

# TreeHouse Provides

## Home-Away-From-Home for Lee's Summit Woman

**C**onnie Hill has spent the last 27 years at her husband, Alan's, side. So when he was mauled by three pit bulls and taken to Liberty Hospital with life-threatening injuries, that's exactly where she wanted to be.

"Alan was mowing some property we own in Independence when the dogs attacked and almost killed him," Hill said. "An ambulance crew took him to Liberty Hospital immediately, but his injuries were so severe, we didn't even know if he was going to make it through the first few hours."

With her husband's condition touch and go, Hill didn't feel comfortable leaving the Liberty Hospital campus. She wanted to be close by just in case he needed her. "Even though we live in Lee's Summit, I didn't think I should leave," Hill said.

Thanks to TreeHouse at Liberty Hospital, she never had to. In fact, the Hills' adult children, Amanda and Chris, also were able to stay at TreeHouse the first few days their father was hospitalized.

"It was wonderful to be able to stay at TreeHouse," Hill said. "We were literally just minutes away from Alan's hospital room. It gave us all tremendous peace of mind to know we had a comfortable, safe place to stay."

From May 4 to Aug. 11, 2006, Hill underwent several surgeries to repair the skin, tendons and arteries damaged in the dog attack. During that time, the Hills came to appreciate the amenities TreeHouse offers its guests.

Located on the northeast end of



campus near the hospital walking trail, TreeHouse is only 200 steps from the hospital. It has 10 sleeping rooms with attached private bathrooms, laundry facilities, a quiet room, and kitchen/hearth room that functions as the heart of the house.

Rooms at the house are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests are suggested to contribute a nominal nightly donation, but no family is denied access because of an inability to pay.

Built with contributions to the Liberty Hospital Foundation, TreeHouse opened in January 2005. Since then, more than 6,500 guests have stayed at TreeHouse from 35 different states. Its mission is to provide a home-away-from-home for the families of Liberty Hospital patients, like the Hills, and patients who are awaiting treatment.



For example, many families who live in Northwest Missouri and have long drives before early morning surgeries at the hospital take advantage of TreeHouse by driving down the evening before surgery and spending the night at TreeHouse. Approximately 63 percent of TreeHouse guests have spent just one night at the facility.

Hill stayed at TreeHouse throughout her husband's hospitalization, a total of 63 days. "I could have traveled back and forth to Lee's Summit, but being on the road was the last thing I wanted to worry about at the time," Hill said. "My focus was on Alan, and thanks to TreeHouse, I was never more than a few steps from his bedside. It was such a wonderful place to lay my head every night. I don't know what I would have done without it."

## You Can Support TreeHouse With Much-Needed Supplies

TreeHouse at Liberty Hospital was originally funded by community donations to the Liberty Hospital Foundation, and continues to rely on the community's contributions. If you would like to support TreeHouse, you can donate a much-needed item. The top five items always needed are:

1. Powder dishwasher detergent
2. Toilet paper
3. Trash compactor bags
4. Laundry detergent
5. Kleenex tissues

Just take your donation to TreeHouse, located directly across from the hospital at 2533 Glenn Hendren Drive, Liberty, Mo. 64068. Financial contributions are also always needed to help offset the operating costs of TreeHouse. Checks can be made payable to the Liberty Hospital Foundation.

For more information about TreeHouse, or to make a reservation, call 816-883-2088.

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