Having had my own personal struggle with cancer, I fully understand and sympathize with those patients and families needing support and housing during treatment.

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BUFFALO MARATHON

Thank you to longtime KGH advocate, Gray Weber and The Buffalo Marathon committee for choosing to donate $2,500 to help cover stays for guests who cannot afford our marked $25/person/night. Our team is proud to be one of the first stops along the route to make the race one of the best in our community!

HONORING BABY ELYJAH JOHN DOUGLAS

In May, baby Elyjah John Douglas was honored and remembered on his first birthday in heaven by his loving family, along with friends at Totally Buffalo Cares. In addition to the mountain of in-kind donations, Totally Buffalo Cares also made $1,000 donation to personalize a paver in our Healing Garden in honor of Elyjah. His mother, Cassandra shared “I truly can’t thank KGH enough. At one of the hardest moments in our lives KGH offered support that I don’t think we would have survived without. Being so close to our son at Oishei Children’s Hospital was the most rewarding thing anyone could have offered us. Being able to give back to KGH in Elyjah’s memory is something that I know he would be proud of. We are so incredibly grateful. Thank you so much.”

JP’S 2ND ANNUAL BLADDER

Jr was diagnosed with Stage 2 bladder cancer in 2020 and underwent chemotherapy treatment, but his bladder was removed and a neobladder constructed from his small intestine. While receiving treatment at Roswell Park, Jr and his caretaker, Hadi stayed at KGH. They held their second fundraiser, raising $5,000 to benefit the house to pay-it-forward for the next guests. We were delighted to see them visit from Syracuse after receiving good news following a checkup with his doctor.

GIVE 716

JULY 14-16 THE BUFFALO SABRES FOUNDATION AND THE BUFFALO BILLS FOUNDATION joined with the WNY community to celebrate Give 716 Day (7/16) with a 24-hour donation period. We doubled our donations this year, raising $5,280 (and counting as we wait to hear how much is matched!)
KEEP OUR VOLUNTEERS CONNECTED NETWORKING WITH OUR KGH BOARD

As many Giving Hearts chooses to continue a second year as Ambassadors or move onto other committees, we can tell our young professionals’ program successfully connects them to our mission and provides a meaningful impact for our guests. One of the program highlights is getting together to do a cookout or prepare a meal for the guests and get a chance to get to know one another. David Blaszak, program co-chair recently hosted our Board and Giving Heart members at the new headquarters for Collect Law, the refurbished mansion on Delaware Avenue that was the most recent Junior League & Buffalo News Decorator Showhouse. As part of a private tour of the building, meeting in one of the bedrooms where the wallpaper adorns some of the past Showhouses including the Salentine House on the Kevin Guest House campus. They finished off the year in celebration of their annual event Bites & Brews held on November 2nd at Sassaqua.

Giving Hearts co-chairs, Adrianna Redman of Howard Hanna and Susan Mailman, of Supreme Lending teamed up with their family & co-workers to take part in Kevin’s five-year event and organized a golf tournament to benefit KGH. They made Koozies, buttons, w/d $5/50 raffle tickets and played a hard fought game to raise $5,000 for our guests. There is talk of a tournament of home next year.

As a young professional living and working in Buffalo, I was looking for a meaningful way to give back. After meeting with Lynsey Weaver and learning about Kevin Guest House’s mission, I fell in love with the organization, KGH and their staff do an amazing job caring for families and patients and provide a semblance of home for families dealing with very difficult circumstances.

James Lougen

Vice President of Business & Professional Banking, M&T Bank

JOIN A DYNAMIC GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COMMITTED ONE YEAR TO GIVE BACK

Giving Hearts engages young, entrepreneurial, and philanthropic individuals who are on the rise in the Buffalo Niagara community. Members commit to raise $1,000 each over 12 months to support guests staying at Kevin Guest House while building their network through events, volunteering, and professional development sessions. If you know an outstanding young professional who is an up-and-coming leader looking for a meaningful way to give back, contact us to nominate them for the Giving Hearts class of 2023! NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 31ST.

Learn more or sign-up now kevin.guesthouse.org/give/givinghearts

The Stevenson sisters have been a part of the Giving Hearts program since the first year and continue to find new ways to introduce Friends to KGH. Program co-chair, Kristin has hosted countless polo events for charity over the last decade and was excited to bring one back in person at the Knox Farm & Polo Grounds in East Aurora with the first inaugural Polo for Kevin. The event brought in thousands of people from across the border and skilled polo members from across New York state. With the support of $2000 in sponsorships from polo enthusiasts, polo players and sponsor Hallock & Construction and Jaguar Land Rover of Buffalo, the match raised over $1,000 on a beautiful fall afternoon.

As part of giving, Kevin’s favorite past time and organized a softball game to benefit KGH. They made Koozies, buttons, w/d $50/50 raffle tickets and played a hard fought game to raise $1,000 for our guests. There is talk of a tournament of home next year.

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Thank you Volunteers.

If you played, sponsored, donated or volunteered at our 26th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic and Nine & Wine Tournament at Lockport Town and Country Club, we cannot thank you enough. The tournament, along with sponsors, donations, and our online auction exceeded our expectations by raising over $76,000! We could not have done it without the support and generosity of so many people.

Visit our website to view the full list of winners and listen to a heartfelt message of why KGH remains in his families’ hearts from our tournament host, Buffalo Sabres General Manager Kevyn Adams to our golfers and celebrities, Darryl Shannon, John Tavares, Zenon Konopka and Derek Smith who helped some of our competitive teams with their scorecard.

Congrats Winners:

18-hole Winners (SCORE 51):
Frank DelSignore
James Blackwell
Gary Hall
Paul Kudela and Celebrity, Darryl Shannon

CHA DESIGN & CONSULTING

Co-Ed Team Winners (SCORE 65):
Lisa LaTrovato, Tricia Lynett, Lauren Lewis and Jennifer Dickinson

“Thank you for your continued commitment and support of our unique programs and services. We could not do everything we do without you,”

- Kevyn Adams

Thank you to our Committee:

Co-chairs
Adam Brasky
Jim Lougen

David Blaszak
Rosanne Braxton
Kyle George
Breanne Helms
Carrie Reed
Justin MacFarland
Robert Marinucci
Amy Stone Nagai
Joe Schillace
Rick Schott
Thank you to all of the wonderful sponsors and supporters in attendance for Supper in the Street. It was a wonderful evening that raised awareness and $73,000 for Kevin Guest House!

Bringing our tables back together down Ellicott Street, thank you to over 350 sponsors and supporters & 100 volunteers in attendance for Supper in the Street. A heartfelt story from Linda & Michael Fallon, current guests who traveled from California to care for his ailing father & learned about his own cancer diagnosis during his trip. KGH guests enjoyed a catered VIP meal thanks for generous donors that included farm to table items donated from Greg’s U Pick, Oles Farm Promise Lanf CSA, Niagara Produce, JH Dobman Meats, Costanzo’s Bakery, Frankie Primo’s, Russell’s Steaks & Chops & creamy delicious dessert from Rich Products. A very special thank you to our co-chair, Amy Martis for all of her hard work putting this event together and catering led by Chef Joe Gerace & sous-chef Kyle Olson provided by Lake Life Cafe.
Follow us on social media to see our greatest need each week for Wish List Wednesday.

- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Lysol Wipes
- Bleach
- Toilet Paper
- Bathroom Cleaner
- Paper Towels
- Bottled Water
- Dishwasher pods
- Garbage bags, tall kitchen and small wastebasket
- Ground coffee
- Liquid laundry detergent (fragrance free)
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D & 9V)
- Breakfast bars/Granola bars

Learn more: kevinguesthouse.org/give/wish-list

2x your donation by shopping with AmazonSmile. Select us as your preferred charity and 0.5% of qualifying purchases can be donated to KGH on your behalf.

Upcoming Events

- AFFAIRE OF THE HEART
  March
- SPRING FLOWER SALES:
  March/April
- CELEBRITY GOLF
  July
- 50TH ANNIVERSARY
  CELEBRATION
  July 26

The Poinssettia fundraiser adds a pop of color to your home or office this holiday season.

You can pre-order flowers at kevinguesthouse.org/poinsettia-sale or visit us at one of our site sales.

FLOWERS FROM $8-30
PICK UP AT KGH
(ORDERS $200+ DELIVERED)

Order by November 20th
FOR PICK UP A KGH
December 1, 2, 3, 8 or 9

FUNDRAISE ONLINE FOR KGH

We are extremely honored to have supporters like Marla designate us as the charity of choice for their birthday month Facebook fundraiser.

Interested in starting your own campaign? Contact us for more information, advice or ideas!

Put your family in front of the camera for a great cause.

For $50 you'll take a photo (with Santa if you'd like) on the front steps of our Russell J. Salvatore Hospitality House decorated for the holidays. Pets are welcome!

Visit kevinguesthouse.org/family-in-focus to reserve your space!