



# Family Matters

HOUSING + HEALING + HOPE

## A Record-Setting House Party for 2011

On Friday, September 23rd, the 2011 Home and Away House Party for SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals at The Carolina Inn raised a total of \$176,000. Three hundred and thirty people attended, and made the evening a very festive occasion. The live and silent auctions on domestic and international excursions raised \$32,500, while an open request for bids of \$500, \$250 and \$100 raised \$33,500. Sponsorships and ticket sales raised in excess of \$104,000 prior to the party itself.

Dana Rawls Pearsall chaired the event and her committee of Carol Callahan, Margie Haber, Lucy Falk, Nanci Jordan, Marsha Roslanowick, Susan Skolsky, and Lee Wollman pulled off an incredible night of fun, food, dancing, and a live casino. Excursions

included a week-long cruise in the British Isles, a week in a cabin in Big Sky Montana, a week at the Divi Little Bay Beach Resort in St. Maarten and a week in Boca Raton. The trips included a long weekend in NYC, a mountain trip to St. James Lake, a week at Wintergreen and a week at Atlantic Beach.

UNC Health Care served as the presenting sponsor. Silver sponsors were Dr. Uday and Laura Reebye. Biogen Idec, Genentech, a member of the Roche Group, and Lisa Carey and Matt Ewend served as bronze sponsors.

To date, we have provided 75,000 guest stays to patients and families from 99 of NC's 100 counties, 32 other states, and 5 foreign countries. Your ongoing gifts to Family House—and your support of our special events—continue to make our work possible. ■

### PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$35,000)

UNC Health Care

### SILVER SPONSOR (\$7,500)

Uday and Laura Reebye

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*Big thanks to all our sponsors!*



## SECU Family House

**OUR MISSION** — *SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals provides an affordable, safe, nurturing home away from home for seriously ill patients, their family members, and caregivers from throughout North Carolina and beyond.*

### STAFF

Greg Kirkpatrick  
*Executive Director*

Kathy Yasui-Der  
*Executive Assistant*

Janice Ross  
*House Manager*

Yvonne Knutson  
*Director of Marketing & Community Relations*

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Allison Worthy  
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Sandra DeLeon  
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123 Old Mason Farm Rd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
919.932.8000

[www.secufamilyhouse.org](http://www.secufamilyhouse.org)

## Notes from the Director

Our 2011 House Party and Annual Gala was an unparalleled success. The evening's final tally of \$176,000 represents almost 20% of the funds that we need to operate this year. Sponsors and attendees contributed \$104,000 to underwrite the event before we even got started; Dana Pearsall and her committee planned a terrific party, arranging for an exciting array of trips and vacations to places far and wide; and the crowd's usual enthusiasm translated into a celebratory evening of good humor and good will.

Former guest Ted Scercy shared the story of his wife Mary's grave illness and eventual (and successful) double lung transplant at UNC Hospitals. His sentiments focused everyone on the substance of our mission. I believe his narrative spiked much of the special energy that so many of you put into your bidding on live auction items. But, it particularly led to the outpouring of giving that followed. We raised \$33,000 from those of you who simply raised your paddles to make gifts to our Fund for Families. Wow!

That \$33,000 speaks volumes about what kind of community this is.

**"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."**

MOTHER TERESA



Folks raised their paddles with gusto, unhesitatingly (we had several people say we should have started the bidding at \$1,000 just to give them a greater opportunity to give back). On behalf of the entire organization, let me say how grateful we are for your enduring and overwhelming support for the work we do offering housing, healing, and hope to families in the worst kind of crisis.

As donors, your commitment to this mission inspires the staff and Board. Much like our volunteers at reception, you leap at the chance to help. You give us hope. Like a much-needed transfusion, that hope circulates to our guests and animates the Family House on a daily basis. Thanks to you, we return to our work with resolve, renewed by your generosity, faith, and encouragement. ■

**Greg Kirkpatrick**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**ON THE COVER:** Guests enjoy one of the many Casino games at the 2011 SECU Family House Home and Away House Party.

To view the full gallery of House Party photos and order prints, go to:

<http://secufamilyhouse.org/products-page/>

## In Memory of Luis Morales

Luis Morales, our director of operations, passed away on Wednesday, October 19th, surrounded by his wife Nana (with Luis, below) and several members of his family.

We will miss not only his expertise and insightful approach to the operational management of SECU Family House, but also his abundant sense of humor, his talent for storytelling, and his capacity for empathy and compassion.

Not one to let the ravages of pancreatic cancer hinder his spirit, Luis did the following in the past year, post diagnosis:

- He enjoyed his 2010 Christmas quite a bit when his own apartment at Family House was transformed into a Winter Wonderland, jam-packed with lots of holiday lights, his train set and plenty of other seasonal decorations.
- He was the center of attention for one heck of a surprise 64th birthday celebration in March, hosted by Nana and his sisters, Laurene and Lucienne.
- In June, he traveled to California to see friends and take in the sights of the West Coast.
- He saw his youngest son Philip off to college on a full academic scholarship with a very good chance of his being recruited to a Division I baseball team.
- He raced around in a Ferrari during his trip to Italy in September.
- He continued to work at full capacity as long as he possibly could to support Family House's daily and longer-term needs.

Luis always kept a full schedule, both before he got sick and afterwards, savoring the joy of all the best moments and rising above the toughest ones.

The Board, staff and volunteers will honor Luis' memory by implementing the long-term strategic and operational plans he helped pull together—plans and systems that will keep Family House running efficiently so that we can support thousands of families in need each year for many, many years to come. ■



## Culture in the House

The smooth sound of jazz filled the lobby of SECU Family House. Guests, staff members, and volunteers gathered to hear UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp on piano and the original vocal renditions of Terri Houston, UNC-CH's director of recruitment and diversity programs.

"Tonight, we're going to provide healing through music," Houston said.

From Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are," to the jazz classic, "My Funny Valentine," the set list had something for everyone.

Houston and Thorp, who have been performing together for more than eight years, gave a vibrant performance. Their energy was contagious: audience members, including Dr. Paul Armistead from the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, clapped along with the music.

The performance was part of Family House's North Carolina Culture series, which features local artists, historians, professors, and writers on Wednesday evenings. Chancellor Thorp and his wife Patti are hosting the series.

Houston and Thorp ended the evening on a soulful note with the blues classic, "Stormy Monday."

"These songs speak to our hearts," Houston said at the close. "Thank you for letting us share these with you."

The culture series will pick up again in mid-February. If you know anyone interested in being a part of the spring series, contact Yvonne at [yvonne@secufamilyhouse.org](mailto:yvonne@secufamilyhouse.org). ■

## We Remember

These are deaths that we have been made aware of in recent months. If you've lost a loved one, and would like to remember him or her in this way, please call House Manager Janice Ross at 919.932.8000.

- 10.10.10 **Melville Odom**,  
Mount Olive, NC
- 01.10.11 **Macie Spearman**,  
Clinton, NC
- 01.30.11 **Daryl Bugbee**,  
New Bern, NC
- 04.09.11 **Donald Rose**, Brevard, NC
- 04.15.11 **Edward Snow**,  
Mount Airy, NC
- 04.20.11 **Beverly Schroeder**,  
Edenton, NC
- 06.08.11 **Richard Warren**,  
Winston-Salem, NC
- 06.14.11 **David Russell**,  
Wilmington, NC
- 06.20.11 **John Roberson**, Corolla, NC
- 06.21.11 **Barry Adkins**,  
Oak Island, NC
- 06.25.11 **Mildred Sessoms**,  
Laurinburg, NC
- 06.28.11 **Nikki Culbreth**,  
Rocky Mount, NC
- 07.13.11 **Sharon Peedin**, Princeton, NC
- 07.23.11 **Frederick Hood**, Kinston, NC
- 07.28.11 **Julie Schorr**, Supply, NC
- 08.02.11 **Gregory Chamblee**,  
Lewiston, NC
- 08.19.11 **Cheryl Simpson**, Burgaw, NC
- 08.19.11 **James "Jimmy" Whitaker**,  
High Point, NC
- 08.21.11 **Ann Muenzner**,  
Fayetteville, NC
- 08.23.11 **Georgina Tirado**,  
Knightdale, NC
- 08.30.11 **Karen Smidt**, Suffolk, VA
- 09.05.11 **Frances Starling**,  
Fayetteville, NC
- 09.27.11 **Felix Rebollar**, Tarheel, NC

## Guest Spotlight

As a mother of four and a longtime volunteer, Patricia Griffith, 81, of Greenville, N.C., has spent her life giving to others. During her stay at Family House while she is being treated for a melanoma-related leg wound, Griffith has been on the receiving end for a change.

Griffith is undergoing hyperbaric oxygen treatments. After she was diagnosed with melanoma two and a half years ago, doctors removed the carcinoma from her leg and performed radiation treatments. The resulting wound did not heal. Griffith said the increased oxygen levels she is receiving from the treatments should encourage new skin to grow over the wound.

Though her treatment is an ongoing process, Griffith said her first five weeks at Family House have been a blessing.

Griffith said two other house guests rearranged their schedules in order to help her. "This couple has picked me up and brought me back from my treatments."

"This has been a godsend, a wonderful place," she said.

Griffith is impressed with the care



she is receiving from Family House staff, guests, and volunteers during her stay. She spoke fondly of a group of fraternity brothers who came to prepare dinner for the guests one evening.

"Each frat brother sat at a table to speak with the guests," Griffith said.

Because of the sense of community she feels, Griffith said Family House truly lives up to its name. "It's the closest thing to a home and a family that you can find," she said. "Family House has meant the world to me." ■

## Deck the Halls! at SECU Family House

Thursday, December 8th, 2011, 6–8 PM

Please join us at the House for light refreshments and seasonal music as we celebrate the lighting of our Christmas tree.

This will be a casual gathering of House guests, volunteers, board members, staff, and special Family House supporters.

For more information, contact Yvonne Knutson at [yvonne@secufamilyhouse.org](mailto:yvonne@secufamilyhouse.org) or 919.932.8001.



## Family House Hosts National Association Conference

SECU Family House recently hosted the 25th Anniversary Celebration and Conference for the National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses at the Sheraton Chapel Hill. Our volunteers played an essential role in making that possible. We thought Allison Worthy's letter to them was appropriate to share with our readership. ■



October 14, 2011

Dear Family House Volunteers,

Thank you for making the 2011 NAHHH Annual Conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration the grand success that it was. More than 170 attendees from hospitality houses all over the country (from Alaska to New Hampshire!) came to Chapel Hill for the four-day conference from October 10-13. SECU Family House volunteers took the lead on the Registration & Information table at the Sheraton, as well as the two main evening events—the Pig Pickin' at Family House and the 25th Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction at the Carolina Inn.

Conference attendees were not only impressed with our beautiful facility but also our volunteers. They could not believe that our volunteers cover four front desk shifts a day, five days a week; fold laundry; provide meals; organize entertainment; clean the kitchen; run the pantries; maintain the landscaping and more. Many asked, "Where did you find such incredible volunteers? They are so professional, how do you get them to do all that they do?"

The answer was simple—you are an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers who believe in our mission and help us provide housing, healing and hope every moment you are in the house. You provide the heart that makes this such a special, healing place. Whether you tended bar, baked cookies, staffed the information desk, put ribbons on clipboards, sold raffle tickets, served as tour guides, greeted guests, manned the Botanical Garden overflow parking, drove a van, worked the silent auction, researched restaurants and made up maps, or collected surveys at the conference—your contribution helped make this a great event. The NAHHH board president commented that this was "the best NAHHH conference he had ever attended."

Thank you Family House volunteers for all of your hard work!  
You did us proud!

Sincerely,

Allison Worthy  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Family House Wish List

These are some of the items we use every day. Please help us keep them stocked in our pantry so families can use them as necessary.

### GROCERY ITEMS

Bottled water  
Individual-sized juice boxes or bottles  
Canned soft drinks  
Sugar, coffee creamer, artificial sweetener (Splenda, Equal, etc.)  
Ground coffee for drip pots (regular and decaf)  
Pancake syrup  
Cooking oil  
Flour  
Chips (individual packages)  
Canned tuna fish  
Crackers  
Granola bars, nabs  
Gift cards—Wal-Mart, Target, Food Lion, Harris-Teeter, etc.

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Paper towels and napkins  
Liquid hypoallergenic laundry detergent  
Toilet paper  
Hotel-sized toiletries (Shampoo, conditioner, lotion, etc.).  
Liquid hand soap  
Dishwashing liquid  
Dishwasher detergent  
Aluminum foil and plastic wrap  
Gallon-sized resealable plastic bags  
Salt and pepper shakers (disposable)  
60- and 75-watt light bulbs  
Durable pots and pans—all sizes

### OFFICE SUPPLIES

8.5 x 11 white paper for copy machine  
Plain white business envelopes

## Your donations are our most vital source of support.

### Donations received May 16, 2011, through September 30, 2011

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 Joseph E. Jamison, D.D.S., P.A.  
 Pine Valley Baptist Church,  
 Challenge Sunday School  
 Carolyn Reel  
 David R. Russell, Jr.  
 David and Julie Sutton

*Beverly Schroeder and in honor of her  
 children Laura and John*  
 John F. Schroeder

*Karen Marie Smidt*  
 Mary M. Finnan  
 Diane M. Kelly and Marlene M. Maguire  
 Norman T. Lihou  
 Victoria E. Majewski  
 Christopher and Cynthia Pruitt  
 Richard and Bertha Pyne  
 Toms River Regional Schools  
 Intermediate South

*William David Smith, Jr.*  
 Bill and Carolyn Smith

*Douglas J. Trainum*  
 Pat Trainum

*Mary Vellins*  
 Susan Lundblad

*James "Jimmy" Whitaker*  
 Adams Farm Living & Rehabilitation  
 Malcolm S. Barker  
 Flora and Robert Stewart  
 Mary S. Watkins



123 Old Mason Farm Rd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
919.932.8000

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## TWILL Service Project Really Brings in the Goods

As its first service project, TWILL (Triangle Women's Initiative for Leadership and Learning) organized a supplies drive for SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals. The drive was a resounding success, bringing in more than \$2,000 worth of supplies for use at the House. "Our ladies really came through with extra effort and support from the community," says Rhonda Zack, one of TWILL's coordinators. (See the complete list of supplies on page 4.) They want to thank everyone who participated in any way, large or small. "Your donation is of great benefit to house guests who are dealing with a grave illness or injury," adds Rhonda. "You have lightened someone's load." ■



Women from TWILL unloading part of their haul for the House.

