



A Word from our Executive Director, Janice McAdams

Cold winds and outside temperatures chill us, but there are many things that lift our spirits this December. It is the season of giving. Volunteers continue to give their time and caring nature. Our staff gives their all to ensure that our guests have a safe, comfortable place to stay while facing significant healthcare challenges. And donors are even more generous this time of year, also stepping up to help our guests. We hope that there are many things that warm your heart this season as you have warmed ours.

All the best to you and yours this Holiday season!



Janice



The Holiday Spirit has been in every part of the House this year and at the Staff party, some staff members also got into the spirit (center photo)! Thanks to our volunteers, festive decorations were hung throughout the House, and our bakers Donna and Judy made sure that was carried through to their weekly baked treats (upper right photo). We are so grateful!



Decking the Halls and more...

In addition to decorating our stunning courtyard Christmas tree that was donated by Professor Dana McMahan, students from UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media delivered their beautiful music-themed artwork for Family House's Kelley Gallery in early December. Pictured above is Family House Executive Director, Janice McAdams and two House volunteers as they admire this new addition to the halls of Family House. We are thrilled with this contribution to the atmosphere of the House for our guests. Stay tuned for more information on the House gallery and the importance of art in the healing process.

 *Many have warmed our heart* ♥♥

A graphic for the "HEART of the HOUSE ANNUAL FUND". It features a blue house icon with a heart inside. Text includes: "SECURE FAMILY HOUSE at UNC HealthCare", "\$847,000+ raised-to-date 56% of amount needed!", "HEART of the HOUSE ANNUAL FUND", and "\$1,500,000 GOAL! needed to support our guests through June 30, 2023".

Giving Tuesday on November 29th was a wonderful beginning to our year-end season of giving. Thanks to generous donors, we raised \$9,265 in just one day! We still have a long way to go to reach our goal of raising \$1.5 million by June 30, 2023. To date, we have raised over \$847,000!

There are just a few days left in 2022. Your year-end support may potentially benefit you from a tax perspective, but it will also change lives for the better.

Our guests come to us during some of the most difficult times in their lives, and thanks to generous donors like you, Family House is able to provide lodging, meals, transportation,

and a caring support network.

Won't you make a gift to Family House this holiday season?

Your gift keeps Family House clean, safe, welcoming, and affordable for all guests. One guest room costs \$110 a night to operate, and guests pay what they can, on average \$41 per night. Donors like you make up the difference.

From our house to yours, we thank you for thinking of SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals this holiday season.

Questions? Contact Amy Blackwelder, Assistant Director of Development, at amy@secufamilyhouse.org or 919-932-8001.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Note that gifts to Family House are fully tax-deductible as permitted by law.



A Toasty Warm Frosty Fest ❄️❄️❄️



Well, the weather was kind of frightful, but the event was still delightful...

Frosty Fest was held in early December for Luminary donors, volunteers, and staff members. Due to rain, the event was moved indoors, but that didn't dampen our guests' enthusiasm for this holiday celebration. Above are pictures of various staff members and their families enjoying visits with Santa, complimentary stuffed animals (thanks Petco!), arts and crafts, various reindeer games, and last, but not least, decorating cookies. (Edible art of course!). Thanks to volunteer Rollie and his band of Merry Men, joyful Holiday songs set a wonderful backdrop for the festivities. (See spotlight item on Rollie below.) Such a nice event and forecasted to become a tradition for years to come.

Volunteer songster brings his gift of music to Family House



Rollie Olins has volunteered as a musician at Family House since we opened our doors in 2008. He has brought various musicians to Family House through the years to bring the healing power of music to all our guests. However, his love for music and for our guests hit closer to home when his friend, Paul, was diagnosed with a serious genetic condition which would shorten his life. Throughout Paul's disease, Rollie made it a point to cheer him up by taking him to weekly ukulele 'jam sessions' to get him out of the house. Through those sessions, Rollie and Paul met other like-minded Uke musicians and formed the band,

"Far from Done".

Donning Hawaiian Holiday shirts, and Santa Hats on their ukes, they sang old holiday favorites at Frosty Fest (mentioned and pictured above). Their upbeat and cheerful music brought joy to everyone in the house and even Santa joined in!

Even though Paul passed away a few years ago, his spirit lives on through Rollie and his band. Rollie explained that every time they perform, they know Paul is with them in spirit, guiding them and inspiring them to keep playing and sharing their love of music with the world. Thank you, Rollie and friends for bringing the spirit of music to Family House.

Interested in bringing a bit of sunshine to our guests through our Arts and Entertainment program? Please contact Georgie Clemens at georgie@secufamilyhouse.org

Guest Spotlight

“This place has been a blessing. I think the Lord made a way to put us here. It's like home.”

-Family House Guest
Clarence Plumley



“These people are your family. We need to ask each other how their day is going.”

-Family House Guest
JoAnn Plumley

Guests who stay at our hospitality house oftentimes become our lifelong friends. When we don't see them for a while, we miss them, so we either check our reservation system to see when they'll be back, or we just give them a call to let them know that we're thinking of them.

Such is the case with guests Clarence and JoAnn Plumley. Hailing from Mount Hope, West Virginia, they've been staying at our hospitality house for the past five years. Initially treated for throat cancer, Clarence is now being treated for squamous cell cancer, making the drive out to Chapel Hill every month or so for immunotherapy treatments.

Family House has truly become a "home away from home" for Clarence and JoAnn. During their most recent visit, we found them in the kitchen preparing homemade country apple pies for our guests and folding laundry in our Pine wing. Preferring to stay busy between treatments, they shared that they like to help out in any way they can.

Clarence shared, "This place has been a blessing. I think the Lord made a way to put us here. It's like home. Everybody is nice and good to you. Its nice to get involved with people and ask them how they're doing." JoAnn added, "These people are your family. We need to ask each other how their day is going."

During this holiday season, we have a few wishes for our friends, Clarence and JoAnn: We wish that Clarence's treatments continue to go well. We wish JoAnn continued good health. We wish that we get to see them again, hopefully sooner than later. And we wish that the next time they're here, they'll make more country apple pies for our guests, and yes, for us!



We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to the Family House family! When fully trained, Sable Lindsay will be working as our new Weekend House Manager. Tim Forst is also a great addition to our Operations staff as our Assistant Facilities Manager. We are excited to have you both as the newest members of the family!

[Click here for more information about Sable, Tim, and other Family House staff.](#)



Safety First!

We are grateful to Sargent David James of the UNC Police Department who conducted a security audit of the Family House campus. Earlier this month he also held a staff safety training specific to our facility with Officer Williams (pictured). Providing a safe and secure place for our guests, staff, and volunteers is foremost in our priorities.

Check Out Our Guest Wish Lists

With their time and financial donations, our Volunteers and Donors have done so much towards making our guests' wishes come true, but there are a few more items on their Holiday list...

While you are out and about shopping this season, please consider donating vital items from our wish list! Below 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!

- Snacks (cookies, nabs, chips, granola bars)
- Fruit cups
- Coffee (regular, ground) Decaf K-cups/Coffee pods
- Powdered coffee creamer
- Aluminum foil
- Paper napkins, Plates, Bowls and Small plates
- Clam Shell to-go containers
- 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.

Last minute Shopping? ..



Give while you shop!

Planning on visiting Amazon for your holiday shopping? Before you start shopping, please remember to shop via AmazonSmile. By accessing via smile.amazon.com, with each eligible purchase that you make, your chosen charity will receive a percentage as a donation – at no cost to you!

Haven't signed into Amazon Smile? It's easy and your shopping can support our Guests!

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials/account if needed.
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your

choice. We hope you'll select your charity as "SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals".

To join AmazonSmile from the mobile app, open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.



Are you, or do you know an NC state employee or retiree?

We are so proud and thankful to be an Approved State Employees Combined Campaign charity. Over the years, State employees have contributed over \$330,000 to Family House. Employees or State Retirees can support the guests of SECU Family House through an automatic payroll deduction or by making a donation. North Carolina State participants can find us in the State campaign with charity code 3625.

To learn more, please visit <https://ncsecc.org/donate-now/>

Family House Guest Quotes...



We love hearing from our guests! The image above is the heartwarming text of a comment that we received recently on our electronic guest survey. Today and every day, we give thanks for our entire family of volunteers, donors, and guests—all together, so much more than a House.

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

HEART *of the* HOUSE

ANNUAL FUND

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