



From left: Maggie Doran, Abbey Leonardi and Maddie Thomas celebrate their Sweet Sixteen birthdays.


## Harbor House Benefits from Sweet Sixteens and Other Teens

Three teenage girls who volunteer at the Harbor House decided to put a different twist on their Sweet 16 Birthday Party. Abbey Leonardi, Maddie Thomas and Maggie Doran all turned 16 in May, 2011. They decided to have a joint celebration with 75 of their closest friends at Max at High Falls. Instead of presents, their friends were asked to bring a donation for the Harbor House of Rochester. The girls raised an amazing \$1,800! When asked why they decided to do this the girls replied; "Just having the party with our friends is enough for us. We saw firsthand how the Harbor House helps

families and we wanted to do something to help out."

The number of teenagers who have stepped forward and set up fund-raisers or donation drives is truly amazing. Sean McCann, a teen from Webster Shroeder High School mentored by René Kuliman, organized a Pig Roast to benefit Harbor House. It was held in May of 2011 and was very successful. Teens have also organized drives for household items such as paper goods, cleaning supplies, and laundry and toiletry items.

Fund-raisers are a welcome boost to the bottom line and have really made a huge difference.

You don't have to be a teen to help out! If you have a great idea on how to help the Harbor House, please feel free to call us at 585-473-1779, or send us a note via our website: [www.harborhouseof-rochester.org](http://www.harborhouseof-rochester.org). Every contribution is a big help and is gratefully accepted! 

## Thoughts from a House Guest

by Diana Cornell

When I think of a harbor, I think of a safe place for ships during rough weather. Harbor House is that safe place for family and friends who have a loved one dealing with a serious health issue.

I moved into Harbor House on Easter Sunday. I immediately felt a connection to everyone involved. It was like living with extended family. The other residents were friendly and understood all I was going through with my husband's care and hospital stay. Steve received his LVAD on June 3rd.

Now, Joan is like the sister I never had. She is compassionate, a great listener, supporter and always upbeat. She couldn't do enough for the Harbor House residents. Joan is a wonderful person and Harbor House is her second home. She made me feel as if it was my home away from home. This was very comforting as Binghamton is close to three hours away.



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## Welcome to “The Beacon”—A Letter from our Harbor House Manager

Dear Friends,

Here is the first edition of *The Beacon*, our new quarterly newsletter! We hope this will be a great way to keep you informed about what is happening at the Harbor House of Rochester. Our “family” is getting so big that this seems like the best way to keep in touch. I know that many of the guests and volunteers will agree that lasting friendships have been made at the house because we bond together during difficult times. Hopefully, this newsletter will help you to stay connected to our Harbor House Family.

You may be receiving this because you have worked on a fund-raiser or have been kind enough to make a donation to

Harbor House of Rochester. If so, it is my hope that this newsletter will give you a deeper understanding of how the house functions and the importance of continuing the Harbor House mission.

Each issue will tell the story of a guest and a volunteer or group of volunteers. You will also learn about fundraisers we have had or are planning. We will also give our guests the chance to write about their experiences at Harbor House.

*The Beacon* will be available via e-mail, through our website, and in hard copy. We are hoping that if you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, you will

consider signing up for our e-mail version. Simply visit our website and fill out the form. This will help us to keep costs down so that our money can go where it is needed most—the house. You can help increase our circulation by forwarding your digital or hard copy of *The Beacon* to interested friends, relatives, business associates, etc. Please also encourage them to go to our website, harborhouseofrochester.org, to sign up for their own copies.

Finally, I would like to thank a dear friend of mine who has graciously taken on the project of creating this newsletter, Patricia Cost. Thanks Patty, for sharing your time, talent and energy to make our newsletter a reality.

Happy reading!

Joan G. Malley  
Harbor House Manager

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Harbor House of Rochester, Inc. supports adult patients and their adult family members by providing temporary lodging during health emergencies and for periods of long-term care.



*The Harbor House of Rochester has four guest rooms, each with its own flat screen television, and four bathrooms, to accommodate four guest families at a time. There are two complete kitchens, a large dining area, a comfortable living room, and, in the basement, a big-screen TV room.*

*The house, at 89 Rossiter Road in the city of Rochester, was purchased in 2008 by the Jennifer Linscott Tietgen Family Foundation, and donated to Harbor House of Rochester, Inc. Renovations were completed and donated by the Imburgia family, owners of FSI General Contractors.*




## Adopt-a-Day Program, to Help Defray Operating Costs, Launches this Fall


For the past two years, the Harbor House of Rochester has provided temporary housing in a relaxed atmosphere for families who must travel to Rochester because a family member needs treatment for a serious medical condition. Many who have stayed at Harbor House have said that they will never forget how great it was to have a safe, friendly place to be during a stormy time in their lives.

Harbor House's Adopt-a-Day program enables individuals, groups and businesses to chip in to cover the house's

operating costs, one day at a time. Since Harbor House is run entirely by private funding, this program is vital to its survival.

A donation of \$100 will meet the house's financial needs for one day. A special Adopt-a-Day Board will display the names of the individuals and organizations that are sponsoring the house each day. Some sponsors may choose to be "Anonymous Angels"; others can use their sponsorship to honor or remember a loved one on an anniversary, birthday or other special occasion. 



House-guest Deyyani Desai, right, with house manager Joan G. Malley. Mr. & Mrs. Desai travelled from a town near Mumbai, India, to be with their son, a graduate student at the University of Rochester who was in a serious car accident. They stayed at the house for three months. 

## Donors Make the Difference Between a House and a Home

by Joan G. Malley

So many guests refer to Harbor House as *home*. "I'll be home later!" they say as they are rushing out the door to the hospital. The first time I heard someone refer to the Harbor House as home, I welled up with pride and satisfaction that we had actually achieved our goal of creating a "home away from home."

What's the difference between a house and a home? I would answer that question by saying it's just the little things. I know two terrific people in our community who felt the same way and went above and beyond to make sure that Harbor House would truly feel like home to the families who come here to stay.

Bonnie Haugh of Pittsford saw a clip on a local TV station about the Harbor House shortly before it was scheduled to open, and thought to herself, "This house isn't ready to open—there are no window treatments!" She immediately sent an e-mail to the house offering her services.

Bonnie is the owner and creator of Designing Windows, a national, award-winning window treatment company.


She donated her time and materials to create beautiful window treatments for virtually every room in the house. In the process, Bonnie fell in love with the house and its mission, and encouraged others, including the Women's Club of Pittsford, to volunteer.

It was a lucky day for Harbor House when Bonnie turned on her television and opened her heart. Anyone who sees the house would love to have window treatments as beautiful as these in their own home. If you want to hire someone who is extremely talented and possesses a generous and kind heart, call Bonnie. Her information can be found on our website.

In Penfield, Phyllis Ely was watching the same TV news clip and also thought that the house wasn't ready to open, in her mind because there were no pictures on the walls. She fired off an e-mail, offering to loan Harbor House some of her amazing art. After a visit, Phyllis came back with a carload of beautiful paintings. She placed and hung every piece herself. Her watercolor and oil paintings now grace our walls, filling

the house with beauty and peacefulness. Everyone loves the huge watercolor painting that currently resides in the living room above the fireplace.

Phyllis's art can also be found at the Oxford Gallery and the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, where she teaches art classes. All of her art at the Harbor House is available for sale.

These are but two instances of kindness and generosity that have blessed the Harbor House since our opening two years ago. Every donation has been truly appreciated. We will feature different donations and the donors who opened their hearts (and wallets) to us in future issues. 

### Save the Date!

#### And The Beat Goes On,

a very popular, annual Harbor House fund-raiser, will be held on June 9, 2012, at the Double Tree Inn, Henrietta, NY. Look for more information in our next issue of *The Beacon*.

## Volunteers in the Spotlight: Nancy and Dave Ricciardi



When the Harbor House first opened its doors to guests in September 2009, there was just a skeleton crew of volunteers. During that time, a husband-and-wife-team began to devote itself to the Harbor House cause. Nancy and Dave Ricciardi often worked three or four shifts a week during the first weeks and months of the house's operation.

Two years later, Nancy and Dave are still going strong, volunteering twice weekly during the hardest shifts to fill, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Because they volunteer together, they don't

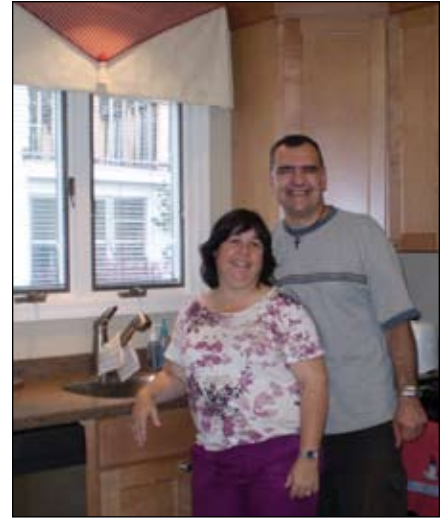
mind spending their Saturday evenings at the house. Sunday mornings they come after church, often stopping to get donuts or other goodies for the residents of the house. But that's not where their support ends—Dave has helped with many projects around the grounds including washing and cleaning the entire fence in preparation for a fence-staining project. They have participated in every Harbor House fund-raiser since it opened.

This is their way of remembering and honoring the family members they have lost due to heart disease. Nancy and Dave strive to make the days of the families that find themselves at Harbor House a little brighter with their ready smiles and unwavering devotion to the Harbor House mission.

Please join us in thanking Nancy and Dave Ricciardi for their unceasing dedication to the Harbor House. In our first issue of *The Beacon*, we are pleased to

shine the Volunteer Spotlight on this terrific couple.

"Volunteers in the Spotlight" will be a regular column in our newsletter. We have so many amazing volunteers that choosing just one each time will be the greatest challenge!



*Nancy and Dave Ricciardi at the Harbor House.*



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