



HouseNotes

A Quarterly Publication of the Guest House Foundation of the Illinois Medical District

Making the Guest House a home *A couple has a new baby in a new city*

On a vacation in Chicago last November, Baltimore residents Aris and Jennifer Cleanthous expected to take home some pictures and souvenirs.

They didn't realize that they would also be taking home a new born.

Jennifer, pregnant with the couple's first child, was due on Feb. 11, 2006.

"A weekend trip to Chicago seemed like a great idea," Aris said.

Four days after the couple arrived in the Windy City, Jennifer gave birth to their son Nathan three months prematurely at Rush University Medical Center on Nov. 9. The doctors told the Cleanthouses that they would release Jennifer



Aris and Jennifer Cleanthous of Baltimore stayed at the Guest House when their son, Nathan, was born three months prematurely in Chicago.

within a few days, but Nathan would have to stay until his due date.

"Being that we were from Baltimore, and that we had no relatives or friends in Chicago, we felt completely helpless," Aris said. "During those first few scary, unknown, uneasy and emotional days we were at a complete loss as to how we would deal with this challenge. We had nowhere to go."

The new parents soon learned of the new IMD Guest House program—that they could be among the first people to rent a small apartment close

to the hospital for affordable rates with the program that opened in mid-October.

"It seemed too good to be true," Aris said. "The moment I walked through the door of the apartment, I felt that a new world had begun for us and our new family."

Nathan's first few months were full of struggles and complications—infections, premature lungs, possible surfactant deficiency, blood transfusions, brain hemorrhages and inflamed ventricles. But one aspect of this time remained consistently positive for the Cleanthouses.

"The fact that we had a fully furnished place to stay near the hospital at an affordable price made a difficult situation more bearable," Aris said.

Back in Baltimore, Aris and Jennifer watch their son grow bigger and healthier. Nathan, still receiving oxygen treatments, now weighs 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

"He's doing so much better," Jennifer said. "Everyone says he looks good. He even smiles now."

Nathan's parents smile, too, when they look back at their experience at the Guest House.

"It was so nice to have a house to come back to each day," Jennifer said.



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Fundraising Event pictures

Thanks to donors

King of the Guest House



Housekeeper Claudette King cleans and cares for families, exemplifying the spirit of the Guest House.

While doctors take care of patients in IMD hospitals, Claudette King ensures that the patients' family members and loved ones are receiving the same quality of treatment and comfort in

their temporary homes.

King serves as the housekeeper for the Guest House. She prepares the six rooms by making beds, cleaning the kitchens and bathrooms, and

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Foundation cooks up success



Guests attending the January fundraiser at Chicago's Chopping Block cooking school enjoyed cooking demonstrations.

With rolling pins rolling and flour flying, the IMD Guest House Foundation cooked up its first major fund-raising event at The Chopping Block cooking school in Chicago's Merchandise Mart.

The "Look What's Cooking" fundraiser boosted the Foundation's bank account by more than \$7,500. More than 200 guests mingled and munched on scrumptious hors d'oeuvres that they had a hand in preparing during interactive cooking demonstrations with Chopping Block chefs and other guests.



Thanks to all who attended and to the following people and organizations for their generous contributions:

- **This event was partially underwritten by Navistar and the Illinois State Medical Insurance Services.**
- **Silent auction items were generously donated by Chicago Bulls; Chrysler All-Star Shootout/Beat the Pro Enterprises; Sue Conway; Drury Lane Theater; Erica's Jewelry; Fairmont Hotel; Field Museum; Marianne Floriano; Barbara Frost; Thomas M. Frost, Sr.; Bill Hamik; InStadium, LLC; Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants; Levy Restaurants; Loding Capital Partners; McKesson Corp.; MJ2 Bistro; Museum of Science & Industry; New Prospects; Rush University Medical Center; Second City; Sho Studio; Spa di da; and Terry Tuohy.**
- **Special thanks to Oh Sew Personnel for making our wonderful potholders and to Coca-Cola Enterprises, Glunz Beers and Glunz Wines for providing all the beverages for this event.**



Claire Floriano (right), daughter of IMD Guest House Foundation Executive Director Marianne Floriano, and a friend roll out dough before putting in a pan.

The Guest House opened its doors for the first time in October 2005. Its mission is to keep families and loved ones close in a supportive "home-away-from-home" environment while patients receive medical treatment in the Illinois Medical District hospitals. For more information, please visit www.imdguesthouse.org or call (312) 942-1253.

The Chopping Block Cooking School, with two Chicago locations, offers daily hands-on and demonstration cooking classes for the home cook. For more info visit www.thechoppingblock.net.



IMD Guest House Foundation Board Member Martha Gottlieb, of Cook County Bureau of Health Services, learns a new pastry folding technique from a Chopping Block chef.

ful fund-raiser

Fundraiser attendees made anything and everything including sushi (right), spring rolls, sauces and potstickers.



Chopping Block chefs prepare for a demonstration in the main kitchen.

Among the many dishes prepared by The Chopping Block chefs was a scrumptious mussels and paella dish.



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doing laundry.

“I have helped prepare the rooms for family members of transplant recipients and a leukemia patient, among others,” she said.

King has been working part-time at the Guest House since January. The 65-year-old retired three years ago from her job as a food service manager, where she worked for 27 years at the Chicago Board of Education.

“This job is a chance for me to not just sit at home in front of the TV after retirement,” King said. “It keeps my mind busy and my body moving.”

King was born in Brownsville, Tenn. She married soon after she graduated high school. She and her husband came to Chicago in 1963 to be closer to her husband’s family. They have six children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

“I see my family members every week,” King said. “I love having a big family.”

Just two months after her retirement, King’s husband

“I feel great about working for such a caring organization.”

-Claudette King

suffered a stroke, requiring her to spend much of her time taking care of him. Outside of the house, she volunteers as the kitchen coordinator at her church.

“I go to my church at least three times a week,” King said. “I’m doing something I love doing.”

When it comes to her relationship with other people, King considers herself loving, caring and understanding.

“I’m not an argumentative person. You have to do something really bad to upset me.”

King said that people she encounters at the Guest House show her that same kind of compassion. “People are so polite to me, and they always thank me.”

Guest House executive director Marianne Floriano complimented King on her spirit and work ethic.

“Claudette treats each of the apartments like her own home,” Floriano said. “I know that when a family walks through the door they will find a place spotlessly clean with small welcoming touches that will make a family feel right at home. We are thankful to have Claudette on our team.”

King likes working for a group that helps other people.

“The Guest House helps a lot of families,” King said. “We have everything the families need. I feel great about working for such a caring organization.”

Thank you, IMD Guest House donors and friends who helped with our fundraiser

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Please consider donating gift cards from Target; Jewel; Dominicks; Bed, Bath & Beyond; Linens & Things; K-Mart or any other gift-type credit cards.

The Guest House is always in need of various household items. These cards make it easy for our staff to obtain the essentials.

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