



**Executive Director Message**

**Looking Back & Looking Ahead**

I am honored to have been chosen to lead and further the mission of Molly's House. When I was offered the Executive Director position last summer, I couldn't have imagined a better fit. While I've spent the past 15 years working in nonprofit organizations, early in my career I'd seriously considered hospitality as a profession. Molly's House is the best of both worlds.

The excitement of my new job wasn't diminished by the pandemic, though it was challenged. Hospitals, treatment centers and nursing homes weren't allowing loved ones to visit patients and residents. Some facilities cancelled non-critical services. These patients and visitors are the people who stay with us. As a result, Molly's House experienced a 51% reduction in occupied rooms in 2020. We focused on cutting expenses where we could and remained open, safely welcoming those who needed us. All thanks to our staff, board, volunteers and donors.

We saw an opportunity to take advantage of the low occupancy to make some much-needed updates to the house. Through the generosity of local contractors and our wonderful donors, two bathrooms are being remodeled to offer even greater accessibility for our wheelchair-bound guests, and we've upgraded our security system.

During the last quarter of 2020, I worked with our board to develop a strategic plan for 2021. Through the planning process, we established three focus areas: increase occupancy rate, grow our monthly giving program and continue to reduce expenses. We also made the difficult decision to pause the expansion project we began exploring in 2019. Our priority now is to make the existing house the strongest it can be.

I'm optimistic for 2021 because I believe strongly in our mission and the commitment of our community to Molly's House. We are well-positioned for a strong 25th year with many more to come.



**Celebrating Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Molly's House opened its doors in September of 1996. That grand opening was the realization of the years-long dream of teenager Molly Sharkey and a testament to the generous community that came together to build the house. Since then, we've welcomed more than 25,000 guests, including patients, caregivers and their family members, referred by a variety of Treasure Coast hospitals and healthcare centers.*

*We'll be celebrating our 25th anniversary throughout the year. Learn more about Molly's amazing story at [mollyshouse.org](http://mollyshouse.org).*

**2020 Occupancy**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Total Stays</b>	155	397
<b>Total Rooms Occupied Nights</b>	1,378	2,713
<b>Average Nights per Stay</b>	9 nights	7 nights

## Who Stays at Molly's House?

Molly's House offers a home away from home for patients receiving medical treatment and their families. We're also open to friends and family from outside the area visiting a loved one in a local nursing home, hospice facility or treatment center.

Guests need a referral, which can come from a hospital, doctors' office, nursing home, hospice, assisted living or rehabilitation center. The referral process is quick and easy and information can be found on our website: [mollyshouse.org](http://mollyshouse.org)

## Where Do Guests Come From?

Our guests come from all regions of the country and sometimes from outside the U.S. Those who are patients may travel from other states for specialized care or they may live in Florida but are too far away to travel back and forth while undergoing treatment.

Guests are referred by a diverse group of hospitals, treatment centers and other healthcare facilities, including:

- 21st Century Oncology
- Barwis Methods Physical Therapy
- Cleveland Clinic Martin Health: Cancer Center, David Smythe Wound Center, North Hospital, South Hospital
- Dobbs Clubfoot Center
- Encompass Health
- Florida Ocular Prosthetics
- Jupiter Medical Center
- Paley Institute
- Sandy Pines
- South Florida Orthopedics
- St. Mary's Medical Center
- Treasure Coast Hospice



## Why Guests Stay at Molly's House?

A 2020 survey by the national Hospital Hospitality Network found caregivers' and patients' stress levels are greatly improved when they stay at a place like Molly's House. Of those surveyed, 92.8% said their stay had a positive or very positive impact (based on services offered, meals provided and rest/sleep quality). Patients gain greater peace-of-mind knowing their family has a safe place to stay near them (83.8% positive or very positive response).

These sentiments are reflected in the comments our guests write in journals placed in each of the 14 guest rooms. Common themes emerge from the pages: refuge in a stressful time, oasis of human kindness, sanctuary, haven and shelter. Without Molly's House, guests say that they would have been sleeping in their car or wouldn't have been able to afford to visit their loved one. They often find an extended family with other guests sharing similar experiences.

## CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER

Caregivers selflessly tend to the needs of their loved ones. It is often a tiring and thankless job.

Our Caregiver Retreat Program offers the support caregivers need for their own wellbeing. Funded by grants and donations, we arrange for a healthcare professional to provide around-the-clock care for the patient in their home, at no charge; and we bring their caregiver to Molly's House for a 4-day, 3-night stay to rest and rejuvenate. Thanks to the William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust, seven caregivers on the Treasure Coast were given this respite last year.

## Shared Experiences Create Unexpected Relationships

Dave and Jess Hansen and their five children call Cedar Falls, Iowa home. Last July, their oldest child, 17-year-old Jax, suffered a broken neck. This energetic and optimistic young man worked hard through rehab and ongoing training. When Dave heard about the acclaimed neurological reengineering program at BARWIS in Port St. Lucie, plans were made to head to Florida.

The staff at BARWIS recommended Molly's House as a place to stay. So, in early December, Dave and Jax began a 12-week stay. Jess, the other Hansen children, Dave's buddies and Jax's girlfriend all made visits to Stuart to show their support, and, Dave believes, to enjoy some Florida sun at the height of winter.

Dave praises the Molly's House staff for making the family feel at home. "They worked with us on whatever we needed," said Dave, "including a room with a handicapped-accessible shower." He noted that having a kitchen available for meals saved the family money, and added, "It's great to have laundry here, to grab a book from the library and to sit in the garden. And, it's nice to be so close to downtown Stuart, where we can sit by the river."

The amenities and conveniences of staying at Molly's House aren't what had the biggest impact on Dave. He describes Molly's House as respite for Jax after his demanding treatments. For Dave, the family environment and connection with other guests has been an unexpected benefit. "Everyone who's staying here is going through a tough time," he explained. "Our stories are different, but we're sharing this period of our lives. It feels like we're on the same team."

Guests may be at Molly's House because they are saying goodbye to a family member being cared for by Treasure Coast Hospice. They may have children undergoing surgery at Paley Institute in West Palm Beach or they may be undergoing chemotherapy treatments down the street at Cleveland Clinic Martin Health.

"Our lives are very different and, other than this experience, we may not have anything in common," said Dave, "but we meet in the kitchen during dinner and have deeper conversations than we'd have at home." He added that he's exchanged numbers and connected with fellow guests on Facebook. "I'm excited to follow their stories after we leave Molly's House." And the Molly's House staff is excited to follow the Hansen family's story too.



## OUR MISSION

is to support patients receiving medical treatment on the Treasure Coast by providing temporary, affordable accommodations to them and their families.



### Molly's House Staff:

Polly DeLater, *Director of Development*  
Mimi Wild, *Director of Operations*  
Katie Watts, *Executive Director*

### Molly's House Board of Trustees

Betsy Herold, *President*  
Steve Pinnacoli, *Vice President*  
Chuck Cleaver, *Treasurer*  
Tammy Matthews, *Secretary*  
Judge Alan Forst, *Director*  
Ryan Furtwangler, *Director*  
Dan Parz, *Director*  
Kate Weigerink, *Director*  
Shaun Williams, *Director*



## 2021 Volunteer of the Year: Pat Garrett

Pat has worn many different hats during her 11 years as a Molly's House volunteer. She's always willing to pitch in wherever help is needed. She's staffed the receptionist desk, welcoming guests, answering phones and questions. During her time with us, she's also served on our advisory board and overseen the Chef for a Day program. She's lent a hand at many Molly's House fundraisers, including our popular Polo Classic. On top of all this, she trains new volunteers on checking in new guests and helping them get settled in for their stay.

"Throughout the years, Pat has exemplified what true volunteerism means. She has devoted many selfless hours and has been an inspiration to our new volunteers," says Mimi Wild, Operations Manager.

Molly's House isn't the only Stuart area nonprofit to which Pat donates her time. Since retiring to Stuart in 2006, Pat has been an Honor Flight guardian for two WWII veterans. She's volunteered at the Stuart Air Show for 15 years and with Treasure Coast Hospice since 2010. Her other volunteer roles include historian for the Treasure Coast Community Singers and volunteer coordinator for the Salvation Army's Woman's Auxiliary. As a member (and past president) of the Hibiscus Children's Center Women's Guild, Pat helps raise funds to support the center's important work. Pat will be leaving Stuart soon for her hometown in Texas. We will miss her. Thank you and best of luck, Pat!

# MOLLY'S HOUSE

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

430 SE Osceola Street  
Stuart, FL 34994

Non profit  
Permit  
Stuart, FL  
#849



## GIVING MONTHLY Helps Our Guests Every Day

Recurring monthly gifts are an easy way to support Molly's House. These regular donations offer consistent, year-round support for our house, our services and our guests.

Generous donors allow us to keep overhead costs low so we can provide affordable accommodations for families in need of a place to stay during a difficult time. Some guests can't afford our \$40 per night rate. We don't turn them away. Some pay what they can, and others aren't able to contribute at all.

You can "adopt" one of these families with an ongoing monthly gift of \$40 (one night's stay).

<b>CONVENIENT</b>	You can spread your annual gift out over the year and make it part of your regular monthly budget, which may be easier than making a one-time annual gift. Automatic payments mean you don't have to remember to make a gift.
<b>COST-EFFECTIVE</b>	Monthly giving saves us time and money, lowering our administrative costs so more of your gift goes toward our guests' stays.
<b>IMPACTFUL</b>	With monthly giving, you make a difference over the life of your gift and help us plan for the long-term.