

# JWH Connect

NEWSLETTER FOR THE JW HOUSE COMMUNITY

SPRING 2016



## Friends for Life

Watching Ray and Frank sitting in the dining room at JW House laughing, sharing stories and teaching each other how to use their iPhones, you might think their friendship had grown over many decades. But their friendship began only five weeks ago at the Cancer Treatment Center (CTC) at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara as one man finished his daily cancer treatment and the next man took the seat to begin his. *(Continued on page 2)*



Hope • Hospitality • Healing

JW House keeps families together during medical crises by offering a welcoming home close to Silicon Valley hospitals and providing a caring and compassionate environment that inspires hope.



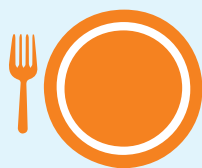
Want to visit JW House? Go to [www.jwhouse.org/tour](http://www.jwhouse.org/tour)

### JW HOUSE BY THE NUMBERS



2,086

Nights Provided  
37% pediatric and 63% adults,  
78% Kaiser Permanente referrals  
and 22% from other area hospitals\*



7,249

Dinners served



8,409

Day Use individual visits (792 families)

1,357

Facebook likes



10,484

Volunteer hours



\$40

Daily stay fee  
(actual cost is \$195)



\*Sub-Acute Saratoga Children's Hospital, Children's Recovery Center, Stanford Hospital, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, O'Connor Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

# MISSION MOMENTS



**T**his truly is a labor of love. You can feel it, smell it and hear it. Everyone has a story and everyone here was willing to listen with concern, compassion and kindness no matter how many times they heard it. Thank you for everything. Our promise is to pay it forward.

*Joe, Day Use Guest*

**W**e were strangers and in need, and all of you welcomed us into your hearts and into your village. You gave us food to eat, a place to lay our heads, and love and friendship which is priceless. We are deeply in debt to you. We will always remember this kindness, love and compassion, and give to others what you all have given to us!

*Chester and Zayana, Overnight Guests*

**W**e would have had to cancel my baby's necessary surgery if JW House wasn't available for us.

*Kimi, Overnight Guest*

LETTER FROM



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DEAR FRIENDS,

**F**or the last seven years, JW House has been keeping families together when they need each other the most. Our guests are caregivers, children and patients journeying to the Silicon Valley for treatment and facing some of the biggest challenges of their lives. Without your generosity, many family members would have no alternative but to sleep in their cars or on hospital benches.

It is with deep gratitude I send you a heartfelt thank you for your generous support in 2015. Our organization continues to have steady growth and is working hard to develop ways to increase our capacity, as the need for our services grow each year.

As I look at our statistics for the past seven years, I am humbled by the fact that we have served more than 40,000 people. In 2015, with the addition of hotel partners, we have provided more than 2,000 nights of lodging and more than 7,000 prepared meals. In 2015, we accepted referrals from several area hospitals including Sub-Acute Saratoga Children's Hospital, Children's Recovery Center, Stanford Hospital, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, O'Connor Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente.

Each day guests share with us their feelings of gratitude. One of our guests who recently was having a meal in our dining room thanked one of our volunteers and told her, "You took away my fear." Our volunteer reassured her and held her hand. There are thousands of stories like this one at JW House, and there are many families that will need us in the future.

All of this began with JW Knapen's love and vision. This positive impact on his community and beyond is felt each and every day. That is truly amazing!

If you have not been on a tour of JW House we invite you to sign up on our website or call and schedule a time that will work for you. Please also feel free to see our frequent updates on our Facebook page.

I have been able to meet so many of you over the last eight months and look forward to seeing you at our many events scheduled for 2016.

Sincerely,

LARISSA ROBIDEAUX, MPA  
*Executive Director*



### JOIN OUR BOARD

JW House is seeking passionate, dedicated community leaders to join our Board of Directors. We seek expertise in banking, construction, real estate, legal and fundraising. Please contact JW House Board of Directors President Terri Chapman, [terrichapman3@gmail.com](mailto:terrichapman3@gmail.com).

## Friends for Life (Continued from page 1)

"I used to go home alone after my treatments till Ray invited me to join him at JW House. Now I spend the next hour or so after treatments in a relaxed environment with great people and fantastic food. It helps me try to be normal again," said Frank. "I go to church and feel good; it's cleansing. Here I feel the same way."

"JW House is the human touch and helps our spirit," said Ray. "You feel like you're at home. You don't think about your treatments. You get on with life!"

Ray recently gave his new friend Frank a fig plant for his back yard. This simple gift, like JW House, represents Hope, Hospitality and Healing.



# Meet Ravinder Lal

## **What attracted you to JW House?**

From the time I was a young boy, my father always had health problems due to severe diabetes. He went through multiple bypass surgeries, heart failures, kidney failure, and even an amputation. His last major surgery was a heart and kidney transplant. I can't tell you how many days and nights we spent in hospitals. We would sleep in chairs, eat food from the vending machines and, of course, shower in the bathroom sink. When someone you love is in the hospital, the last thing you want to do is be far away. That's what really drew me to JW House. To have a place where you can go have a meal, shower, rest, and still be close to your loved one is incredible. What an amazing place and what a wonderful thing they are doing for people. Who would have thought that people would care about not only the patient, but also the people who love them.

## **How do you support JW House?**

I support JW House through my business. We do all of the mailing, the printing, and the graphic design for many of the events, mailers and newsletters. I have also cooked dinner at JW House. That was an incredibly rewarding experience. I hope to do it again soon. I am also a Table Host at the upcoming Celebration of Hope.

## **What motivates you to stay involved?**

I find it very inspirational when you go to JW House and you see all of the selfless people giving their time and their effort to make someone else's life a little bit better. To know that we have some small part in making that a reality is definitely motivation.

## **Do you have an anecdote about JW House that really moved you?**

I was definitely moved by the appreciation that was shown by the guests at JW House that we cooked dinner for. However, I would say the thing that moved me most was hearing JW's mother Anne Marie speak at the Celebration of Hope. To hear the story of JW and how JW House became a reality was truly moving and inspiring.

## **What do you hope JW House will achieve in the near future?**

I would love to see what JW House has done in Santa Clara replicated all over the country.

## **Do you have a message to share?**

Having a loved one in the hospital is never easy. If it happens to be you one day, don't feel guilty about visiting a place like JW House. You need support too and that's what they're there for.



**I find it very inspirational when you go to JW House and you see all of the selfless people giving their time and their effort to make someone else's life a little bit better.**



**JW House**  
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**FRIENDS**

Thank you to the 1,237 Companions and Friends of JW House who gave from \$1 to \$999. We could not do what we do without you!

We apologize for any errors, omissions, or misspellings. Please email [info@jwhouse.org](mailto:info@jwhouse.org) with any comments, corrections, or changes.

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