



## Documenting the Story of “Hunter House”

When Travis Boone was a youngster he first was introduced to Tracy and Jeff Willard and family as nearby neighbors. Now, years later, Boone is collaborating with the Willards to produce a documentary film to support one of Port Huron’s unique non-profits.

The Willards are the founders of Hunter Hospitality House (HHH), which includes two bed & breakfast-type havens offering respite and free lodging for patients and families undergoing medical services at McLaren Port Huron Hospital or Lake Huron Medical Center.

The homes are named after the Willards’ son Hunter, who was born prematurely in December, 1991 and passed away after just 16 days in and out of the hospital. Following that experience, the Willards developed the idea for the homes they felt would be “offering rest for the weary and heavy hearted.”

Now, Boone, a 2011 graduate of Port Huron Northern High School, is completing work on an hour long documentary designed to tell the story of HHH and its place in the community.

“Hopefully this will help people more understand what Hunter House actually does,” Boone said. “When I told most people that I was doing this project, they either asked me ‘what that place does,’ or they’d admit they’d never heard of Hunter Hospitality House at all. So hopefully this will help people understand what goes on, especially people who live in the same town as the Hunter Hospitality homes.”



Travis Boone, right, sets up a shot of volunteer Lily Labellarte while filming for “Hunter House” the documentary. Looking on is Evan Secory who assisted as creative consultant during filming.

Shooting for the film has been completed and Boone, who now resides in Chicago, is going through the editing process. His approach to the documentary is to develop a film that is meant to be a meditative, thoughtful look at the service provided by the homes while touching on the emotional back story about the Willards' commitment to develop the facilities.

"I feel like we forget sometimes how to let the world or our emotions take over us within a moment, which I feel is healthy," Boone stated. "So along with teaching people what Hunter House is, somehow I'd like people to get out of this movie that life is unpredictable, and soaking in the details while we're here is more than okay."

As for the Willards, they say they feel honored that Boone has committed his time and talent to tell their story.



Garrett Willard, general manager of Hunter Hospitality House, participates in an interview for "Hunter House" the documentary.

"It is my hope that our hardworking staff, the board of directors, all of our amazing volunteers and each donor will be recognized as heroic for providing this crucial service for our community," said Tracy Willard, Hunter Willard's mother, co-founder and executive director of Hunter Hospitality House.

"I also want people to know that resolve and purpose can grow from tragedy, as it has in our circumstance with the loss of Hunter. His life may have been short, but in the course of the history of our family--and now, our community--that short life is impacting many."

The documentary is set to premiere on December 6, 2016 at the Cornerstone Church in Clyde, Michigan at 7:00 pm. There will be no admission charge, though free

will donations will be accepted to assist in the operation of the homes.

"The stories of our guests are so powerful, and anyone, at any time, could need a place like HHH," Willard said. "I pray the audience will be filled with empathy and search their hearts for ways to become involved with Hunter Hospitality House."

A trailer for the film "Hunter House" is available to view online at <http://hunterhospitalityhouse.com/HH%20TRAILER%20no%20black%20bars.mp4>

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