

# JWH Connect

NEWSLETTER FOR THE JW HOUSE COMMUNITY | FALL 2019

## "They Gave Me A Smile!"

The beginning of Alyna's life was an uphill battle, with 74 doctors' appointments in her first year. Alyna was born with both Poland Syndrome, causing short, fused-together ribs and missing pectoral muscles, and Moebius Syndrome, causing paralysis on the left side of her face and the inability to fully smile.



In 2019, at age 7, Alyna was referred to a specialist at Kaiser Santa Clara who would perform surgery, involving a transfer of muscle from her leg to her cheek, that would give her control over the left side of her face.

Excited for this amazing opportunity for her

daughter, Alyna's mother Gloria scheduled the surgery and began looking for a hotel near the hospital, only to find how shockingly unaffordable they were. After doing more research, Gloria discovered JW House, and called the hospital social workers to send over a referral. Gloria, Alyna, and their family were able to stay at JW House the night before her surgery, and the five days following as Alyna recovered.

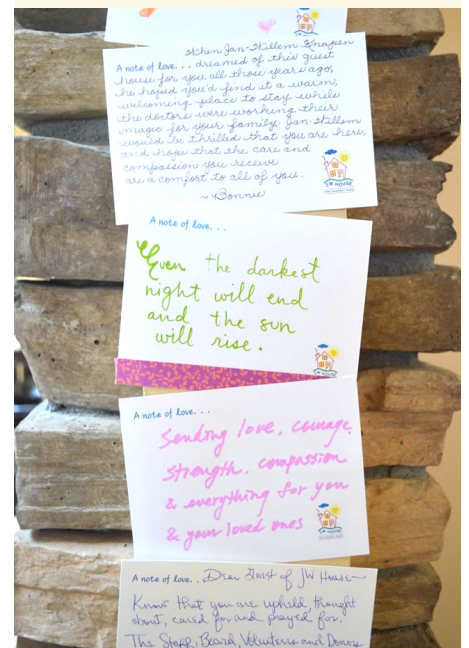
"This is like my dream home...its gorgeous! You guys have something here for everyone. The night before surgery, my daughter played out in the playground, there's every type of toy we could possibly want out there. Then we came inside and did crafts. It was the perfect environment so we could be ready for her surgery the next day." (cont'd on page 2)



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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.



Thank you to all who participated in our National Hospitality House Week campaign!



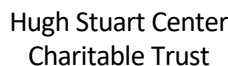
The family took turns by Alyna's side at the hospital and decompressing at JW House throughout her seven hour surgery and successful five day recovery. They made friends with volunteers and other guests of the House. **"It really became like a little community here. All the volunteers make you feel like you're at home."**

Compared to the stress of past hospital visits and surgeries, Gloria and Alyna felt such a relief knowing their family could be together throughout the entire experience. "When she got her tonsils out two years ago, I went 4 days without showering. I had to eat in the cafeteria. I called my boyfriend to bring me food because I was starving." This time around, the family could rest, enjoy homecooked meals, and take care of themselves, while being by Alyna's side. "She would go – *'Oh, Daddy's at the JW House taking a shower right now?'* You could tell it just made her feel really good knowing that we were all here super close."

When Alyna stopped by JW House after her surgery, a volunteer asked what she had surgery for and she replied "They gave me a smile!" The House was buzzing about sweet Alyna and the joy she shared with everyone.

Post-surgery, Alyna's muscle contracted and gave her an immediate smile. After about 7 days it settled, but doctors expect it to become functional in around 6 weeks. Alyna shouldn't need any more surgeries until she's a teenager. For now, we hope to see her back when she visits for follow-up appointments with her beautiful smile!

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Ronald Cali

Angelo & Mary Danna

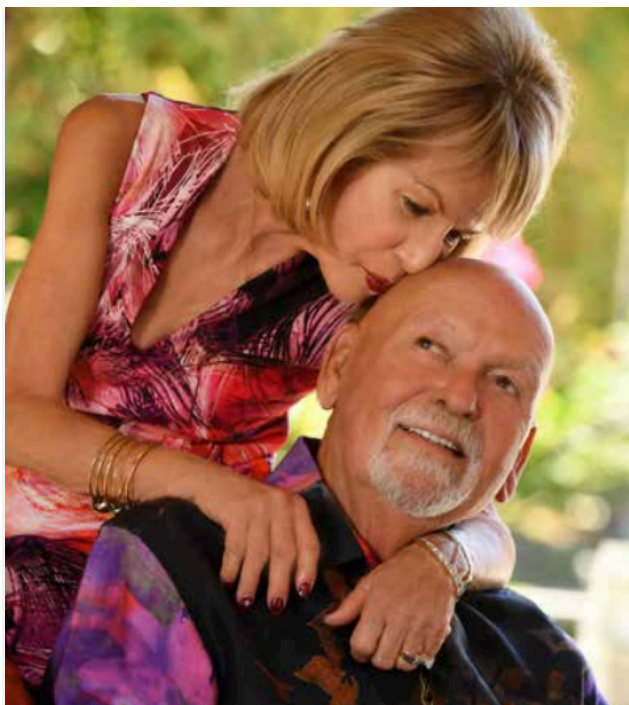
Dr. Chris & Stephanie Kavanagh

John & Cindy Monroe

Joseph & Jane Phipps



## A Tribute to Eddie Owen



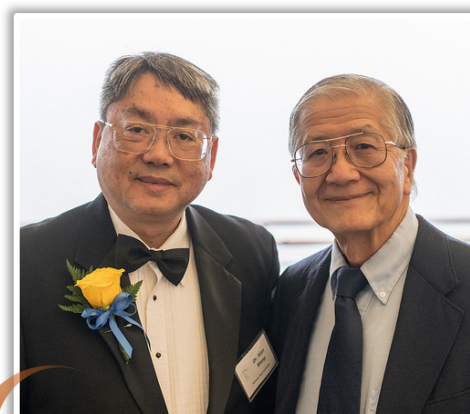
Eddie passed away on June 28, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. Eddie, along with his wife Helen Marchese Owen, was one of our founding donors. He and Helen were instrumental in establishing JW House, built on the grounds of the cherry orchard where Helen grew up as a child. Together, in their ever-inspiring philanthropic way, they worked tirelessly to raise funds to bring the vision and dream of Jan-Willem (JW) Knapen and his family to life. A loving husband, father and grandfather, Eddie was a treasured member of the JW House family and will forever be in our hearts.

## A New Sanctuary for JW House Guests

Our new Meditation Garden will be a place for guests to relax, reflect and gain strength while their loved ones are in the hospital.

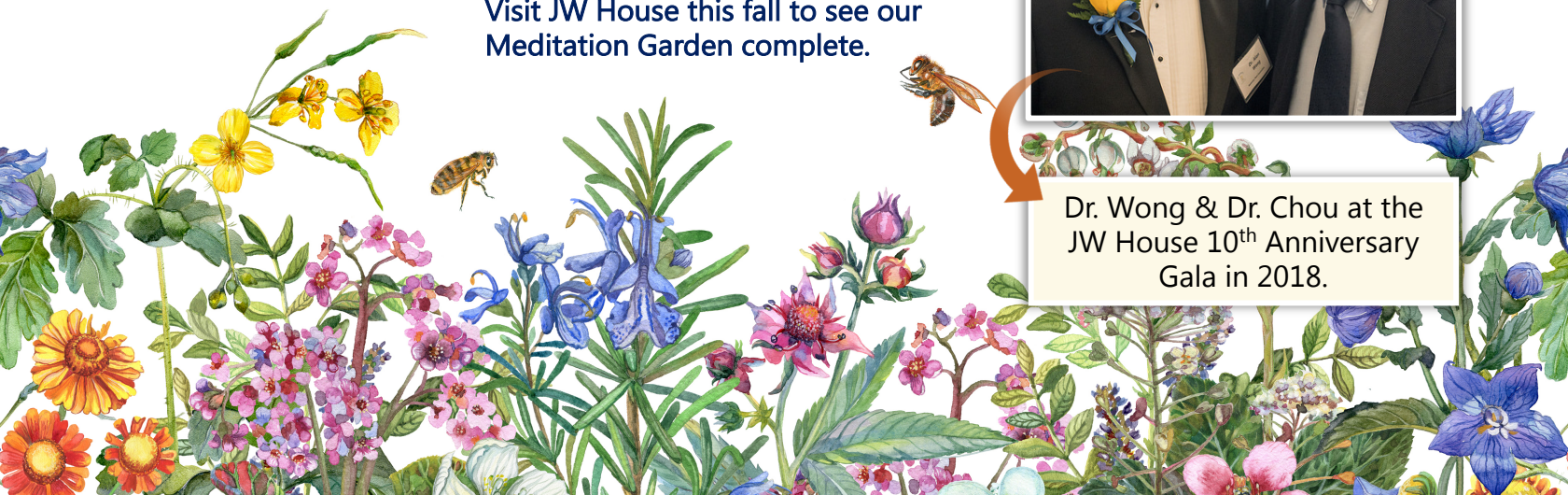
The garden is dedicated in memory of **Dr. Kathleen Chang**, who lost her life to breast cancer in 2017. Kathleen was a gentle and caring pediatrician who took the time to connect and care for all of her patients.

We are so grateful to Dr. Jim Chou, Dr. Alan Wong, and the many community groups, volunteers, family and friends that have collectively come together and worked so hard to bring this project to life.



Visit JW House this fall to see our Meditation Garden complete.

Dr. Wong & Dr. Chou at the JW House 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in 2018.







**JW House**  
3850 Homestead Rd.  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Fall Newsletter 2019

You're Invited!



# 11th Anniversary

Saturday,  
September 28  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Honoring Board President  
Terri Chapman for 5 years of service

Please join us at JW House for family fun,  
snacks, games, raffle, and more!



RSVP at [JW11th.eventbrite.com](http://JW11th.eventbrite.com)