



**DeKalb County's
Healthcare Hospitality
Provider**

payitforwardhouse.org

Moving Forward....

Guests Norma, daughter Tracy and Founder MaryLou Eubanks pose in front of the Pay-It-Forward House sign. Norma and Tracy were our last "house" guests in the Sycamore home on Somonauk Street. Norma and Tracy moved to a partner hotel on September 15, in preparation of our Estate Sale that took place on September 24 & 25. Read Norma's guest perspective about staying in the Pay-It-Forward House on page 2.



For 16 years the Pay-It-Forward House, NFP organization resided at 719 Somonauk Street in Sycamore. This 1870's home sheltered many guests needing a welcoming place of respite. After many months of deliberation, the Board of Directors decided a pivot was needed for the Pay-It-Forward House organization. Driving the pivot, finding a new home that includes private bathrooms and better accessibility for all guests. The historic home was listed for sale in July and sold in late September. Although Pay-It-Forward House no longer operates on the tree-lined street, the organization remains in operation serving the needs of guests requiring temporary lodging while attending to loved ones in nearby medical facilities. Since 2010, Pay-It-Forward House has placed guests in hotels when the demand for rooms was greater than the occupancy of the house. Pay-It-Forward House will continue providing for our guests by placing them in partner hotels until a suitable replacement property is found.



Ph: 815-762-4882

Note our new mailing address

Pay-It-Forward House NFP, PO Box 471, Sycamore, IL 60178



A Guest Perspective

By Norma M.



Norma & George

Who was the patient and what brought you to Pay-It-Forward House?

My husband George was a patient at Kindred Hospital-Sycamore. We live in Northern California. However, we travelled to Rockford, Illinois to attend my husband's mother and aunt's funeral this past July. Unfortunately, after attending my husband's aunt's funeral, George had a stroke. Some days have been really challenging at times since we are from out-of-state and have very limited support. Thank goodness for my daughter, family members, the healthcare team at St. Anthony's which connected us with a very supportive community in Sycamore.

What was your first impression of the House?

Leaving Rockford heading to a town that I had never visited and not knowing anything about Sycamore. After the short drive on the highway through fields of corn, my nephew took me to the hospitality house. When we arrived, I was impressed by the stately Hospitality House surrounded by other picturesque historical homes.

The House became a comfortable place to relax and get some rest. The backyard provided a welcomed break from the stress from the day-to-day occurrences. Despite all that has happened over the past months, Pay-It-Forward house provided refuge to us and many other families with a loved one in the hospital.

"The Pay-It-Forward House has provided physical and emotional support while my husband has been in the hospital."

The Pay-It-Forward House has provided physical and emotional support while my husband has been in the hospital. The overall goal was to get my husband to a stage where he was able to be medically transported to California to continue moving forward through this healing process.



Norma & Tracy

What was the most gratifying during your stay?

The most gratifying time about my stay was the proximity to Kindred Hospital-Sycamore. It made it so convenient to walk back in forth to the hospital throughout the day. Plus, the host made sure we didn't have to worry about anything. The places to walk, get coffee and make sure we were comfortable or needed additional lodging days while my husband is at the hospital.

What do you wish other people knew about the Pay-It-Forward House organization?

The Pay-It-Forward organization is important because so many people need this support when they have to deal with everything associated with having a family member at Kindred Hospital- Sycamore. Supporting such an organization is important and makes a difference for future guests. My daughter and I speak highly about our experience as guests and look forward to supporting their mission.



Since 2005, Pay-It-Forward House has provided over 21,700 nights of rest to guests in need.



Pay-It-Forward House, NFP serves patient families from medical facilities from all areas of DeKalb County, Illinois.



Lisa Heckmann



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Interim Executive Director

Letter from Our Interim Executive Director

Dear Friends:

Moving and change is never easy, but it's often necessary. As a spouse of a career military officer, our family moved often during his 30 year career. Some moves were easier than others, but most were bittersweet. Melancholy over what we were leaving behind, but excited for what the future destination had to offer. That is what I have felt with the Pay-It-Forward House moving out of the charming, historic house. I've packed up the memories, lessons learned, along with the support of our donors, volunteers and guests and will carry those with me as we move forward as an organization. Knowing that offering private bathrooms and better accessibility will improve the quality of Pay-It-Forward House guest stays, has me excited for our future guests.

Regarding another move, I would like to thank Teresa Jacobson who served on our Board of Directors for these past three years, most recently as Board President. Jason Blumenthal assumed the duties as Board President in October. Thanks to the entire Board for their steadfast commitment to the future of Pay-It-Forward House!

Moving forward with gratitude,

Lisa

Our Values

TRUST
*in people's
kindness to
others and in
their respect
for the facilities
made available
to them.*

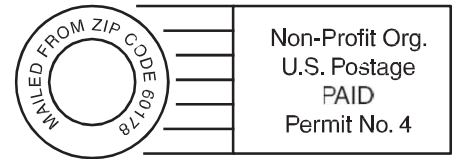
RESPECT
*for all,
especially our
guests and the
physical and
emotional
fatigue they are
experiencing.*

CARING
*demonstrated
by a willingness
to provide as
little or as much
companionship
and support
as each guest
welcomes.*

GRATITUDE
*for the
generosity of
others who
make it possible
for guests to
find a place of
rest and respite.*

How can you help?

We would like to provide welcome bags for our hotels guests. If you are interested in helping with providing non-perishable snacks, single drink mix, lunch bags, bottles of water, etc., please reach out to us by calling 815-762-4882 or by emailing info@payitforwardhouse.org



How do I sign up?

It's EASY!

Go to our website:

<https://payitforwardhouse.org>

Click on the News & Events tab, then click Newsletters tab.

“Adopt a Day”

The season of giving is upon us and we have the perfect gift to make everyone on your gift list feel special. Our Adopt-A-Day campaign kicks off in November. Honor or remember a special person in your life by adopting a day on our calendar. For a donation of \$100, we will send a note to each honoree recognizing their “day” and your support. Your \$100 donation means our guests who are physically, emotionally and financially exhausted are provided temporary lodging for little or no cost during a very difficult time in their lives.

<https://payitforwardhouse.org/adopt-day-annual-campaign-donation/>



*Choose to “pay it forward”
this giving season!*