

St. Agnes' House

Report to Convention 2010

St. Agnes' House has been an ecumenical ministry of hospitality of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington since 1975.

The original mission of the House was "to provide a warm, homey atmosphere in which (cancer) patients can feel safe and cared for, as little like an institution as possible." Our goal remains much the same in 2010. Our guests have expanded beyond cancer patients to include patients with other serious health conditions. In addition, we also accommodate family members who have a relative in one of the Lexington hospitals. We have served patients receiving treatment at UK Chandler Medical Center, Markey Cancer Center, St. Joseph Hospital, Central Baptist Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Select Specialty Hospital and Cardinal Hill Hospital.

Part of our stated mission is to serve those travelling to Lexington from Eastern Kentucky and other Appalachian counties for medical treatment. In 2010 we served patients and families from 42 Appalachian counties as well as provide lodging for those travelling from North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

At maximum occupancy our bed space is able to accommodate 19 guests at a time. One measure of our success and the need for our continued ministry in Lexington is our occupancy rate. We are currently averaging 17.1 guests in the House per week with an average stay of 4.38 days.

In May Reynold Alcius began as the new Resident Manager and in August Susan McDonald became the new Executive Director.

Volunteers are an integral part of our sustained operation. We have an on-going relationship with the UK Fusion Project, an opportunity for students to participate in service projects throughout the city each fall and spring. Seventeen members of the UK Resident Life Staff spent a day volunteering at St. Agnes' House and will coordinate times for students they work with to serve. We are excited about our relationship with the UK Center for Community Outreach and spring semester have enjoyed twelve student volunteers giving ten hours of service at St. Agnes' House. Each semester up to twenty new students will have the opportunity to participate in ten hours of service with us. Student volunteers have served in the areas of house and guest needs, transportation for guests, grant research and securing in-kind donations for the needs of our ministry.

We continue our affiliation with God's Pantry, which allows us to refer guests who are in need of groceries. We have a good working relationship with the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge and Ronald McDonald House. Area businesses such as Great Harvest Bread Company and Dairy Queen have been generous in making donations of items for our guests to enjoy. Morning Prayer happens each morning, Monday –Friday, at 8:00am in the Chapel and all are welcome.

The Sister Esther Memorial Fund was established in 2009 to honor and celebrate the life and ministry of Sister Esther who did so much to establish and support St. Agnes' House. In 2009 just over \$10,000 was given to the fund and support the continued operation and daily needs of St. Agnes' House. It is our hope that this fund continues to grow and be a way for groups and

individuals to give to the ministry of St. Agnes' House, celebrating the life of Sister Esther and her model of joyfulness in generosity and service.

We are so grateful for the continued supported and gift of time, talent and treasure by parishes in our diocese. Consistent financial donations, weekly volunteers, parish ECW and DOK groups, and youth and adult service projects from the parishes of the Dioceses of Lexington allow us to continue providing hospitality, lodging and pastoral support to those in need. It continues to be a privilege and a blessing to be in this ministry together as the Diocese of Lexington.

As the new Director of St. Agnes' House I appreciate both the generosity and hospitality that has been shown to me as I move more deeply into the life and ministry of St. Agnes' House. I value both the rich history the last thirty-five years bring to the St. Agnes' House story and look forward to how we continue to live out the Gospel together in the chapters to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McDonald
Executive Director