

Advent House Report for PEM December 6, 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 have improved greatly but many of these people have never cared for a dying person so it will take some time for them to be adequately trained so that they feel comfortable in this environment. The COVID omicron variant has raised new concerns. We have been working diligently on a reopening plan which will be presented tonight. Many thanks to this committee for their extra time, insights and suggestions ~ Kevin Cooman, Ray Wager, Pat May, Rick Hill and Jim Brekovsky. New personnel policies and COVID policies are being drafted as well as new job descriptions. The Mission Statement has been revised awaiting your approval. We have been so blessed that we are in a position to consider hiring to cover the needs of the Home and that we were able to function for thirty years with minimal paid staff.

House maintenance: The new air purification system has been installed at a much lower cost than original estimate. We are still awaiting an electrician for rewiring the outdoor parking lot lamps. Estimates have been received and electrician hired per Mike Matthew recommendation. The house will be power washed and the windows washed as soon as can be arranged. The deck is fine for this year. New toilet seat installed in upstairs bathroom. Generator check will be completed in mid- December. 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 spoken several times with the site manager and the changes will have minimal effect on our property and only to the better since we will get a new sidewalk.

Staff: Laurie and I hosted a holiday open house for our volunteers with some light refreshments and a small gift as a token of our appreciation. Approximately twenty or so attended, a few new people and some of our regulars! Was so very nice to see everyone. See Laurie's report for further info. Vicki continues to be busy at Sweet Charity and the House. She has announced her retirement effective April 7, 2022. She will be greatly missed. Amy Hiller continues to settle into her position as Business Manager and is doing a great job. She has created a PayPal account so that donations are now payable on line. We have had many requests for this especially for fundraising events. Very thankful to her for creating this.

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 January. We have been notified that our PPP loan has been forgiven and are most grateful for that!!

Sweet Charity:

Blessedly Sweet Charity continues to be very successful. The store looks very festive with all of our holiday decorations and beautiful holiday items for sale. It has been hopping from the minute we open til the minute we close and been hugely successful financially! The general consensus remains that we need the continuity that staff provides to maintain the excellent professional hands- on service that our customers have come to expect. We remain so blessed with donations and shoppers and as Kevin noted financially sound.

Volunteers: See Laurie's report. Volunteer training will start mid-December. I will be working with Deirdre at these classes. So excited to get to know our new volunteers better and be that much more prepared for reopening. Thank you all for all you are doing to assist with recruitment.

I am so thankful to all of you for your willingness to serve on this board and wish you a most blessed holiday and year ahead.

Peace,

Glenda Hastings, Director

