

PEM Board Report December 2023

Advent House:

We have welcomed 10 new residents since the last board meeting in September. We continue to focus on residents who can benefit from our care the most, especially those at home whose families are struggling. Some are with us for a couple of days and others longer. All are a blessing to our ministry and we truly love our work.

We have updated our logo for use on all the Advent House literature and have new brochures as well. We welcomed the opportunity to speak to both the First Congregational Church, as well as the Retired Women's Group at the Perinton Recreation Department recently to both increase awareness of the house and advertise the need for volunteers. We continue to utilize Intervol for supplies and that has been going very well. Our annual house closure will be December 22 through January 2nd 2024.

Staff:

We have been working on filling 4 recently vacated on-call nurse positions. In the interim both directors have been taking these on-call hours to cover 2 of these positions that remain unfilled.

The primary staff consisting of volunteer coordinator, business manager, and fundraiser coordinator are working efficiently and continue to do an outstanding job. Mike Mathews, our jack of all trades who assisted with all kinds of House maintenance and outside yard work, has resigned. His partner Dave Voigt will continue to provide us with as much support as possible. Rob Kapal, Brenda's husband, will also provide assistance as needed. He is a true gem and we feel fortunate to have his involvement. We will be looking for a per diem HR representative to assist us with project based services, policy development (related to vacation time, disabilities, etc.) and recommendations for resolution of performance issues that may arise.

House Maintenance:

Orkin Exterminator Company was contracted to take care of the ongoing problem the house has had with both mice and ants. This included basement remediation, outside sealing up of cracks, holes etc, and maintenance (regular monitoring and bait setting). The initial costly intervention was most needed. In an effort to contain costs, the spring cleaning typically done by an outside company was omitted this year. We used an outside company for fall cleanup of the grounds and did so in a more cost effective manner.

Finance committee:

Continues to meet on a regular basis and is doing an incredible job of overseeing our financial status. We are cautiously optimistic as our financial picture is improving after challenging but necessary measures to streamline any processes we could. The increased focus on developing new fundraisers and exploring ways to increase revenue has contributed to our success. We are having our first annual Luminary event at the House on December 22nd.

The kick-off meeting for our annual Gala is December 12th, with invitations going out in February. We hope to see some, or all, of you there in support!

Fundraising:

The 31st annual Advent House Golf Tournament was held on Friday, September 15th at Victor Hills Golf Club. Net profit was \$15,325, which is an 18% increase over last year. The weather was beautiful- about 70 degrees and sunny. Special thanks to our tournament sponsor: **Miller, Cross and Co.** This year's gold sponsors were **TLF Graphics, McConville, Considine, Cooman & Morin, and EYW Companies.** Bronze Sponsors were **Maco Packaging, Wilkins Insurance Agency, Marty and Dian Mucci, Prentice Wealth Management, Neal Wiesner, SEI Design Group, and Kathi and Mike Piehler.** As always, volunteers are integral to our success. Special thanks to **Sue and Rich Towsley, Nora Green, Cathy Valente, Brenda Gaston, Charlie Szilagyi, Therese Hart, Terri Cullen, Diane Toth, Pat Patt and Sue Lindner.**

1. On September 29th, we partnered with Panera Bread to host a **“Raise Some Dough”** night and raised \$258.40. These types of fundraisers don't generate large amounts of income, but I do think they help “advertise” Advent House to the community.
2. The **2023 Annual Appeal** was mailed out on November 27th to 1640 households. New this year is an option to mail back a tag, along with your donation, that will be attached to a luminary. On December 22nd, we will “light up the house” by setting out the luminaries in memory of our loved ones. We encourage our donors to drive by that evening and view the display. We are also hopeful that the display will bring awareness to Advent House as many families will be out that night looking at Christmas lights or traveling to holiday gatherings.
3. We participated in the 2023 United Way **Roc the Day** campaign on Giving Tuesday (11/28) again this year. This year we received donations from 18 donors, totaling \$1161. In 2022, we received the same number of donations last year, with a total of \$12270.
4. This fall, business manager Amy Hiller and I have been working to update the **cable and internet** at Advent House. These updates will allow residents, their families, and Advent House staff to use a variety of internet-based devices without experiencing a slowdown or break in speed or service. We are also working with Alan Cohen, owner of Fair Winds Group, to update our **website** and move it to a new platform. This will allow Amy and I to maintain the website ourselves, and keep it updated with current House news. This is an ongoing project that will take us into the new year. Alan has been kind enough to work

with us on a volunteer basis, and Amy and I are incredibly grateful for his expertise.

5. I am also working on increasing our **social media presence**, as social media is the best way to communicate with many of our supporters, especially those under 40. A large social media presence is also a selling point when looking for event sponsors, as we can advertise their support across our platforms.
6. Finally, I am spending every Tuesday morning at **Sweet Charity**, helping Meg and Glenda with their advertising and acting as a “bridge” between Sweet Charity and Advent House. I am also representing Sweet Charity and Advent House at Perinton Chamber of Commerce and Fairport-Perinton Merchant Association meetings when my schedule allows.

Sweet Charity:

We recognize our extreme good fortune and blessing to have Sweet Charity for the financial stability it provides the House. The additional day being open has been a successful move. Meg Sarnoff has returned from disability and is back to working her regular hours. The newly developed “Charity Oversight Committee” will meet regularly and focus on business minded improvements.

Volunteers: From Susan Pauly (Volunteer Coordinator):

As I close in towards the end of my first full year at Advent house, I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve this great mission. It has been an honor to work with this wonderful staff and the many devoted, reverent volunteers. Since our last report in September, we have recruited 15 new Volunteers. In addition, we had 9 new Volunteers from St John Fisher Nursing School for the fall semester and we’ll have a group of Harley school and Fisher students for the spring semester. Often these students are tasked by their instructors to develop a project to go along with their course studies. One such project that evolved by the students themselves was to distribute a box to our 13 churches for collection of necessary paper products and wish items that Advent House could use. Unfortunately, the students have told us they were declined the placement of these boxes by all but one church they contacted.

The second project is a Tear Cloth project. Small silk bags will be filled with small cotton hankies and this poem will be enclosed.

*A square white piece of linen
Looks empty in one’s hands,
But it holds a special story
Deep within the woven strands.
When life is ebbing slowly
And a voice no longer speaks.
The eye may spill a teardrop
Although it does not weep.
A way to say I love you,
A final whisper sweeps the eye.*

*This small white cloth will capture
As it gently sweeps the eye
Imprinted on this tear cloth
A small part of me you'll see
To keep, hold and remember
And to share with our family.
May this tear cloth bring you comfort
Although you be apart,*

*A reminder of the love you share
Eternally heart to heart.*

We have two high school students who make loaves of bread and desserts for us. This has been a nice treat to share with our residents and families.

We had a group of 10 cub scouts come this fall and rake and bag leaves for us.

Our volunteer who mowed the lawn for us all summer did a wonderful job. He is from Hidden Valley Lawn care.

Our snow team is assembled and ready to go when the snow flies to keep our walk shovele and salted as needed.

We continue to be blessed by consistent weekly volunteers who come and clean for us, grocery shop, make phone calls to help fill the schedule.

Our volunteer Christmas party is planned for December 12th .

Peace,

Molly Shanto RN / Brenda Ferraro RN Co-Directors