



# ILLINOIS MEDICAL DISTRICT Guest House News

## Volunteer and community edition



*Award-winner Juan Sanchez, flanked by Jane Reich (left) and Jan Kroeschell (right)*



*IMD Guest House Junior Board Members Dipal Blackowicz (left) and Felice Columbretis enjoying the evening at Giordano's*

## IMD Guest House Hosts 4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation

On April 28th, IMD Guest House welcomed over 70 volunteers and their guests to the 4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Jan Kroeschell, IMD Guest House Volunteer Coordinator, organized the event, which was held at Giordano's Greektown location. The menu featured salad, a wide variety of thin and stuffed pizzas, pasta and dessert. Attendees participated in a raffle for prizes such as a home improvement gift package, BBQ kit, and gift cards.

IMD Guest House Executive Director Adam Helman welcomed volunteers and their guests to

the dinner, observing, "IMD Guest House is important and special. We can say we're important because of the nights of service we provide, the number of families we help, and that we never turn families away for financial reasons. The people in this room - our volunteers - make us special. You create the community that is IMD Guest House. It may seem simple to you as a volunteer to serve meal, make small talk, or just offer a smile to our guests, but it makes a world of difference to families during their time of need."

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## *4th Annual Volunteer Event, continued*

Volunteers Lourdes Paz and Jose Acebedo spoke to the attendees about their journey from Honduras, which started as a short visit to Chicago, and ended up with a stay at IMD Guest House. They described the way that discovering a serious medical condition in one of their children resulted in the whole family permanently relocating to Chicago, and the role that IMD Guest House played during their time here.

Juan Sanchez receiving the Jane Reich Volunteer of the Year Award was the highlight of the evening. The Founder and current Board Member of IMD Guest House, Jane Reich, was on-hand to present the award,

along with Jan Kroeschell. Juan earned the award for his dedication to the IMD Guest House community, preparing group dinners regularly, helping to move furniture between rooms, interpreting for Spanish-speaking guests, keeping a smile on everybody's face and much more. In short, he's an invaluable member of our team. Juan's family attended the event, and they had the opportunity to see him recognized for all of his hard work.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers! We truly appreciate everything you do for IMD Guest House. •



*Juan Sanchez with his sister (left) and parents*



*Volunteers enjoyed the evening*



*Lourdes Paz and Jose Acebedo share their story of being guests and volunteers at IMD Guest House*



**JUAN SANCHEZ, JANE REICH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT**

## He's Always Got a Smile



“Sanchez” as he’s known around IMD Guest House, first became familiar with us through his participation in the Rush Road Home program for veterans. A Chicago native, Sanchez enjoys volunteering at the Guest House because it gives him a sense of purpose and self-gratification that he’s helping people and doing something meaningful.

“I volunteer because I enjoy the guests and the staff. I feel like people here have my back. The staff here is supportive. I like when I’m called in because they need me to do some work around the Guest House using my skills. I’m happy to help – but it also feels great to

be needed and useful.”

When asked about being this year’s recipient of the Jane Reich Volunteer of the Year award, he was completely taken by surprise. He was truly excited and felt that his work with IMD Guest House was truly valued.

“It made me feel GOOD! It was nice to be recognized. I really appreciated the things Adam, the Director, and Jane Reich, the Founder, said about me. It’s a real honor.”

Well deserved, Sanchez. Thank you for your service! •



## Creating a Home Away from Home

As a health hospitality service organization with over a 10-year history of unparalleled service offerings to diverse constituencies, IMD Guest House fills a critical void in the field of healthcare delivery. In fact, IMD Guest House is the only facility in Chicago open to patients of any age and patients receiving any type of medical treatment. IMD Guest House encourages community involvement through programming that provides nutritional and health benefits for guests, helping to create a home away from home.

When a patient must travel away from home for medical care, having access to a caring community in a comforting place can be helpful during a difficult time. Recently, IMD Guest House provided an experience that enabled a wife caring for her husband who was undergoing retinal (eye surgery) treatment the opportunity to recover with the best possible overall outcome. Long car rides of 9 hours or more would have been difficult and possibly interfered with his treatment.



*Providing a feeling of community and family is part of IMD Guest House's mission. We are proud to offer services regardless of a patient's ability to pay a nightly rate.*

In the words of the guests:

“Not only is the Guest House staff great but the (volunteer) students have all been fantastic, polite and willing to talk. The volunteers are not afraid to sit down and visit with us ... it is not always like that. You get into a group of adults and it's a lot different, nobody likes to talk.”

The IMD Guest House service model offers connected care, enabling patients to complete

medical treatment. IMD Guest House services reach beyond the Guest House — to the hospital rooms of in-patients.

Over the years, in keeping with its mission, IMD Guest House has demonstrated a commitment to provide quality services to those in need during a medical crisis, offering broad and significant impacts for the communities it serves. •



## Our Fantastic Volunteers

Thank you so much for everything you do for IMD Guest House. Your support truly makes a tremendous impact on the lives of guests we serve. The staff, board and guests of IMD Guest House truly appreciate everything you do!





## Many Thanks to Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Volunteers

One of the things we can all remember from the movie *Forrest Gump* is Bubba's love of shrimp! He goes on and on for a few days listing all of the different types of shrimp someone can make. Just hearing it, a person can start craving tasty seafood.

Luckily, the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. came to life just a few short years after the movie. They've been serving up lobster, crab, scampi and, of course, shrimp since 1996.

Since 2016, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. has sponsored dinners and volunteered with IMD Guest House. Our guests are so grateful for their delectable delights!

The Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. volunteers always arrive with smiles on their faces, ready to pitch in and help provide a home cooked meal away from home.

When guests join us in the Community Room for dinner, they interact with other guests who are going through similar situations. Providing an inviting place

for patients and their families is the cornerstone of our Community Room and its programs.

Lisa, Sales Manager at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. said:

*"Our employees really enjoy coming to IMD Guest House. They love giving back and chatting with everyone. We feel that our volunteers get just as much from these nights as the guests do!"*

We are so pleased Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. returns to IMD Guest House time and time again. The food is scrumptious and the volunteers liven the evening with their enthusiasm.

Thanks for all you do, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.! We truly appreciate your continuing support! •



Your support helps provide care and comfort to our guests during a time of great need. Support IMD Guest House today!

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