



Frequently Asked Questions – Aspirus Family House

What is a Family House?

The Aspirus Family House will be a safe, affordable, temporary home away from home for patients traveling to Wausau to receive critical medical care. It will also accommodate family members dealing with serious illness or medical crisis of their loved ones. The Family House will be different than a hotel in that guests will be referred by physicians, social workers, referral coordinators, and other team members at Aspirus based on need criteria (financial, distance traveled, degree of illness, and duration of treatment, etc.). The Family House will be served by dedicated staff, volunteers and community groups and will provide support for patients and families.

Why is a Family House needed?

Thousands of patients and families travel more than 50 miles to receive inpatient care at Aspirus Wausau Hospital and for outpatient medical care. Many of these patients and families can afford housing and will stay at local partner hotels that offer reduced rates for Aspirus guests. However, some patients and families cannot afford housing even at reduced rates, so they forgo care; or they sleep in their cars, in waiting rooms, or on hospital room cots. These patients and families need our help with housing.

Who will stay in the Family House?

The Family House is intended for patients traveling for long-term outpatient care such as cancer care, where treatment may be daily for six weeks, as well as families whose loved ones are hospitalized, and patients traveling for early or late-day appointments. Medical care will not be provided in the Family House. Therefore, patients will need to be able to care for themselves or have a caregiver with them.

Where will the Family House be located, and how big will it be?

This project includes the purchase of a one-story medical building on the corner of 28th Avenue and Westhill Drive, adjacent to Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Renovation will transform the building into a 10-bedroom/bath family home with shared living spaces.

How was the site of the Family House selected?

After reviewing multiple sites on and near the Aspirus campus in Wausau, the proposed site was the best option and the most cost-effective. Best practices of successful health care family houses share the following characteristics:

- A home-like, comfortable atmosphere.
- Close proximity to the medical facility ... 69% of all healthcare hospitality houses nationally are within one half mile of the medical facility while 36% are on the campus.
- Spacious enough to accommodate those needing a place to stay (based on the needs assessment).
- The ability to provide space for eligible visitors on a donation basis, at a low cost, or at no cost – based on financial need. No one should be turned away because of inability to pay.

When will the project start, and when will the Family House be open?

Construction of the Family House is scheduled to begin in July of 2019. The Family House is projected to begin serving guests in January of 2020.



What will it cost for someone to stay at the Family House?

A donation of \$35 per night per room will be suggested for guests staying in the Family House. No guests will be turned away based on inability to make a donation.

How can you help support the Family House?

Ongoing charitable gifts will help support the needs of patients and families to reduce the financial burdens of traveling for specialty medical care, allowing them to focus on health and healing while they stay at the Family House.

What are the options for making gifts?

Options for gifts include gifts of cash, appreciated stocks, IRA transfers, estate gifts, and other assets. In-kind gifts (such as toiletries, supplies, food items, etc.) will also be accepted once the Family House opens in January of 2020.

How will your charitable donations be recognized?

Donors will be recognized through the Aspirus Health Foundation annual report.

Who can I contact if I have questions or if I want to help?

Please contact the Aspirus Health Foundation or the Family House Task Force Co-Chairs with questions or for more information at 715-847-2470 or ahf@aspirus.org:

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