

Mother's House Built on Love



Jeffrey E. Hansen, Ph.D.

Ken and Karen,

As I reflect on heading home after coming up here because of Mother's near passing from double pneumonia and sepsis, I'm struck by just how much this house matters. We very nearly lost her. There were moments when everything felt fragile and uncertain, when the outcome was far from clear.

Being here these past days has made something unmistakably clear. This house is more than a structure. It has become a place of safety and refuge, a place where love has gathered and taken form. It is helping Mother feel safe again, and now giving her body and spirit the room they need to heal. The care that has gone into this home is real. It's tangible. It's felt.

I see the love you've poured into this house, the care you've taken to make it a beautiful and truly livable place for her, and honestly, it's amazing. You've taken on a lot of responsibility in caring for her, and I know that hasn't been easy. But you stepped up, and you've done it well, with commitment, steadiness, and heart.

Ken, man, as a contractor, you really rocked it. I see your devotion to Mother, your desire for things to be done right, and your willingness to jump in and fix whatever needs fixing, including that ceiling leak. Your background and expertise really showed, and pulling all of this together as a kind of general contractor is no small feat. Brother Greg would be proud of what you

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accomplished here. This is a beautiful house, and I genuinely love the space you've created and the care that's evident in every part of it.

Karen, what can I say? You're the detail person, and I see it clearly in so many ways. Your patience, your care, your concern, and the way you handle all the small, unglamorous administrative things, the things that quietly hold everything together, are incredible. There's not much glory in that kind of work, but without it, things fall apart. You are an infrastructure person with a great heart, and I'm genuinely thankful for you and for all that you carry.

It was also really good getting to know Lou a bit. I see so much of his dad in him, it's honestly striking. He has a generous heart and real compassion, and it was a pleasure working alongside him. He brings skills this old guy doesn't have, and I appreciated that more than I can say. I truly hope he finds his footing, because there's a lot of good there and a lot of potential waiting to come alive.

And Ray, her intelligence really stands out to me. She has a Lovelace level mind, and I sincerely hope she pursues nursing. I see pain in her, but I also see so much promise and depth. The fact that you've plucked her out of a difficult environment and brought her here says a lot about your hearts and your willingness to show up for someone who needed it. I look forward to getting to know her better over time.

Juliet, I want to thank you in a very personal way. You have been unfailingly supportive of Mother, so patient with her, and so genuinely kind. You have a remarkable ability to stay loving, grounded, and firm when she slips into her little modes, without reacting or escalating things. That kind of steadiness is a real gift. You so graciously opened your home to Mother and allowed her to stay there for as long as she needed, making her feel nothing but welcome, comforted, and cared for. You have been such a positive and stabilizing force in her life, and I am deeply thankful for you and for the way you love her so well.

Nicholas, I want to thank you in a deeper way as well. As I've stayed in this house over these last several days, I've been struck by your craftsmanship, your artistry, and your commitment to excellence in the way things were built and put together. I see it in the details, in the bathrooms, in the finishes, and in the care taken throughout the space. What really stands out to me is that I see love in that work. I see a love for Mother that translates through what you've created, and it's felt. This house carries that care. Thank you not only for your hard work, but for the gift you've given her in creating a space that feels safe, beautiful, and deeply considered.

So truly, Ken, Karen, Juliet, and Nicholas, well done. I can head home on Saturday with real peace in my heart, knowing Mother is loved, well cared for, and in very good hands. Bringing her here was a brilliant move, and I'm deeply grateful for the way each of you has made that decision come to life.

And to my dear cousins, Leah, and Francoise. thank you for your love, your support from a distance, and the way you've surrounded her during this season.

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Mother, may this house continue to wrap its arms around you as you heal. I am so proud of you for your grit, your courage, and the strength it took to pull through what could have taken you from us. Keep healing, knowing that you are deeply loved.

You are loved not only by the hearts of Ken, Juliet, Nicholas, and Karen, but by your extended family as well, those who are not here in person, but who surround you still. Their hearts reach toward you. Their prayers rise for you. Their love is with you.

This is Mother's house, built on love.
And that love will continue to carry you forward.

With love always,

Jeff