



WINTER 2019

ABBOTT HOUSE

Matters

A Toast To You!

As we begin 2019, our hearts are filled with gratitude for your love and support.

Thanks to YOU, children and adults with complex needs are safe, cared for and have a chance to build a promising future.

Because of YOU and all that you do, they feel a great sense of love and community; some for the very first time.

We want to tell you that YOU are the real gift. Thank you for changing lives.

We are so grateful for you, truly – and proud of the values that we share.

Because of YOU, we get through really tough days when headline after headline showcase hateful policies or stories against the individuals we support.

Without YOU, we could not have held our chin up to say: Everyone deserves to be safe and have a chance to build a better life.

Here's to YOU! Warm wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

James L. Kaufman
President & CEO

Greg T. Mooney
Chairman of the Board





Fighting For Her Life

Ariela knew she was coming to the United States to escape the danger she faced in her country. She was hoping to have a better life and to be reunited with her mom. She didn't know that when she arrived, she would be fighting for her life.

Ariela is fifteen years old and from Honduras. Some time ago she fell and hurt her arm. She went to the hospital in Honduras and they told her that her arm was just bruised. When Ariela continued to have a lot of pain, she went back to the hospital, and this time they took an x-ray, but it didn't show any fractures.

When Ariela arrived in Arizona she was still in a lot of pain, so the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) sent her to the hospital to figure out what was going on with her arm. At the hospital, they discovered stage 4 bone cancer.

There is an 80% survival rate with this type of cancer if found early. However, since Ariela's cancer already had spread, the Arizona hospital was unsure of what they could do to help her.

That's when the ORR Medical Director called Dr. Luis Rodriguez, Senior Vice-President and Medical Director at Abbott House.

Abbott House is one of the only agencies that welcomes children with unique medical or emotional needs. None of the other agencies were willing to help Ariela. Dr. Rodriguez immediately arranged for her treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Rodriguez is working with MSKCC on a treatment protocol to get Ariela into remission. It continues to be a tough road for this beautiful young girl, who already has experienced a

difficult journey in life. Our staff makes sure she gets the support she needs, especially on the bad days when she feels really sick and scared.

Thanks to you, Ariela had the best Christmas ever here at Abbott House. Through your kind generosity, she had some very happy moments; moments when she was able to forget her illness and just enjoy being a kid at Christmastime.

You gave her hope that she can get through this. You reminded her that she is not alone.

Ariela will be with us for a while as she continues chemotherapy and then radiation therapies. We know it will not be easy for her, but we will do everything we can to give her as many happy moments as possible – and make her smile.

With your support we can offer Ariela art therapy, yoga and meditation, and other unique opportunities to have fun when she feels up to it.

Also with your support, we can help Ariela's family get ready to care for her when she is able to be reunited with them. They will need to move to New York in order for Ariela's treatment to continue. Please contact development@abbotthouse.net if you know of a low-income house or apartment that can accommodate 2 adults and 5 children that is close to public transportation.

But Ariela is not the only one struggling. There are other children just like her facing serious challenges. **And we can't provide for all of their unique needs without you!**

HELP US GO GREEN!

In addition to saving people, we want to save trees too! (And a little cash)

Sign up to get our newsletters online at www.abbotthouse.net.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE DONATIONS TO THE ABBOTT HOUSE ANNUAL GIFT DRIVE!



Look What You Make Possible...

Inspiration! Joy! Hope!

“This is where fun stuff happens.” These words are inscribed on a decorative plate that hangs in our newly transformed art room at Abbott House.

Donors and volunteers came together to celebrate the amazing new art space they created for the children and adults in our care. And believe us when we say, it took a village to make this happen!

Bill Gargano got the tables donated and St. Barnabas Church awarded us a generous grant to purchase chairs and art supplies. Aggie Shah, Artist and Owner of A-Maze in Pottery, teamed up with friend Jill L. Hayes, Attorney at Law, and Jill’s two daughters, Kendall and Meghan Hayes, to pick out paint colors and dream up the decor for the room. Volunteer New York recruited a team of Regeneration volunteers to spend their “Day for Doing Good” painting the space from floor to ceiling, including a ceiling tile mural of puffy white clouds on a blue sky — a fun project led by Aggie.

And all that would have been nice enough, but Jill, Meghan and Kendall found time in their busy schedules to shop for colorful lanterns and install wall murals and frames to display the artwork created by the kids in our TRC program. Last but not least, the Wendle family, who run our Tuesday Art Program along with our dedicated art program volunteers, led the kids in creating nature-inspired art which is hanging from the ceiling and gives the room a warm and whimsical feeling when you walk through the door.

Now the kids have a room where they can be even more inspired, joyful and creative! Our Volunteers and Benefactors play a vital role in making great things happen at Abbott House every day. The transformation of this art room is one way they continue to show those we care for that they are special!



Holiday Talent Show!

Our adults with disabilities entertained family and friends with their many talents.



The Beat of a Heart Our Prayers Were Answered

People always ask how they can help at Abbott House. We are blessed with many volunteers and supporters. But sometimes there is a big ticket item that we really need such as EKG machines and other medical equipment. Abbott House provides medical care to all the children in our group homes as well as the immigrant children in our Transitional Resources for Children program.

Some have not had much medical care at all. And there is a steep price tag on all the equipment we need to catch health issues before it's too late.

Drs. Gordon and Harewood answered our prayers.

Dr. Gordon had once cared for children from Abbott House who needed specialty care

from Montefiore. She remembered their traumas, and as a member of the leadership of Messages of Hope International Ministries (MOHIM) Inc., she knew she could help.

That is when she reached out to Dr. Andrew Harewood, the leader of Messages of Hope International Ministries (MOHIM) Inc. MOHIM is a charitable organization and a community with many faces and one faith. Their mission is focused on spiritual growth, social and humanitarian outreach, community support, education, training & coaching and fellowship. True community demonstrates the beauty that humans can attain. The best of the individual, when shared with and poured into the community, builds others up and adds to a sense of belonging, safety and purpose that we as people all need in our lives.

MOHIM presented Abbott House with a \$10,000 check at their **Christmas In Washington Concert** so we could purchase a new EKG machine. Thanks to their generosity, we can continue to meet the specialized needs of those in our care without delay.



The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation is Helping Abbott House Lead the Way

Families have changed throughout the years. There are more situations that require two parents to be working and a lot of single-parent families. It seems like everyone is busier than ever. Here at Abbott House, we recognize that those who step up to become foster parents are making a commitment to open their hearts and their homes, and we want to set them up for success in a way that meets their needs and schedules.



The purpose of the PRIDE Model of Practice is to develop and support foster and adoptive families as team members in child protection and trauma informed care of children. The PRIDE Model of Practice strengthens the quality of family foster care and adoption services by providing a standardized, consistent, structured framework for the competency-based recruitment, preparation, assessment, and selection

A very generous grant from the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation is helping Abbott House change our model of recruiting, training, and supporting foster parents to a more innovative one called the PRIDE Model of Practice, and it will serve as a pilot for the rest of the State.

of foster and adoptive parents, and for foster parent in-service training and ongoing professional development.

This is just one exciting example of how organizations and individuals can help make a major impact on lives.



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