



SPRING 2017



DAVID'S    HOUSE

Leroy's Story

Bright Spaces

Trike-a-Thon



Donations add up quickly, so no matter how large or small, we appreciate them all!

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 Cathy Labonte, *House Manager*
 Don Dutton, *Finance Director*
 Brandi Vassiliou, *Development Associate*
 Georgie Sawyer, *Program Manager*
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Newsletter, Spring 2017

Does your address or contact information need to be updated? Would you rather receive our newsletter the green way, electronically? If so, please contact brandi.vassiliou@davids-house.org.

Design: Nomad Communications



This year, David's House will be participating in NH Gives, a statewide fundraising effort for nonprofits. NH Gives is an opportunity to bring the state of New Hampshire together to support and bring awareness to the many different nonprofit organizations throughout the state and to highlight the generosity of Granite Staters. This streamlined format makes donating from your computer, laptop, tablet, and mobile device a snap.

Join us as we celebrate
 the spirit of giving during this
 flash-mob fundraising campaign from
 6pm on June 6th to 6pm on June 7th.

For more information
 about NH Gives, please visit
www.nhgives.org/info/faq

Dreams Do Come True

31 Years of Keeping David's Promise



Founder Dick Cyr shares a laugh with former board members during our anniversary celebration. (pictured left to right: Buff Chaughry, Dick Cyr, David Agan, Bill Hall, and Al Wakefield)

On January 20th, we celebrated our 31st anniversary by gathering together with our founder, Dick Cyr, our amazing volunteers, and guests who are staying at the house. The common theme of the afternoon was to share stories about things that could never have been imagined.

For Dick, he never imagined that the promise he made to David, that someday he'd be able to take all of the hospitalized children and their families home to his house, was a far-reaching legacy in the making. For staff, we never imagined that when we answered a help wanted ad, we would become part of something so inspiring and profound that the ability to be here every day is felt as a privilege. For our volunteers, they never imagined that when they decided to spend time here as a way to give, they would actually receive so much more. And for our guests, they never imagined that their child(ren) would end up in the hospital because of being born early, sustaining life-threatening injuries, or developing a chronic or terminal illness. What our guests also couldn't have imagined was that in the midst of the medical uncertainties they were facing, they would find this haven called David's House and some of their burdens would be lifted.

The story of David's House is unfolding minute by minute, through special moments such as our anniversary celebration or through everyday moments such as when a family gets to go home. We want to thank YOU for being part of our history and our future, whether you're a donor, a guest, a volunteer, or someone just learning about us for the first time by reading this newsletter. What we are able to do at David's House as a result of the part you play in our story allows us to change lives, as you'll read about on pages 2-4, and for that we couldn't be more grateful.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2017!

Jaye



Leroy's Story

By Craig and Karen Ferreira

It has been just over a year since we left David's House. Truthfully, it was bittersweet. On one hand, we were finally free to take our newborn son home from the hospital after a difficult two months. On the other, we had to say goodbye to a place that had become our home for two months. While we wish our son's circumstance on nobody, it is impossible to say that what we experienced at David's House is something that we could do without. For many reasons, our stay at David's House had a profound impact on our lives, and we are forever grateful that we had the opportunity to stay at this home.

“Day in and day out, we greeted each other as one would say good morning to a family member or old friend visiting for a long weekend.”

On a routine appointment towards the end of our pregnancy, our son, Leroy, was showing signs of an obstructed bowel. Because of the severity of the obstruction seen on the ultrasound, the doctor informed us that we would not be going home from the hospital that afternoon. Rather, we would be inducing and delivering a baby that would more than likely need surgery almost immediately. Unfortunately, this turned out to be true. Once he was born, and after an all-too-brief first moment meeting him, the remarkable team at Dartmouth took Leroy for some testing and determined he would need a bowel resection the very next day. Less than 16 hours old and going into surgery . . . we could not have imagined such a thing.

Though it felt like an eternity, the surgery went smoothly, and we were soon able to be with our son again. For the next 7 weeks, we spent as much time as possible at his bedside in the NICU, watching him take one step forward and two steps back toward recovery. We were helpless, and at times hopeless, but we persisted with optimism that he would fully recover so we could take him home to meet the rest of his waiting family and friends. As anyone in a similar situation would tell you, there were relentless ups and downs, but one thing remained constant: David’s House.

Our stay had become our new norm, and the uneasiness of living in a ‘strange’ place quickly faded. With each passing day, we became closer with the staff members at the house. Each day brought with it more comfort, and a broader personal experience with the crew. Over time, they became the most constant part of our stay. Day in and day out, we greeted each other as one would say good morning to a family member or old friend visiting for a long weekend. A very long weekend.

We learned of their kids and their grandkids. We learned of their travel experiences and their work history. We chatted about politics, disease, and animals. Least of all, we talked about Leroy’s condition. Not because they did not care or because they weren’t curious. No, it was out of respect, and because, we assume, they were helping us enjoy each existing moment simply for what they were: a cup of coffee with the paper, a flock of turkeys walking by each window, or a game of cards. All of these, albeit mundane in the face of a harsh reality, allowed us to briefly savor some of the simpler things in life. It is not as if the uniquely wonderful staff did not care about our reasons for being there. On the contrary, they all displayed a sincere interest in our family, and during the appropriate times that we did actually discuss these details, they displayed empathy, sympathy and grace. It is almost inconceivable how perfectly their inquiries were timed.



Caroline and Leroy playing.

Most of all, however, was the amount of regard that was shown to our then 18-month-old daughter, Caroline, who's life had been completely uprooted to a degree that she could not come close to comprehending. She had taken it upon herself to make an impression on everyone she came across at David's House: the staff, other guests, volunteers, and visitors. We feel incredibly lucky that she was shown love, acceptance and care at every turn, even at 4 a.m. each morning as she roamed the hallways chased by a constant shushing, so as to not wake the other house guests.

In addition to our family and friends, David's House eliminated many extra hardships that we would have had to face on our own. It provided to us not just a room, but a home and a sense of belonging. It showed us what compassion truly looks like, and inspired hope. It reminded us of the good of humanity, when it sometimes seems so lost. But, quite possibly the most valuable

thing David's House provided us was the ability to remember only the good that came out of our situation, rather than the sadness and heartache that we experienced on Leroy's behalf.

Leroy ended up having a second surgery to fix his issues. Fortunately, the second surgery took, and he was out a week later. It was two months to the day that we stayed at David's House. In retrospect, that time was brief, but throughout our actual stay, it felt like we had been there for an incredibly long time. Leroy is now a happy, healthy, hilarious one year old who completely adores his older sister. We are a stronger and better family for having gone through this experience. David's House was a truly unexpected gift in our lives, and we will remain in deep gratitude for both its existence and for the absolutely wonderful people who make David's House available to families like ours day in and day out.



This is a wonderful place

This is a wonderful place. The staff is loving and caring, the rooms are beautiful, and the playscapes and playroom are fantastic. It's beautiful. My grandson is in the Neo-Natal ICU and this home allows my son and daughter-in-law to be here for him. Thank you so very much.

—The Bennetts



Dear David's House,

Hi, I'm 9 year old Noa. I live in Waitsfield, VT. When I was a baby I spent a week at CHaD and my parents stayed with you. It was a great thing they got to stay with you because we live far away.

This year for my birthday instead of getting presents, I asked people to donate some things for you and the families. I hope they are useful!

Sincerely,

Noa Ibson

Thank you for being our home-away-from-home. You make this all so much easier! Thank you for always being there. We love you!

—Michelle, Jay, and Levi McIver



Cabot's Reward Volunteers Program

“Reward Volunteers is Cabot’s free online program that allows volunteers to track and share their service hours, on behalf of any organization, accruing chances to win cash and prizes for both themselves and the organizations they serve. It is Cabot’s way to encourage volunteerism in communities across the US and to thank you for working to make your local community a better and brighter place!”

—Liz McSpirtt, *Marketing Programs Manager, Cabot Creamery Cooperative*

Each month David’s House volunteers log their volunteer hours through Cabot’s Reward Volunteers website to earn prizes from various companies. We were delighted to be awarded a \$7,500 shopping Spree at Bob’s Discount furniture because of their efforts. The changing roles of CHaD and its state-of-the-art medical innovations means that our role has also shifted. We are now seeing a wider range of families needing our services, resulting in a higher occupancy rate and a need for different accommodations.

This wonderful gift from Cabot and Bob’s Furniture has enabled us to update the beds and furniture in several of our rooms, meaning greater comfort for those we serve. We thank the members of Cabot for their dedication to promoting volunteerism, and to everyone at Bob’s Discount Furniture for donating such an amazing gift!

When we say that we couldn’t do it without our volunteers, we mean it. We are forever grateful for their endless support and dedication.

BIG GREEN TENNIS

Tennis season starts early in the Upper Valley, which means the Dartmouth tennis teams were hitting the courts as the snow was flying. This past January, coach Bob Dalis and the Big Green men and women’s teams hosted their third annual tennis clinic fundraiser for the community to help raise money for David’s House. Team members Jacqueline Crawford ’17, Taylor Ng ’17, and Ciro Riccardi ’18 presented us a check for \$1,205 from their efforts. In addition to their amazing fundraiser over the past three years, Coach Bob and members of the women’s team can frequently be found in the David’s House kitchen preparing meals for our guests .



TSS and Hypertherm



Tyler, Simms, and St. Sauveur volunteers

As New Englanders know, getting ready for the changing seasons is no easy task. This is why we rely so much on volunteer groups to keep our grounds tidy and ready for what Mother Nature has in store. Thank you to all of our volunteer groups who come to the House and make the outside as welcoming as the inside.



Hypertherm Lab Rat volunteers

Small Donations Can Make a BIG Difference

Looking to donate to David's House on a smaller scale?



Groceries

Grocery contributions are always welcome at David's House. You can find a current list of grocery needs on page 13.



Amazon Smile

The Amazon Smile program may be just what you've been looking for! Simply register at smile.amazon.com and shop through the site. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price on all eligible purchases.



Planet Aid

Have you cleaned out your closets lately? Your old clothing and shoes can now help support David's House! Thanks to our fundraising partnership with Planet Aid, we benefit when you donate clothing, shoes and used textiles in the Planet Aid donation boxes. All donations made to Planet Aid are tax deductible (ID# 04-3348171). For more information about Planet Aid, visit their website at planetaid.org.

Please visit locations at:

Fore-U Ice Cream
298 Plainfield Road
West Lebanon, NH 03784

Freightliner
65 Heater Road
Lebanon, NH 03766

23 Meadow Drive
Londonderry, NH 03053



Bright Spaces

Healing Through Play

Founded in 1986, the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children is a fellow nonprofit committed to providing warm, safe, and enriching “Bright Spaces” for children to grow, heal, and learn in through play. As part of our yearlong 30th anniversary celebration in 2016, we were excited to be the recipient of one of these Bright Spaces last November.

In August 2015, longtime Bright Horizons employee Mary Bresadola passed away after a valiant battle with ovarian cancer. Mary first started with Bright Horizons as the director of one of their childcare centers. For more than 25 years, she trained center directors and implemented educational programs at Bright Horizons Family Solutions. After her passing, with generous donations from friends, family, and colleagues, the David’s House Bright Space was created in Mary’s memory.

Within two days, the Bright Spaces crew (pictured above) transformed our playrooms into areas where our young guests can forget why they’re here and can just focus on being kids.

The renovation include new hardwood play furnishings, age-appropriate play and learn materials, updated technology resources, and a lounge where parents can relax as their children



spend time being kids. Having this area has always been of importance to the families who stay with us, giving them an added sense of home where they can take time to be a family and find relief from the stresses that come with having a sick child.

From the families and staff of David’s House, thank you to everyone at Bright Horizons for making this renovation possible and helping families find joy and healing through play.

April

Saturday, April 8: 28th Annual Intergalactic Cardboard Sled Race at Mount Sunapee

Perhaps the most fun you can have in a cardboard box while raising money for David's House! Riders must be 18 or older and pay a \$30 registration fee. Races begin at 1:15 pm with an awards ceremony at Goosefeathers Pub immediately following. *More info: www.mountsunapee.com*



Saturday, April 15: Family Bowl-A-Thon

Bring your family for a fun-fi led day of bowling at Boutwell's Bowling Center in Concord, NH, beginning at 1 p.m. This event is being organized by two fathers who have used David's House and are planning to run from Concord to Lebanon in June to raise money and awareness for us. *Watch for more info coming mid-March: www.davids-house/bowling.*



Saturday, April 29: 5th Annual Tristin's Live, Laugh, Love Run

Participants of all ages are invited to run either the 5k or 1 mile. The race begins and ends at David's House. *Registration and additional info: www.tristinsrun.org*

After a one-year hiatus, we are pleased to announce the return of Tristin's Live, Laugh, Love Run on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The race was created after Tristin Roy, former David's House volunteer, was tragically killed while riding her bike near her home in Croydon, NH. The sudden loss of such an amazing woman immediately brought her co-workers from TomTom together to start this race, which is now in its 5th year.

Tristin was an avid runner, cyclist, and kayaker; she was also a skilled cook. She took her passion for cooking and brought it to David's House where she would prepare meals with her coworkers for guests. It was through this volunteer opportunity that Tristin became a large supporter of our mission. Sponsored by TomTom, the race begins and ends in front of David's House. In 2015, the race brought in 68 participants. People of all ages and abilities either run the 5k or walk the 1 mile, but they all gather at the end to do what Tristin did best, laugh.



Tristin's Run is open to all ages and skill levels with the hope of motivating people to live healthier lifestyles through exercise. Registration for the race is now open through April 27th. We hope that you will come out and join us as we live, laugh, and love in memory of Tristin Roy.

Please visit www.tristinsrun.org for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

Saturday, May 20: American Gymnastics Fundraiser at 175 Martell Ct, Keene, NH

This annual event has been running since 2004. Watch as young gymnasts flip and tumble to raise money!

June



Sunday, June 4:

Covered Bridges Half Marathon

Team David's House runners are challenged to raise \$500 before they take on this picturesque half marathon that passes many of the Upper Valley's historical covered bridges. If you or someone you know would like to run on our team please email Brandi at brandi.vassiliou@davids-house.org.

Sunday, June 4: Mag-A-Palooza

A day filled with music and fun! This event, in memory of the charismatic Maggie Philbrook, promotes the love of music and philanthropic giving. Maggie passed away in 2014 at the age of 13, but her love of music lives on through this now popular event in Manchester, NH.



Saturday, June 24:

Lindsey Frank Memorial Golf Tournament

A wonderful tribute to the memory of Lindsey Frank, this golf tournament will once again be held at Ridgewood Country Club in Moultonborough, NH. More info email Nick at nleighton08@hotmail.com.

July

Saturday, July 8:

Bear Ridge Speedway Fundraiser

Bring the whole family for a night of dirt track fun as racers and spectators alike raise money for David's House. More info: bearridgespeedway.com.

*Hope to see you on the course at this year's tourney!
(left to right: Brad, Lindsey, Nick, and Brent)*

August

Saturday, August 5: 20th Annual Chester Norman Thomas Ride

The Monadnock HOG #1861 join friends to ride in memory of former David's House guest, Chester Norman Thomas. More info or to register: cathymullin30@yahoo.com.

..... September

Monday, September 11: Upper Valley Golf Tournament

Teams of four have a go at Eastman's picturesque golf course, followed by a delicious lunch made by the masters at Bistro Nouveau. More info: www.davids-house.org/golf.



This year marks our 19th tournament and we are so excited to be hosting it again at the beautiful Eastman Golf Links on Monday, September 11th.

Players will take to the fairway for this scramble format as they hit their groove, use their mulligans, and try not get a bogey. As the late Arnold Palmer said, "I have a tip that can take five strokes off anyone's golf game. It's called an eraser."

Registration and sponsorship opportunities will open early this summer, so keep your eyes open for the announcement!

If you would like more information, please contact Brandi at brandi.vassiliou@davids-house.org.

Sunday, September 17: Memorial Service

The staff of David's House and CHaD invite all families who have lost a child to join us for a day of remembrance. To RSVP please contact Jaye at 603-643-2298 or jaye.olmstead@davids-house.org.

..... October

October TBA: Children's Karaoke Contest

After 24 years, this popular karaoke contest in Newport, NH is opening to children! What better way to give back to David's House than an afternoon of singing for children of all ages! More info: Shirley 603-826-5663.

Leave Your Legacy



LEAVE A LEGACY®
New Hampshire/Vermont

Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow

Did you know that you can continue supporting David's House beyond your lifetime? It is becoming more and more common for philanthropists of all levels to leave legacy gifts to charities in their wills and estate plans. This thoughtful foresight is evident in the generosity shown by people from all walks of life—with different income levels, professions, and passions.

LEAVE A LEGACY® is a public awareness campaign designed to inspire people just like you to make a charitable bequest. David's House participates in this effort because we believe that everyone can make a difference. If you work with a financial planner, lawyer, or accountant, talk to them about your charitable wishes. They can help you achieve your goals.

There are many ways to design a legacy gift, including IRAs, bequests, charitable gift annuities, trusts, real estate, and life insurance.

To learn more about planning such a gift, please call David's House and ask to speak with Jaye.



Holiday Auction 2016

The holiday season was the perfect way to round out our 30th anniversary year!

Once again, our annual holiday auction was a great success, and we want to send a huge thank you to our long-time partner for this event, Great Eastern Radio's KIXX 100.5FM. We had magnificent items available for golfers, adventurers, kids, professionals, and

everyone else on your list! Every item was bid on, so thank you to all of the businesses that donated such great products and services, and to our board member Amity, who put together beautiful gift baskets with her merry band of elves. Without your generous support, this auction wouldn't continue to be one of our cornerstone events and something the Upper Valley looks forward to year after year.

Trike-A-Thon

This past January, the South Royalton Preschool in South Royalton, VT, hosted their second annual Trike-A-Thon.



Created by teacher and former David's House guest, Rebecca Gaudette, this event brings joy to all those involved. After staying at David's House when her daughter was born, Rebecca and some fellow former guests wanted to give back to the place they called home in a time of need. Participants collect pledges prior to the event from family members and friends to see how long they can ride for. Preschoolers (and some older siblings) climb onto their bikes,

trikes, and scooters and set off around the school gymnasium. This year, the set time was 25 minutes. Being careful not to run into each other, or off the track, the children peddled for the entire time, only taking brief breaks to grab drinks of water. By the end, everyone was red cheeked and out of breath, but still smiling! Thank you to all the wonderful members of the South Royalton community for supporting your youth in such a wonderful event!



Grocery List

Once again, we hosted our holiday breakfast for the guests staying at the house and for the community members who stopped by for the holiday festivities. We are not sure if it was the Lebanon High School Choir, Santa, Nichole Romano's cooking, or the Fitch Family Farm with their beautiful Belgian horses, but we had our biggest turnout yet! Not a drop of food was left and we are pretty sure Santa had to take a nice long nap before returning to his toy duties. Thank you to everyone who made our 30th year of operations a wonderful one!

Laughter is the Strongest Medicine



This February, Eastern Propane and comedian Mike McDonald teamed up with Wendy Liebman, Joe List, and Paul D'Angelo for the Mike McDonald Comedy Xxtravaganza at the Lebanon Opera House. Now in its 16th year, the Xxtravaganza supports local nonprofits in the Portsmouth area. This year, the show chose to add a second show in the Upper Valley with David's House as the benefactor. A portion of the proceeds, as well as a generous gift from Eastern Propane, was given to David's House. The show was a great success and we can't wait to do it again!



David's House happily accepts:

Paper Products:

- ï Paper towels
- ï Toilet paper
- ï Facial tissues
- ï Paper cups (5oz)
- ï Disposable coffee cups

Toiletries (Travel Size):

- ï Feminine hygiene products
- ï Shaving cream
- ï Deodorant
- ï Toothbrushes
- ï Toothpaste
- ï Shampoo/conditioner
- ï Small soaps

Food Items:

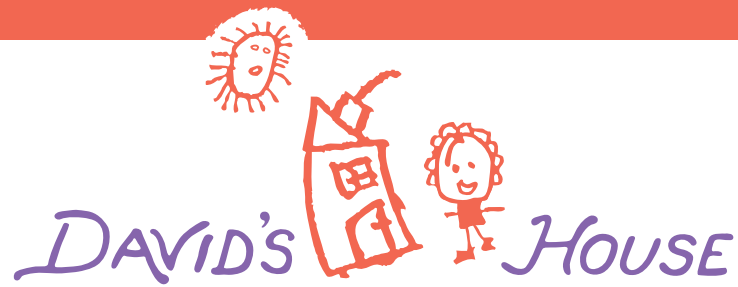
- ï Fresh fruit
- ï Single-serving microwavable meals
- ï Coffee creamer (powder)
- ï Cookies and crackers
- ï Granola bars and breakfast bars
- ï Fruit snacks and fruit cups
- ï Breakfast bars
- ï Pudding cups and Jell-O cups
- ï Juice boxes & concentrate
- ï Cereal (single servings and regular)

Cleaning products:

- ï Liquid hand soap (white)
- ï Bleach
- ï Dishwashing liquid
- ï Disinfecting wipes
- ï Window cleaner
- ï Trash bags (13 gal. & 30 gal.)
- ï Dryer sheets
- ï Liquid stain remover

Grocery Gift Cards:

- ï Walmart
- ï Amazon
- ï Local grocery stores (Shaw's, Price Chopper, Co-Op, BJ's, and Hannaford)



Please consider supporting David's House.

Click here to make your contribution today.

Visit our website for updated event info
davids-house.org/calendar



Sundae at DAVID'S HOUSE

Join us for our 9th annual
Sundae at the House event!

July 23, 2017 from 11am to 2pm

A treasured David's House tradition, this event continues to grow with crafts, obstacle courses, food, games, and more! Each year promises to hold a new bit of wonderment for guests new and old.

We love being able to have this celebration that we can share with the community—a special occasion where we can give back the joy and gratitude we feel every day here at David's House.

