

Dear Adam, Erik and members of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity,

You are amazing! You restore my soul and hope in mankind.

Last night was appreciated for so many things.

1. Your ability and willingness to even do this for us and the transplant families we so passionately work to serve.
2. How fast you put this all together when you could have done other things.
3. Yes this earns you points in frat(ernity) newsletters, campus chat and good people polls (smile), yet to us and other families needing a transplant to live, you are priceless in telling our story and honoring and respecting theirs.
4. The stories are powerful and need to be heard. This diagnosis is not just felt by that person fighting for their lives but shakes families to their very core and tests the best of families, emotionally, physically, financially, and spiritually. We are all so much more than our health.
5. Planting seeds. This will touch the lives of several people sitting in that audience. They do not know it yet. Just as we did not and now we have 5 blood cancer family members. Do you get angry and bitter or do you pay it forward and make a place where you come and sort it out and be afraid and scared and have community that takes your back. That is us.
6. Raw energy. Doing a and birthing a vision like this is hard on every level. Funding, more funding, turning away 15 families daily and doing that for a year and a half. Hearing their stories and feeling powerless, when you have lived the difference that house makes. I have been exhausted for two days and last night I drove back to Madison lighter than I have been for days. Perhaps it was the pie throwing. Thanks for inviting me to do that.

Here is what I wish:

1. I had a Sigma Tau Gamma in every referring city where we draw families from.
2. That last night will not be the end, and that you will keep talking about us and transplant
3. That you will give me suggestions. We have \$200,000 left before we can go to construction. That is lots of money and yet for a house that serves 16 families that is nothing for the return. What would you do in my shoes. Who would you talk to in La Crosse or anywhere else? Whose name telling our story would not be denied?
4. When Restoring Hope Transplant House cuts that ribbon and opens the doors, it will be known that there was a frat(ernity) from La Crosse that had hand prints all over this healing house because together their energy, goodness, group think not only energized one night, but gave wisdom and compassion to blow others away.
5. Transplant Games is in July/August and our plans are approved and waiting, we need that funding to get our construction loan. With our background in hotels and convention building, we will bring down our costs of construction and furnishing to a very small mortgage with in-kind and generous giving and compassion for others.

I cannot wait to hear how things shook out for you. I have a board meeting on Tuesday and it would be great to hear by Monday for me to say, hey look what these guys did in short order.

To thank you:

We will be writing a letter of thank you to the La Crosse paper about your event

We will be writing to Chancellor Gow about your event

We will be writing to the Rotary La Crosse donate life committee about your event

Is there a Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity person, we should write to

We will put you in our 2010 annual report and have you on our web. If you can send me your pictures which will be undoubtedly better than mine, my Eric at the house shutters when he sees me hand him my camera.

Adam and Erik, thank you for your leadership and your communication with me. I wish you both well. Your year is quickly coming to an end and so our best for a great summer and where ever your travels take you.

With incredible gratitude,

Cindy

Cindy Herbst

Executive Director

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