

# Editha House

## Celebrating our One-Year Anniversary



### **Editha House: Providing Affordable Lodging to Cancer Patients**

By Sadhna Bokhiria: Family Services Director

Since our opening on November 1st, 2011, Editha House has provided support for 233 guests from 26 states and Mexico.

CEO Mary Gauwitz is passionate about our cause and says, "We are honored that we were able to support so many guests in our first year, and are looking forward to supporting many more in the upcoming years. With the continued referrals from medical professionals and facilities across the nation, we plan to help as many patients as possible."

Editha House has been made possible thanks to the vision of Dr. John Kapoor, an avid philanthropist who opened the house in honor of his late wife Editha, who passed away from breast cancer in 2005.

Dr. Kapoor says, "I understand how difficult it is to face the emotional turmoil of cancer. When we reached out to medical organizations in Phoenix and asked where the greatest needs were, we learned that that the number one area of deficit was housing. Patients didn't have enough options, and we wanted to help in any way we could."

Thanks to the John and Editha Kapoor Charitable Foundation, Editha House is proudly celebrating its one-year anniversary.

## KATHLEEN O'BRIEN

## ONE WOMAN'S PERSEVERANCE SAVES HER LIFE

by Sadhna Bokharia: Family Services Director



When Kathleen O'Brien's doctor told her that her mammogram had no abnormalities, she didn't react with the relief that you'd expect. Instead, Kathleen demanded to see the X-rays.

Despite her doctor's annoyance, Kathleen remained firm. She wanted to examine her own x-rays. The doctor left the room in silence. When he came back, she immediately began to inspect the images.

Because she didn't have medical training, the night before her mammogram, she researched images of breast cancer online. She noticed that the images she saw were very similar to her x-rays, so she asked the doctor about the white markings in specific areas of her breasts.

Her doctor said, "they are nothing to be concerned about... simply normal calcium deposits."

Instead of being relieved, **she asked more questions:**

"Why are the calcium deposits clustered?"

"Do you remember my family history?"

"Your mom?" the doctor asked.

"And my great grandmother, and my two sisters," she said.

His eyes widened.

"This changes things. You need a biopsy right away."

**Kathleen was diagnosed with Stage III Breast Cancer. Had she not insisted on seeing her mammogram results, she would not be alive today.**

Devastated and faced with financial turmoil, Kathleen was scheduled to travel from California to Phoenix, AZ to begin undergoing her treatment.

It was at this time that she was referred to Editha House for hospitality. She was scheduled to undergo two and a half months of chemotherapy. To her surprise, she ended up staying at Editha House for seven and a half months.

She describes Editha House as her "home away from home." Before her treatment, she couldn't imagine finding solace at a Cancer Hospitality Center and certainly never imagined finding an environment as comfortable and supportive as her own home and family.

It's no wonder they were so supportive; the majority of the staff are cancer survivors themselves.

Kathleen says that without Editha House, her hotel expenses would have totaled close to \$12,000-\$15,000. To her relief, Editha House provided her with a comfortable condo-style apartment that included a full kitchen, living room, and most importantly a supportive community.

Without Editha House, her only other option would have been a one-room hotel.

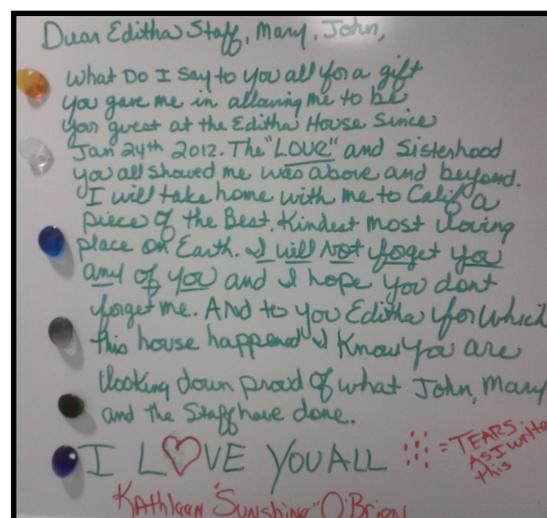
"Most importantly," she says,

"Editha House is filled with wonderful people. Everyone treated me like family. When I left, I actually wept. These people changed me. These people are amazing."



Kathleen and her sister Angel whom was also diagnosed with Breast Cancer

**"PERSEVERANCE  
SAVED MY LIFE, AND  
THE EDITHA HOUSE  
SAVED MY SANITY"**



Kathleen's Heartfelt Message to Editha House

## A Letter from our CEO Mary Gauwitz

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that we celebrate our one-year anniversary. This year, I've had the honor of meeting close to 233 patients and caregivers. All of which have left their mark on Editha House.

As a community-based organization, we continuously strive to enhance the lives of patients and families who are faced with the emotional and financial turmoil that comes with diagnosis.

Our goal is to provide patients with a comfortable and supportive environment so they can undergo treatment without leaving behind the comforts of home.

Recent studies published in the New England Journal of Medicine and by the American Cancer Society have proven that supportive care enhances the quality of life of patients, and that patients who experience supportive care tend to live longer, happier, and healthier lives. We are blessed to help fulfill this unmet need in our community.

As we commemorate our anniversary, I would like to thank all of the patients that have truly made Editha House *home*.

In addition, we look forward to another year of supportive care, and our continued partnership with all organizations and individuals that aid in the support of cancer patients.

Sincerely,

Mary Gauwitz CEO



### **Mission Statement:**

Providing adult cancer patients a compassionate and supportive home-away-from-home atmosphere, Editha House helps reduce emotional and financial challenges during a vulnerable time in one's cancer journey.

### **Our Core Values:**

*Excellence*

*Accountability*

*Gratitude*

*Integrity*

## History of Editha House

By Jenny Fisher: Family Services Director

In August of 2008, the John and Editha Kapoor Charitable Foundation was approached about funding a six-room building that houses cancer patients traveling to the Phoenix area for treatment. The Foundation supports many worthwhile causes and due to the loss of Dr. Kapoor's wife, Editha, to breast cancer in 2005, cancer has always been a top priority.

Dr. Kapoor and CEO Mary Gauwitz met with a number of cancer professionals and with each meeting a shortage of cancer hospices was always identified as a pressing issue in the Valley. There simply were not enough places for cancer patients to turn for support. A decision was made to visit other hospitality houses in the country and incorporate their ideas into helping with this vital shortage in Phoenix.

In December of 2009, the Foundation began working with the City of Phoenix and a local attorney to find properties that might work. In December 2010 they closed on the house at 336 East Willetta Street, near downtown Phoenix.

The four-story building was built in 1962 and is a fine example of the Valley's mid-century modernist architecture. Remodeling began in April 2011 with a goal of opening on November 1st. Our Certificate of Occupancy was received and accepted in the nick of time at 3:21 PM on November 1st.



Our first guests, Edward M. and Yolanda V., from Las Cruces, NM Pictured with Family Services Director,

Christina Lopez

November 16th, 2011

## QUICK FACTS

by Jenny Fisher: Family Services Director

- We are a private nonprofit that provides comfortable, supportive and affordable housing to adult cancer patients and their caregivers who require traveling 40 miles or more from their residence to their treatment facility.
- The four-story house is a 10,750 sq. ft. secure building with a serene garden setting in the backyard.
- Our 16 well-appointed studios, one-bedroom and lofts -- each with a private bathroom and kitchen -- includes a queen size bed and sofa bed, bed linens, blanket and towels. In addition, kitchens come with dish-ware, glasses, silverware and pots and pans.
- We offer common living, dining and kitchen areas and are centrally located near Interstate 10, medical centers and many major hospitals.
- Admission is based on referrals from medical professionals.
- An average length of stay is 9 days.
- Since November 2011, we have provided our support to 233 guests from 26 states and Mexico City.



Visit our Website:  
[www.edithahouse.org](http://www.edithahouse.org)

*Editha House*  
*Where Tranquility Resides*

Visit us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/  
edithahouse336](http://www.facebook.com/edithahouse336)

336 East Willetta St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Email: [info@edithahouse.org](mailto:info@edithahouse.org)

Phone: 602-388-4920  
Fax: 602-532-7062

## WISH LIST

Please consider donating the following items from our "Wish List." Donations of goods and services can enrich our guests during their stay with us. To ensure the safety and well-being of our guests, we cannot accept items that are not on our "Wish List" below, unless prior approval and arrangement has been made.

To make a wish-list item donation, please call 602-388-4920 or email [info@edithahouse.org](mailto:info@edithahouse.org) to make an appointment before dropping off any goods.

All donations, are sincerely appreciated.

Please send all Items to:

**Editha House**

336 E. Willetta Street

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone: 602-388-4920

Fax: 602-532-7062

**Kitchen**

Electric Blender  
 Electric Can Opener  
 Electric Toaster  
 Canned Goods  
 Non-Perishable Items  
 Plastic Bags (all sizes)  
 Alum Foil & Wraps  
 Garbage Bags (5, 10, 13 gal)  
 Coffee & Tea  
 Sugar & Sweeteners  
 Creamers  
 Spices & Condiments  
 Frozen Juices or Powder  
 Bottled Water  
 Sports Water  
 Can Openers (20 count)  
 Juicer (4 count)  
 4 Cup Coffee Maker (20 count)  
 Muffin Tins  
 Cookie Sheets  
 Cake Pans  
 Mixing Bowls  
 Heavy Duty Silverware (24 sets)  
 Food Processor (4 count)  
 Kitchen Aid Mixer  
 Cutlery Sets (4)  
 Parchment Paper

Cake Mixes  
 Frosting Mixes  
 All Purpose Flour  
 Bulk Sipper Straws  
 Coffee Mixers  
 Measuring Cups  
 Measuring Spoons  
 Vinegar  
 Folding Trays  
 2 Small Kitchen Tables w/ 2 chairs (call for size first)  
 Grocery Card (Safeway)

**Guest Rooms**

Small Bar Hand Soap  
 Shampoo/Travel-size  
 Conditioner/Travel-size  
 Hand Lotion/Travel-size  
 Tooth Paste/Travel-size  
 Mouth Wash/Travel-size  
 Razors/Disposable  
 Shave Cream/Travel-size  
 Kleenex  
 Toilet Paper  
 Mattress Cover (Pillow-top)  
 End Table Lamps (20 count)

Hangers  
 NEW Pillows  
 Journals  
 NEW White BathTowels  
 NEW Throw Blankets  
 Hair Dryers  
 NEW White Bath Mats  
 White Shower Curtains  
 Clock Radios (18 count)  
 NEW Wash Rags  
 NEW White Queen Sheets Sets  
 Cleaning Supplies  
 Dishwashing Liquid  
 Liquid Hand Soap  
 Fabric Softener  
 Tide with bleach (non chlorine)  
 Clothes-Dryer Sheets (Bounce, etc.)  
 Dishwasher Detergent  
 Clorox Wipes  
 Glass Cleaner (Windex, etc.)  
 Floor Cleaner (Pine Sol, etc.)  
 Toilet Cleaner  
 Buckets  
 Stain Remover Spray  
 Spray Starch  
 Mops  
 Brooms

Swiffers  
 Dusters  
 Stain Remover  
 Light Bulbs  
 Room Spray  
 Lysol Disinfectant Spray  
 Pledge Orange Spray  
 Cleaning Gloves  
 Mr. Clean Magic Eraser  
 Dust Busters  
 Ceramic Stove Top Cleaner  
 NEW Flour Sack Kitchen Towels

**Entertainment**

DVD Movies  
 Magazines  
 Books  
 Batteries (AA, AAA, C & D)  
 Board Games  
 Playing Cards  
 Video Games & Players  
 CD Player/Radio  
 Crossword Puzzle Books  
 Sudoku Books

## WORDS FROM OUR GUESTBOOK

Please visit [www.edithahouse.org](http://www.edithahouse.org) to sign our guestbook. Below are some moving words from some of our previous guests.

I stayed as a caregiver for my mother in feb and march of 2012. I'm from Oregon and my mother is from Washington, and it was a lifesaver to have a place that was so convenient and peaceful to her treatment center. I stayed on weekends with her when my aunt returned to her family in Northern Arizona, and the staff was wonderful and accomodating. I wish the Editha house the greatest success and wishes for their future. This is a wonderful organization with a great group of people who are truly there for their residents. Thank you dearly Editha House.

Editha House is a blessing beyond expression. To have such warm and compassionate staff members at Editha House was truly needed during our time of trial. Thank you God and Editha House for your support and for a place to rest during our trips to Phoenix for cancer treatments.

Sometimes in life we have the privilege of crossing paths with caring and compassionate people. Words cannot express how this house has made such a big impact on my life at a time of such need, for myself, my son Nick and our family. We thank all of you for your understanding. I am not sure how this would have been if I would not of had a shoulder to lean on and cry on. I will never forget any of you or this house. Thank you for giving me a place to live and be able to be close to my son.