

## **Advent House Report for PEM September 13, 2021**

### **Advent House:**

The House remains on pause. It has been determined by staff and Finance Committee that we will not attempt to reopen until we are adequately staffed. Our volunteer numbers remain very low and there are many issues regarding staffing to resolve before we feel it is safe to welcome Residents and their families. The COVID delta variant has raised multiple concerns. We continue to meet regularly with the other Monroe County Homes. We hosted a meeting in September and another is planned for October. The Homes that have opened have had multiple issues with staffing and non-compliant families. Two of the previously opened Homes have resumed a “pause” due to lack of staffing. The other major concern remains minimal support from the home care agencies not only with overnight staffing but with Resident concerns including pain management and family support.

House maintenance continues. I have been working with Mike Matthew regarding an air purification system for our furnace. New filters have been purchased, three estimates have been received and a new hydrogen peroxide system can be installed to our furnace at much less cost than originally thought. It will filter the air from the Resident suites and the main house continuously. Hopefully, this will be completed by early October. We are awaiting an electrician for service to our exterior lighting. Appears to be an underground fault. The house will be power washed and the windows washed early fall. The deck is fine for this year. NYS Department of Transportation has been in contact and I have been communicating with them regarding some minor changes to our property line to make the Garnsey Road corner handicapped accessible. They will reimburse us for any property of ours that they will need to use. I have approved the go ahead with this. Risen Christ Lutheran Church submitted a request for an easement over our sewer line to construct a playhouse for the nursery school. They have since decided to build in a different spot so our involvement is unnecessary.

**Staff:** Laurie Eisele returned in mid- July. It is wonderful to have her back and as you can see from her report has been busy. Amy Hiller has settled into the Business Manager position and is doing a wonderful job. Vicki has the golf tournament well in hand and it looks to be another very successful event. Prayers for sunshine and no rain. The gala has been postponed to our April 2, 2022 date due to COVID variant concerns. I have been very busy with meetings with the other Comfort Care Homes, agency contacts, our former weekend nurses and outreach personally to anyone whom I think might be interested in a paid position here that I think has the necessary skills and heart to be a staff member. I am hoping not to have to advertise since none of the houses have found it successful and not worth the expense. All of this is very time consuming. I have also been researching pay scales, job descriptions, scheduling etc while redefining these to fit our specialized needs for caregiving to the dying and their families. There is also the consideration of the ability to work with and support volunteers. New job descriptions and personnel policies will need to be written to specifically address such things as job expectations, vacation time, personal time, sick time and coverage in their absence. I am working with Laurie on volunteer recruitment and preparing for open houses etc.

**Finance Committee:** Heartfelt gratitude to this committee of dedicated professionals that have so wisely shepherded our finances. We are meeting more regularly and I am so very appreciative of the additional support. We will be meeting again in the next month.

### **Sweet Charity:**

Blessedly Sweet Charity continues to be very successful. Vicki and I continue to work extra hours now as well without Laurie. Our summer twenty hour per week employee has returned to college. In meetings with the shop staff, it has been determined that we need a twenty-eight-hour position to adequately meet the needs of the store. I rewrote that job description and we have been blessed to hire Jennifer Barth as sales associate. You may remember her from the garage sale. Jennifer has been a long- standing dedicated volunteer very familiar with the House and Sweet Charity. She started September 9,2021 and is doing a

lovely job. The general consensus is that we need the continuity that staff provides to maintain the excellent professional hands- on service that our customers have come to expect. The Summer Saturdays proved to not be financially profitable and worth getting to the store by 8:30 to open by nine. We remain so blessed with donations and shoppers and as Kevin noted financially sound. I did meet with Jim Taylor to discuss some issues he had but were easily resolved. He is not giving us back our reserved parking signs. The air conditioning leak issue was tended to and resolved.

**Volunteers:** See Laurie's report. Thank you all for all you are doing to assist with recruitment. We have a long way to go.

On a personal note, August 1 was my thirty-year anniversary as Advent House Director. I remain blessed and so honored to be part of this wonderful ministry.

Peace,

Glenda Hastings, Director