



OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS | OPEN ARMS



*“We needed the house in a way we didn’t even realize. You see us at our worst — stressed, scared and depleted. You empower us to carry on.”*

ANONYMOUS GUEST  
HOSPITALITY HOUSE GUEST JOURNAL ENTRY

## Our story began on September 10, 1997

At nine-years-old, my daughter Marybeth fell on the floor—unconscious—with an unexpected seizure. This would be the first of hundreds of episodes that would change our family forever. We were determined to get answers. Our new normal included traveling the country seeking advice from medical experts.

On our last trip to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN we were told to plan for two weeks of testing and treatment. Those two weeks turned into four months of consultations, tests, treatments, and life-threatening hospitalizations. Marybeth received world-class medical treatment, but the comfort and encouragement we experienced at a hospitality house gave us something more—hope.

Surrounded by other patients and caregivers, we felt unexplainable peace because they understood the rollercoaster of emotions we were experiencing. Since they lived it, they “got it.” Sharing a home with others who oscillated daily between hope and despair created a camaraderie we all needed.

Spending time at the hospitality house confirmed Marybeth was more than her illness. Our souls needed the treatment that only a house filled with warm conversation and laughter could supply. Our bodies craved the comforts of home: soft beds and hearty meals, refreshing showers and clean laundry.

Marybeth learned firsthand the impact of a kind word, loving hug or much-needed laugh. Sharing a meal, or huddling on living room sofas, she met guests facing uncertainty with the courage to face the days ahead.

In 2013, Marybeth passed away at the age of 24. Yet, her legacy is the launchpad for Marybeth’s Cottage in Jacksonville, Florida.

Hospitality houses are the un-prescribed medication that hospitals, patients, and their families desperately need.



Marybeth and Barb, December 2011

We know that the Cottage’s support, coupled with the hospitals’ care, will achieve the best outcome.

We are excited to launch a hospitality house for the Jacksonville community. We invite you to join us as we provide a home-away-from-home for those seeking medical treatment.

Help us line the pages of our guestbook with names because caring people—caring *for* people, makes a difference. Marybeth would tell you the same.

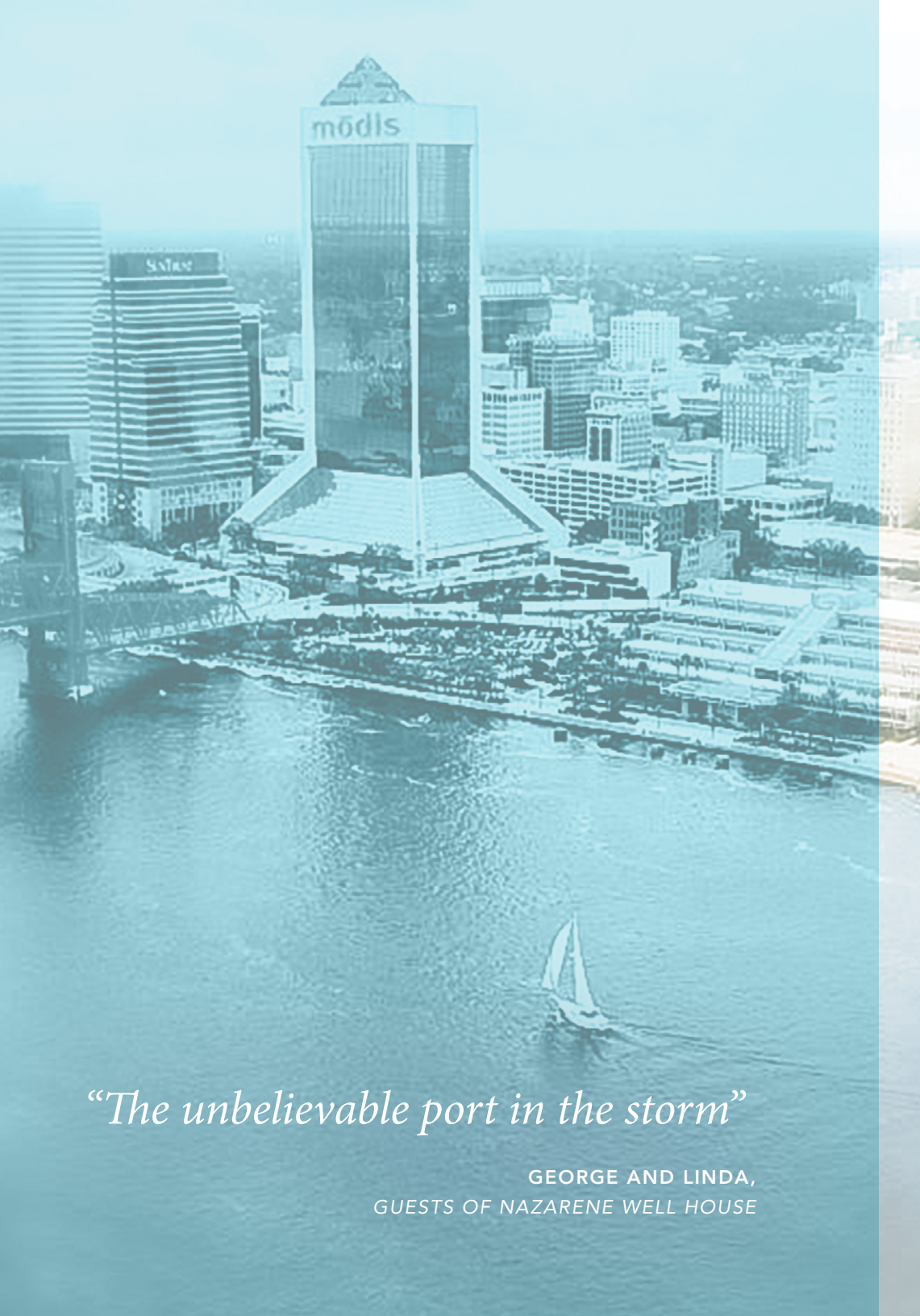
*Barb Waite*

Barb Waite

The medical needs of Jacksonville patients fluctuate, but one need stays the same—*hospitality*. Research and personal testimonies prove that hospitality houses improve patient’s treatment and caregiver’s physical, emotional, and mental well-being.







## *Defining the Need*

**Jacksonville is home to:**

- » *A level one trauma center*
- » *Top-ranked regional medical centers*
- » *A Proton Therapy Center*
- » *Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center*

In 2017, Jacksonville had 3,168 hospital beds filled with 168,876 patients who paid an average of \$38,340 for an average stay of 4 1/2 days. In addition to their hospital expenses, these families pay at least \$100 daily for lodging, meals, and parking. Many of these people traveled more than 100 miles from home, creating a tremendous need for a place of physical, financial, spiritual, mental, and emotional support. Patients and their caregivers need a supportive home-away-from-home to ensure the best possible medical outcome.

*“The unbelievable port in the storm”*

GEORGE AND LINDA,  
GUESTS OF NAZARENE WELL HOUSE







## OPEN HEARTS

# Treating the Whole Patient

You see them in every hospital. They are the ones camping out in the waiting rooms, wandering the corridors, or taking a break in the cafeteria. With every passing day, another Caring Person puts their own health at risk. If they cannot care for their patient, the patient's care is compromised.

During medical treatment, countless patients, loved ones and caregivers are alone and exhausted, in need of rest and a refuge to recharge. From the moment a guest arrives, Marybeth's Cottage will offer a listening ear, a kind word, or a warm hug.

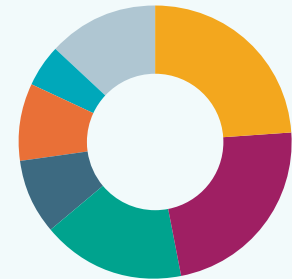
The World Health Organization recognizes that optimal recovery necessitates clean, harmonious environments with physical, psychological, social, and aesthetic factors.

### Studies report that familial support:

- + *Reduces* the risk of physical disease and mental illness
- + *Improves* patients' results and satisfaction
- + *Lowers* care costs
- + *Lessens* patients' likelihood of hospital readmission

## IMPACT ON CAREGIVERS

### WHERE DO CAREGIVERS SLEEP?

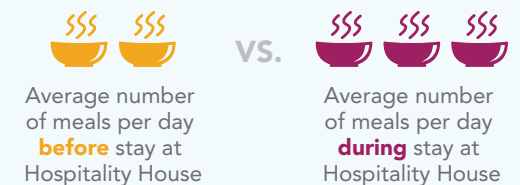


- 24%** Hospital Waiting Room
- 23%** Patient's Hospital Room Chair
- 17%** Hotel/Motel
- 9%** Patient's Hospital Room Bed
- 9%** Vehicle
- 5%** Commuted
- 13%** Other

### HOW MUCH SLEEP PER DAY?

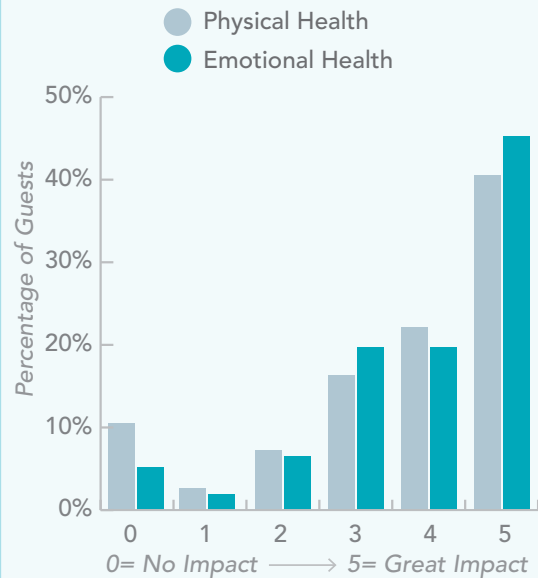


### HOW MANY MEALS PER DAY?

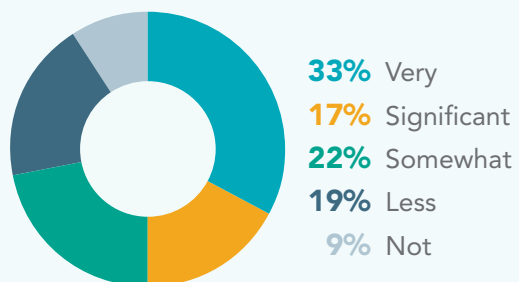


## EFFECTS OF STAYING AT A HOSPITALITY HOUSE

### HOW DID IT IMPACT THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE CAREGIVER?



### HOW DID IT IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE PATIENT?




Research indicates that well-rested and supportive Caring People leads to:

- + *Shorter* patient stays
- + *Better* pain management
- + *Quicker* recovery

Hospitality House research also proves that when the emotional, spiritual, and mental health of a person is cared for the body's ability to heal is greatly enhanced. This is the mission of Marybeth's Cottage.

Generosity is the heartbeat of the Jacksonville community. Jacksonville is ideally positioned to welcome patients and Caring People with open hearts.



*“We came as strangers,  
became a family joined in  
the labor. Loved, laughed,  
cried & departed better  
than we came.”*

PAT  
GUEST OF NAZARENE WELL HOUSE



## OPEN DOORS

# The Cottage

In a moment, a doctor's diagnosis can shatter a life and a family. Suddenly, hundreds of decisions need to be made, among them where to stay for the days, weeks, or months ahead. For patients receiving major medical treatment, Marybeth's Cottage will have an open door policy.

A patient's Caring Person needs to recharge so they can care for their loved one. Statistically speaking, hospital couches or impersonal hotel rooms drain a Caring Person mentally, physically, and emotionally. Marybeth's Cottage will be a welcome alternative.

Currently, out-of-town caregivers can expect to pay a **minimum of \$100 a day for lodging, meals and parking**—if they can find an inexpensive hotel and are willing to survive on a diet of fast food.

Jacksonville hospitals treat countless out-of-town adult patients daily, yet they do not have enough patient and Caring Person hospitality housing. Marybeth's Cottage will offer empathetic, patient-focused care for adults. The Cottage will be a hospitality house for all diagnoses where the needs of the patients and their Caring Person are paramount.

Though you might not greet the Cottage's guests personally, your support will enable us to open doors and say, *"Come on in! Welcome home!"*

### THE COTTAGE WILL ALLOW GUESTS



To focus on health, not on housing



Personal lodging with home-cooked meals



Affordable housing at approximately \$35 a night



A refuge in close proximity to Jacksonville hospitals



Laundry facilities



Encouragement, peace, and rest



## *Our Vision*

Creating a better tomorrow than today for patients and caregivers.

## BUILDING AMENITIES



### FIRST FLOOR RENDERING

- |                       |                       |            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| ① Typical Bedroom     | ⑤ Laundry             | ⑨ Office   |
| ② Breakfast/Kitchen   | ⑥ Manager's Apartment | ⑩ Lounge   |
| ③ Outside Brunch Area | ⑦ Meeting Room        | ⑪ Elevator |
| ④ Pantry              | ⑧ Foyer               |            |

- + 18+ guest rooms with private bathrooms
- + 17,000+ square-foot building
- + Inviting common areas
- + Large kitchen and dining area for shared meals
- + Laundry facilities
- + Close proximity to treatment center
- + Secure property
- + Conference room
- + Live-in director/manager
- + ADA compliant elevator and rooms
- + Relaxing outdoor spaces
- + Convenient parking
- + Occupancy for 56+ guests



photo by Heather Schwartz on Unsplash

## Capital Campaign

Opening the Cottage to weary patients and caregivers will require millions in philanthropy. After conducting a feasibility study, Marybeth's Cottage Board of Trustees will launch a capital campaign, raising monies to:

- + **Build** and furnish a 17,000+ sq. ft. house.
- + **Provide** affordable housing for more than 10,000 nights of rest each year.
- + **Create** a contingency fund.
- + **Establish** an endowment fund to maintain Marybeth's Cottage into the future.

*You can be part of our vision to create a better tomorrow than today for patients and caregivers.*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

2017

OPEN

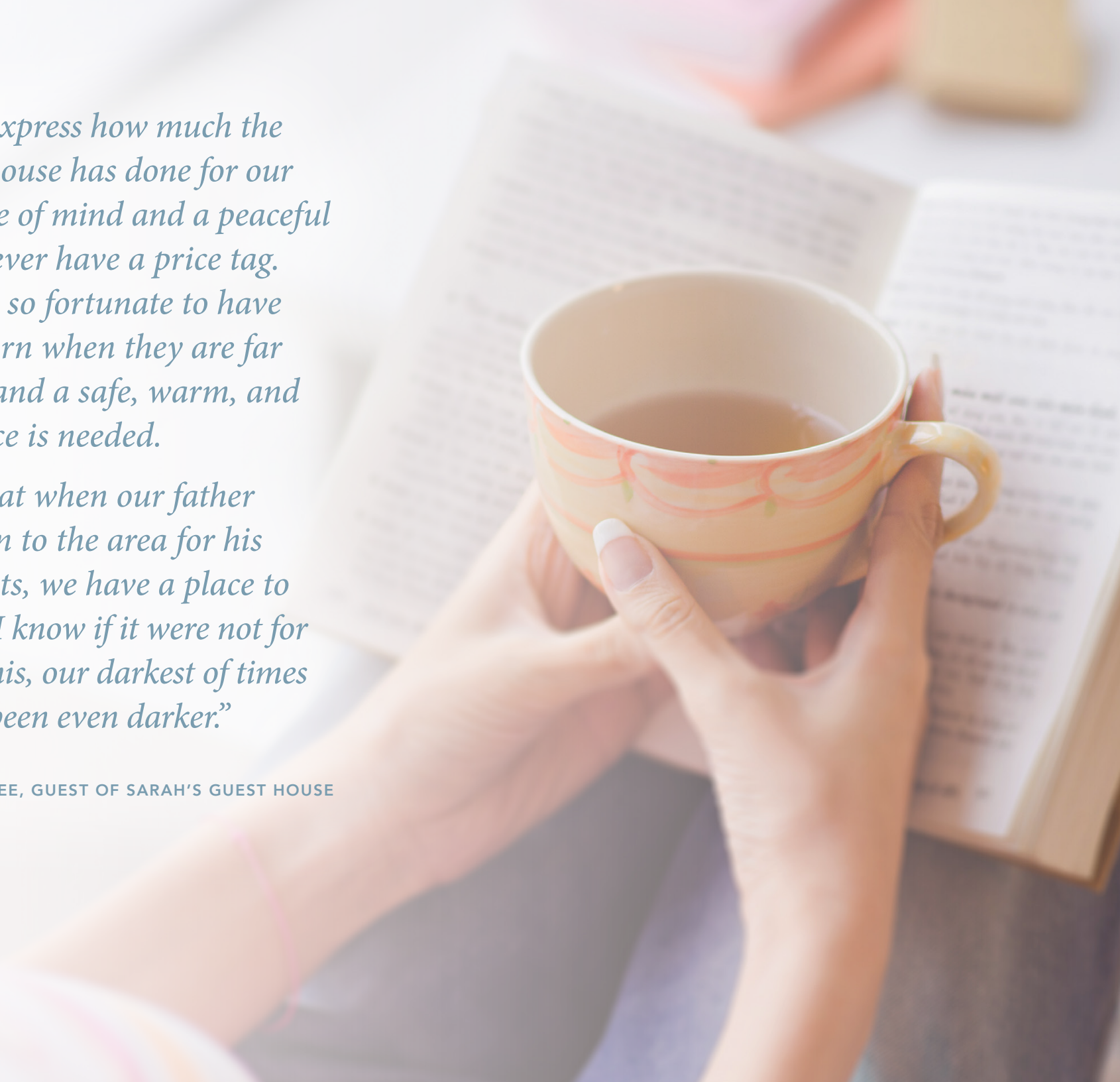




*“We cannot express how much the hospitality house has done for our family. Peace of mind and a peaceful heart can never have a price tag. Families are so fortunate to have a place to turn when they are far from home and a safe, warm, and friendly place is needed.*

*We know that when our father has to return to the area for his appointments, we have a place to call ‘home’. I know if it were not for places like this, our darkest of times could have been even darker.”*

RENEE, GUEST OF SARAH'S GUEST HOUSE





## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please help us open Marybeth's Cottage, a hospitality house for Jacksonville patients and their families. Join us as we create a home-away-from-home for guests to gain strength and resilience.

Partner with us today and together we will create a better tomorrow for patients and caregivers.

It is because of generous donations from organizations and Caring People like you that we will make a significant impact on other people's lives and health.

### LEARN MORE

Visit [MarybethsCottage.org](https://MarybethsCottage.org)

### DONATE

To donate, partner or support Marybeth's Cottage, please contact:

#### **Barb Waite**

*Founder, Executive Director*

904-352-6108

[barb@marybethscottage.org](mailto:barb@marybethscottage.org)

*Thank you for your support*

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Marybeth's Cottage is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## OPEN ARMS

# Offering Support

**Think back** on the moments when you felt most loved, supported and comforted. Maybe you noticed the feeling on a trip home. During that visit, surrounded by your loved ones, you felt welcomed and relaxed. You joyfully shared stories until you laughed so hard that you couldn't breathe.

When they enter the doors of Marybeth's Cottage, our guests will experience that same comfort, support, goodness, warmth, laughter, and hope.

Patients receive excellent medical care from the hospital, but what about their other needs? This is where the Cottage will make a difference. Our arms are open to offer them support. We will ensure that patients and Caring People are not alone.

As they recognize the positive impact on patients, hospitals around the country are clamoring to build hospitality houses. Together we will lead the charge in Jacksonville.

Join us as we welcome weary patients and their Caring People to their home-away-from-home. Together we can make a difference. All we need to do is open our arms.

