



MALACHI HOUSE

| SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER |



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Malachi House,

As the days lengthen and the promise of warmer weather fills the air, we find ourselves eagerly anticipating the vibrant blooms in Kaki's Garden here at Malachi House. It's a reminder of the growth and renewal that spring brings, both to nature and to the incredible work we do together each year.

As we reflect on the past season, we want to express our deep appreciation for our Malachi House team—our dedicated staff, volunteers, hospice teams, and board of directors. Their unwavering commitment and passion are what make our mission possible. From the day-to-day care of our residents to the behind-the-scenes planning and decision-making, we are truly grateful for the tireless efforts of everyone involved.

We are also excited about the investments we are making this year to better serve our residents and ensure the long-term sustainability of Malachi House. From bolstering our staff's development to implementing updated technology that enhances our operations, and improving the physical space within our House, every step we take is in pursuit of fulfilling our mission. These investments will help us provide the highest level of care to those who depend on us, and we cannot wait to see how these changes positively impact our residents and staff.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors. Your continued support allows us to maintain our independence and make these crucial investments that support our work. Without you, none of this would be possible, and we are continually humbled by your commitment to our cause.

Thank you for your dedication, your generosity, and for being such an important part of the Malachi House family. We look forward to a bright and flourishing spring, filled with growth, renewal, and continued progress toward fulfilling our mission.

With warmest regards and heartfelt appreciation,

Matthew Becker
Board Chair

Judy Ghazoul Hilow
Executive Director

RESIDENT FEATURE: JAYNE

Jayne, known by nearly every resident at Malachi House, Jayne is celebrated for her warmth, friendship, and her undeniable connection to others. Her story is not one of tragic beginnings, but of an unexpected transformation fueled by gratitude.

Before coming to Malachi House, Jayne's life had been chaotic, marked by frequent moves and a busy career in banking. Though she never kept a list of her many relocations, she fondly remembers the independence and love of her cats, new places, and meeting new people. However, as time passed, she began struggling with frequent anxiety attacks, which led to a fall that resulted in serious injuries. Despite her fears, her intuition proved accurate, and her worst nightmare came true: after the fall, she was told she needed hospice care.

At first, Jayne fought the transition to hospice. She spent her days isolated, hiding in her room and sinking into despair, feeling as though her independence and freedom were being taken from her. But the staff at Malachi House never gave up on her. Their consistent support, kindness, and unrelenting optimism slowly chipped away at her resistance.

A turning point came when Jayne attended a bingo game and made some new friends. As she started looking forward to each day, she realized that the staff wasn't taking her life away—they were preserving it. This realization, combined with the act of writing a heartfelt note of gratitude to her caregiver, marked a profound shift. It was the last time she cried alone in her room.

Jayne now credits gratitude as the key to her recovery. Her transformation was built on the support she received from the staff, who showed up with smiles and care, even when she didn't think she deserved it. Her gratitude is what saved her, and she believes it's what makes Malachi House so unique. Through the bonds she formed and the care she received, Jayne learned that she wasn't alone. Her journey is a testament to the power of community and the profound impact of gratitude.

Parts of this story were captured with heartfelt words by Aditya Shrawat, a gifted Malachi House volunteer, to whom we are deeply grateful for honoring Jayne's journey.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR: SHIRLEY HEMMINGER AND JULIE STENGER



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Shirley Hemminger
Malachi House Volunteer of the Year

Shirley Hemminger began volunteering at Malachi House seven years ago after retiring. She wanted to give back to her community and, after a visit and interview, found her calling. Shirley dedicates 6-7 hours a week, covering the front desk on Mondays, preparing breakfast on Fridays, and assisting with tasks like mailings and activities. She enjoys the sense of family at Malachi House and supports both residents and their families through her work.

Before retiring, Shirley had a successful career as a Registered Nurse and taught at University Hospitals and Kent State University. Originally from northwestern Ohio, she's lived in Cleveland for over 50 years. Along with Malachi House, Shirley volunteers with other organizations like the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Her warmth and dedication make her a cherished part of the Malachi House team, and we are proud to recognize her as a Volunteer of the Year.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Julie Stenger
Malachi House Volunteer of the Year

Julie Stenger began volunteering at Malachi House after retiring from Hospice of Western Reserve in 2015. She first encountered the organization in 2007 while making hospice visits and noticed a shortage of volunteers during holidays. Inspired to help, she began assisting with holiday meals and now volunteers regularly on the first and third Fridays of each month.

Julie admires Malachi House's mission and finds her volunteer work fulfilling. She and her husband, Ed, are active in their Lakewood church, where they help with community meals. Julie enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with her family. Julie also recently welcomed her great-grandson, Case Julian.

Julie's compassion and dedication make her an invaluable volunteer, and we are proud to honor her as one of our Volunteers of the Year.



WELCOME MICHAEL SIMON—CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Please join us in welcoming **Michael Simon**, our new Clinical Director, who joined Malachi House in September 2024. Michael brings extensive experience in healthcare, particularly hospice care, and has already made a significant impact. A Cleveland native, Michael grew up in the Old Brooklyn and Lorain/W. Blvd areas before moving to Vermilion, OH. He followed in his late father’s footsteps, earning a degree in Mortuary Science and later becoming a registered nurse.

With over 10 years in hospice care, Michael has held roles from Case Manager to Executive Director, helping establish hospice agencies across the U.S. Since joining Malachi House, he developed and launched an electronic resident application, streamlining admissions and keeping the waiting list at 5-6 residents. He’s also working on selecting vendors for electronic health record and Medication Dispense Cabinets to improve efficiency and care delivery.

Outside of work, Michael enjoys spending time with his two daughters, Viviana and Nalani, and is a diehard Cleveland Browns fan. He also loves relaxing at the beach in Vermilion whenever the weather allows. We are excited to have Michael on the team and look forward to his continued contributions to our mission.

JUDY GHAZOUL HILOW CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



The Cleveland State University Foundation is pleased to announce that Judy Ghazoul Hilow, Executive Director of Malachi House, has joined its Board of Directors.

Hilow received her undergraduate degree in accounting from Cleveland State University. She has 40 years of accounting, non-profit, and fundraising experience, having worked for Ernst & Whinney, the Cleveland Sight Center, and grade schools within the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, among others. For the past 10 years, Judy has served as the Executive Director for Malachi House, which provides end-of-life care for those in need at no cost to the terminally ill.

In addition to her degrees from Cleveland State, she holds an Executive MBA and a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Case Western Reserve University. Judy has also participated in the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management at Harvard University through the Harvard Business School Club of Northeast Ohio.

“I believe in the power of education, and “If not for C.S.U.” and the opportunities and impact it made

on me as a young student, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” she said.

“The landscape for higher education is changing throughout the country, with no exception to Cleveland State University. I am honored to be called upon to use my time and talents to give back to the current and future students alongside the talented Foundation Board and amazing leadership team and staff.”



The Cleveland State University Foundation exists to raise, receive, and manage private gifts for the advancement and benefit of Cleveland State University. Through its stewardship of donors’ gifts, it ensures the stability of university programs and provides scholarships for students.



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MAKE A GIFT ONLINE NOW!

QUESTIONS? Email us at vwilliams@malachihouse.org



MISSION STATEMENT

Created out of a Christian sense of ministry, Malachi House is dedicated to providing compassionate end-of-life care at no cost to terminally ill individuals who need an available caregiver and have limited financial resources. Our trained staff and volunteers offer spiritual, emotional, and physical support under the medical direction of a hospice team, ensuring comfort and dignity in the final stages of life.

CO-FOUNDERS

Fr. Paul Hritz (1923-2013)
 Catherine "Kaki" O'Neill (1933-2023)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Judy Ghazoul Hilow

Malachi House is a
 501(c)(3) Corporation

WISH LIST

NEEDED ITEMS

- Laundry detergent (liquid & HE only)
- Tall kitchen trash bags (13 gallon)
- Toilet paper
- Bleach (Clorox & Clorox clean up)
- Windex
- Jell-O snack cups (plain; no fruit)
- Pudding snack cups
- Tuna, chicken (canned, in water)
- Canned spinach and greens
- Salad dressing (bottled, italian & ranch)
- Ketchup, Hellmann's mayonnaise, barbecue sauce
- Gravy (canned, jars and dry mixes)
- Boxed potatoes, au gratin, scalloped & instant mashed.
- Antibacterial/bleach wipes

- Bath wipes
- Dishwasher detergent (liquid; no pods)
- Dishwasher rinse aid
- Coffee - ground, regular, decaf (no flavors)
- Single-serve liquid creamers
- Single-serve sugar packets
- First-class postage stamps
- Cake, brownie, & pancake mix
- Cake frosting
- Paper placemats (10" x 14" for meal trays; available at GFS)
- Boxes of tissues (Kleenex/ other)
- Paper towels
- Foil
- Ziploc bags

OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Multi-purpose copier paper (8½" x 11" white, 20-lb., not hole-punched)

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

- Sugar (granulated plus brown)
- Hot cereal – oatmeal

- Egg noodles
- Spaghetti sauce
- Kool Aid
- Spices (pepper, onion powder, garlic powder & adobo)

MONETARY DONATIONS

- Checks made payable to Malachi House
- Credit card donations online at www.malachihouse.org

** GIFT CARDS **

- Giant Eagle, Walmart, Amazon,
- Save-a-lot, Home Depot, Hobby Lobby/Michaels

POP/WATER/JUICE

- Coke, Pepsi, Ginger ale, and Sprite (only). No diet
- Orange (no pulp), apple & grape
- Ensure or Boost, chocolate & vanilla