

## A tribute to Sarah

Sarah was a vibrant young lady of 16 years old when she died of childhood cancer. She was a sophomore and cheerleader at Colerain High School, very energetic and animated girl with a love and zest for life! She made friends easily. Sarah was well known for her constant singing and told her mom that "she always had a song in her head"! She sang her way through many tests and procedures throughout her 14 month battle with Non Hodgkins Lymphoma-Leukemia. She was upbeat and funny, and adored little children and animals. She loved a wide range of music, including show tunes, but The Beatles were her favorite group! Sarah had dreams of singing and dancing on Broadway! Although, childhood cancer robbed her of that dream, she had the privilege of seeing many Broadway shows during her wish trip to New York City before she died on May 14, 1998. Sarah loved her family and home very much. The hospital is often a scary place for a child, and Sarah was no different. She always asked and pleaded with her doctors to please let her go home. The child life specialist within the hospital put a sign on her hospital door which read "There's no place like home". A saying so true for a secure child. If home is not an option, then a place like "Sarah House" would be the next best thing. I'm sure Sarah would be pleased.

- Kim Marcum-Mercier, Mother



[www.sarahhousecincy.org](http://www.sarahhousecincy.org)  
[sarahhousecincy@aol.com](mailto:sarahhousecincy@aol.com)  
**Sarah Zepernick Foundation**  
(a 501 C3 foundation)

PO Box 53493  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253  
513-851-1348

## Sarah House Donation Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

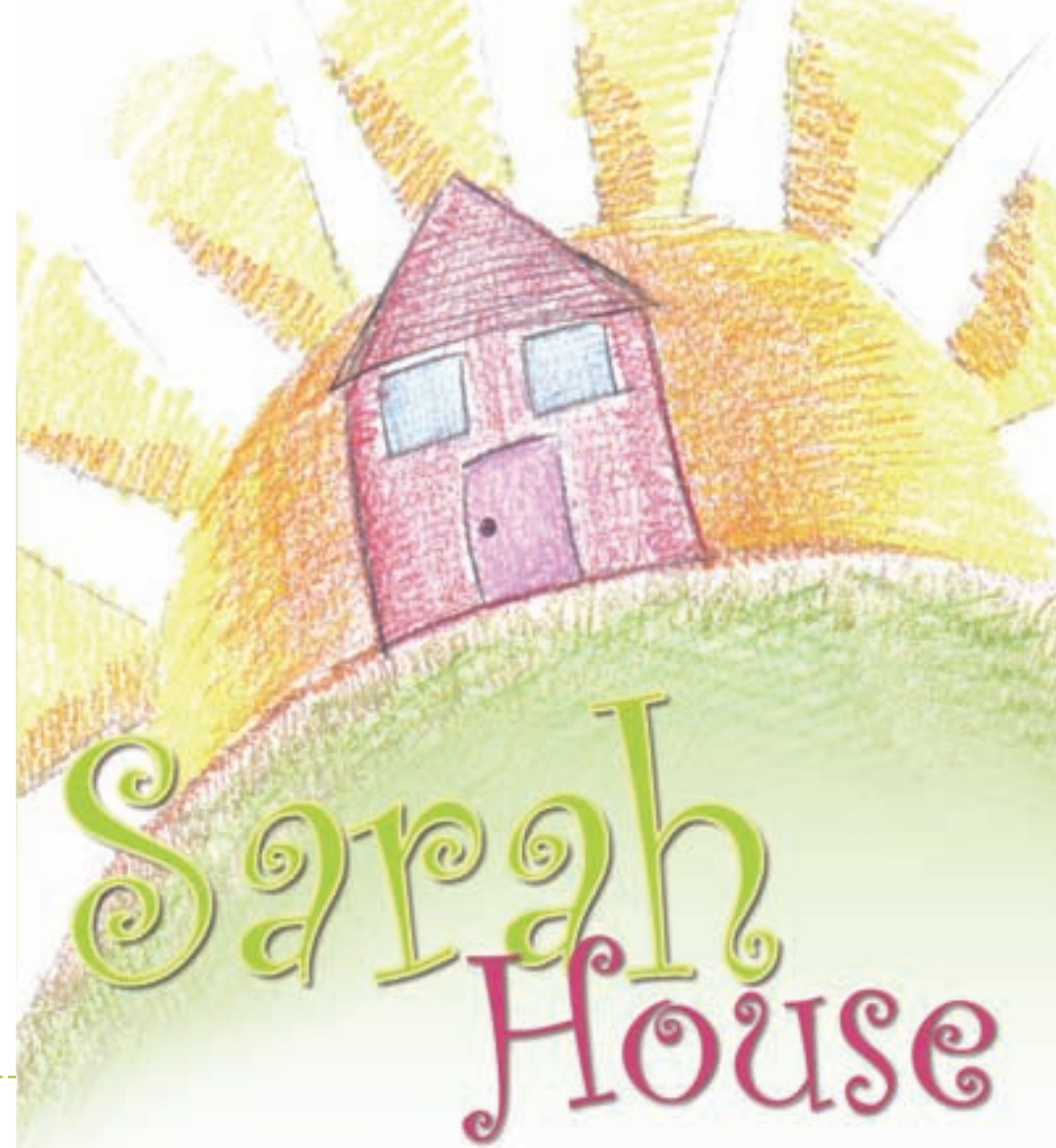
I am Interested in Volunteering!

\$25    \$50    \$100    Other

### Please send all donations to:

The Sarah Zepernick Foundation  
PO Box 53493  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253

*Our drawing was crafted  
by AJ Yorio, a student at  
Anderson High School and  
Childhood Cancer Survivor.*



*A grass roots effort is under way...*

**Help Us Build Sarah House, one brick at a time...**

## Vision:

To build the first free standing full service children's respite and hospice house in Ohio and the midwest.

## Mission:

To provide a home that focuses on maintaining the quality of life for children with life-limiting illnesses and essential support for their families. It includes the management of distressing symptoms and the provision of respite care, comfort care and bereavement.

**- "Making the Most of Life, whatever the circumstances."**



Alex at Legoland for his make a wish. He lost his battle with a brain stem tumor at 5.



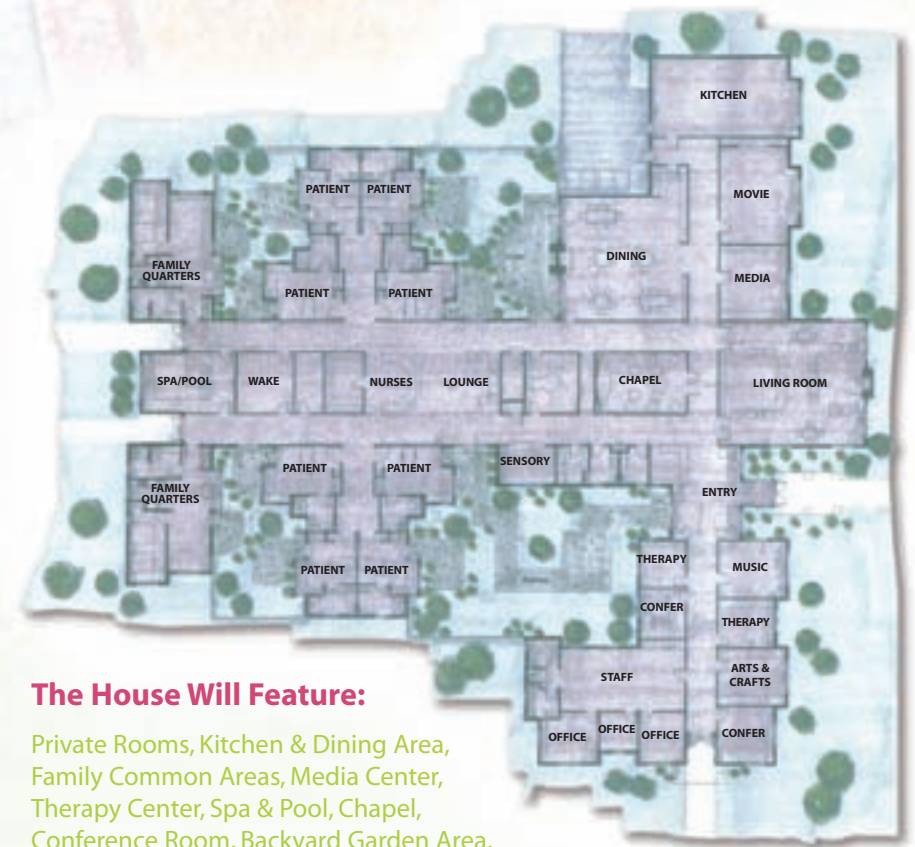
Danielle was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma at the age of 17.

"So many of Ohio's children and their families face life-limiting conditions like Cancer, Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis, and Cerebral Palsy, among many other medically fragile conditions. Many of these children live at home and require extensive 24 hour family and nursing support.

A place like Sarah House would provide a home like environment tailored to the specific needs of the child, and serve as an alternative to returning to the hospital for comfort and end of life care. Sarah House will also provide occasional and much needed respite for the child and their families."

**- Norbert Weidner, MD**  
Medical Director,  
Starshine Hospice  
Cincinnati Children's

## The Sarah House Facility:



*\*preliminary floor plan*

### The House Will Feature:

Private Rooms, Kitchen & Dining Area, Family Common Areas, Media Center, Therapy Center, Spa & Pool, Chapel, Conference Room, Backyard Garden Area, Nurses Station, Medical Facilities, and Other Necessary Facilities

"My daughter Danielle loved the outdoors, she loved camping and hiking in the woods searching for shooting stars in the sky. In Danielle's last months she was bed ridden and getting her outside was impossible. She and I longed to wheel her bed outside many times to experience the warm sun on her face, to breathe in fresh air, hear the birds sing, to see the moon and stars. Danielle wanted to be in a place where she could experience some of these simple pleasures. There was no place like this that could handle her special wants and needs.

We need a place like this, Sarah House would be that place. A respite and hospice facility for children like Danielle and many other children in similar situations who had no special place to go."

**- Dianne Hater,**  
in memory of her daughter, Danielle 1982-2002.