On Wednesday, December 9th, 2015, a luncheon was held at Twin Ponds to celebrate the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year finalists and announce winners. During a highly anticipated video reveal, Abraham House was both excited and honored to be selected as the 2015 Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year!

Gina Ciaccia, Executive Director, graciously accepts the award on behalf of Abraham House Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, Guests and Families.

SAVE THE DATES!!!!

Bottomless Brunch Sunday, April 17th
Unlimited Mimosas, Bloody Marys, and Sangrias! Music by POORtIM!

Visions from Above Friday, October 21st
An Evening of Hors d’oeuvres & Martinis with Psychic Medium Keith!

9th Annual Gala Friday, November 4th
Distinctive Food Stations, Premium Open Bar, Music by Last Left!

MISSION STATEMENT:
Abraham House offers our guests a secure loving home without charge while providing physical, emotional, & spiritual support to the terminally ill.
Throughout the past several months, Abraham House received not only a thorough spring cleaning but a facelift as well. Fresh paint and reorganization went a long way to help freshen up this beautiful historic Victorian home. Several community members are to thank for their assistance with these projects:

Judy Galimo, Abraham House Board Member, organized a Spring Clean Up on Sunday, May 31 and provided paint and a new entry rug for our breezeway.

Renovations to the entrance of our home were completed with the donation and installation of a beautiful new entry door. (see pic at far left)

Brindisi, Murad, Brindisi & Pearlman purchased new linoleum and welcome rug. Installation was provided by Peters Custom Floor Covering:

By meeting a donation matching challenge offered by Gerard Capraro (Capraro Technologies Inc.) we were able to purchase ErgoNurse machines for our guest bedrooms. These devices will help save caregiver backs when repositioning guests. They also allow Abraham House to accept larger guests and move them comfortably and safely.

In December, Engler Electric installed a much needed light and fan as a gift to the House.

Shortly before the holidays, the Joseph Family coordinated a project to have volunteer Gina Ionta re-tile the hearth around our fireplace.

Due to the craftsmanship of Marconi’s Upholstery Shop and the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Scalise, our antique entry chairs were reupholstered.

We love to show off our beautiful home. If you are interested in visiting, please call (315) 733-8210 to schedule a tour.
What Death Has Taught Me

By Gina Ciaccia, Executive Director

In reference to my new position, many people remark “It must be so sad,” or question “Isn’t it depressing?” The answer, surprisingly, is no.

There are depressing situations that we are a part of, and moments of sadness, but this job, and this House, is awe inspiring. Whenever a new guest arrives and allows us into their life during such a fragile time, I am sincerely humbled. Death has given me a clarity and taught me an appreciation for the simple moments we take for granted.

I never truly understood the power of touch until I watched a caregiver wash a guest’s hair and stroke her head lightly. I never knew the potential that the laughter of someone facing death has to fill up a room. I never saw a vision of commitment until I watched a wife climb into bed and curl up beside her dying husband.

I was sitting in my office one day and heard the most beautiful voice coming from downstairs singing “Amazing Grace.” With goose bumps spreading across my arms, I followed the sound down to our back guest bedroom, and came upon the scene of a caregiver standing bedside singing to one of our guests and his family. As my eyes filled with tears, it was not sadness that I felt. It was a mixture of humility and privilege, and an overwhelming appreciation for being able to connect with others by sharing this profound experience we call death.

How fortunate I am.

Welcome New Board Members, Caregivers and Volunteers!

ANTHONY LaPOLLA
Anthony recently became the Corporate Relations and Advancement Officer at SUNY Polytechnic Institute. Having spent many years in the funeral industry, he comes to Abraham House out of a desire to assist guests and families during a difficult time.

GEOFF HENDERSON
Geoff is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual. He comes to Abraham House out of a desire to help spread our message and mission. He has been involved with both fundraising and efforts to beautify our house.

VOLUNTEERS: THE ♥ OF ALL WE DO!

JOSHUA GOODSON
BART SCALISE
MAUREEN FURGAL
CAROL BARNEY
CAROL MAZZA
GIANNA JOSEPH
CATHY HYSACK
ALICE ELLIS
DAWN STRAITE
STEPHANIE SCHARRACH
TOM PETERS
DONNA RYAN
SARAH PAPARELLA
DIANE CLARK
LINDA FINLEY

NEW CAREGIVERS:
Jordynn Lee
Martin Ciaccia
Tom Peters
Kourtney Bolton
James Dersharl
MaryAnne Taverne
Amanda Eckerson
Antoinette Sebastian
Melissa Zagorski

“THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.”
— Gandhi
2015 “View of Hope” Gala

The 8th annual Abraham House "A View of Hope Gala" held on November 6th drew a record breaking number of attendees. The semi-formal event, complete with premium open bar and distinctive food stations, is the Abraham House's most profitable fundraiser. When asked about the event, Gina Ciaccia, Executive Director, states "Our Gala was a huge success not just because of the money raised but also because people truly enjoyed themselves. The Band Last Left continued to play for an additional 35 minutes at the end of the night because the dance floor was packed and nobody was ready to leave. That's evidence of a tremendous evening. We are already looking ahead and planning to grow the event for next year."

Judy Galimo, Gala Committee Chair, first became involved out of a desire to give back. She explains "The Abraham House is dear to my heart....it is a labor of love for me. Having known firsthand how a terminal illness affects the patient, caregiver, family members and those we love, our House serves such a needed purpose in the most loving and giving way." During her speech at the Gala event, she added "You get involved. You see a need and jump in to help out for a cause like Abraham House and then you find that you did not take on the cause; somehow that cause ends up taking over you."

MUCH GRATITUDE TO:
STUNNING VIEW SPONSORS:
ALBERT & ELINOR MAZLOOM
GUSTAVE DETRAGLIA JR., ESQ.

STUNNING VIEW SPONSORS:
THE FOUNTAINHEAD GROUP, INC.
Craftsmanship. Innovation. Commitment
di capraro technologies inc.

BEAUTIFUL LIFE SPONSORS:
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ABRAHAM HOUSE: SPRING 2016
Gala Sponsors Cont’d.

BREATH OF HOPE SPONSORS:
Scalzo, Zogby, & Wittig, Inc.
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Newman Community at Utica College and SUNY POLY
ECR International, Inc.
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Branjen Realty Holdings & Dr. Janice Bedell
George A. Kozminski, MD

RAY OF LIGHT SPONSORS:
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Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
Delmonico’s Italian Steakhouse
Symeon’s Restaurant
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Nunn & McGrath Funeral Directors
Justin Wilcox Landscaping
Cooley Group, Jeana Nicotera
Dapper Dan Dry Cleaning
Excellus Health Plan, Inc.
Morgan Stanley
Beebe Construction Services, Inc.

Special thanks to the following for their in-kind services:
The "Click" Photography
LB Security & Investigations, Inc.
The Band Last Left
Bella’s Event Planning
Coriale Flowers
JDesigns

A very special THANK YOU to our 2015 Gala Committee:
Judy Galimo, Gala Chair/Board Member
• Jennifer Asker-Kozminski • Maria Brindisi • Lisa Dillon • Denise Flihan • Julian Galimo •
  Dena Gorea • Kelli Inserra • Allene LaBella • Gail Manfredo • Lenora Murad •
• Danielle Padula • Cindy Reed • Cindy Roefaro • Rosemary Talarico • Jesse Verna •

GALA 2016….SAVE THE DATE!!!!
Friday, November 4th
Valley View Golf & Country Club
Music by LAST LEFT!!!!
Distinctive Food Stations!!
Premium Open Bar!!
Tickets $75
ABRAHAM HOUSE’S 7TH ANNUAL MARCH MEATBALL MADNESS WAS HELD ON MARCH 6TH AT THE RADISSON HOTEL. A RECORD BREAKING CROWD OF OVER 900 WERE IN ATTENDANCE AND PROFITS REACHED $23,000 THIS YEAR. SINCE WE RECEIVE NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING ABRAHAM HOUSE RELIES ON FUNDRAISERS AND DONATIONS TO COVER OUR YEARLY OPERATING EXPENSES. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THIS SUCCESS!!

2016 MARCH MEATBALL MADNESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

JOE AIELLO   JACKIE FAGA    MARIEANGELA SPATARO
ANDREA BARBATO   JUDY GALIMO    KIM TODD
GINA CIACCI     JULIAN GALIMO   KARLEE TAMBURRO
MARTIN CIACCI    BETH GUZSKI    CAROL TRINCO
PAUL COLBURN    ANTHONY LAPOLLA   VICKI VOMER
IRENE D’ONOFRIO   GINA PRISTERA  ARIANNA WESTFALL

MUCH APPRECIATION TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS, TOO MANY TO MENTION, THAT WERE INTEGRAL IN HELPING US PULL OFF THE MADNESS!!

MEATBALL EATING CONTEST WINNERS:
FEMALE ROUND: ARIANNA WESTFALL
MALE ROUND: ZACHARY WALLACE
BATTLE OF BARS: JOE LEONE
BRASS TACK

Joe LaPaglia so generously gave his valuable time and talent!
To our many sponsors...your financial support allows our services to be available to the community. THANK YOU!!!

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

THE MARKETING FIRM

MEATBALL EATING
CONTEST SPONSOR:

MICHIGAN

MEMORIAL MEATBALL
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FIRST NIAGARA

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M/M Ralph Giovinazzo
New Hartford PBA
O’Donnells Pub & Grill
Pauls Tree Service
RoofPro
Stonebridge Golf & Country Club
Tom & Carol Trinco

RAFFLE GIFT CERTIFICATES & DONATIONS:

Wilcor
Daniele Imports
Prints Charles
Seneca & Valley Liquor
Maria’s Pasta Shop
Leece Construction
Lourdes Fumarola
Tricia Usyk & Scott Williams / USC

IN KIND & SERVICE DONATIONS:

Radisson Hotel
Joseph Flihan Co.
Melrose
Rosa’s Italian Bakery
Friendly Bake Shop
CASA Imports/Cora Products
Squeezers Lemonade & Kettle Corn

IN KIND & SERVICE DONATIONS:

Zeina’s Café
Daylight Donuts
The Florentine
New York Dough
Holland Farms

IN KIND & SERVICE DONATIONS:

Joseph Saba
Utica Coffee Roasting
Salvatore’s Italian Bakery
CNY Apparel
OHM BOCES Food Service
Jeana Nicotera / Cooley Group

IN KIND & SERVICE DONATIONS:

Walmart Distribution Center
Dino’s Sausage & Meat
Stonebridge Golf/Country Club
Sweet Mae’s Bakery
Charlie’s “It’s a Utica Thing!”

IN KIND & SERVICE DONATIONS:

St. Francis Society
Thank you to our participants and their 16,000 meatballs!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant/Location</th>
<th>Winning Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Across the Row Bistro</td>
<td>Dino’s Sausage and Meats</td>
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<td>Ambasador Restaurant</td>
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<td>Lukins Brick Oven Pizza / Bar</td>
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<td>Carmellas Cafe</td>
<td>Swifty’s Restaurant &amp; Pub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie’s &quot;It’s a Utica Thing&quot;</td>
<td>Tony’s Washington Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesterfields Restaurant</td>
<td>The Village Pub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtvue Luncheonette</td>
<td>Wayne Stucky</td>
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And the winners are.....

Judges Choice: Swifty’s Restaurant
People’s Choice: Café CaNole
Best Dressed: Courtvue Luncheonette
Most Creative: Tony’s Washington Mills
Just Like Grandmas: Chesterfields
Favorite Original: Village Pub

Thanks to our local celebrity judges:

- Meghan Fraser McGrogan
- Dave Barton
- Steve KARBOWSKI
- Chad McCRAITH
- Don Shipman
- John Calabrese
- Fred Talarico
- Greg Gorea
- Chico Pendrak
- DJ360 Jason Hamilton
- Joette Mancuso-Swisher
We fondly remember....

Dr. and Mrs. A. Louis Shaheen, who donated their beautiful home in 1998 in order to provide a safe, loving haven for others.

Dr. Shaheen was known to accept a loaf of homemade bread, home-grown vegetables, or even a chicken if someone couldn’t afford to pay him with money. He once told a young patient that he “became a doctor as a promise to his father” and that he vowed to “be a doctor for the people and not for the money.” Emulating his generous spirit, Abraham House has provided high quality care to our guests and families for the last 18 years completely free of charge.

OCEAN BLUE HAPPY HOUR

Our Ocean Blue Happy Hour in October raised over $2,500.00. What a wonderful way to spend the night...overlooking our beautiful city and getting to know some of our supporters! A big thank you to Justin Smithson for donating his time and talent.
1. DONATIONS & MATCHING GIFTS

Did you know...that the following employers will MATCH your gift to DOUBLE your donation???

- Avon Products
- JP Morgan Chase
- Bank of America
- Bristol Myers
- Morgan Stanley
- Key Corp
- Home Depot
- Macy’s
- Prudential Financial

The Abraham House SEFA code is: **ORG CODE 72-00202**

We accept gifts of stocks, jewelry, coin collections, etc. Abraham House would be honored to receive a planned gift through your will or estate, or in the form of a trust.

2. OUR WISH LIST

- postage stamps
- copy paper
- Keurig K-cups
- air freshener
- disposable coffee cups and lids
- gift cards for gas, groceries, dollar stores and home improvement stores

3. VOLUNTEER

Each month, Abraham House has 122 day shifts (4 hours @) to cover. Please consider making a commitment as a volunteer caregiver 4–8 hours per month. ALL TRAINING PROVIDED!!

“**You have never really lived until you’ve done something for someone who can never repay you.**” - Anonymous
We have often told others, when talking about Abraham House, what special people work there. In fact, we’ve compared them to “angels from above.” By being so, you allowed us to be family instead of caregivers.
- Mark & Sarah, son and daughter in law of Guest

The care she received was way beyond what I expected. I’m thankful she was allowed to keep her dignity to the end of her life.
- Gary, brother of Guest

In a 6 month long illness, the 6 weeks at Abraham House represented the MOST comfort he experienced.
- MaryBeth, daughter of Guest

GRANTS & GIFTS:
Community Foundation: $14,000
This allowed us to put in new windows & much needed insulation in our attic.

Indium Corporation/Macartney Family Foundation: $8,000
Gary and Mary Morgan and the Trust of Benora Brayton
David and Janet Griffith

To all our donors and supporters:
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
We could never make it without YOU!
Abraham House has been serving the needs of the terminally ill free of charge since 1998. Operating in the former family residence of Dr. A. L. Shaheen, our model of care is based on that of a family caring for their loved one. We provide a safe haven by offering a secure, and loving home environment.

Abraham House is the only comfort care home within 3 counties. We offer 24 hour a day hospice care. Our door is always open and families of our guests are encouraged to use our house as if it is their home.