



MAY 2022
eNews



~From the Desk of Our Executive Director~

61 rooms filled last night! With the addition of Pine's 35 rooms, we are consistently able to keep our occupancy above 60 rooms. There is much to celebrate about saying 'yes' when the phone rings and a future hospital patient calls asking for a place to stay.

I've been thinking of our occupancy lately and the image of a watch face keeps coming to mind, simply it tells time: 60 rooms occupied. Take off that covering and you see all of the incredible mechanisms that overlap and interconnect: making sure new guests are coming into prepared rooms, cleaning and washing every vacated room, folding sheets and towels so they are ready each morning, running the dishwashers daily so they are ready for meal team utensils as they clean up, and repairing/painting empty rooms, and so much more.

Each of those interlocking details that make Family House inviting to our guests begin with our staff showing up with great attitudes, energy for their work, kindness to the guests, interaction with our many essential volunteers.

Our staff (and volunteers!) are our watch pieces, working closely together, day after day we appreciate them!



I wish you could have been with us on April 30 at our staff picnic when all of our incredible staff members and their families came together for a good time on a Saturday afternoon: cooking out, playing games laughing, and enjoying the children we all hear about and rarely get to see.

They play together as they work together, and we are SO thankful!



Janice McAdams
SECU Family House Executive Director



Cinco de Mayo — An appreciation of a culture, an appreciation of our volunteers..

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, when a small, ill-equipped Mexican army beat back a much larger and better armed French military. It has become a day for Mexican-Americans to revel and honor their roots.

This year, on the 160th anniversary, we tapped a little spirit of Mexico to celebrate our volunteers— toasting their love, kindness, and contributions towards helping our guests in their battle against serious health conditions.



Over 60 celebrants [joined in the Fiesta](#) complete with goodie bags, food, drink, games, and prizes. Sombreros off to all who participated and a special thanks to St. Thomas More and Father Scott for providing the wonderful venue for our celebration. ¡Muchas gracias a todos!

[CHECK OUT THE EVENT PICTURES BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

Interested Volunteering? [Click here](#)



ANNOUNCING THE 2022 SECU FAMILY HOUSE GALA!



Mark your calendar for September 16th and look for more details on *The Gala* in future editions of eNews and [our website!](#)

Stories about strength and support



Family House guest and UNC Wide Receiver – Receives Wide support

Tylee Craft has made a name for himself as an athlete at UNC, exceling as a wide receiver on

the Carolina football team. After experiencing severe back pains and spasms, and eventually collapsing in the Kenan Football Center this past February, he was admitted to UNC Hospitals and diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Hailing from South Carolina, the Family House has had the pleasure of providing a home away from home while he undergoes chemo and immunotherapy treatments.

[Click here to read more of his story and the support that has meant so much.](#)

[Click here for more of Tylee's Story](#)

Supporting other guests...

Family House guest Tylee Craft stands with friends delivering new, donated



blankets.(pictured right) These incredibly soft blankets with their encouraging notes have been welcomed as source of comfort to other guests staying at the Family House and undergoing treatment at UNC hospitals. Many thanks to the UNC Academic Support Program for Student Athletes for their thoughtfulness!



The donated blankets mentioned above brought a broad smile to these new guests (pictured left) upon their arrival to the Family House.



A Talent for Support

Talk about talent (and support)! Dr. Brenda Mitchell and student Tyania Pugh (pictured) stopped by the Family House this month to donate the proceeds of the UNC School of Medicine Department of Allied Health Sciences virtual talent show and silent auction. The show featured performances from Allied Health students, faculty, staff, and community members! This fundraiser will provide at least fifteen days and nights at the Family House during guests' treatment at UNC Hospitals.

A big thank you and kudos to Allied Health Sciences and the businesses and individuals who participated in the silent auction!

For more information on supporting our guests click here

Volunteer Meal Groups Needed

Summer can be a challenging time to find groups willing to prepare a meal for our families. Groups from 3 to 10 volunteers are invited to sign up to make a meal for our families.

By signing up, groups can either cater a meal from a local restaurant, bring something cooked at home, or make the meal in-house. We help you every step of the way and are here to make the experience and unforgettable one.



For more information on how to reserve a meal date, guidelines and group requirements please contact Georgie Clemens at georgie@secufamilyhouse.org

Guest Perspectives:

"I found the entire staff to be compassionate & genuinely caring. I was asked many times how they could help more. When I came back to SECU House after being at the hospital all day, it was a relief & the homey surroundings were just what I needed to relax to get ready for the next day."

- SECU Family House Guest

Kindly wear your masks.

During this time of COVID and in solidarity with our immuno-compromised guests and their family members, Family House continues to stay masked in all indoor common areas. Our goal is to promote respect and kindness for all who walk through our doors.



Be a Part of a Strong Foundation

One of the most important parts of any house is a good foundation – and Family House isn't any different. We need you! With our expansion we are now able to accommodate over 130 guests a day, and we are under a campaign to expand our Foundation Family – our monthly giving program.

For as little as \$10 a month*, you can provide a comfortable, nurturing place for a patient to stay for a night when they travel to UNC Hospitals for their next overnight appointment. Here are other examples of what your monthly contribution can bring to patients and caregivers:

- \$25/month - one room for three nights*
- \$50/month - the stay of one perinatal psychiatry patient*
- \$85/month - the stay of one radiation oncology patient*

Feedback from our current Foundation Family members tell us that the monthly donations “smooth” out their budgeting and financial planning process. [Click here for more information on how you can help build this foundation and make a difference today!](#)

Prefer email or phone? Contact Jennifer Adams at jennifer@secufamilyhouse.org or (919) 932-8002.

*over the course of one year's worth of monthly donations



[Click HERE to learn more about being apart of the Foundation Family](#)

Our Most Needed Wish List Items

Here are our biggest needs to keep the pantry stocked. All gift cards buy food items that make living at Family House feel like living at home!

- Coffee (regular ground)
- Coffee creamer
- Individual bags of cookies, chips & crackers
- Sturdy paper dinner plates
- Paper napkins
- Gift cards (Amazon, Walmart, Food Lion, Harris Teeter)



Our [Amazon Wish List](#) is up-to-date and is a quick and easy way to send Wish List items to Family House. Thank you so much for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

MAKING
ROOM
for MORE

2021-2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FOR \$1.1 MILLION

Your support helps
keep guest room rates
affordable for the
4,000+ patients and
their loved ones
staying here each year.

[Make a gift](#)



Our Mission

SECU Family House is a safe, nurturing, affordable home for patients and their loved ones who travel great distances to UNC Hospitals for life-saving procedures and serious illnesses.

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[SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals](#)
www.secufamilyhouse.org