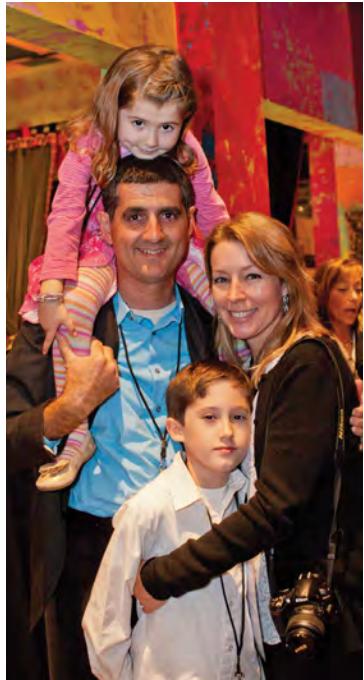




ILLINOIS MEDICAL DISTRICT Guest House News

Celebrating 10 Years of Service to Families!



Jen and Aris Cleanthous, with their children Nathan & Nora

This is the story of the Cleanthous family, who were the first guests ever to stay at IMD Guest House. That was 10 years ago, in the fall of 2005.

It's striking to think that not so long ago there was no Guest House. There were no guests, no volunteers and no staff. But that's the way it was until the fall of 2005. IMD Guest House was not a place where people could stay. It was a vision.

Back then, Jen and Aris Cleanthous did not plan

to be our first guests. They were expectant parents who decided to take a quick trip to Chicago, from their home in Maryland. While they were in Chicago, Jen got food poisoning and needed to make an emergency medical delivery at Rush University Medical Center. Their son Nathan was born on November 9th, 2005, at 26 weeks. Nathan was placed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit until he was strong enough to go home. Jen also needed to stay in the hospital for a few days.

In the meantime, she and Aris had nowhere to stay. They

were not familiar with the area and did not have any family or friends in Chicago. What could they do? Fortunately, IMD Guest House was ready to open its doors to people like them; people who needed a place to stay while a family member was in the hospital. For almost three months, IMD Guest House was their home away from home, while Nathan was in the hospital getting strong enough to travel back to Maryland. On January 25th, 2006, Nathan was released from the hospital and the family was able to go home.

A lot has changed in 10 years. Nathan is a healthy, happy 10-year-old who plays in the school band and has a 6-year-old sister named Nora. The Guest House has changed as well. We moved from our original location, and have grown in size and scope. Today, we offer 40 apartments, and will have 50 in few months. We serve outpatients as well as patient families. We have a Community Room that offers regular programming. We are preparing to open services to military veterans and their families.

But the core of what we do is still the same. We offer relief for people when they really need it: when they're facing medical issues a long way from home and can't spend the time and energy worrying about where to stay, because they need to focus on healing.

As Jen and Aris said, "We will always be grateful to the folks at the Guest House who extended a wonderful and cushy safety net for us to fall into." We're proud that those words could come a former guest, a current guest, or a guest who stays with us in 2025. •



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Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, 11/25

Grab 'n Go Breakfast – Would you like to volunteer or donate fruit, pastry or juice?

Thursday, 12/3

Dinner – Would you like to volunteer?

Wednesday, 12/16

Grab 'n Go Breakfast – Would you like to volunteer or donate fruit, pastry or juice?

Monday, 21/21

Dinner – Holiday Theme, hosted by Connie and Michael Mayse

If you'd like to volunteer, donate cookies and snacks, or help out in any other way, please contact Jan Kroeschell at jank@imdguesthouse.org or call 312-996-9287.

IMD Guest House provides the comforts of home and the care of community to outpatients and the families of patients who must seek treatment away from home through convenient and affordable temporary lodging.

Volunteer Profile – Phi Delta Chi

Victoria Ramos, Worthy Prelate of UIC's pharmacy fraternity, Phi Delta Chi

One of Phi Delta Chi's mottos is “each needs the help of the other”. This phrase not only applies to our brotherhood, but also to our community. When we volunteer at the IMD Guest House we know that the guests need our help, but really they are the ones helping us to become better citizens and future pharmacists. This is the second year that Phi Delta Chi has been volunteering at the IMD Guest House, and it has quickly become our favorite place to volunteer. Our brothers have found that interacting with the guests is the most rewarding part of the experience. One Phi Delta Chi member said, “I enjoyed cooking for the guests, and talking with them. It felt so good to provide a stress free environment during a difficult time in their lives.” Another one of our volunteers said, “The guests were so much fun, I even learned how to knit!” As future pharmacists we typically think of providing care through medication therapy, but volunteering at the IMD Guest House has allowed us to provide care in a different way, and for that we are extremely grateful. •



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Volunteer Honor Roll: Summer – Fall 2015



GE volunteers with guest Alice



Top: Schuler Scholar students and volunteer Bianca at right

Middle: Guest Sylvia with volunteer Rodnita

Bottom: Volunteer Natalia holds all of the cookies

AMLI

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Bakers: Ayala Family, Erica, Gizelle, June, Linda, Natalie, and Vecchione Family

Booth School of Business – SEI Staff

Breakfast Volunteers: Biancha Silverstein and Margaret Ervin

City Church of Chicago

Clearbrook CHOICE volunteers

Doing Something Awesome nonprofit

General Electric – PGS Finance

IMD Guest House Jr. Board

ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company

Knitting Volunteers: Rachel Krause and Tiffany Kim

Massage Therapists: Catey Grass and Amber Cooperman

Meal Maker Volunteers: Adam, Alyssa, Ardie, Beth, Colleen, Jane, Joanie, Mike, Rachel, Ted, Tiffany,

Perspective Leadership Academy

Scafuri Bakery

The Great American Bagel

UIC Association of Pre-Medical Students

UIC Phi Delta Chi

UIC Pre-Pharmacy Club

UIC Society of Future Physicians



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Around the House

Expansion News

The Guest House opened 6 additional units at our current location in early August 2015. We are planning to open an additional 10 units in early 2016, to bring our total to 50.

In mid-August, a small kitchen fire on an upper floor of our building set off the sprinkler system. The resulting water damage resulted in the temporary loss of 7 guest rooms. Our operating partner, UIC Campus Housing has worked swiftly to make necessary repairs to ensure the well-being of our guests and facilities and all rooms are operational again! •

New Staff Members



Chrishon R. Parker joined the Guest House team as a House Assistant supporting evening and weekend

programming. Chrishon received her Bachelor's in Psychology from Chicago State University. She currently works full time as a Certified Medical Assistant with Rush University Medical Center. Chrishon worked eight years with the Illinois Department of Public Health, two years with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities and 10 years as an Independent Contractor with the Illinois Early Intervention Program as a Developmental Therapist. She is a United States Army Veteran. Chrishon is



happily married to her husband Charles, has two wonderful sons, Lenard and Deleon, and a 1-year old *Grand Sugar*, William. She is very involved with her church, St. Dorothy, and serves as the President of the Ladies Guild, Recording Secretary of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and the Recording Secretary of the Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women Deanery B. Chrishon enjoys every minute of interacting with guests and assisting with programming.



Chrishon R. Parker joined the IMD Guest House staff in August as the undergraduate Administrative Assistant.

Chrishon is a full time student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. She is a self-proclaimed foodie, and enjoys blogging, cooking, and spending time with loved ones in her spare time. •

With Sympathy on Your Loss

The Board and staff of IMD Guest House wish to express heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of . . .

Martha Hahn Tammy Mahoney
Frank Kuppin Creighton Weldon



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IMD Guest House Enjoys “Best-Ever” Golf Outing, Raises Over \$100K

When is it good to “make rain” on the golf course? It certainly worked out on August 6th, when 37 foursomes participated in the IMD Guest House 2015 Golf Event at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club, raising more than \$100,000 for the Comfort Fund. It was a perfect day and the only rainmaking was of the financial variety, as golfers enjoyed playing 18 holes, games of skill, a helicopter golf ball drop, a barbecue dinner and silent auction.

Special thanks also to our title sponsor Medex, all of our other sponsors, and all of the volunteers who helped make this a great event. Hats off to Joel Karman, who chaired the Golf Outing Committee and to the rest of the Committee members: David Cades, Laura Ford (Giving Tree Associates), Jake Garfinkel, Adam Helman (Staff), Scott Lacrosse, Matt Manning, Mike Mayse (Staff), Mary Sabatino, Lai Shaan Smith (Staff) and Tony Spangenberg. Thanks also to Volunteer Coordinator Jan Kroeschell for her help recruiting our volunteers and managing their work at the event. •



Matt Manning and the team from Inland Bank



Mike Mayse and Chuck Gavzer enjoying a day in the sun



The epic Golf Ball Drop (not a hailstorm!)



Mary Sabatino and the team from Weidner & McAuliffe



Professional golfer Joe Sabatino came all the way from Florida to help with Beat the Pro

Joel Karman driving one down the fairway



To see more photos from the outing, visit <http://www.imdguesthouse.org/2015-annual-golf-outing/>



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Red & White on Thursday Night Comes Up a Winner

On Thursday, October 8th, IMD Guest House hosted our fifth annual wine tasting event, *Red and White on Thursday Night*, raising over \$38,000. Participants enjoyed returning to Carnivale for a second year, and once again had a great evening of wine, food and fun! The Cleanthous Family, the first guests ever to stay who the Guest House (see cover story), who traveled from Maryland to help celebrate our 10th Anniversary. Also, we were especially happy to see Jane Reich, who founded the Guest House, at the event.

We are grateful to Superior Ambulance Services, our title sponsor, along with all of our other sponsors, table hosts, participants and volunteers. Thanks to Chuck Gavzer, Sarah Grady and Lisa Saul, who co-chaired the Event Committee, and all of the other Committee members: Jarold Anderson, Paola Cieslak, Adam Helman (Staff), Mike Mayse (Staff), Jessica Morris, Jodi Portnoy, Stephen Ross, Lai Shaan Smith (Staff), Prashant Srivastava and Gail Straus. Thanks also to Volunteer Coordinator Jan Kroeschell for her help recruiting our volunteers and managing their work at the event. •



Above, clockwise from top left:

Jane Reich (center) with volunteers Gene and Denise Climer

Nathan Cleanthous and Board member Jodi Portnoy pick a raffle winner

Mary Franco, of Superior Ambulance, arrives

Mike Mayse, with Jen and Aris Cleanthous

Rock / Paper / Scissor MC Connie Mayse (center) with the finalists, as champ Paola Cieslak demonstrates her winning form

At left, above: Board Member Sarah Grady and her father, former Board Chair, John Janicik

At left, below: Board member Peter Tyor and his wife Hilary enjoy the evening



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Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Introduces a New Award



Jane Reich receives her award from Jan Kroeschell and Mike Mayes

IMD Guest House Volunteer Coordinator Jan Kroeschell organized the second annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on November 11 to recognize and celebrate those who donate their time and talent to the help our guests. The catered dinner was held in the Guest House Community Room, and Jan presented personalized certificates of appreciation to each attendee.

Attendees also witnessed a Guest House ‘first’ - The inaugural presentation of the Jane Reich Volunteer Award, recognizing outstanding contributions by a volunteer. The award is named for Jane Reich, who was the original founder of IMD Guest House. Her tireless commitment continues to this day, as she is a regular fixture as a volunteer and at our fundraising events.

So, it was only appropriate that the winner of the first-ever Jane Reich Volunteer Award was none other than ... Jane Reich! Jane is a regular volunteer at the Guest House and continues to inspire volunteers, guests, and staff to this day. •



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Jr. Board Running Event Finishes Strong



Congratulations to the Jr. Board for leading a successful peer-to-peer fundraiser on the weekend of September 12 - 13! The Guest House provided each runner with a website, fundraising page and an IMD Guest House running singlet, our runners pounded the pavement and raised more than \$3,500. •

IMD Charity Runners after legging it out at the Bucktown 5K. From left: Robin Chan, Joanie Vernasco, Kyle Garner, Joel Karman, Robert Giachetti, David Cades, Mimi Clark. Not Pictured: Sarah and David Grady, who ran in the Homestead Festival Underground Railway 5K.

Mid-America Club Celebrates Oktoberfest with the Guest House

On October 2nd, the Mid-America Club (MAC) hosted an Oktoberfest-themed fundraiser benefitting three charities, one of which was IMD Guest House. The event was a sell-out with more than 200 attendees, raising more than \$5,000 for IMD Guest House. In addition to spectacular views afforded by the MAC's location on the 80th floor of the Aon Building, participants enjoyed a stein-holding contest, a hearty German feast and other contests. •

Make a difference and donate to the year-end appeal

Your donation to the IMD Guest House Comfort Fund will help ensure that we can continue to offer our low nightly rate, and that we will never turn a guest away for financial reasons.

[DONATE NOW](#)