



VINCENT HOUSE

"A community caring for the body and soul of our terminally ill"

2021 Annual Appeal

I am honored to be sending you Vincent House's 21st Annual Appeal letter. Each year I strive to make this letter something that you look forward to reading and provide you with the inspiration to give. This year has been to say the least, remarkable. For other than the obvious, it has been remarkable for us here at Vincent House because we have been blessed to have been invited into the lives of some amazing people.

This year I have decided to ask one of those incredible human beings to write our annual appeal letter to you. I would like to introduce you to Reverend James R. Pearce. Jim lets us now how incredible we are here at VH every day. However, what he doesn't realize are the gifts he has given to us. For all of us involved with Vincent House, Jim has taught us new levels on how to care for someone, how to **LIVE** life the best you can for as long as you can, and most importantly how to practice gratitude. In the first person, here are Jim's words to you.....



Life at Vincent House

I am the Reverend James R. Pearce. I am a Baptist minister, graduating from Ottawa University and attended St. Edmunds Cambridge England, working in a steel mill among other means to support my education,

then returning to and graduating from Crozer Theological Seminary outside Philadelphia.

I became a Chaplin in a Philadelphia hospital, and after pastoring a church in Steuben County for several years, "retired" to become an interim pastor for several churches in New York State and New England.

During my tenure as pastor, I witnessed and was close to birth, lives, illness, and death of many friends, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. The respect and care for these people during their last days on earth is particularly challenging. I have seen and lived the highs and lows of hospice care as part of my experience as a pastor, but now am one of those in hospice care myself.

I have glioblastoma, a cancer in the brain, and just a short time to live. I am at Vincent House. Here, many volunteers care for me in every way, making my days comfortable and as enjoyable as anyone could hope for at any moment. I have been in other places where it is a "job" to care. Here at Vincent House, they care from the heart. There is a pervasive outstanding bedside manner presence at all times. This is in sharp contrast to other places I have been and seen.

Throughout the years of my ministry and personal experiences, I have never seen such dedication competence, and devotion for those during the last days of their lives. I am now experiencing this myself and am so thankful there is a Vincent House.

Vincent House is made possible by the support of people of the community who depend upon a place where love provides comfort to those, including myself, in this time of need.

There are wonderful volunteers but also many expenses. Financial support from individuals and the community makes all this possible. Your help in maintaining this wondrous place is necessary, heartfelt, and greatly appreciated.

With gratitude,

James Pearce

21st Anniversary Appeal Goal
\$75,000

On behalf of all of us at Vincent House, Thank you! We are counting on your support, as are those who depend on Vincent house's long term efforts.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Snyder RN, BSN
Executive Director

Thank you!