



*~From the Desk of Our Executive Director~*

We are pausing for a moment of celebration and thankfulness at Family House. Fiscally, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, it's a new year for us. During the past year, we opened our Pine Wing, adding 35 new guestrooms. Our wonderful volunteers and staff are busy, and with new additions to development, housekeeping and front desk teams, we are ready for this new normal.

Our volunteers are rallying around this bigger House. Our donors stepped up to help us make 2021-2022 a resounding success: our Annual Fund campaign was hugely successful!

And then there's someone we'll not soon forget. For nearly a year, we have enjoyed the involvement and hard work of our Johnson Service Corps intern, Henry Kennelly. Our staff celebrated Henry this week with lunch and stories of his involvement, impacting us all by



creating a House weekly meditation time and so much more —the list was long and funny! As his term with us concludes, Henry will stay in touch with us, and we will be watching his impact on this world.



Janice McAdams  
SECU Family House Executive Director



year!

### Gala Excitement Grows!

The Gala is the largest Family House fundraising event for the year. Thanks to the [Gala Planning Committee and our Sponsors](#), this year's don't-miss event promises to be a magical evening where our friends don festive evening wear, speak up for their favorite auction items and sit down to enjoy drink and culinary delights with other supporters. Funds raised through The Gala will support our guests who travel great distances to UNC Hospitals for life-saving procedures and serious illnesses.

Sponsorships are still available! [Click here for more information on sponsoring this wonderful event](#). In the past, The Gala has raised enough funds to fully cover the cost of operating eight of our guest rooms for over a

Individual ticket sales will be offered later this summer.

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



### Certified!

Family House is proud to announce that we have been certified as an [Orange County Living Wage](#) employer. Our staff is the foundation for us to be able to provide a safe, nurturing place for our guests. As a non-profit, our budgets are very tight, but offering a living wage is one part of demonstrating to our staff how much we value them. It is also a key means of helping to attract new staff to support our growth and keep them a part of the House family.

“ The costs of everything are going up, gas, food, everything. The minimum wage is insufficient not just here, but all over the country. What do I do if my car breaks down? When am I going to be able to afford to get it fixed? I came to Family House for security and good treatment. They show me love. ”



New House staff member, Hugh Wint, talks about the importance of a living wage.

# Adding to the Family...



**Vanessa Sanchez**  
Development Coordinator



**Blake Smith**  
Housekeeper

We are pleased to welcome several new staff members to the Family House family! Blake Smith and Hugh Wint join the ranks of our Housekeeping staff. Housekeepers not only ensure the cleanliness of our rooms, but also our many common areas, outdoors, and amenities such as the complimentary guest laundry rooms.

Vanessa Sanchez recently joined the Family House Development group as Development Coordinator. She will be focusing on the upcoming Gala and future events. Vanessa and all in our Development group are working to raise funds in support of Family House Guests.



We'd also like to welcome staff member Marcus Jones to his new role as our part-time Facilities Assistant! Thank you Marcus, and all of the Operations staff, for all of your work towards keeping the House in tip-top shape!

[Click here for more information about Family House staff.](#)

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## Spirit of the House

Family House has been fortunate to have Henry Kennelly, a Johnson Service Corps member here with us during the past year. His term with us has ended and he will be greatly missed. Here are his words about his experience here, which really capture the [Spirit of the House...](#)



### REFLECTIONS FROM HENRY KENNELLY- JOHNSON SERVICE CORPS MEMBER

*Walking into Family House, you immediately feel grace. There's a spirit of healing, welcoming, and mutual support that is greater than the sum of the parts of all those who live and work there. With a great degree of operations done by volunteers, working in a spirit of free giving, and potentially the greatest work done by the guests themselves, Family House is alive thanks to the presence and steadfast efforts of everyone involved. You know as an employee, volunteer, or guest, that you are not alone.*

[Click to continue reading his essay and more about the very unique Henry Kennelly](#)



## Unsung Heroes



## Kings, Queens, & Twins

### How much fun is laundry? Loads.

Please excuse the pun, but we could not resist expressing the truth of the matter, which is that our laundry volunteers have a wonderful time together. Some of the unsung heroes of Family House are the laundry folders who keep our linens clean, fresh, folded and cared for. From towels to bedsheets, bedcovers and shower curtains; our laundry folders are essential workers of the

House—folding an estimated 3,840 sheets and 6,000 towels per MONTH. They do this with a smile on their faces and love for our guests in their hearts.

If you would like to join the laundry teams (or any other volunteer role), we will insure you have LOADS of fun. Contact the Manager of Volunteer Services, Georgie Clemens, at [georgie@secufamilyhouse.org](mailto:georgie@secufamilyhouse.org) for more information or call her at 919-932-8009.

[For more information on volunteering click here](#)



Monique McKithen  
Director of House Operations

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

*Operations has committed to sprucing up the property with distribution of mulch, clearing of garden, installing water irrigation system, and treating outside areas for natural habitants of our property. This is all being done to make Family house a restful, picturesque, and serene environment conducive to healing. We want each guest to enjoy the porches and gardens without hesitation throughout the upcoming summer evenings, during musical events, or just to chat and sip a cool beverage with a new friend. Family House staff is committed to making 123 Old Mason Farm Road home away from home.*

# Note of Guest Gratitude

In a lifetime of work and travel, I have seen many types of and different medical facilities and support systems.

What you as a group and as individuals I have never seen before. I just wanted to say thank you. I say that with a tear in my eye. ~~Your~~ Your ways and manors touched everyone you served and helped.

Thank You.

We received this uplifting note written by a Guest from Morehead City after having surgery that morning. It is a note of thanks not only to the staff of Family House, but to our entire family of volunteers, donors, and other guests—all together, so much more than a House.

Thank you for all of your generous support and acts of kindness.

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# MAKING ROOM for MORE



Your kind acts of support help keep guest room rates affordable for the *thousands* of patients and their loved ones staying here each year.

[Make a gift](#)

[Volunteer](#)



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