

Planned Corning-area comfort home finally has place to call home

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After two years of planning and fundraising, a planned comfort care home in the Corning area finally has a home of its own.

Organizer's of Bampa's House introduced the new location at 170 E. First St. in Corning to the public Thursday.

The house, built in 1900, was originally the home of a local doctor and later became office space for Corning Hospital, which until four years ago was right across the street.

Bampa's House is named in memory of Jim Dugan, 68, of Painted Post, a former Corning Lions Club member and president who died of cancer in 2016. "Bampa" was a nickname bestowed on Dugan by his grandchildren.

After Dugan died, his family realized there was a gap between nursing home care and at-home care for terminally ill patients.



Jim Dugan (Photo: FILE PHOTO)

Family members formed a board of directors and started fundraising, and had a location picked out on Brown Road in South Corning before residents who thought the comfort care home might be too disruptive in their neighborhood forced plans to change.

Only days after that setback, Bampa's House board President Joan Wilson, who is Jim Dugan's sister, said she was contacted by Corning Hospital President Garrett Hoover.

"I met with them and said, 'If you want to sell the house, let us know.' Hoover called me and said, 'Are you still interested?'" Wilson said. "We took a couple of weeks to figure out the issues. (The house) had old wiring, an antiquated boiler system that will need to be replaced, and cracks in the walls."

Community organizations including Corning Enterprises, the Corning Foundation and others came forward to help fill some funding gaps, and Bampa's House closed the sale Oct. 14.

The comfort home concept will involve volunteers who will provide round-the-clock care and support for two hospice patients and their families, while professional staff from CareFirst will provide hospice services.

The facility will be available for hospice patients from Steuben, Chemung and Schuyler counties, Wilson said.

A portion of the upstairs in the sprawling house will be rented out as an apartment with a separate entrance, which will help provide additional revenue, she said.

Wilson and other board members hope to have Bampa's House ready to accommodate its first tenants by the fall of 2019, and are busy planning fundraising efforts for renovations and operating expenses.

"It will cost \$225,000 to \$250,000 to run it annually," Wilson said. "We need money to renovate, and we need operating costs covered in advance. It will take a lot of work. All of our volunteers will be fully trained. There's no charge to residents. It will all be supported by benefits, appeals, Bampa's Club (corporate sponsorships), memorials and bequests."

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