

Brent's Place

Star Report

Artwork by Dalayna, age 12

SPRING 2017 | VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 1



CREDITS: CAKE BY D-BAR RESTAURANT
CAKE IMAGE BY FROM THE HIP PHOTO



Celebrating 20

Years of Home, Hope, and Healing

In 2017 Brent's Place celebrates 20 years of providing our unique Safe-Clean housing to children with cancer and other immuno-compromised conditions, and their families. Over these 20 years we've grown from 5 apartments to 38, providing a home for 930 families from 30 states and 4 countries. That's 84,045 nights (and counting!) provided free of charge to families in need.

We celebrate with you today, our 7,100 volunteers and our countless donors, and we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the families that call Brent's Place home. We couldn't do it without you!

THANK YOU!



brent's place

20 years of home, hope, & healing

Reflections on 20 Years of Brent's Place

I'm thinking back to 1997. It's been 10 years since Brent's cancer diagnosis changed everything for our family. It's 9 years since we returned from bone marrow transplantation (BMT) in Iowa City without Brent. It's 8 years since we held the first Kid's Cure for Cancer event that started our healing process. It's 7 years since real estate rebounded in Denver and my homebuilding company was doing very well. Kid's Cure was raising \$300,000 thanks to the great people in the homebuilding industry, and the proceeds were going to the American Cancer Society (ACS). Our daughter, DeAnn, was getting married. Linda and I had become avid scuba divers, bike riders, and we now owned a townhome in Steamboat. Life was good but something was missing.

It was a casual lunch in 1997 with a "cancer survivor I should meet" that sparked the Big Idea of Brent's Place. ACS was great but the \$300,000 was just disappearing into their programs. Linda and I still had that "hole in the soul" feeling of losing a child. Children's Hospital (CHCO) had started a BMT unit, families were coming from out of town for a last chance medical miracle, Linda and I knew these BMT families needed housing, I was in the homebuilding business...BRENT'S PLACE!!! It was a God thing! We formed the Brent Eley Foundation (BEF) and became a 501c3, we started to look for property and found a 5 unit apartment building one block from CHCO. The owner, Cal Cleworth, liked our idea and financed the acquisition... a God thing! We renovated and asked CHCO to inspect before we opened. The BMT Director, Roger Giller, showed up for the tour. Roger was one of Brent's doctors in Iowa City... another God thing! The doors opened for families in November 1998!



ELEY FAMILY 1987



LINDA & DONN
BRENT'S PLACE TOO
GROUNDBREAKING
2016



BRENT'S PLACE FIRST 5 APARTMENTS OPEN
IN CAPITOL HILL DENVER 1998

Reflections on our journey:

You can't make a difference until you start.

Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

Life is about living and giving.

Family and friends carry us through tough times.

Kids with cancer are special and understand way more than you think.

God is in control and He has a plan for all of us.

There are far more good people in the world than bad.

Giving back is joyful and the key to happiness.

The future is bright and together we can make it better.

Hope never dies as long as you have faith.

Stars shine the brightest when it's the darkest.

Our first Executive Director was Shelley Chapin, a cancer survivor with great ideas and energy.

She got us started but left in 1999. That opened the door for Adele Gelfand... another God thing. She had been a pediatric nurse and had chaired Race for the Cure. She created the concept of "safe-clean" because she knew how fragile a recovering BMT kid is and she knew about event fundraising. She continued to grow Kid's Cure, added other events, and managed a growing staff as they helped families deal with life threatening diseases and uncertain outcomes.

In 2000, we had an opportunity to build a 6 unit building adjacent to our first Brent's Place. I reached out to the homebuilding industry for help. Architects, engineers, and subcontractors stepped forward to help and Compass Bank provided a loan primarily for materials. We opened the 2nd Brent's Place in 2001 just before CHCO announced they were moving to what is now the Anschutz Medical Center. I acquired a 4 acre trailer park in 2005 located 1 mile from the new CHCO and we started planning for Brent's Place in Aurora. After a successful Capital Campaign,

the existing Brent's Place was completed in 2009. Homebuilding also crashed in 2009 and we lost most of our support base. Adele retired in 2010 and we found Sean Meyerhoffer, a young man with boundless energy, little experience, and captured by our cause.

A new era had begun! The organization matured and we rebuilt our support base. The need for "safe-clean" housing continued to grow.

Our Board of Directors adopted the governing model. We updated our Vision and Mission statements and created organizational Values. Our support base grew as did our budget. We now operate 18 units and 7 leased apartments in Aurora and 6 leased units in Denver. Our hospital partners recognize the value we provide to their BMT patients and families. Brent's Place Too will open in June with 20 additional apartments for families. Brent's Place will be a campus of 2 buildings serving immunocompromised patients and their families with cost free housing and support programs!

Linda and I have been humbled by the great and giving people that have joined our cause to help families go from the fear of life threatening disease to a full and rich experience of family being together regardless of the outcome. It has been our greatest honor and privilege to know our families and help them on their journey. We make every day as good as it can be. Brent's Place is Brent's gift made possible by God and people like you who care and give back! We are grateful.

Donn and Linda Eley



BRENT'S PLACE OPENS IN AURORA 2009

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS LIKE YOU, OUR NEWEST BRENT'S PLACE BUILDING OPENS SPRING 2017, ALLOWING US TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED EACH YEAR.



Volunteer Spotlight

We have seen countless volunteers come through the doors of Brent's Place over the past 20 years. Whether they volunteer once or every single week, our volunteers make it possible for us to support families with our various programs, a safe clean place to live. Willing to jump into any project, volunteers support all facets of the Brent's Place mission. They are the people who make Brent's Place more than a place- they make it a home.

Dr. Roger Giller is the Medical Advisor to the Board, and has been since the very beginning of Brent's Place. Donn and Linda were shocked when the doctor inspecting our very first building was none other than a doctor who treated Brent in Iowa. Few have connected to Brent's story in quite the way Dr. Giller has been.



Caryn Ellison is the First Vice President of the Board and has been on the board of directors for Brent's Place since its founding in 1997. Caryn has been one of the most ardent advocates for Brent's Place since day one, and continues to help lead the Brent Eley foundation through ongoing growth.

Max Guetz, of Alpine Lumber, has been a leading contributor at Brent's Place events, always helping with the golf invitational, and bringing teams of over 100 to Kid's Cure!

Joe Bruno is another familiar face to the Eley family and has been a strong supporter of Brent's Place for many years, serving as a board member, volunteer and on countless committees. Joe has given countless hours to support the growth of Brent's Place by helping to oversee the construction of our buildings.

Anne Sandler is a friend of Adele, our previous Executive Director, and has spent a great deal of time at Brent's Place. She volunteered in multiple capacities when Brent's Place was in its early days. We are now also fortunate to have the support of her daughter, Dr. Rae Simon, who volunteers for our programs as well as giving her time as a Psychologist for any family or staff member who may need support.



Frank Mufic

has been with Brent's Place since the beginning, and is still one of our most dedicated volunteers! Frank comes in Friday mornings, helps with maintenance, cooks once a month, and sits on our Kid's Cure Committee. Any time we need a helping hand we know who to call.

Bruce Siegrist and his family have been involved with Brent's Place for many years. They were introduced to Brent's Place through our events, and Bruce later joined the board of directors in 2009. Bruce is the current board secretary, and serves on the Executive Committee, Finance & Audit Committee, Brent Eley Center Board, and the Capital Campaign Committee.

Ferooza Eswaran has been helping at Brent's Place since 2005, back when her kids were very young. Now, Ferooza comes Friday mornings, her son Adwai delivers meals to the hospital every Wednesday, and her daughter Yashna volunteers on her spring breaks.





Sam's Story

Sam was playing one night in January of 2016 when his parents, Jami and Nate, noticed a large bulge on the left side of his abdomen. The next day they visited a doctor who ordered an ultrasound and some blood tests. That night, the doctors called to share that Sam had a cancerous tumor and the family needed to pack their bags and go straight to Children's Hospital in Aurora.

Sam proceeded to have the tumor and his left kidney and part of his spleen removed, and for a time Sam was cancer free. Three months later, at the end of April, his first scans showed the cancer had come back in small patches in the tumor bed. Sam's parents were told they needed to treat it as high risk neuroblastoma. Sam would need to have 5 rounds of chemo, a stem cell transplant, 20 sessions of radiation, and 6 rounds of immunotherapy. Sam and his family lived at Brent's Place throughout the intense treatment, and thankfully they were able to move back to their home in Fort Collins, CO after 112 days of living at Brent's Place.

Sam loves animals and is a great brother to his little sister Elliot. Both kids loved the music lessons and play area at Brent's Place. Sam's mom Jami said, "My favorite memory was during the Christmas season when Sam and Elliot got to find our apartment full of presents from families who took their lists and bought them everything. It brings tears to my eyes just thinking about the joy on their faces. They loved all of the holiday activities and Santa coming as well!"



Thank you for helping to provide a home of hope for kids like Sam and Elliot.

New Staff



Shelbi Lewark
Development Associate

Shelbi is our newest addition to the Development Team. She will help manage fundraising events, like Dos Casas, The Brent's Place Golf Invitational, and The Roadless Ride, generating valuable funds to underwrite the housing and programs at Brent's Place.



Maggi Fitzpatrick
Family Services Manager

Maggi works closely with families living at Brent's Place to provide impactful programming and daily support services. She joins the Brent's Place team to help expand services as we double the number of families with the opening of the new Brent's Place facility.

Brent's Place Staff

Sean Meyerhoffer, CEO
Allen Browning, Family Services Director
Rebekah Wells, Development Director
Shelbi Lewark, Development Associate
Maggi Fitzpatrick, Family Services Manager
Mary Kamau, Overnight Monitor
Fabian Jimenez, House Operations Manager
Emily Roembach-Clark, Grants Manager
Cassie Davis, Program Coordinator
Marilynn Fowler, Family Benefits & Revenue Coordinator
Devin Traxler, Volunteer Coordinator
Barb Heverly, Controller
Anne Petrucci, Executive Assistant
Dona Walker, Receptionist



Dona Walker
Receptionist

The next time you call or visit Brent's Place you will most likely have the opportunity to meet Dona. This new position will help us expand our guest relations and hospitality as we grow in size as well as assist with administrative needs.

Celebrating 20 Years of Brent's Place...

1997: Brent Eley
Foundation formed

Number of apartments
by year

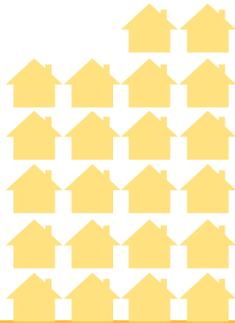
5



10



22



38



1998

2001

2009

2017

In 20 years

7,100
volunteers

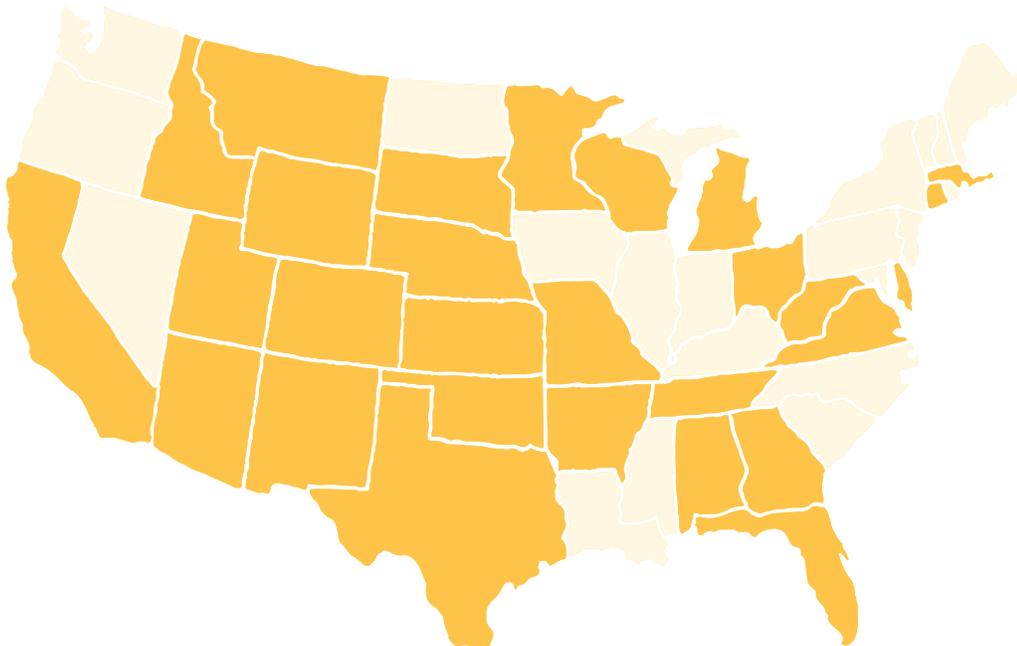
have provided

35,000
hours of service

to the families
of Brent's Place

In 20 years, Brent's Place has served families in

30 states & **4** countries



...20 Years of Home, Hope, and Healing

In 20 years, Brent's Place has provided:



332
birthdays



930 homes for families



1,900 family stays



62,167
meals



84,045
nights of respite

Meet our New Board Members:



Andi Freyer

A Colorado native, Andi has lived in Colorado most of her life. After attending the University of Kansas on a golf scholarship, Andi moved to Minnesota to coach Women's Golf at the University of Minnesota. Andi returned home in 2002 and spent a few years working for various non-profit organizations in Development. She then made a move to a technology company headquartered in Denver, IQNavigator, where she spent 8 years predominantly in Operations with a short time in the Global Sales organization. Andi is currently taking some time away from her career to focus on her family. Andi and her husband John have three daughters and one son and are finding joy in the chaos of a young family. They love all things outdoors, especially golfing, skiing and riding bikes as a family.



Dominic Dezzutti

Dominic Dezzutti is the Vice President of Content at Colorado Public Television Channel 12 and the Executive Producer and Host of "Colorado Inside Out," CPT12's Emmy Award winning flagship public affairs program. Dominic also hosts and produces "Colorado Decides," a collaborative debate series with CBS4 every election season. Past roles have included being a political blogger for CBS4 and serving as President and National Trustee of the Heartland Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Dominic is a native of North Denver and a graduate of Regis University.

Brent Eley Foundation Board of Directors

- Donn Eley, Founder and Board President
- Linda Eley, Founder
- Caryn Ellison, First Vice President
- Joseph Bruno, Second Vice President
- Bruce Siegrist, Secretary
- Tom Whyte, Treasurer
- Joe-Joe Chacko Nair, Co-Capital Campaign Chair
- Mike Evans, Co-Capital Campaign Chair
- Nick Tschetter, MD, Director since 2003
- Jeff Lambertson, Director since 2009
- Kevin Kerber, Director since 2012
- Lori Bell, Director since 2013
- Gil Peri, Director since 2016
- Patrick Gaines, Director since 2016
- John Connor, Director since 2016
- Andi Freyer, Director since 2017
- Dominic Dezzutti, Director since 2017
- Roger Giller, MD, medical advisor
- Tom Smith, MD, medical advisor



Thank you to our Corporate Social Responsibility Partners

Corporate Social Responsibility Partners are companies that partner with Brent's Place at all three levels of support, providing employee volunteers, special event participation, and financial sponsorship. These are companies that go above and beyond to across multiple avenues of giving: Time, Money, and Awareness.



Corporate Highlight



Brent's Place is grateful for the support of our corporate partners. This spring we are excited to highlight Saunders for the part they play in making each day better for the families at Brent's Place.

Part of the founding culture at Saunders is to give back to the community. During the past 45 years in business, Saunders has dedicated time and resources to hundreds of community organizations. Most recently, Saunders has partnered with Brent's Place through the Building Confidence in Kids (BCiK) in-house charity program.

Since partnering with Brent's Place in 2016, Saunders employees have participated in a variety of ways. The numerous volunteering options allow employees at all commitment levels to participate—from cooking dinners, organizing arts and crafts night, to hosting various supply and toy drives, there is something for everyone. These different options have made it possible for employees to be involved in the way that works best for them.



"Saunders is looking forward to growing our relationship with Brent's Place, giving back to the community and giving our employees the opportunity to get back as much as they give." Says Megan Galloway, Training and Development Manager at Saunders.

Brent's Place is grateful for the commitment and generosity of the entire team at Saunders and we look forward to continuing to partner together in 2017!

Get your Company Involved!

Engage your employees,
Add value to your company, and
Support the families at Brent's Place.
Call 720-343-2800 to get started.



Program Partners are foundations or businesses that provide ongoing support of a Brent's Place program. For example, Swallow Hill gives music lessons to kids at Brent's Place.

Program Partners

Ability Specialist | Adams County Corrections
Angel Flight | Blue Star Connection
Bocaza Mexican Grill | Boy's Team Charity
Brave Hoods | Brave Young Hearts
Caruso Foundation | Colorado Kids Cancer Association | D Bar Restaurant | DoubleTree Hotel | Einstein Brother's Bagels
From The Hip Photo | Hope Kids | Hot Cakes
Jason's Friends | Kyle Wood Foundation
LOLA Restaurant | Lupita's Restaurant
MDT Technical | Melina Watchter Foundation
Mimi's Café | National Charity League
Pillows.com | Rae Sandler Simon
Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation
Sleep Number | Snooze | Soul Day Foundation
Swallow Hill Music | Team Select
There with Care | Top Pho Restaurant
Wapiyapi | Zane's Parade Foundation

Special Thanks to:

D-Bar Restaurant

For our beautiful 20th Anniversary cake, as seen on the cover, and for the very fun, personalized birthday cakes that put smiles on Brent's Place kids throughout the year!



d bar restaurant
drinks ■ dining ■ dessert



From The Hip Photo

For exquisite, ongoing documentation of our events (including the photo on this cover) and for creating memorable portraits of the families of Brent's Place.

Dos Casas

Dos Casas raised more than \$62,000 in 2017 and has raised more than \$350K over the past 10 years. THANK YOU!

LOLA
COASTAL
MEXICAN

Saturday
JULY 29
Starts 9 am

29TH ANNUAL
Kid's Cure

A FAMILY FUN WALK

to benefit Brent's Place

Community Fair | Pancake Breakfast
Kid's Corner Activities | Live Entertainment
Obstacles | Music Zone | Water Zone
and more!

Register online
KidsCure.org



For information
visit KidsCure.org
or contact Shelbi Lewark
720.343.2817

at Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora

Join Team Brent's Place!

Get your team gear with your donation:

Each high quality item is imprinted with the Team Brent's Place logo!

T-shirt \$50

\$1,000 Fjallraven Backpack

Water bottle \$75

\$500 Adidas Jacket

Baseball Hat \$100

\$250 Soft cotton duffle bag



Your generous gift helps provide
a home of hope & healing all year long.

Contact Rebekah Wells 720.343.2806 rwells@brentsplace.org

Upcoming Events

brent's place
Invitational 

Monday, August 14
at Pradera Golf Course

THE ROADLESS RIDE



Pedal Hard for a Great Cause!
Indoor Bike Marathon

Friday, October 13

at Greenwood Athletic & Tennis Club

New this year!

CORPORATE RELAYS

Team up with members of your workplace to raise funds for Brent's Place.

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGES

Form a college team and compete against other universities!

For information on all events or to be a sponsor, contact Shelbi Lewark 720.343.2817 slewark@brentsplace.org

6th Annual Family Reunion July 28-30, 2017



We will be hosting our 6th annual Brent's Place Family Reunion alongside our Kid's Cure Family Fun Walk the weekend of July 28th-30th. The Brent's Place Family Reunion is a wonderful time to connect with old friends and make new connections with families that have walked a similar road as well as reconnect with Brent's Place Staff. There will be food, games, and fun family activities. If you are a past Brent's Place family, please join us for a weekend full of fun, family, and friends.

Please visit brentsplace.org/family to find information about our Brent's Place Families Facebook group!

1st Annual Brent's Place

MARDI GRAS

At Brent's Place, we strive to give our families the opportunity to take a break from everything they have going on to "laissez les bon temps roulez", or "let the good times roll". This was exactly the goal of the Mardi Gras program hosted at Brent's Place at the end of February.



On the evening before Mardi Gras, families were invited downstairs to the craft area to decorate a cardboard box that would serve as their Mardi Gras "float" for the Krewe of Brent's Place parade the next day. The creativity of our families combined with the

support of dedicated Brent's Place volunteers did not disappoint- the floats would have made participants in New Orleans parades proud!

When noon rolled around the next day, it was finally parade time! Brent's Place staff kicked it off on the fourth floor, bringing beads and Mardi Gras music door to door. Families who wanted to participate joined in on the parade and helped bring beads and joy to everyone throughout the building... including the staff.

The afternoon culminated with the enjoyment of some king cake, a traditional Mardi Gras treat! We consider all our kids at Brent's Place to be royalty, but those who found the plastic baby (don't worry, they were warned!) in their piece of king cake became Brent's Place "kings and queens" for the day!



We look forward to the joy of many more Brent's Place Mardi Gras celebrations to come!

We Will Always Remember



Kandice Stidham



Logan Swearingen



Raylene Martza



Sydney Hedges

Not pictured: Robert Johnson, Shawn Stansbury

Our most sincere condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones. We keep these families in our thoughts and our hearts.

Walk of Hope

There is a space at Brent's Place that carries the names of many that have touched our hearts and the strength of those that took important steps at Brent's Place. To dedicate a brick in honor or in memory of someone in our Walk of Hope, please visit brentsplace.org/get-involved/give/walk-of-hope.





11980 East 16th Ave
Aurora, CO 80010

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #4720
DENVER, CO

*The Brent's Place mission is to
improve the quality of life for children
and families living with cancer
and other immunocompromising
conditions...one day at a time.*



We are Social! Follow us
on Facebook and Twitter
to stay engaged with what's
going on at Brent's Place!

Facebook/BrentsPlaceDenver

Twitter.com/BrentsPlaceCO



GRAND OPENING

Come see the newest addition
to the Brent's Place Campus in Aurora

May 20, 2017

Ribbon cutting at 10 am

Tours of the new building
from 10 am- 2 pm

Open to the public; kids are welcome
We encourage all guests to bring a new book or DVD
to help fill the Brent's Place library

Questions?

Call Rebekah Wells 720.343.2806
or email rwells@brentsplace.org



brent's place

20 years of home, hope, & healing

11980 E 16th Ave. Aurora, Colorado 80010