



Malachi House

News for our Friends and Volunteers - March 2011

Malachi House, created out of a Christian sense of ministry, serves persons who are terminally ill without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin and without cost to the resident or family. This home ministers to individuals who need an available caregiver, who have limited or no financial resources and are in need of special home care in the final stages of life. A trained staff and volunteers provide spiritual, emotional and physical support with the assistance of a Hospice team.

Lights for Life

Every year we are blessed even more as our support continues to grow. This year, over 125 guests witnessed our Lights for Life tree lighting ceremony then packed our House with wall-to-wall friends and family to celebrate our loved ones. We enjoyed refreshments provided by our Associate Board, listened to and joyfully sang carols played on our living room piano by Sarah, and launched the yuletide season with great fellowship and peace.



Volunteer Coordinator Alice Sawyers, displays our Lights for Life Celebration Book with Executive Director Mary Kay Stahley (left) and 2010 Volunteer of the Year Elaine McNulty.

Photo courtesy of Bob Tuneburg, The Villager

Lights for Life is an annual fundraiser created by our volunteers at Malachi House who already give us so much time and talent the whole year through and then on top of it, organize this event, which raised over \$10,200 this year. This gift was raised through the generosity of our friends who graciously purchased a light in remembrance or in honor of one of their loved ones.



Associate Board gathers around our living room Christmas tree.

Photo courtesy of Bob Tuneburg, The Villager

Our Lights for Life Celebration Book lists the names of and

commemorates each of these 708 family members.

Letter from the President, Diane C. Kennedy

Dear Friends,

How many numbers do you have in your life? Social security numbers, house numbers, phone numbers, account numbers, credit card numbers, pin numbers, jersey numbers, number of friends on facebook, number of accomplishments...the list could go on and on!

Fortunately, here at Malachi House, we are a Home. And as we are a Home, we are a family where your name and not your "number" matters to us....of course we keep statistical data for good stewardship and accountability to you and for those we serve. But when it all boils down to it, we are here for our residents because life's circumstances have placed them in a situation where they have little to nothing left except for their name....and a lot of love from us.

We also know your names—our faithful friends who support us—you, who make it your mission to be sure we achieve our mission, day-in and day-out. "From our ancestors come our names, but from our virtues our honors" (proverb). We extend our most sincere appreciation to all of your generosity that allows us the privilege of acknowledging all of our resident names when no one else might, or may even rather forget them. We honor all of our residents past, present, future through our Wall of Remembrance in our chapel.

Won't you visit our Home to honor that wall?....and to understand the power and presence of those names we will never forget.

Sincerely,

Diane C. Kennedy
Chair, Board of Trustees

Executive Director's Note

Dear Friends,

As of this writing, we will have cared for 1,570 residents since we opened our doors in 1988.

I am amazed at the foresight our founders had when they envisioned our Home and what it would take to run it. Both Fr. Paul Hritz and Catherine O'Neill showed great faith that this Home would work and they both continue to actively support us to this day.

And you dear friends are a true support to us as well. It could be through monetary donations, in-kind gifts, volunteer hours or prayers. This support means everything to us. I thank God daily for your faith in us. This is holy ground, friends, and we are pleased to have you share it with us.

Wishing you Blessings,

Mary Kay

From the Development Corner

Bequests Make a Difference

Many people assume that they are not able to make a "planned gift." We often assume that we are not wealthy enough to make charitable gifts that can make a difference. Over the years, however, every bequest—no matter how large or small—has made ALL the difference in the lives of each of our residents. These meaningful gifts came from our friends and members of the community who value the service that Malachi House provides. Very rarely do these gifts come from people with great wealth or famous families. Our donors are simply people who recognized that through their will, they could provide for their family members and make very meaningful gifts to our Home.

Malachi House honors our donors who do make gifts of any size through their wills or estate plans with membership in our Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle members are recognized in special ways for their deep commitment to our ministry at Malachi House, including listing of their names in our annual report and invitations to special events designed to bring our supporters even closer to our mission. If you are considering a planned gift to Malachi House, or if you have already included us in your plans, please let me know. Of course we will honor your wishes should you prefer to remain anonymous; however, your willingness to be recognized will inspire others in the community to consider this important support for our future.

For more information on bequests and other types of charitable gifts, please contact me at (216) 621-8831.

Best regards,

JULIE

News from the Volunteer Coordinator

"Names.....Not Numbers"

"Names...not numbers"...I watched a TV show recently and the theme was "Names...not numbers." This reminded me of one of the main differences between Malachi House and some other places.

For example, there was Mac who, in his earlier life, was a clock maker and repairman, so at Malachi House his room was cluttered with clock parts and even a few of those worked! Or, Grace, a little grey-haired lady who, during one of the House renovations, refused to leave her room—so we presented her with her very own bright yellow hard hat to wear and keep her safe.

Maybe you remember Virginia, who positioned her favorite chair in the living room so that she could supervise the kitchen volunteers to make sure they followed the rules? It was her home, after all! Or perhaps, more recently, you remember Mama, who was the oldest resident to ever live at Malachi House. She was reluctant to move into our Home, but very quickly became the "Queen" of the lunch table and very much loved by all.

And Don who, without feeling the need to explain why he wanted it, asked for a basketball for Christmas. . .for you see, he couldn't move much by himself and couldn't walk at all. But after receiving this gift on Christmas morning, we asked why he wanted it and he simply replied, "So I can play basketball, of course!" And, so, on New Year's Day, Don received his wish and God allowed him to play on His team!

Names...not numbers. The list and the stories could go on and on, because that is what Malachi House is all about. If you would like to be part of our wonderful Home, please call and we can make that happen.

Alice Sawyers

The Colleagues Program

You can now enjoy the benefits of arranging a planned gift for Malachi House through the Community West Foundation. Our partnership with Community West Foundation offers planned giving consultants and services, provided at no cost to us. To learn more about the Community West Foundation contact Linda Spencer at (216) 476-7060 or visit their website at communitywestfoundation.org

Mission Accomplished

By: Sarah Paczak Chappell,
Board Certified Music Therapist contracted from The Music Settlement to serve Malachi House through the generous support of the Kulas Foundation.

Every resident who becomes a part of the Malachi House Family has a story to share, and our loving resident Don was no exception. Through Don's work in music therapy, his story was not only revealed, it was preserved as a legacy to his memory.

Don, a young man with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), was always eager to participate in music therapy sessions. He loved to sing and often reminisced about his days of Karaoke singing. When Don sang during music therapy sessions his voice was always full of joy and his smile was contagious. Wanting to capture and preserve his beautiful music, I asked Don if he would like to record his favorite songs onto a CD. Don eagerly agreed to work on this project and decided that this CD was going to be something he wanted to share with those he loved.



Don and Sarah

Don worked each and every session practicing the melodies, lyrics, and solo parts to his songs while also working to keep his voice strong and loud enough to be captured on the recording. Because of the MS, this was not an easy task. Don never grew weary of the project, and, in fact, was eager to show off his hard work at a CD Release Party he was planning.

Don recorded a full, 12 song, CD that expressed his message of acceptance, happiness and love. Songs like "Don't Worry Be Happy" and "Let It Be" were important for Don to record because they he revealed his philosophy which he profoundly discussed during a music therapy session: "In life you get what you get and you have to accept it and be happy. If you dwell you may as well die."

After the project was completed, Don was proud to give the CD, "Don and Friends," to his sister as a Christmas gift. He wanted her to be the first person to hear his message.

Although Don was looking forward to a CD Release Party, he peacefully passed away before it was able to take place. But, Don's message and music still needed to be shared. So the Malachi House Staff, volunteers and Don's family and Hospice Team gathered for his CD Release Party this January.

Tears, laughter and smiles filled the Chapel during the party as everyone listened, sang and played instruments to accompany Don's songs. Looking around the room, I could see that Don's positive attitude and contagious smile had left a permanent imprint on everyone's hearts. At that moment we were able to remember and pay tribute to Don while emulating his message of acceptance, happiness and love.

Mission accomplished, Don!

The Community West Foundation Bedroom

Every room at Malachi House is very special because of our residents who currently live and have lived in them. But thanks to the tremendous generosity and continuous support of the Community West Foundation, one of our 15 rooms is blessed with a name, not a number.

Our friends, the Community West Foundation, have provided funding for us to fully sustain one of our bedrooms for the past four years. The Community West Foundation Bedroom is located on the first floor of Malachi House, just past our elevator on the right. The name plaque welcomes each new resident and signifies the Community West Foundation's genuine commitment to "Illuminate Hope" for each and every family member who calls the room their own.

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Executive Director

Mary Kay Stahley, R.N.



 **Community West Foundation**
Illuminating Hope

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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
UNITED STATES
POSTAGE PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT # 1174



Look for us on

 Facebook

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Wish List

Items in italics especially needed

Office

First class stamps
Printer cartridges - HP 94 black, HP 95 Color, HP 60 black, HP 60 color
Photo paper
Copy paper

Medical

Surgilube or KY Jelly
3 oz. Dixie cups
Hand lotion

Household

Tri-fold paper towels
(for bathroom dispensers)
8 oz. Styrofoam cups
Styrofoam dinner plates
Styrofoam dessert plates
Styrofoam bowls
Napkins
Paper towels
Tissues
Trash bags: tall kitchen
Trash bags: 30 gallon
Liquid dish soap
Liquid hand soap
Lysol spray
Liquid cleaning solutions
Laundry detergent
Dishwasher powder

Fabric Softener sheets
Ziploc bags gallon size
Ziploc bags sandwich size
Cooking spray

Food

Grocery store gift cards
Creamer packages: dry
Mayonnaise
Miracle Whip salad dressing
Ketchup
Mustard
Canned soups
Canned fruit
Sugar (packets only)
Soda pop (cans only)
Bottled salad dressing
Jam and jelly
Cans of frosting
Vegetable oil
Fruit juices (apple, grape and cranberry)
Pancake mix
Pancake syrup
Dry onion soup mix
Gravy: cans or jars
Coffee Regular/Decaf
Chicken or beef broth
Pie filling (various)
Jello

Upcoming Events

March 26 - Associate Board Kickball Tournament
June 10 - 16th Annual Malachi House Open
July 16 - Apex Charity Golf Classic
August 6 - Krusty's Summer Sauce Camp

Visitors

Santa & Mrs. Claus
Karen Hooser & Sara Dyer, The Reinberger Foundation
Hilarie Maloof, Senior Associate, Equity Inc.
Jessica Illingworth, Boys Hope Girls Hope
Casey Forbes & Penny Warren, Vintage Wine Distributor, Inc.
Pam Chaney, Middle Way Ministries
Gilmour Academy Students
Timothy McCue, William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation
Nelson Beckford, Cleveland Foundation
First Congregational Church of Twinsburg United Church of Christ
Cleveland Council on World Affairs/Brazilian Team
Lois E. Nonneman, Nonneman Family Foundation
Notre Dame University Students
Noah & Jeanette Lloyd from Alaska
Baldwin Wallace College Students