



The Devon Nicole House

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DEVON NICOLE'S VALENTINE

WINDHAM, NH – The Devon Nicole House will be hosting their Fifth Annual Valentines Charity Dinner on Saturday February 12th at the award-winning Andover Country Club. (Tickets are still available). Proceeds will help support The Devon Nicole House at Children's Hospital Boston that opened in June 2004.



The Devon Nicole House was created through heartbreak no parent should have to endure. Deanna and Tom Missert of Windham NH lost their daughter Devon Nicole only five short days after her birth in July of 1999 following a tragic delivery. Devon Nicole's father felt that she would want to help other children if she could. Tom and Deanna decided to donate Devon's organs. That decision allowed Devon's heart valves to save the lives of a baby boy and girl born with congenital heart defects. (CHD)

Through the process of delivering triplets less than two years earlier at Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (ChaD), the Misserts had stayed at a place called "David's House", (similar to a Ronald McDonald house). The Misserts were again in need of a place to stay during the ordeal of the birth of their baby girl Devon. After losing Devon, The Misserts tried to donate money in her name to David's House. Their donation was refused. They were told that if they really wanted to help they should build a Devon's House in Boston where there was an urgent need for patient family housing.

In 2003 alone over 14,000 out of state families brought their children to be treated at Children's Hospital Boston on an over-night or extended care basis. Thousands more MA based children receive care there each year. With hotel rooms averaging \$200 a night, the need for a Devon Nicole House was apparent. This need became a mission and dream for Deanna and Tom Missert. Through their strong faith, unswerving dedication, hard work and support from many friends, Deanna and Tom made this dream a reality.

The Devon Nicole House at Children's Hospital Boston located on the 5th floor of 21 Autumn Street in Boston is a home-away-from-home for patient families. The House is located within easy walking distance of the main entrance of the hospital and affords the comfort of accessibility for parents of children admitted to

Children's Hospital. Each night 13 families now have an affordable place to rest while their children receive the critical care they need. In the first 5 months of operations over 130 families stayed at the house.

Tickets to the Valentines Charity Dinner are still available. Cost is \$75 per person. This elegant and romantic gala event includes a cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres, ice sculpture, dinner, dancing, entertainment and Silent Auction. Call 603-594-1385 for reservations or log on to their website to down load ticket request form.

(www.devonshouse.org)

The Devon Nicole House is an on-going labor of love. The non-profit 501c3 charity is still in need of donations and corporate sponsors. Donations great and small are welcomed. They are also looking for additional Board members and volunteers. Please check their web site at **www.devonshouse.org** for further information on how you can help.