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Northern Trust

Serving Our Guests Delicious Dishes

"When I found out the organization's purpose and vision, I knew I had to do something to contribute." —Marva Pete-Booker

It's not unusual for our guests to leave Editha House early in the morning, spend the entire day in treatment and return to the House, exhausted and hungry.

So often, the last thing a guest wants to do is cook dinner. Luckily, volunteers from corporate organizations, like Northern Trust Bank, have provided our guests with delicious dishes.

Marva Pete-Booker, a 2nd Vice President at Northern Trust, became acquainted with Elizabeth Young, our Administration and Facilities Coordinator, when she had business

at the bank. Elizabeth shared some information about Editha House, and Marva volunteered right away to spread the word.

"When I found out the organization's purpose and vision I knew I had to do something to contribute," says Marva.

So many volunteers signed up that they had to split the volunteer effort into two days!

Our guests enjoyed two special evenings of home-cooked meals, compliments of Marva and the Northern Trust teams.

Thank you from all of us at Editha House.



Sweet Home Chicago

Providing Comfort and Care for Those in Need



We have served 354 families with 47,415 total room nights.

The Illinois Medical District Guest House Foundation (IMDGH) is the only facility in Chicago that serves both children and adult patients and their families.

When the concept of Editha House was born, our Founders knew that they would start close to home. Being from Chicago, Illinois, and currently living in Phoenix, Arizona, Mary Gauwitz and Dr. John Kapoor identified their first two locations quickly.

After opening the first Editha House in Phoenix in 2011 they decided to look for a location in Chicago and learned that the IMDGH was doing similar work in a prime location.

Situated within walking distance of some of the most highly regarded hospitals in the country including, Rush University Medical Center, University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, and the Jesse Brown

VA Medical Center, the IMDGH quickly revealed itself as a perfect partner.

Mary and John met with Mike Mayse, Executive Director of the IMDGH, and quickly decided to sponsor four guest rooms, called the Editha House Rooms. These rooms filled up so quickly that four more rooms were added. The demand kept increasing and today the Editha House Foundation proudly supports 16 rooms at IMDGH.

Editha House has provided 47,415 room nights to 354 families. While the majority of the families have come from Illinois, many others have come from other states and countries, some as far as Nigeria.



Meet Referring Agent Charlie Thomas, LCSW

Charlie Thomas' interest in social work was sparked during the 60's when the Vietnam War and Civil Rights Movement dominated our country's politics. He wanted to make a difference in the lives of the people who needed it the most.

Charlie works in the Center for Advanced Liver Disease and Transplants, and his professional life at the Phoenix-based Banner University Medical Center has spanned 35 years.

He is most proud of successfully advocating changing the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System's Health Program. This program covers liver, heart, lung, and bone marrow transplants for the working poor. This change expanded the health program to cover many people who weren't covered before, and really need this coverage. In addition, Charlie shares his wealth of knowledge with students at the Arizona State University School of Social Work where he also teaches part-time.

Charlie and his wife, Linda, a high school chemistry teacher, married in Prescott, AZ in 1973 and have two adult children, Jesse and Andrea. His many interests include spending time with his family, reading, gardening, photography, and travel.

"One of the things people may not know about me is that I met and frequently saw President John F. Kennedy and his family, when his yacht anchored across the street from our home in Newport, R.I. This happened between 1960-1963, and I will never forget those times."

*"I don't know
what we would
do without
Editha House."*

—Charlie Thomas



"Wonderful" is the word Charlie uses to describe working with the staff at Editha House. "My experience with Editha House began with a visit from Christina Lopez, the Director of Community Relations and Guest Services, and our working relationship continues to grow. What I particularly appreciate about their services is that they make it possible to serve our out-of-town and out-of-state patients. I don't know what we would do without Editha House."

Charlie shares a common goal with the staff at Editha House. "We both enjoy helping people." Thank you, Charlie, for your many years of faithful service and for making others aware of our home-away-from-home.

Meet Shona Patel



Sometimes we come across books that captivate our attention and take us to far away lands. Being lucky enough to experience the pleasure of reading a great piece of work is one thing, but being able to meet the genius behind the work is entirely another.

On a trip to India, our CEO, Mary Gauwitz, casually picked up a book called *Teatime for the Firefly*. She found the story captivating, and learned that the author, Shona Patel, lives in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Upon her return, Mary took a chance and contacted Shona to invite her to Editha House. To her surprise, Shona immediately agreed to host a tea party inspired “Meet the Author” event.

On January 18, Shona visited Editha House and shared many exciting stories. She was born and raised in a remote tea plantation in Assam, India, and her book draws heavily from her childhood in such an uncommon setting.

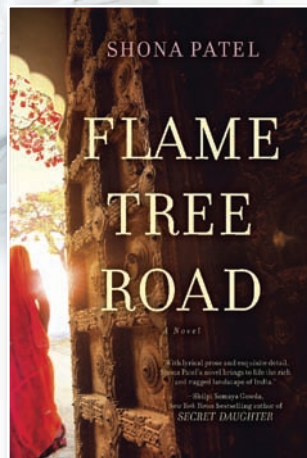
As the group gathered in our community kitchen, and Shona shared some authentic Assam tea, conversations sparked. Many of our guests were intrigued by the irony of our CEO meeting Shona on a whim.

Shona says, “My time at Editha House was so enriching. Thanks to Mary for making that fateful connection and to both Mary and Dr. Kapoor for creating Editha House. The rays of their generosity spread far and wide in our Valley of the Sun.”

Special thanks to Shona for volunteering at Editha House.

Shona Patel is the author of the critically acclaimed *Teatime for the Firefly*. Her second novel *Flame Tree Road* received a starred review on Booklist and is now available in bookstores nationwide.

For more information visit shonapatel.com.



Did You Know...

Editha House counts among its guests a Pulitzer Prize-Winning Photographer, a Classical Pianist, an Air Traffic Controller who worked at Los Angeles International Airport for 41 years, a Navajo Silversmith and Leather Craftsman, an Opera Singer, an Italian Actress, a Former NFL Football Player, an Inspirational Author, an Orthopedic Surgeon, and a Cancer Researcher.

Karma Confirmed

The air had a whiff of the bold and rich aroma of smooth black tea, when one of our guests from Paris, France, David Saliamonas dropped by.

In mid-January, novelist Shona Patel visited Editha House to share some authentic Assam tea and the stories behind her novel, *Teatime for the Firefly*. During this time, our common areas were filled with guests buzzing with chatter about the tea and Shona's exquisite story. The air had a whiff of the bold and rich aroma of smooth black tea, when one of our guests from Paris, France, David Saliamonas dropped by.

A conversation between David and our founder, Dr. John Kapoor, uncovered some amazing coincidences; they learned that they both had roots in Buffalo, NY.

Later that evening, David called his mother, Eleanor, to tell her about the wonderful tea party. He told his mom that ironically the founder of Editha House studied at the University of Buffalo. His mom asked, "By any chance is his last name Kapoor?"

David knew that in India, the last name Kapoor is similar to the last name Smith or Jones in the United States. He thought, "This couldn't be the same Kapoor his mother knew many years ago." His curiosity got the best of him, and later that evening, David decided to call Editha House CEO, Mary Gauwitz.

He said, "My mother thinks she might know the founder of Editha House. Is his last name Kapoor by any chance?" Mary said, "Well, yes it is."

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David Saliamonas

*"Loving,
compassionate
action will
return as
'good karma' ..."*

—Deepak Chopra



David's grandparents,
David and Clara Sack

A Stitch in Time

Sometimes the greatest works of art are made when many people come together to create one piece.

Several years ago, we started a quilt project that would allow all of our guests to design a personalized fabric square and contribute to our quilt.



Kits were mailed out, and we asked each guest to make a square expressing their feelings about Editha House.

Dozens of contributions came in, and quilt artist Maria Kapoor, wife of Robert Kapoor, volunteered to help us put all of the pieces together.

Maria comes from a long line of seamstresses. She began sewing at age 12, when her

mother surprised her with a Singer sewing machine. We appreciate Maria's talent and time as she put together two gorgeous quilts for our House.

We are well on our way to gathering enough squares for a third quilt.

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful project, please reach out to a staff member for a kit.

A great big thank you to quilt artist Maria Kapoor and our guests for helping us preserve memories, one stitch at a time.

Dreamy Drapes

Did you know that our home is located in a state that holds the record for most sunshine worldwide every year? Arizona is known as the sunniest place in the world, followed closely by Egypt. Even though the sunshine can be gorgeous, it sometimes makes it very difficult to sleep.

In their feedback survey, a number of guests mentioned that the sunshine permeated their rooms, making it difficult to nap throughout the day. So, we reached out to the best in the business: *Feathers Fine Custom Furnishings*. With the help of co-owners Dan and Claudia Levinson and Showroom Manager, Tessa Koch, we decided to install new draperies in each of our rooms.

The drapes we chose are remote-controlled, energy efficient, and luxurious. They afford privacy and filter sound levels from the outside. Most importantly, they allow our guests to remotely control the virtually noiseless draperies to open and close at the press of a button.

“We couldn’t sleep in because the sun woke us up. Now that we have the drapes, we are able to get more rest. It makes a huge difference.” — Delphine S.

The feedback from our guests has allowed us to continuously strive to reach new heights of guest satisfaction. We are always looking for ways to improve our guests’ experience.

If you have any suggestions, please be sure to share your thoughts with a member of our staff.



Dynamic Duo Delivers

Most young people have trouble keeping up with their homework, let alone setting aside time to volunteer.

At the young age of 12, Natasha Suder and her 15-year-old brother, Austin, joined our Editha House Family by volunteering. Over the past 3-1/2 years, they have planted flowers and trees, and built a custom-made wood brochure stand, which we proudly display in our foyer.

Creating a display board to recognize our donors and volunteers is their latest contribution. Editha House founders and staff met with Natasha and Austin to share ideas. These talented teens reviewed the ideas, made some sketches and custom-built a recognition board that gives the appearance of a large, open book, revealing “page by page” the generous donors and volunteers who have graced Editha House.

We extend our deep appreciation to Natasha and Austin for their brilliant execution of this unique concept.



*Donor Recognition Board
by Austin and Natasha Suder*

Did You Know...

- Guests from 11 countries traveled an average of 5,000 miles (one way!) to Phoenix for treatment

- Guests have traveled from Afghanistan, England, Mexico, Canada, Israel, Dutch West Indies, Italy, Egypt, Dubai, Philippines, and France

- Since opening in November 2011, 141 doctors have referred patients to Editha House

- Our sofa beds had to be lifted by crane because the elevator is too small

Jack Dykinga, Pulitzer Prize Winner

One of the many rewards of being at Editha House is meeting and getting to know a broad range of exceptional guests from across the globe. Case in point are Jack and Margaret Dykinga.



Jack was born in Chicago, and in 1970 won the annual Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography. His work appears in *Arizona Highways* and *National Geographic*.

Jack and Margaret stayed at Editha House for three months in 2014, while Jack recuperated from a double-lung transplant received at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Once Jack and Margaret returned to their home near Tucson, they happily settled back into their everyday routine.

To our staffs' delight, Jack and Margaret presented the House with a magnificent print of his work.

Along with the print was a thank you card expressing his heartfelt feelings. It said: "To All the Angels at Editha House... Thank you for helping save my life!"

The print shows a large cactus, with its spikey needles, along with some pretty pink flowers, which Jack says represents both "bad health" and "healing at Editha House." The print hangs proudly in our community living room, a reminder of a wonderful couple we were honored to open our hearts and home to.

*To view more of Jack's breathtaking work
visit dykinga.com*

Art From the Heart

Last summer, Joanie Vernasco, our Vice President of Operations and Program Development, discovered a volunteer networking site called Volunteer Match (VM). Since 1998, this nationwide organization has offered a variety of online services to support nonprofits through volunteers. Joanie posted a call to action and registered Editha House on VM's web site, asking, in particular, for children who wanted to share their artistic talent with our guests and caregivers.

"I know that many of our guests have family back home that they miss," says Joanie. "I thought getting cards from local children would brighten their day." All of our guests come from out of town and out of state — even out of the country — so Joanie also suggested that a theme of "Welcome to Phoenix" be used, along with "bright colors and happy thoughts."



To our great surprise and gratitude, our request has yielded responses from more than 25 children from all across the Valley, which includes an amazing total of 89 cards! A Welcome card is included in each guests' check-in packet, which brings broad smiles. Guests especially love hearing the story behind them. We proudly display these cards for all to enjoy.

We are thankful to Volunteer Match for making it easy for "good people and good causes to connect." Also, to the children who gave so generously by putting their "hearts on paper" to make our guests feel extra welcomed.

[Go to \[volunteermatch.org/edithahouse\]\(http://volunteermatch.org/edithahouse\)](http://Go to volunteermatch.org/edithahouse)
[or \[edithahouse.org/hych_volunteer.php\]\(http://edithahouse.org/hych_volunteer.php\)](http://or edithahouse.org/hych_volunteer.php)
[to learn more about volunteering at Editha House.](#)



Make a Difference, Volunteer

•
Editha House is always looking for individuals or groups to provide healthy meals for our guests.

•
If you are interested in making a difference, please email volunteer@edithahouse.org or call 602-388-4920 for further information.

"I knew
our team
would give it
their best,
and I am
so proud
of them."

—Mary Gauwitz,
CEO

"The newsletter
was a product
of our
collective blood,
sweat and tears."

—Sadhna D. Bokhria,
Editor-in-chief

Editha House Wins HHN Award Best 2013 Newsletter

Editha House has been a proud member of Healthcare Hospitality Network (HHN) since June 2010. HHN is a nationwide professional association of nearly 200 unique, nonprofit organizations that provide support to homes that help and heal patients and families.



In October 2011, the Editha House staff attended their first HHN conference in Chapel Hill, NC, six weeks before our doors opened to guests. The invaluable information staff gained through breakout sessions and meeting others doing the same work, helped everyone get started on the right foot. In 2012, we continued to gain momentum when the staff attended the second conference in Nashville, TN and in 2013, the third conference in Seattle, WA.

BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD

HHN offers an array of prestigious awards for hospitality houses with the best website, brochure, and newsletter. Prior to the Seattle conference, we had our hearts set on winning the award for best newsletter, and our CEO Mary Gauwitz gave us nine days to produce an award-winning product. Under her encouraging leadership, we worked non-stop

night and day to create a work of art. When we got to the conference, we knew we did our very best, and the newsletter was a product of our collective blood, sweat, and tears.

At the conference, we waited anxiously when they were preparing to announce the nominees for best newsletter. As we sat with our fingers crossed, barely breathing, we noticed that one of the speakers looked as if she was not sure how to pronounce the name. We realized she was most likely asking how to pronounce E-d-i-t-h-a. She confirmed our guess by announcing that Editha House's newsletter, *Letters From Home*, was one of the finalists. We continued to sit at the edge of our seats, hardly breathing and then she announced that Editha House had won the Best Newsletter Award!

Roars of clapping and cheering filled the room, and our enthusiasm even caught the announcers by surprise, as they jokingly said, "Wow, you are very excited to be winning this award!"

We proudly display the award and would like to extend a very special "thank you" to Mary for teaching us that anything can be done when you put your hearts into it.

When we asked Mary to share her thoughts about the award she said, "I knew our team would give it their best, and I am so proud of them. I am so blessed to have such a passionate group of individuals working at Editha House."

Karma Confirmed

(continued from page 5)

David told Mary about fifty years ago, his grandparents hosted an international student named John Kapoor. He desperately wanted to believe that his grandmother's hospitality somehow led him to Editha House when he was in need of a home away from home. David wondered if John was the "Kapoor" his mother and grandparents knew so many years ago.

When Mary heard David tell his grandmother's story, the hope for it to be true brought tears to her eyes. She immediately called John to relay the story, and he simply could not believe it.

John remembered that when he arrived from India to attend SUNY Buffalo, he spent a lot of time in the university medical library. One Thanksgiving, the librarian, David's grandmother, Clara Sack, invited John to join her family for dinner. Over time, he became a "regular" at the Sacks' home. David's mother, Eleanor, and John became friends. When Eleanor and her fiancée, Frank married in 1966, John attended their wedding.

When everyone thought about all the pieces that had to fall into place for this chance meeting to occur, it seemed impossible.

What are the chances that David, living in Paris, would choose to come to Phoenix for his treatment?

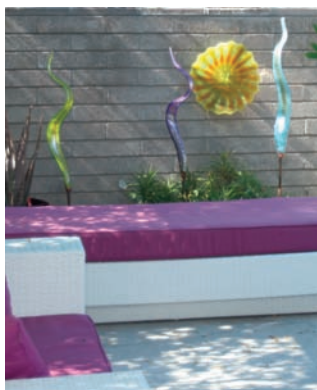
What are the chances that he was referred to Editha House instead of another hospitality house? Isn't it strange that he came to an event and met John, only to learn later about their real connection?

When David's grandparents opened their home to a young man from India years ago, who knew that the same man would unknowingly provide their grandson with a place to call home years later. Call it fate or kismet, David, Mary, and John all believe people are brought together for a reason.

Around Our House



Preserving memories one stitch at a time.



Adorning our patio with glass art sculptures.



Providing our guests with fresh, organic vegetables from our garden.

New Additions to Our House

- Posturepedic mattresses

- Aquasana water filtration system

- Organic vegetable garden

- Improved wifi system

- Fire extinguishers and flashlights in all rooms

- Ice machine



World-Renowned Artist Dale Chihuly Donates to Editha House

Dale Chihuly's work has been included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. He has been the recipient of many awards, including 12 honorary doctorates and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1957, Chihuly's normal youth was shattered by the deaths of his older brother, George Jr., in a Navy flight-training accident in Florida, and of his father from a heart attack the following year.

Burdened with debt, Viola Chihuly went to work as a barmaid, while her son helped out by working at a meat packing plant. Chihuly reacted to these deaths by breaking street lamps and a police car window — incidents that led to his arrest. Ironically, these first experiences "manipulating" glass, served as the inspirational moments that would later lead to his international fame as a world-renowned glass sculptor.

Our staff was able to see Chihuly's breathtaking work during the Healthcare Hospitality Network (HHN) conference in Seattle, Washington. His magnificent exhibit, titled, *Chihuly Garden and Glass* at the Seattle Center encompassed the majority of the Space Needle. The Exhibition Hall included eight

galleries, a lush garden and a suspended 1,400 piece, 100 foot-long sculpture. Our experience defies description, but needless to say, we were impressed and extremely happy to have seen these unique glass creations.

Ironically, on the day of our departure, staff members, Mary, Christina, Chris, Sadhna, and Jenny were checking out the departure board when Jenny recognized none other than Dale Chihuly, wearing his signature eye patch and walking cane! We gathered around him and told him we love his work. He was kind and seemed genuinely interested in what we had to say. We shared information about Editha House and the guests we serve, and he offered to send us some of his signed books.

A couple weeks later, to our delight, some autographed Chihuly books arrived at our House! We proudly display these books for our guests to enjoy.

*Dale Chihuly
has received many
awards including
12 honorary
doctorates and
two fellowships
from the
National Endowment
for the Arts.*

*He is
world-renowned
for his ambitious
architectural
installations that
span the globe.*

