“Our Comfort Zone”

Evelyn Gonser was referred to JW House in December 2010, when her 18 year old son, Jonathan, experienced heart failure. At the same time, Evelyn’s brother-in-law, Randy, was receiving a liver transplant at Stanford. JW House provided a home away from home for the entire family to be together, while going back and forth between visiting Jonathan and Randy.

During the Gonser family’s first stay at JW House, Randy passed away. In the months that followed, the family mourned the loss of their brother and uncle, as they rotated in and out of JW House and the hospital, hoping for Jonathan to get a heart transplant. JW House was their place of peace and understanding. (Continued on Page 2)

JW House By the Numbers 2018

- **2,125** Nights of Lodging
- **7,467** Dinners Served
- **10,714** Day Use Visits
- **10,720** Volunteer Hours

Above: Physician-in-Chief Dr. Susan Smarr presents a check to JW House Executive Director, Bettina Kohlbrenner, in honor of Dr. Bernadette Loftus’ retirement.

Want to visit JW House? Go to JWHouse.org/tour
Jonathan received a successful heart transplant in 2011, and was sent home and asked to return every six months for checkups. For each checkup, the family traveled from Modesto and stayed at JW House. In 2015, Jonathan starting going into a rejection that doctors could not get under control. The family has since been traveling to the Bay Area on and off for treatment. Jonathan’s biopsy in November 2018 showed full rejection, beginning a new round of treatment to continue through May 2019.

Throughout nine years, JW House has been a comfort zone for the Gonser family. “It’s kind of a peace of mind thing. When we drive home to Modesto, we know where we’re going, we’re going home. It’s the same thing when we drive to the Bay Area, (JW House) is our comfort zone. It’s our home away from home, a place where we come and there’s peace. When we come in here, there’s an understanding that the rest of the world probably doesn’t get.”

The Gonser family has become such a huge part of the JW House family, and they light up the room each time they visit. Jonathan has been “being himself, being as healthy as he can, counting his blessings, and taking things one step at a time.” At the close of Jonathan’s treatment plan in May, doctors will begin tests to determine if he will be a candidate for another heart transplant. We are grateful to be a place of support during the Gonser Family’s journey.

“It’s our comfort zone. Period. Things can be in total chaos, but you come (to JW House) and it’s like – ‘I can breathe.’ It’s a blessing.”
So Many Books, So Little Time...

In late 2018, Dr. James Nestor gave a contribution to JW House, in honor of his late wife, Rebecca (Beck/Becky) Adams-Nestor. Becky passed away in 2017 from a severe case of pneumonia.

Becky had a love for people, sports, food, traveling, and most importantly literature. The rim of her license plate read “So Many Books, So Little Time.” In honor and loving memory of Rebecca Adams-Nestor, JW House has designated a new reading nook in our family room for our guest families.

We invite you to visit “Beck’s Reading Nook” – where families may leave a book, take a book, or spend a quiet moment reading. We can think of no better way to honor Becky than by creating a cozy space for our guests to cherish literature.

Rebecca Adams-Nestor
1946-2017

Dr. James Nestor’s first visit to Beck’s Reading Nook

Whether it be cash, assets, retirement plan or life insurance beneficiaries, a legacy gift can significantly impact families in need and the longevity of JW House. Contact Bettina Kohlbrenner: (408) 606-8545, Bettina@jwhouse.org, for more information.

Donating just 1% of your estate could provide life-changing services to hundreds of families with loved ones in the hospital, for generations to come.
JW House is a home. And just like your home, it often requires maintenance and updates. Now in our eleventh year, we are feeling it more than ever! With over 15,000 guests walking through our doors over the past 10 years, every inch of our home deserves a little T.L.C.

**SOLAR POWER**
In 2018, support from The Sharks Foundation and PetersenDean allowed us to install solar panels on the roof of JW House, saving us thousands in energy costs each year, and taking a step towards going green!

**NEW FLOORS**
Early this year, funding from the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller helped us pay to replace the flooring in our four overnight guest suites. We now have sturdy and easy-to-clean tile floors, rather than carpet.

**LANDSCAPING & GARDENING**
This summer, volunteer support will help us update our yard and gardens. In memory of Dr. Kathleen Chang, and thanks to Dr. Jim Chou, friends, and family of Kathleen, a meditation garden will be designed and built in the JW House back yard.

**FUTURE NEEDS**
- New Living & Family Room Furniture & Rugs
- Shade Structure for Playground