



FAMILY HOUSE

2024

Year in Review



Dear friends,

Thank you for helping to make 2024 an incredible year at the Nancy & Stephen Grand Family House!



As we near the end of our first full year operating without pandemic protocols in place, I am humbled to be leading an organization that is focused on providing the best and most compassionate care for families in need, carrying forward the vision of our founder, Dr. Art Ablin.

This year, we have seen tremendous growth. Running at or close to 100% capacity, our professional staff, invested board and dedicated volunteers have stepped up to meet the challenge. The housekeeping team keeps the building and every family room immaculately clean; the hospitality team always offers a smiling face and supportive ear for families in crisis, and our family services and administrative staff ensure that families have all the support they need. None of this would be possible without generous support from our volunteers and friends like you. **Thank you!**

Your involvement has bolstered every family we have hosted this year. We were able to upgrade all 80 guest rooms last summer, adding sleeper chairs to increase comfort and capacity. Our fundraising events are mission critical at Family House, and thanks to you, we raised almost \$2 million through our annual Gala and Cabernet for Connoisseurs. Our in-house events for families like game nights, Storytime, and movie night provide a warm welcoming place after long days at the hospital. New and returning volunteers fill the house with care and comfort by providing family dinners, musical performances and exciting activities.

As we make room for what 2025 will bring, I invite you to volunteer during mealtimes, visit the Train music room, ensure that Fozzy's Toy Room is always full, and support our mission with your financial gifts. Your generosity offers dignity to families in need so that they can focus on caring for their sick child while they receive treatment at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital.

By year-end, together we will have housed more than 4,000 guests relying on us to access life-saving medical care. On behalf of Family House, thank you for your compassion for all our families, for your passion for the future of Family House San Francisco and mostly for being a part of this very generous community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Thompson".

Katherine Thompson, Chief Executive Officer

I am thrilled to report that after 3 years of safety measures to keep our families safe during the pandemic, we are now back to "normal" at Family House and are starting a new chapter of growth filled with even more compassion, hope and healing.

After a year under Katherine's leadership, Family House is thriving as she brings us all closer together and furthers the mission we care so deeply about – providing a home away from home for families of children with life-threatening illnesses. In this short time, we've launched new family programming like our First Fridays at Four, hosted our inaugural fashion show with Old Navy and broadened our connections to the Mission Bay community. In August, we welcomed another leader to our team—Michele Martinez Reese—our new Chief Development Officer. She is already making an impact on the financial strength of Family House. We feel fortunate to have found such inspiring and compassionate leaders to continue guiding Family House into the future.



Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of Family House, providing services that complement our amazing staff and bring support and joy to our families. Every October, my family and friends host a BBQ for the families in honor of my son Joey's birthday, who passed away from a brain tumor in 2014. Each year, I find myself inspired by the stories I hear from families of how Family House serves as a sanctuary for them during the most difficult time in their lives. I leave feeling honored to serve as Board Chair for this magical organization and with a renewed appreciation for the critical work we do. I hope you will find a time to bring your friends, family or colleagues to come volunteer and experience for yourself the "Family House Magic".

I am so proud that Family House has such a dedicated staff and community of volunteers and donors. Every day, Family House provides a warm and compassionate "home" – always 100% free of charge – where 80 families can focus on their healing. The future is bright for Family House, because of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Kovacevich".

Todd Kovacevich, Board Chair



2024 *at a glance*

More than

4,000

guests stayed at
Family House

More than

1,000

families had a home
away from home

More than

25,000

nights of rest
were had

Always 100% free of charge.

Life at the House

Family House has been at or close to 100% occupancy for much of this year. Life at the house has been busier than ever! Each week brings something new. This year, we've hosted more events than ever before, including two movie premiere parties complete with goodie bags, snacks, and arts and crafts; our first-ever Fashion Show with Old Navy; Storytime every Wednesday; four Family Dinners a week; game nights with YPAC; First Fridays at Four; holiday parties; outings to Warriors and Giants games thanks to the teams' generosity, and more! Every day, our dedicated staff and volunteers create opportunities for families to connect, unwind, enjoy a meal, or find support. Together, we continue to foster a sense of community and comfort for everyone who walks through our doors.





Superbloom GALA

The 42nd Annual Gala raised over \$1.1 million to support the families we serve

Thank you to our sponsors, event co-chairs Orly Petri and Randi Saffian, and our volunteer honorees: Edwin Icban, Mary Kane, Barbara Morgenthau, Lael Robertson, Susan Ruhne and Selina Tobaccowala, who showed unwavering commitment to Family House during the COVID pandemic



This year's Cabs event raised over **\$750,000** for our families



28th Annual *Cabernet for Connoisseurs*



Thank you to Cabs co-chairs Kelly Scandalios and Bradley Kovacevich, honorees Adriel Lares and Yvette Tom, our pouring beverage partners and Matt Nathanson for a magical event!

Family Story



When Ethan and Rachel DeJongh learned that their first child would be a boy, they were overjoyed. Ethan eagerly anticipated introducing his son to soccer and track. The birth went smoothly, but a few days later, they received an unexpected call from their doctor.

"It was late—around 9 p.m. on a Sunday. As soon as the phone rang, I knew something was wrong," Rachel recalled.

Their doctor informed them that their newborn, Emery, had tested positive for SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency), a condition where he was born without the essential cells needed to build an immune system. In an instant, the joy of welcoming their first baby turned into fear, as they faced the possibility that their son might not survive.

They were quickly referred to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital's SCID treatment center and arrived at Mission Bay from Fresno, CA on Emery's 15th day of life. Uncertain of how long they would need to stay in San Francisco, they initially thought they would be there for just a few weeks. But soon, they realized Family House would become their home for the next eight months as Emery underwent a bone marrow transplant, with Rachel as his donor.



During those eight months, the DeJongh family experienced a rollercoaster of emotions—fear, anxiety, and hopelessness—but they also found love, community, and hope. Staying in a private room on the fifth floor, specially designed for immunocompromised children, provided immense relief. Emery's grandparents were also able to stay at Family House, offering much-needed support throughout the transplant and recovery. "The Family House staff watched him grow up—they became like family to us," said Rachel.

Emery celebrated his first Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas at Family House. Today, he is strong enough to spend this holiday season at home in Fresno with his family.

"I can't imagine what our journey would have been like without Family House." - Ethan



A full year of *Volunteers*



250

Breakfasts Provided



over

4,000

Toys Donated



208

Family Dinners

This year, we've had over **3,500** volunteers at Family House. Having our volunteer program back at full capacity for all of 2024 has been nothing short of incredible!



VOLUNTEERS
are the lifeblood of Family House

In 2024, we had...

- Movie Nights
- Easter Party
- Toy Room Restocks
- Superbloom Gala
- Breakfasts
- Our first ever Fashion Show
- Summer Carnival
- Family Dinners
- Therapy Animal Visits
- Disinfecting
- Cabernet for Connoisseurs

...and so much more!



Thank you YPAC

Our Young Professionals Advisory Council was the definition of “small but mighty” this year! They hosted monthly game nights at Family House, Family Dinners and four fundraising events that raised over **\$8,000** for Family House.

Learn more about YPAC at familyhouseinc.org/YPAC



Welcome, Michele



Chief Development Officer

Michele Martinez Reese joined Family House in August as our new Chief Development Officer!

A Bay Area native, Michele spent most of her childhood in the East Bay. She graduated from UC Davis with degrees in History and Art History and later earned a master's degree in History from the University of San Diego. With a strong background in nonprofit development, Michele led KQED's development team for over 19 years before joining Family House.

In her free time, Michele enjoys traveling, reading, and taking long walks. Now that her youngest son is a college freshman, she and her husband are empty nesters and excited to explore the many wonderful bike trails around the Bay Area.

Michele looks forward to sharing the stories of the families we serve with the broader community and is thrilled to be part of a dedicated team that deeply believes in the power of community service.

Remembering Dr. Art Ablin (1926–2017)

As another year comes to a close, we're remembering our beloved founder, Dr. Art Ablin. Art served as Chief of Pediatric Oncology at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, and was a leader in his field. In the 1980s, Art noticed many of his young patients' family members sleeping in their cars or in hospital waiting rooms, unable to pay for a hotel, and raised \$500,000 from the community to buy the first Family House facility. With the opening of the Nancy and Stephen Grand Family House in 2016, Debbie and Art Ablin ensured that families will always have a home to turn to when patients need medical attention in San Francisco.



"Family House was set up as cost-free place for families to stay, but also as a center based very much on communal experience, so these families could share with each other what they were going through." –Art Ablin

Although Art is no longer with us, his compassion and unwavering dedication to children and families at Family House has produced a model of community that we celebrate every day of the year.

Welcome

New Board Members



Brynn Bailey

Brynn Bailey is a Midwest native, public relations professional, wife, and mother. She began her career as a communications executive in New York, working with film and music talent, before transitioning to the technology industry after moving to the West Coast. Brynn now lives in San Francisco with her husband, John, and their two daughters. She is deeply committed to connecting with the families at Family House, many of whom may be facing their most difficult challenges, and is passionate about helping them in any way she can.



Mike Cklamovski

Michael began his career as a litigation attorney, specializing in tax and real estate disputes, before transitioning to a Private Client Advisor role at US Trust. He later served as Managing Director at CIBC Private Bank. Now based in San Francisco, Michael is the Senior Managing Director and President of the Northern California Region for Northern Trust. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Macedonia2025, an international "think and do" tank, sits on the board of the Veteran's Business Project, and is an active member of the Young Presidents Organization.



Roger Swanson

Roger Swanson, AIA is a returning Family House board member who spent the first 35 years of his architectural career in the planning, design and management of large-scale healthcare projects. After receiving his Master of Architecture from UC Berkeley, he joined the San Francisco firm of Anshen + Allen Architects, and eventually became President and CEO. In addition to leading the design of medical campuses, including the UCSF Mission Bay campus, Roger has been involved in the planning and design of several pediatric guest houses, including Family House San Francisco. Roger is currently practicing with his wife Lena Zhang, AIA, LEED AP in their firm, Z Studio Architects.



Jill Thompson

Jill Thompson, MD, FACOG, is an Obstetrician and Gynecologist at UCSF, specializing in outpatient obstetrics. She moved to San Francisco in 2012 with her husband and three children and became involved with Family House in 2013, serving as a board member from 2014 to 2023. Before moving to California, Jill grew up in Washington State and lived on Long Island, New York, for 16 years. She and her family love living in the Bay Area and are grateful for the opportunity to serve the Family House community.



Jennifer Ullyot

After earning her B.A. in French, Jennifer began her career in the arts before transitioning to marketing after attending Georgetown Business School. In 2002, she left the workforce to stay home and raise her three children, eventually embarking on a rewarding second career as a community volunteer. Since 2021, she has been pursuing a new path as a parent coach. As a parent of neurodiverse children, Jennifer is passionate about supporting parents, especially those whose children face additional challenges.

How *you* Can Help

2025 To-Dos



Volunteer at the house



Make a gift

Save the Date:

43rd Annual Gala: March 8, 2025

Inaugural Golf Tournament: May 16, 2025

**29th Annual Cabernet for Connoisseurs:
September 6, 2025**



DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS:

Contact your fund to recommend a distribution to Family House using our tax ID 94-2722663



CHECK OR CREDIT CARD:

Make checks payable to: Family House, Inc. and mail to: 540 Mission Bay Blvd. North San Francisco, CA 94158 Scan QR code below to donate online



STOCKS & SECURITIES:

By donating stock directly to Family House, you may avoid paying capital gains taxes when the stock is sold. Email jcreager@familyhouseinc.org to donate stock and securities



WILL OR TRUST:

Making a gift to Family House through your will or trust is a generous way to provide lasting support that will allow families to live in dignity for years to come. To learn more, visit familyhouseinc.org/plannedgiving





FAMILY HOUSE

OUR MISSION & CORE VALUES

Founded in 1981, Family House serves as a home away from home for families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses by providing physical comfort and emotional support, free from financial concerns.

Compassion

Support for families who endure the most trying experience of their lives is central to our mission

Sanctuary

Providing a safe, comfortable, worry-free living environment enables families to focus on their healing

Family

Providing an environment where families naturally connect and find hope, comfort, and healing within each other

Care

Affordability is not a factor for parents looking for world class care for their child's life-threatening illness

Community

Providing opportunities for volunteers to make an impact on the lives of our families

Board of Directors

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Haley Bender
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FAMILY HOUSE

Nancy & Stephen Grand Family House

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SCAN TO DONATE



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