

VOL. 23 ISSUE 1 · SPRING 2023

THE HOUSE REGISTER

Pay-It-Forward House, NFP

DeKalb County's Healthcare Hospitality Provider

Meet Me at the (Splash) Park

These past few years have had us all discombobulated and out of sorts so we are beyond excited for the return of our annual summer FRIEND-raiser event! Previously named Meet Me at the Fair, our FREE family- friendly event will include all the same fun, food, and good company as in past years, but at a new location - the Sycamore Park District Community Center and Splash Park! Save the date for Sunday, July 16th from 3-6pm, bring the children in your life, and enjoy a fun, relaxing afternoon outside. We'll have yard games, raffle prizes, a silent auction, food, and exclusive use of the splash pad. We want to thank our supporters and encourage those who are new to learning about us to come spend an afternoon getting to know us!



A heartfelt
THANK YOU to
all who donated
to our Adopt-a-
Day campaign
this year. Our
calendar is up in
the Kindred
hallway!



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A Guest's Perspective

"Imagine it is the worst day in early December of the worst year of your life. My son Scott had been fighting cancer for most of the year, and I now know he is losing his battle. It has become obvious that difficult decisions must be made, and I had just made one that broke my heart. Tomorrow, the caregivers at Kindred Hospital in Sycamore would start the necessary changes - heart-breaking changes - in my son's treatment. It's late; I mention that I need to get home - a 35 minute drive on dark, unfamiliar curving roads - and that I will be back early the next morning. Someone comes and talks to me about "Pay It Forward [House]," an organization that puts individuals in my situation in a nearby hotel and only asks for a \$10 per day donation.

How would you feel? For this mother - in my heart - this was a God send. How beautiful that absolute strangers would have such kindness for me. I felt their loving care at a time of my greatest need. My husband and I stayed for four nights. This allowed me to be at the hospital from early in the morning till the evening hours. It allowed my husband to leave in our car to make the necessary arrangements during the day.

Most importantly it gave me the time to be with my son, to sense what he was going through and to help him adjust slowly to his new reality. I talked of childhood memories and playmates. I sang him songs and told him stories he had first heard in Sunday School. As I gently held his hand, we prayed together. The opportunity Pay It Forward provided for my husband and me to stay at a local hotel allowed us to bond in our shared feelings and peaceful and quiet reflection during the time that otherwise would have been spent driving back and forth to our home.

We both immediately knew that we wanted to support the loving efforts of those individuals doing the day-to-day work of Pay It Forward, to allow them to provide the same feelings of peace and being cared for to the next family with a loved one requiring treatment such as my son Scott received at Kindred.

Post Script: After leaving Kindred on Friday, December 16 for CrossRoads in Woodstock, my son Scott passed away at 7:25a.m. on Sunday December 18. He can now rest pain free in peace."

- Guest Meredith

"Most importantly it gave me the time to be with my son."

GUEST MEREDITH

Board of Directors Updates

We started off the year by increasing our Board of Directors from five to seven members. We were lucky enough to be joined by 2 long-time residents of the area - Gip Seaver and Marc Marion. Increasing our Board size was important in both strengthening and broadening our organization as we face the prolonged obstacle of being between houses, and the diminished visibility that comes without having a physical office space. They have both already jumped in and



Gip Seaver

joined our Meet Me at the (Splash) Park planning committee. We look forward to the positive impacts we know they will both make. Welcome, Gip and Marc!



Marc Marion

Our Values

<i>TRUST</i> in people's kindness to others and in their respect for the facilities made available to them.	<i>RESPECT</i> for all, especially our guests and the physical and emotional fatigue they are experiencing.	<i>CARING</i> demonstrated by a willingness to provide as little or as much companionship and support as each guest welcomes.	<i>GRATITUDE</i> for the generosity of others who make it possible for guests to find a place of rest and respite.
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STAFF

TRACY KELSEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LISA HECKMANN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Pay-It-Forward House would be nothing without its volunteers, quite literally. From its early days when there were no paid staff members, throughout the 16 years in the historic house on Somonauk when volunteers helped take care of every aspect of the property, from landscaping to cleaning, to house repairs, along with guest relations - greeting guests as friendly faces, providing resources, snacks, and conversations. There isn't a single aspect of the organization that hasn't involved volunteers. While we miss seeing and working with our amazing volunteers at the level and frequency we were used to, we still have volunteers helping us with events, cookie baking, website maintenance, driving, mailings, welcome bags, spreading the word, and more. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we want to shout it from the rooftops that we appreciate ALL our volunteers - past and present. THANK YOU!



DRIVE THRU DINNER IS BACK!

Mark Your Calendar!

Pay-It-Forward House will be hosting a drive-thru dinner on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Sycamore United Methodist Church (160 Johnson Ave.) Tickets will need to be purchased at least a week in advance.

A Letter From Our Board President

Dear Friends,

I hope your year has started off blessed and well. We here at the Pay-It-Forward House have been working on a lot of wonderful things.

Our Executive Director Tracy Kelsey has been working hard to bring back our annual event "Meet Me at the Fair" this year it will have a bit of twist and will be called "Meet Me at the Splash Park." The event will take place at the Sycamore Park District and will allow us to add additional family friendly activities. It is great that we can bring this event back and are excited to see all our friends there. If you wish to help in the process, please reach out to Tracy.

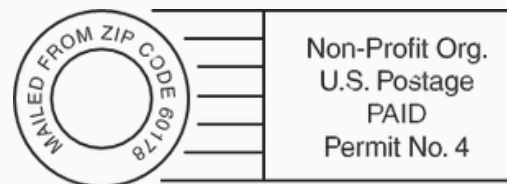
Additionally, the Board of Directors is continuing to look for our new home. We have yet to find the perfect fit, but we are hopeful this is the year we do. If you or someone you know might be aware of a property that would be a good fit for us, please let us know.

The Board wishes to thank everyone for their continued support of the Pay-It-Forward House and our mission. The past few years have brought many challenges, but we have continued to find our way through them in this new normal.

Gratefully,

Jason, Board President





PO Box 471, Sycamore, IL 60178

815.762.4882

Return Service Requested



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.



Give DeKalb County is a 24 hour, community wide giving day, hosted by DeKalb County Nonprofit Partnership. It's an annual awe-inspiring day that has raised over \$6.8 million for local nonprofits since it began 10 years ago.

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, mark your calendar for May 4th and be sure to donate to Pay-It-Forward House, along with your other favorite local charities - we can't wait to see the results of this amazing day! If you prefer to pay by check, you can use the enclosed form. Postmark by May 4th!

<https://www.givedekalbcounty.org/organizations/pay-it-forward-house-nfp>



<https://payitforwardhouse.org/>

<https://www.givedekalbcounty.org/>



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