



**MATTHEW  
HOUSE**

# Loving Care

*"Peace of mind has a home address."*  
315-252-2052

info@matthewhouse.org

43 Metcalf Drive, Auburn, NY 13021  
www.matthewhouse.org

## Finding a Place of Loving Care and Dignity



**Norma Riley**

admired. She was a ground breaker in her field and was held in high regard by her peers. She was a woman of positivity who never looked back, always forward, no matter what impediment or challenge was in her path. I was honored to be her daughter and aspire to live up to her gentle but irrefutable strength.

When I heard that Mom was taken to the hospital for treatment of a minor infection, I thought she would be out once the antibiotics kicked in; a few days at most. Though she was 96, I had been with her for most of the prior week and she appeared to me to be doing fine. Nonetheless, my husband and I flew from Cincinnati to Central NY to see her. The woman we found just one day after admittance to the hospital was nearly unrecognizable. She was extremely weak, could not sit up or walk, was refusing food and slept most of the time. She was certainly not the woman we had always known. We thought she would bounce back but, though the infection cleared up in 3 days, she did not improve.

Mom was always resilient and strong, both mentally and physically. She played league golf until she was 92. She made the decision to leave her home of 61 years and move into assisted living. Though experiencing some dementia, her decision making, self-determination, and positivity were clearly intact. Mom was never ill. She was not being treated for any medical issue and took no medication. Now she was fragile; a shell of herself.

We struggled for 28 days to advocate for her care. With no diagnosis Mom could not stay at the hospital. With her debilitated state,

Norma Riley was a woman of grace, ethics, and integrity. She was a woman of faith, warmth and charity. She was a self-disciplined, clear thinking and self-determining woman. Norma Riley was a leader in every way. She excelled as an educator and coach for 44 years, as well as being role model to her students and colleagues. As a community leader she was respected and

moving to Cincinnati with me was impossible. We had no family in the area so a nursing home with no one watch over her care and comfort did not seem like an acceptable option. I knew very little about nursing homes and nothing of hospice care. My learning curve was very steep but my primary focus was finding a place that maintained Mom's dignity and provided the care she needed.

The hospital gave me the very short list of area hospice facilities. I took a chance and called each one. I realize now that my approach was unconventional but I was willing to try everything to I could to find the best place for Mom. I realize now how lucky I was when I called Matthew House and got the opportunity to speak with the Executive Director, Angela Ryan. After a long and forthright conversation she agreed to meet Mom the next day. What a blessing that meeting was!

One day later Mom moved into Matthew House. She was instantly peaceful. Her room lovely and calming. Despite the distance, my husband and I were able to visit several days and called on days we weren't there. It became clear that the volunteers and staff make Matthew House special. Their compassion and respect for Mom's dignity was essential for her well-being, and for ours. The anxiety I felt about how to best advocate for Mom evaporated. A culture of loving care pervades the house. Mom was truly in a place with gifted people gladly attending to her needs.

Matthew House was her last home. Nineteen days after arriving, and in the company of people who made sure she was never isolated or alone, Mom was able to gently and gracefully move on from this world. For that gift, we are forever grateful to everyone who makes Matthew House a place of love and caring.

*Christine Riley Drance (daughter of resident Norma Riley)*



**Norma Riley & her daughter Chris**

## Board of Directors

**Pat Carbonaro**  
*President*

**Bev Centers**  
*Vice President*

**Tim Carr**  
*Treasurer*

**Carin Kopp**  
*Secretary*

**Beth Burgmaster,**  
**Terri Culver, Lloyd Hoskins,**  
**Mark Locastro, Diane Lozowsky**  
**Mark Pineau, Judy Santillo**

## Staff

**Angela Ryan, LMSW**  
*Executive Director*

**Lisa Camardo**  
*Bookkeeper*

**Shelly MacBain**  
*Manager of Resident Services*

**Ann Padula**  
*Development Assistant*

For more information,  
comments or address  
changes, contact:

Matthew House  
43 Metcalf Drive  
Auburn, NY 13021  
(315) 252-2052

[info@matthewhouse.org](mailto:info@matthewhouse.org)

### Newsletter Contributors:

Tim Carr, Sue Coe,  
Terri Culver, Christine Drake,  
Shelly MacBain, Ann Padula,  
Judy Santillo, Angela Ryan

**Design & Printing:** Jacobs Press

## From the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Matthew House,

We all experience life through utilizing our five innate senses- hearing, sight, smell, touch and taste. Frequently, individuals are so preoccupied by the fast-paced world around them that they let these vital sensations of life slip away. Often the end-of-life journey process highlights the importance of our five senses once again and it seems these can become heightened or change throughout the journey. Matthew House has always striven to provide a home space that is comforting to all the senses for those entering our doors. The goal has always been to create a peaceful, tranquil and

welcoming environment to our guests. Engaging our senses at any point can offer immediate ways to cheer up, calm down, tune into our body and engage with life around us. The smell of brownies baking, soft relaxing music playing, wildlife at feeders outside guest room windows, hands to hold and ears to listen are many of the things offered by Matthew House.

The renovations completed at the home over the past year, both interior and exterior, have enabled us to not only create a space more conducive to care needs but tailored to the sense of sight, which for most of us, we rely on the most. Aesthetically the home is more pleasing to the eye with worn down items replaced, soothing color schemes chosen, additional space gained, windows added to allow for light and scenery and work has begun to further enhance the beauty of the backyard memorial garden space that the guest rooms overlook.

Thank you to all the donors and foundations, who make providing this home with some tender loving care possible. Sustaining a non-profit, which does not charge a fee for its services and that cannot obtain insurance reimbursement is no small feat. The community that surrounds this home continues to unite together in this mission of caring and supporting each other, from its initial vision to celebrating major milestones and through our transformations.

Please stay connected with us through our Facebook page and website.

Thank You All!

Angela Ryan, LMSW  
Executive Director

 **Donate Now with PayPal**



Before:

# New Look



# Same Heart

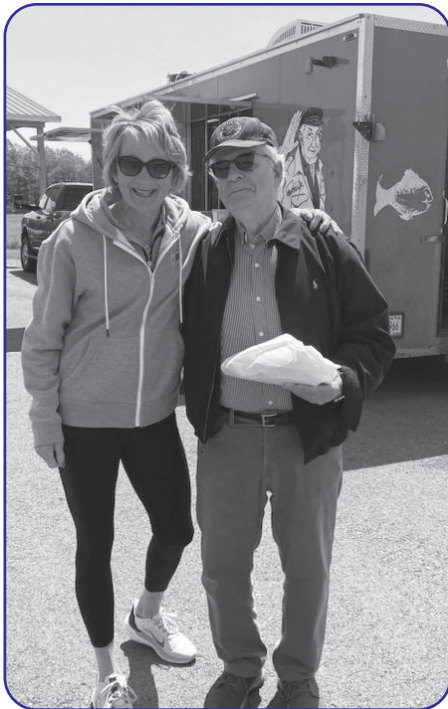
After:



We would like to give a special thank you to **Auburn Siding Window & Door** for going above and beyond expectations with this exterior renovation!



## A Community of Giving



Thank you to *CIAO, DOUG's Fish Fry To Go, Aurelius Fire Department, Auburn Enlarged City School District, Nino's Pizzeria II* and to all those who helped or participated in our recent fundraising events. They were very successful and enjoyed by many!



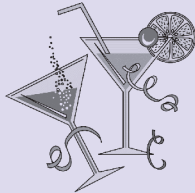


# MATTHEW HOUSE

43 Metcalf Drive  
Auburn, NY 13021

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Auburn, NY 13021  
PERMIT NO. 170

## Our Annual Matthew House Summer Cocktail Party August 4, 2023



Please join us for our annual Matthew House Summer Cocktail Party on Friday, August 4th, from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the beautiful home of Patrick and Ali Carbonaro overlooking scenic Owasco Lake. Enjoy refreshing cocktails, delicious appetizers and carving stations catered by Springside Inn. The evening will be a time to enjoy friends and neighbors for conversation and exciting bidding at the silent auction, all while raising funds to support this very special home. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$100.00 per person and reservations are requested by July 22nd.

Please contact Marybeth Galka (315-253-3718) for more information.

## Matthew House Volunteers and Staff 2022-2023

Christine Alexander	Tim Carr	Joanne Field	Carol Keegan	Bob Nethercott	Sally Reutlinger
Amy Allyn	Charlie Cator	Marybeth Galka	Carin Kopp	Janet Newman	Natasha Roof
Marie Bailey	Coilynn Cator	LuAnn Giannone	Mark LoCastro	Gail Nolan	Angela Ryan
Carol Barbagallo	Bev Centers	Denise Guiffrida	Diane Lozowsky	Ann Padula	Judy Santillo
Deb Beyor	Ryan Coe	Joe Goodsell	Shelly MacBain	Bob Padula	Meg Schelegel
Mary Ellen Buhl	Sue Coe	Beth Gordon	Gerry Martin	Ann Payne	Yvonne Snow
Beth Burgmaster	Terri Culver	Patricia Gucciardi	Cassidy McGinn	Cathy Pinckney	Nancy Sroka
Cathy Burns	Charlie Cunningham	Tony Gucciardi	Debby McCormick	Georgina Pinckney	Diane Steckel
Lisa Camardo	Carolyn Dann	Fran Hanley	Eileen McHale	Ali Pineau	Cole Stefan
Pat Carbonaro	Marilyn Donovan	Wendy Heine	Audrey McNally	Anderson Pineau	Marge Tracy
Nolan Carner	Kris Ferrara	Lloyd Hoskins	Carol McNeill	Jack Pineau	Mike VanNostrand
Paul Carner	Pauline Ferro	Betty Hurley	Anne Mlod	Mark Pineau	Grace Wilson
Rhonda Carner	Marnie Fessenden	Jasmine Jackson	Jana Mlodzianowski	Nancy Prosser	