A Passion to Care. A Place for Comfort.

Temporary housing solutions for families with loved ones undergoing care at Placer County hospitals away from home.
Zafia’s Story

Zafia Christina was the beloved daughter of Robert and Rebecca Fyfe. Abandoned on the streets of Uzbekistan at two months of age, she was adopted at age three by the Fyfes. Zafia thrived, growing to love sparkly clothing, the color purple and spending time with her wide circle of friends.

But just as she blossomed into a beautiful, confident and determined preteen, cancer was cruelly on the move, invading her leg, pelvis, lungs and shoulder. At age 12, Zafia was diagnosed with stage 4 osteosarcoma cancer and given two months to live. After battling bravely for two years, she died at age 14 in 2006.

During her treatment, Zafia saw her parents face the stress of her illness along with the strain of traveling to be at her side. Her final wish was for her parents to build a place of comfort where other families could stay, without the stress of long commutes between hospital and home. Despite her youth, Zafia had the wisdom to recognize that the loving support of family is as powerful as the strongest medicine.

Today, the “house” Zafia envisioned is provided through a strategic hotel partnership to serve more families with less delay—and the ability to scale up as needed.

Through Zafia’s Family House, Robert and Rebecca honor Zafia’s memory by supporting other families in need.
Cancer. Premature newborns. Stroke. Traumatic injuries. For families whose loved ones are undergoing treatment for these situations and more, managing travel and accommodation adds another layer of stress. As families yearn to spend every possible moment providing emotional support, they must also eat, sleep, bathe and see to urgent work, family and financial issues.

While some communities have institutions that provide temporary housing, the Greater Roseville Area—home to several major acute care hospitals—had no such resource.
This forced families traveling 35 miles or more between home and hospital to choose between leaving their loved one’s bedside for long periods, spending limited resources on hotel stays or sleeping in chairs, cars or hospital floors to stay close by.

Zafia’s Family House offers a better option. With low-cost accommodation provided in partnership with nearby hotel facilities, families can rest and recharge just minutes from their loved one.

Accommodations through Zafia’s Family House are coordinated through referrals from hospital social workers in neonatal intensive care, rehabilitation, oncology, trauma, intensive care unit and surgical departments.
A Home Away from Home

After several years of research and community support, Zafia’s Family House began hosting families in 2018 through a pilot partnership with the Best Western Plus Orchid Hotel & Suites, just a few minutes from several area hospitals.

In well-appointed rooms and mini-suites allocated for the purpose, the Best Western provides a comfortable respite from the strain of bedside care—and eliminates the need for an hour or more of travel to and from home. The Best Western is also conveniently close to multiple options for shopping, dining and transportation.

A nominal daily fee of $20 is requested from each family, paid directly to the hotel. Zafia’s Family House subsidizes the remaining cost through its generous donors and all-volunteer staff. But no family is turned away for inability to pay, and they are welcome to stay for as long as 14 days while their family member receives care.
How You Can Help

Zafia’s Family House can bring comfort and alleviate stress for hundreds of families each year. As an all-volunteer organization, Zafia’s Family House is committed to ensuring that nearly 100% of contributions go directly to housing solutions for families in need. We invite you to join Zafia’s Family House and other local entities in keeping the program sustainable and helping it grow and keep pace with needs.

Your support can take many forms including cash donations, gift cards, volunteer service and more. Many of these are also tax-deductible, subject to advice from your tax professional. Contact Zafia’s Family House to learn more about how you can be part of this rewarding mission.

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Zafia’s Family House is a 501(c)(3) registered under Federal Tax ID 27-3195178