Medical Crises Don’t Stop for a Worldwide Pandemic

In early June, Sayeeda was rushed to the emergency room 32 weeks into her pregnancy, due to severe chest pains. Facing a serious case of preeclampsia, labor was induced and her baby, Amari, was born at just 3 lbs. 1 ounce. While Amari was being treated in the NICU at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center, Sayeeda and Amari’s father Nitesh, were able to stay at JW House, just steps away from their baby boy.

Being able to stay so close provided a sense of relief to the new parents. “We had the confidence that we could do what we needed to take care of Amari,” said Sayeeda. “It eliminated the heartache of having to leave him because we could call or walk over anytime we wanted to.”

Sayeeda and Nitesh were the first guests to stay overnight at JW House after being closed for over two months due to COVID-19. But these new circumstances did not affect the sense of welcoming and care the family received when they walked through our doors. “You just feel the sheer love; people really care,” said Nitesh. “We plan to come back and volunteer, to visit every year with Amari, and give back however we can.”

After a week in the hospital, Sayeeda, Nitesh and Amari were able to return to their home, healthy and safe. “[We] are all doing well. We are finding our rhythm more and more each day. We want to thank the JW House again for your support, dedication and compassion you give all families in need during the most difficult of times. Thank you for everything!”
Dear Friends of JW House

As I reflect on my first six months as Executive Director at JW HOUSE, I recall starting in January feeling enthusiastic, ready to take on new initiatives, and preparing to engage our health care partners in discussions about future growth opportunities. Then we had a slight distraction, closed the house for nearly three months, and added many words to our vernacular, i.e. social distancing, Zoom meetings, and “virtual events”.

One of my catchphrases is “when in doubt, focus on your mission,” and so we did just that by expanding our relationship with partner hotels so that we could continue to serve families in need. We also hunkered down, enhanced our cleaning and safety measures to prepare for re-opening, spent a lot of time talking with our most loyal supporters, and we survived...maybe even thrived. Our donors came through for us, we had strong fundraising revenue in the second quarter, and even received some special one-time (COVID related) grants.

Based on our data, we would likely have hit a milestone of 20,000 nights of lodging since the organization’s inception in April of this year. However, we had an interruption. Nonetheless, our families in need were not interrupted. Our requirement to maintain JW House was not interrupted. Our expenses, while managed diligently, were not interrupted. We aren’t on the other side of this pandemic yet, but we are slowly bringing services back and building our capacity. As we look into the future, having weathered the storm and still fighting some strong winds, we are stronger than ever.

Thank you for sticking by our side.

Richard B. Ajluni
Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight: Mike the Handyman

As a local retired resident, Mike Roche wanted to give back to his community and decided to volunteer as our on-call handyman in 2017. Since then, Mike has continuously helped with maintenance around the House as if it were his own home. As Mike repairs broken shelves, shower heads, or smoke detectors, he ensures our guest families have a fully functioning ‘home away from home’.

Mike goes above and beyond to help in any way he can, as he loves the welcoming environment at JW House. He says he lends a hand because “it’s a matter of supporting this community service for people that are hurting. It has to be stressful for families, so this [home] takes some of the pressure off while having to deal with a family member who’s in the hospital”.

We appreciate everything Mike has done for JW House and are so lucky to have such wonderful volunteers like him. Be sure to say hi if you see Mike around the House!
Attorney’s Advice

It's important to have an estate plan or trust. A trust is simple and inexpensive, and explains to the world how you want to divide your property when you pass. If you don't have a trust, your family and loved ones are left to guess how you want your property to be divided after you pass. That means they have to hire a lawyer to go to court and let a judge decide what is right. This often leads to disagreements within the family. And unfortunately, you will not be there to help them resolve their differences. Additionally, the cost of hiring a lawyer to go to court is expensive.

We encourage everyone to find a lawyer they believe in to set up a trust. Stay tuned for advice on including charitable planned giving in your trust in the next newsletter!

Law Office of Joe Naegele Jr.

Foundation Spotlight: Mission City Community Fund

Mission City Community Fund (MCCF), an all-volunteer organization that raises funds to support Santa Clara based organizations, has been a lifelong partner of JW House. In response to COVID-19, MCCF presented their largest-ever grant to JW House this Spring, to ensure our guest families are provided lodging while their loved ones are receiving essential medical care.

“JW House is an oasis wherein family members whose loved ones are hospitalized receive many of the comforts of home. In this time of the coronavirus pandemic, JW House is needed more than ever and MCCF is privileged to be a community partner.” Says Robin Burdick, Secretary of the Board.

Robin herself has experienced the care that JW House provides. In 2015, Robin and her siblings utilized the Day Use program while their mother was in the hospital during the last month of her life. “There's something about ringing the bell and having someone with a smile open the door and invite you into their welcoming, quiet, safe place. After watching and worrying over the person you love being ill, JW House provides a place where you can sit quietly and take a few deep breaths, talk to others who are sharing experiences similar to yours, have a home-cooked meal, and collect yourself to stay hopeful. It was truly a blessing for us.”

During these trying times, JW House is fortunate to not have to look far to find our heroes. We are extremely grateful to have passionate and unwavering partners like Mission City Community Fund. Thank you MCCF!

Thank you!
to our generous sponsors and community partners

Mission City Community Fund

Thank you!

MCCF Members

Christian Pellecchia, Robin Burdick & Anne Kepner.
This week we celebrate all of the amazing people who make up the JW House Family! Our hospitality house could not run without the support of all of these dedicated individuals, families, groups, and businesses!