Community Dream Team

Clara’s House means different things to different people. For some, it is a safe haven in the midst of a medical crisis. For others, it is where they go for support as they cope with Cancer, Parkinson’s Disease, Aphasia or Dementia. Some find peace in Clara’s House weekly sessions of Centering Prayer while others seek the comfort of nature found in the Healing Garden.

Over these last few years, Clara’s House has grown into a true community hub which is only possible with the support of our donors and dedicated volunteers. In addition, there is a growing group of community members who have joined in the effort to support the mission of Clara’s House by hosting much-needed fund-raising events; donating home-cooked meals; and sharing talents and resources.

Clockwise from left: Tiffani Sheppard and April Pope organize a wonderful fundraiser at the Pik-n-Pig; Seven Lakes Neighbor to Neighbor regularly delivers delicious, home-cooked meals for our guests; Debbie McGahey and her granddaughter, Hailey, generously stock our pantry.
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

This year, Clara’s House and the Foundation of FirstHealth will be honoring all of our wonderful volunteers with a holiday luncheon on Monday, December 4th. We are looking forward to this special time to celebrate our volunteers from Clara’s House, the Healing Garden, the Hospice Garden, CARE-Net, Patient Visitation, the Foundation office, and the Tea Service.

As in years past, we will be sending an electronic invitation to keep our costs down so keep an eye on your email and mark your calendars now. We hope you can join us to kick off the holiday season in style!

House volunteers, Marcia Krasicky and Sylvia Jansen keep their sense of humor while working on a mailing.

Dedicated Clara’s House volunteer, Carolyn Mosseller, handles the important task of writing thank you notes to our donors.

Garden volunteer, Marilyn Grube, designs a beautiful herb garden.
Parkinson’s Group Social

On a beautiful evening in September, Clara’s House hosted a special social event for members of the Parkinson’s Support Group of the Sandhills. Rachel Shell and Gary Brown provided live music with guest vocals by our very own Eleanor Vann. Spoon Lickers provided delicious food; and beer, wine and sodas were served up with a smile by volunteer barkeep, Joel Shriberg.

Gift basket door prizes were donated by Laura Beck of Max Motion, FirstHealth Rock Steady Boxing, and volunteers, Cheryll Schramm and Mary Kay Baker, who donated all party decorations and provided a gift card to Char Bar Restaurant.

But perhaps what made the evening most special was the chance to just spend time together, talking and laughing and developing important new friendships.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Each person attending this group is helping a family member or friend live with dementia. Connection with other caregivers provides support, education and (most importantly) the awareness that you are not alone on this journey. We welcome you to attend if this would be helpful for you or someone you know in the community.

Meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Clara McLean House. The group is co-facilitated by Rebecca Ainslie and Reverend Fran Stark.

For more information, please contact Rebecca at 910-715-4224.
A Note from the Director …

Dear Friends,

As we enter this season of giving and receiving, we are so fortunate to be delighted each and every day of the year by the many forms of generosity that abound at Clara McLean House and the Healing Garden! I would like to highlight a few of our service accomplishments with you from this past year, and to thank you, the “Community Dream Team”, for your gracious gifts. The bounty that we share with guests, patients and community members begins with your contributions of time, talent and financial support. You make it easy to extend hospitality to others, as you have carefully planted the seedbed of love and kindness here, and we are most appreciative.

Thanksgiving Blessings,  
Rebecca

Why I Give….. By: Jeanne Lally

My name is Jeanne Lally. In 2015 I found out how important a Hospitality House for patients and families can be. My oldest son, who lives in Pagosa Springs, CO, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He was scheduled for surgery in Colorado Springs, CO, which is five and a half hours from his home, and I flew from NC to be with him.

It was a frightening time for us and having to travel five and a half hours to the hospital in Colorado Springs and find a place for me to stay just added to our decisions and our fears. Fortunately, my son learned that there was a Hospitality House right across the street from the hospital, and my son’s doctor reserved a room for me for a two-week stay. What a godsend! It was a place I felt safe and cared for.

When I returned to NC and learned about Clara’s House, I became a volunteer there. But I wanted to do more so now I make a monthly donation to the Foundation of FirstHealth and designate it to be used for Clara’s House. It is a small way to help others needing this service when they experience uncertain times in their lives. I do it to give back and in honor of my son and his journey. By the way, he just had his two year check with no sign of cancer!

If anyone wants to do a good thing and know they are truly making a difference, a monthly donation to Clara’s House is a great way to start.
GRATEFUL GUESTS

September, 2017

What a blessing Clara’s House was to me and my aunt. I am from Pennsylvania and my dad lives in NC, where he chose to have his surgery. After a very long day at the hospital, Clara’s House was a peaceful, quiet place to lie down and rest. The serenity here is awesome. Thank you again.

Wendy B.
Pennsylvania

October, 2017

The “Experience” I had in the Healing Garden was phenomenal! God truly met me there. Words can’t explain the feeling I had as I walked and talked with the Lord. I can’t wait to tell my church. Thank you.

The Simms Family
Lumberton, NC

October, 2017

Thank you dear staff and volunteers of the Clara McLean House for a wonderful place of peace to rest our head and spirit while our father was in hospice. We are all so grateful for the time and ability to be near before he passed. You are providing blessings beyond compare here. We truly cannot thank you enough for everything.

The Priest Family

LIGHT UP A LIFE

Remembering Loved Ones this Holiday Season

Join FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care in remembering your loved ones this holiday season.

2017 Light Up A Life Ceremony
Thursday, November 16 at 5:00 pm
FirstHealth Hospice Campus
251 Campground Road, Pinehurst
*Reception will follow the program

Light Up a Life allows us to share remembrances of family and friends and honor those who are important in our lives. Donations must be received by November 13, 2017 in order to be included in the ceremony; however, gifts are accepted through the holidays and names will be updated weekly.

FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care is the only not-for-profit hospice serving Moore County. Contributions from the community ensure that all FirstHealth Hospice patients and their families are treated with dignity and respect and that care is provided for anyone in need of hospice services, regardless of their ability to pay.
A Peace of the Spirit by Pam Hudson

The season of kindness…..

One of the reasons I enjoy this time of year so much is because it almost seems like there are opportunities for added layers of kindnesses to be shared wherever you go. Whether it’s donating to a food shelter, helping to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for others, or simply extending greetings of love and good cheer, we are reminded with Thanksgiving and the holiday seasons that follow what it means to give thanks and celebrate our various traditions.

But it can be a difficult time of year too, especially if you are dealing with illness, tragedy, pain, loneliness or loss. To then have someone go out of their way to help and pay attention to you can feel like being given a priceless gift. With a simple word or gesture of compassion we are able to brighten one another’s days and uplift spirits. What a privilege it is to be here at Clara’s House and daily be a part of such generosity. From gently caring for our guests to working with some loyal volunteers to sharing daily with hardworking and wonderful co-workers, Clara’s House is a seedbed of love and kindness. As this season progresses, and all year through, kindness is our norm. How fortunate we are to live and move and have our being in this community!