



Katie's House 2022 Holiday Newsletter

Happy New Year 2023!



Katie's House, Inc.
PO Box 96 Newton, NJ 07860

All of us at Katie's House wish you Happy Holidays and all the best in 2023!!

This Holiday edition of the Katie's House Newsletter is written in loving tribute to Conrad Dudzic, Katie's dad and Evelyn's husband, who passed away on October 7, 2022 after his courageous battle with cancer.



Conrad E. Dudzic

KATIE'S HOUSE, Inc., was founded in 2001 by Evelyn and Conrad Dudzic. Evelyn was the leading force of the organization and Conrad was the quiet strength and support who helped to build and maintain the Katie's House residential homes.

Katie, now 37, is a young woman with intellectual disabilities who will never be able to live on her own. Her parents realized her vulnerability and their own mortality. They asked: "Who will care for our charming daughter when we are gone? We want her to live, comfortably cared for, happy and safe. We want Katie to have a full life."

Together, Evelyn and Conrad created Katie's House, Inc., a Residential Home, built on love, for their daughter and other individuals with special needs.

HISTORY Evelyn and Conrad accepted Katie as a host child under Healing the Children when she was 2 weeks old. With many serious health issues, Katie was not expected to live to reach her first birthday. Katie's birthparents were unable to provide Katie with the medical treatment she needed. They released her for adoption to the Dudziacs when she was 3 years old.

Katie spent several years in and out of the hospital, but she proved the doctors wrong. Slowly, Katie progressed and at the age of 3, the feeding tube was removed because she now could eat by mouth. She walked independently when she was 4.



Evelyn, Katie & Conrad

YEARS LATER, at the age of 11, Katie was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She spent 7 months going in and out of St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatric Oncology Center for intense chemotherapy. Again, Katie would prove she was strong by overcoming the cancer.

When Katie graduated from high school, Evelyn & Conrad wanted their daughter to experience a full and exciting life. As a young woman, Katie moved into the first Katie's House residence, and was able to live as independently as possible.

TODAY, Katie's House, Inc. has grown to include 4 Residential Homes, currently for 7 people in their 20s and 30s. Each residence has a carefully chosen House Manager. Each individual resident has a team of DSPs (Direct Support Professionals) to provide care when away from home.

MEET THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF KATIE'S HOUSE



McTiff, Katie D & Katie K



Richard



Harrison & Dan

FRIENDSHIP GROUP & CIRCLE of FRIENDS

Katie's House is not just a house or a group of residences. There are also 2 active groups who meet weekly for social activities in the local community. The 30 members of the Friendship Group and the 32 members of the Circle of Friends had a fun-filled Fall season! Here are some of the activities they enjoyed!



Jeremy

Drum Circle
Hay Ride
Karaoke at SMILE
Chinese Restaurant
Painting

Rebecca's Homestead Fall Banquet
Horseback Riding for Special Olympics
Sparta Friday Night Concerts
LACE Program
(Learning At College Experience)



Katie's House
Annual
Sock Hop &
Hoe Down
Mini Golf
Line Dancing at
SMILE
Yoga & Crafts
Book Club at Dunkin
Peace By Piece

