

OZANAMAM'S PEOPLE

The Ozanam House Trust is run by a management board comprising representatives of the two trustees – the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Cancer Society. Members are Cliff Craven, Les Walden and Bernard Forde who have been joined by Natalie Hope with Mr Tony Finnigan Trust Secretary.

But the faces which most patients and their caregivers see most at Ozanam House are manager Eileen Day assisted by Margaret Campbell. They're always on hand to offer practical and personal support, so patients and the caregivers can get on with the job of getting through treatment and back to their own homes.

Other faces familiar to Ozanam House guests are cleaners Nancy Tawharu, Lorna Wonnocott and Barbara Craw, volunteer gardener Norm Pearce and shuttle bus drivers Jim Harvey .



Trust members from left: Cliff Craven, Natalie Hope, Les Walden and Secretary Tony Finnigan

While Ozanam House receives Hospital Board funding support to accommodate patients undergoing treatment at Palmerston Hospital, it would be absolutely impossible to provide the service it gives cancer patients and their caregivers without additional donations from grateful guests and their families.

Trust Secretary Tony Finnigan says while there is no obligation of any kind for people to give to Ozanam House, many people are so overwhelmed by the role played by the facility in getting better, they will often give as much as they can afford.

In addition, there are many clubs and organisations which regularly raise funds on

SPIRITUAL HISTORY IN STAINED GLASS

In the early 1900s a Belgian student at the Sorbonne University at Paris gathered around him other young men to help him in helping the poor of Paris. The organisation which this young man, whose name was Frederick Ozanam, started, in time became the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

It could be said that Saint Vincent de Paul was the Mother Teresa of Paris in the seventeenth century. This man inspired Frederick Ozanam to form his great Society and social members responsible for establishing Ozanam House are pleased to honour his name. The first house purchased in this complex is known as 'Vincentian House'.

The window in the Summers Wing pictured here, a donation to the Trust, records the affection with which the Saint is held by all members of the Society. The building and all those who stay at Ozanam House are dedicated to his care.

The window was designed and built by Len White of Nelson and he was careful to explain its characteristics. The viewer notices



The stained glass window designed by Len White.

Immediately that it depicts the figure without any features. This enables the viewer to feature the person whom they imagine Saint Vincent to be. Guests may also place in the picture of Saint Vincent de Paul the faces of some of those who they have found helpful during their treatment and recovery. Carers also draw solace from the spirituality the window conveys. All those who view this picture will be grateful that this piece of spiritual history has been brought to life in this place which is a cancer patients' 'home away from home'.

FUNDING SUPPORT ESSENTIAL

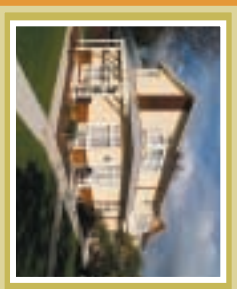
Ozanam House's behalf. For example, in Hastings, for the past seven years, the local St Vincent de Paul Society has organised an annual bowling tournament.

Committee member Kevin Burns estimates some 500 people from Hastings have used Ozanam House over the years.

"We get a great public response. People are really happy to give money when they know what a practical and important cause it will go towards," Mr Burns says.

A concert was held recently in Hawkes Bay which also raised funds for Ozanam House

"It all helps to ensure Ozanam House can continue to provide its service when people need it most," Mr Finnigan says.



The newly completed additions to the Summers Wing added a much needed four rooms to Ozanam House's capacity.

OZANAM HOUSE Update



Spring 2003

A FAMILY REUNION WITH TOTAL STRANGERS

"Like having a family reunion with total strangers". That's how one recent Ozanam House resident described his experience.

House manager Eileen Day says she's used to reading wonderful messages of support and thanks in the visitors' books which are placed in each house.

"But that comment really sums up the experience for so many people," she says. Here are some other observations from recent visitors who agree while no-one wants to need Ozanam House, they are very grateful it is there:

Robyn from New Plymouth:

"I'm in my third week here out of six. I knew about Ozanam House before I came here, because as a former social worker I sometimes sent people here.

"I always thought it was a good concept, but I didn't want to have to come myself. When people come here they don't think they'll respond to all the people around them; they think – to hell with everyone else. But when you get here, it all changes. Being together, all in the same boat, you realise we're all equal in here and it makes a difference."

Matthew from Waipawa:

"I've been here three weeks. I had no idea what to expect before I got here. But it's such a pleasant place to stay. If Ozanam House weren't here, I would have had to travel back and forth – which would have been impossible – or stay in an impersonal motel.

"There are 12 of us here in the Summers Wing. It's a good number; we can do things together or do our own thing. My wife's here with me which is great support."

Peter from Manaiia:

"I didn't know anything about the place when I came here, but when I found out I was coming I talked to a few people and they knew all about it.

"I like the company and we all have something in common. If I were sitting in a motel, I'd go stir crazy.

"Not only that, but I'd really struggle financially. I'm self employed and my income protection insurance wouldn't pay out. If I didn't have Ozanam House, I don't know what I would have done."

Jenny from Napier:

"I'm going home today after five weeks. When I arrived here I thought I'd landed in the lap of luxury. I felt like a stranger for only one day - not even that. We all have so much in common it's like being with people who might have been friends in another time.

"The time has gone by so quickly – I ended up enjoying my stay and I never expected that. I'm leaving with a feeling of regret, but we'll keep in touch."

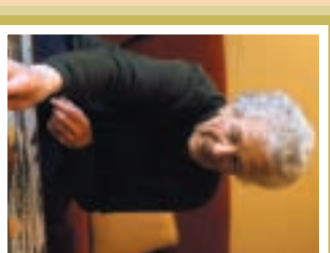
Jim from Taradale:

"I came here several years ago with my late partner so I knew what to expect. I think it's absolutely fantastic; we are so lucky to have it. What more could you ask for; it's a home away from home.

"The staff are fantastic, they make time to stop and have a chat with you and anything you want to know they're always happy to help out.

"You get to know people quickly and every so often you see someone having a bad moment, but it passes quickly because we're all here for each other."

"If I didn't have Ozanam House, I don't know what I would have done."



Patients can relax in comfort between radiation treatments.



Guests are encouraged to feel at home at Ozanam House.

NEW ACCELERATOR INCREASES EFFICIENCY

A new accelerator shortly to be installed at the Palmerston North Hospital Radiation Therapy Department will be good news for Ozanam House residents.

Treatment supervisor Aaron Phillipps says the \$3 million piece of equipment is the latest model available from the United States and will increase volumes of patients able to be treated at the hospital.

“The machine is better in terms of ease of use, speed, and verification of treatment with higher picture resolution making the job more efficient for operators,” Mr. Phillipps says.

It is also a match for one of the existing accelerators and therefore means that if one of the two machines is out of commission for any reason, patient treatment can easily be transferred to the other machine. Previously patients had to be reassessed to be treated on another machine.

The oldest of Palmerston North’s existing three accelerators, the LA1, will be decommissioned.

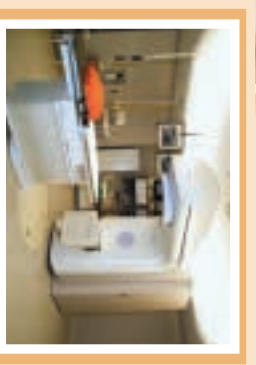


The new accelerator (right) at the Palmerston North Hospital will increase the number of patients able to be treated by radiographers (from left)

Currently the department is treating about 110 patients a day, five days a week plus emergency weekend work. For radical treatment, patients need a five to seven-and-a-half week course. They can expect to experience a variety of site specific reactions, depending on the area being treated, Mr. Phillipps says.

“But for the 60 percent of patients who have to travel from their home towns for treatment, the major problems are more often social. That’s why it’s so wonderful to have Ozanam House. We see it as an essential service, giving our patients not only

accommodation while they are being treated, but also camaraderie with people facing the same issues they are. “They seem to have a ball down there!” Mr. Phillipps says.



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

It’s often said the more things change, the more they stay the same. And that’s very true of Ozanam House.

In the past couple of years there’s been a \$650,000 refurbishment and addition to the Summers wing and more recently a complete upgrading of the kitchen in the Ryan Wing.

“We’re constantly making improvements and we’re always conscious to use the best quality materials,” says Eileen Day, Manager of Ozanam House for the past 12 years. “Everything is in constant use; we have to invest in materials which will last.”

But while the facility continues to grow – it now has 52 double rooms plus 10 flats to accommodate cancer patients and their caregivers while undergoing

treatment at Palmerston North’s Hospital – its philosophy and purpose is the same as when it first was opened in 1967 by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Guests are encouraged to treat the house as their own home, with housework and cooking, as well as recreation, often being shared.

There are no rules and no charge is made for people’s stay, although donations are welcomed.

The demand for Ozanam House is constant with 95 percent occupancy. Eileen Day has become a master at juggling the rooms. “I try to allocate the rooms to ensure the right mix of people

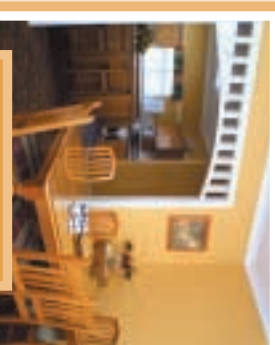
and their individual lifestyles. Some people like more privacy; some people want to spend time with their families and other ‘like lots of company.’”

As well as providing accommodation, Ozanam House operates shuttle services to transport cancer patients from Hawkes Bay and New Plymouth as well as from Ozanam House to and from the hospital for treatments.

“We’re very close to the hospital, but people are sometimes very tired after their treatment. We just want to do whatever we can to make people’s Ozanam House experience as good as it can be,” says Eileen Day.



Ozanam House manager, Eileen Day (right) is delighted with improvements to the Ryan Wing kitchen (above) and the Summers Wing lounge (above right).



NEW CONTRACT GIVES PATIENTS SECURITY

A new contract signed between Ozanam House and MidCentral Health will offer patients and their caregivers more security in the knowledge that their accommodation worries will be taken care of.

Ozanam House, whether it has in-house beds available or not, now undertakes to arrange suitable accommodation for all referrals.

The contract, which comes into effect from 1 July 2003, strengthens the relationship between the MidCentral Health and Ozanam House, says Penny O’Leary, Team Leader, Oncology Services whose role in developing the contract was as “reality checker”.

“My job was to think in terms of patients, their families, identify any anomalies, how the contract would actually work and its impact on the nursing and administration time,” Ms O’Leary says.

She believes it provides something concrete from the organiser’s point of view which will improve processes and minimise the involvement required by nurses and support staff, with Ozanam House taking on responsibility for patients’ and caregivers’ accommodation once referred by the Oncology Department.

Captions: ????



“From an operational level, it means booking clerks no longer have to worry about people not having accommodation and the clinicians to whom the problem would have fallen can rest assured Ozanam House will take care of the situation.”

Ozanam House Trust Secretary Tony Finnigan says the contract has been a long time coming and is very welcome.

“We’d like to thank Penny, along with Lois Hutchison, Manager Acute Services and Bob Phillipps, Contracts Manager, for all their work and co-operation in bringing the contract together. We believe it will enable Ozanam House to operate even more efficiently for the benefit of cancer patients and their caregivers.” Mr Finnigan says.