ABOUT US



MEET ELIZABETH

Elizabeth is 88 years old with end stage heart disease. She never married and has no family in the area. She worries about who will care for her when her disease worsens. She doesn't have the financial resources to move to an assisted living facility or to hire caregivers.



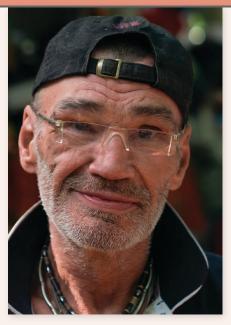
Grace House Akron is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2016 with the vision of helping people like Elizabeth. We believe all individuals deserve a death with dignity. Grace House is a new nonprofit organization that provides a caring environment to terminally ill individuals enrolled in a hospice program who would otherwise spend their last days alone or in undesirable environments. We provide support and acceptance to patients in the final stages of life, while ensuring that their basic needs of food, water, shelter and comfort are met. All services are free-of-charge, allowing individuals to pass peacefully without financial barriers to care.

Grace House was founded by Holly Klein, a former home hospice nurse and administrator who saw underprivileged and under-insured patients continually falling through the gaps in our health care system. She knew that we could do better as a community and as a society. She started exploring models of care that would allow for equity and serenity at the end of life for those in greatest need. Grace House and its services are modeled after residences in the Omega Home Network, a national consortium whose philosophy is to build homes that reflect the spirit of the communities that come together to create and sustain them. Further discussions with local palliative care and hospice professionals, including Dr. Kevin Dieter and Dr. Steven (Skip) Radwany, led to one simple question: "Isn't there more we can do?"

After multiple site visits, research and discussions with interested and deeply concerned community leaders, co-founders Cindy and Nick Browning joined Holly to build a board of highly engaged individuals which led to the cultivation of early support and identification of our campaign's honorary chair, Dr. Cliff Deveny, CEO of Summa Health. Through his added leadership, Grace House was gifted a generous donation of land by Summa Health and will be located at 475 North Howard Street in the North Hill neighborhood of Akron.



NEED FOR THE PROGRAM



MEET JIM

Jim is 48 years old with terminal lung cancer. He is estranged from his family and bounces between friends' homes. His friends are not able to care for him as his health declines. Because he has no home of his own, his hospice team finds it difficult to care for Jim. Sometimes they are unable to locate him for visits. He does not have the financial resources for rent or different housing options.

No organization like Grace House exists in Summit County or the Greater Akron region. Grace House will serve as a model for other communities to make care universally available to the terminally ill regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Besides the ethical and moral obligation of our society to care for the most vulnerable, studies show hospice care decreases healthcare costs by reducing hospital stays and other related medical costs. Grace House will be part of the solution, by helping to decrease the burden on area healthcare facilities and hospice programs. We anticipate serving 40-60 patients annually with an estimated length of stay between 30-50 days each.

Another key role for Grace House is to spark broader community conversations about access to end-of-life care for those in need, resulting in a shared and deeper understanding of what that means for individuals receiving care, their families and other caregivers. Providing advocacy, education, and support resources will be another essential program goal and service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hospice is a philosophy of care, not a physical building or facility. Hospice care can be received in any environment the patient prefers.

The burden of care for many hospice patients falls to family and friends. For individuals with no family or the inability to pay for private caregivers, this can result in undignified conditions and a death with suffering. They may die in social isolation, with few people around them and little support.

12% of Summit County residents (about 64,920) fall below the poverty level. Many face housing insecurity and do not have access to, or financial means for, caregivers at the end of life. A terminal illness increases the risk of losing housing and decreases access to care.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Grace House staff will serve as surrogate, extended family members to residents, while local hospice programs provide medical management and quality end-of-life care. Grace House caregivers and volunteers will provide services around the clock.

SERVICES WILL INCLUDE:

- Pet Therapy
- Music and Art Therapy
- Therapeutic Massage
- Vigil Companions
- Spiritual Care
- 24-Hour Care
- Self-Care for Families and Staff



Grace House will also provide experiential learning opportunities to help develop and educate future healthcare professionals from NEOMED (Northeastern Ohio Medical School) and other local universities to meet the needs of these underserved, terminally ill individuals.

As part of their curriculum, medical, nursing and health science students will document patient narratives through expressive writing, journaling or storytelling. Patients will serve as "teachers" as students capture the details of challenges faced during their journey to Grace House. We will promote an environment that values listening, respect and human dignity, and students will have the opportunity to build a deeper understanding about the importance of dialogue and the role of being present during end-of-life care.







CAMPAIGN DETAILS

The Built on Love Campaign is raising \$2.8 million to cover construction of a six-bedroom home, the first two years of operating expenses, seed funding for a Grace House endowment, and nominal campaign costs.

The 6,370 square-foot facility will be built on a three-quarter acre lot adjacent to St. Thomas Hospital, near downtown Akron, with a projected construction cost of \$1.8 million. This includes landscaping, exterior fencing and features such as a memorial garden, a Dignity Path, a pavilion, plus needed furnishings, fixtures and equipment, including solar panels.

Annual operating costs for the organization are projected to be \$360,000 per year. Grace House will not receive funding from local, county, state or federal governments. The service model will rely on philanthropy and generous partnerships with individuals, corporations and foundations—built and sustained entirely on love!



With that, the Grace House Board of Directors and Built on Love Campaign Steering Committee agreed to raise initial operating funds and will seed an endowment to grow and help sustain the services.

Grace House is fortunate to have received several early in-kind and cash donations supporting specific equipment and fixture needs (such as resident beds and solar panels). And of course, this project would not be possible without the generous donation of land from Summa Health, valued at approximately \$58,000.

TIMELINE

The projected timeline for fundraising and construction (as of August 2020) is as follows. Fundraising in a COVID-19 landscape may impact this to some degree, but onward we go!

Campaign Planning

Through 2020

Silent Phase Fundraising

Public Phase Fundraising

Farly to mid 2022

Groundbreaking Projected Fall 2021 – Spring 2022
Grand Opening 6-9 months after Groundbreaking

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES AND GOAL

\$1,801,651 **Building/Construction**

\$ 820,000 Organizational/Program Planning and 2 Years' Operations

\$ 58,349 *Endowment*

\$ 120,000 **Campaign Costs** (marketing, fundraising, events)

\$2,800,000 Total Campaign Goal



MISSION AND LEADERSHIP

OUR MISSION

Grace House Akron, Inc. provides a loving home for indigent, homeless, and abandoned individuals at the end of life. The home provides safe shelter, care with dignity and compassion, and a nurturing environment for individuals with terminal illnesses until deceased. We provide:

- Services free of charge and without regard to the individual's race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity
- Partnerships with local hospice agencies that deliver high quality, comprehensive end-of-life care
- 24-hour in-home care and emotional support with options for spiritual care, pet therapy, music and art therapy and vigil companions
- Support and self-care for families and staff

OUR VISION

Access to compassionate care and comfort at endof life for all individuals in the Greater Akron area.





Grace House Founders (I-r): Holly Klein, Nick and Cindy Browning

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Grace House Board of Directors

Nick Browning Chairperson & Co-Founder

Brian Emich *Vice Chairperson*

Brian Moore Secretary

Becky Newman Treasurer

Dr. Kevin Dieter Medical Director

Anne Armao Kate Bame Joleen Cicchinelli Lisa Dalpiaz John Mastrojohn, III Beth Mullen Barb Palmisano Dave Pastir Jane Penttila Dr. Steven Radwany

David Simpson Matt Soful

Built on Love Campaign Committee

Dr. Cliff Deveny Honorary Chair

Cindy & Nick Browning Co-Chairs

Barb Greene Special Advisor

Kate Bame
Lisa Dalpiaz
Gino Faciana
Julie Johnson
Kathy Johnson
Holly Klein
Brian Moore
Dr. Steven Radwany
Alita Rogers
David Simpson
Matt Soful
Katie Widness
Campaign Consultant

Bonnie Wojno



PLEASE JOIN US

Help us build this special home and make Grace House a reality for the Akron community with a contribution to our Built on Love Capital Campaign.

Your generosity will allow us to raise our roof AND begin to provide end-of-life care that is dignified with a peaceful transition for our neighbors in greatest need.

RESIDENT ROOM A

in honor of the Robert Jones Family

SPIRITUAL CENTER

in memory of Kyle Jones

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are other ways to get involved, too! The time, talents and love of many will make this possible. You might also consider the following:

- Volunteer on a committee
- Host a campaign event
- Connect us with people who share a passion for our community-based mission
- Follow us on social media and share our progress with your friends and followers
- Donate in honor or memory of a loved one
- Sign up for our e-newsletter to keep up with progress

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Grace House offers the opportunity to name a designated space permanently or for a designated period, providing long-term recognition and gratitude for our lead donors and a thoughtful way to memorialize or honor a special person, family or business/organization.

- Donor selects a room, space or system from the naming opportunities list.
- Grace House recognizes the donor, or other special person(s), or an organization designated by the donor.
- Designations may be made in honor or memory of a loved one and are also offered as sponsorships.
- A recognition plaque will be installed at the selected location.

Please see reverse for a current list of naming opportunities.





NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

	OPPORTUNITY	RESERVED	AVAILABLE	DONATION
INTERIOR	Building		1	\$ 500,000
	Resident Room Wing A		1	\$ 250,000
	Resident Room Wing B	Х	0	\$ 250,000
	Grace House Endowed Fund		1	\$ 150,000
	Larger Resident Rooms	2	0	\$ 100,000
	Spiritual Center	Х	0	\$ 100,000
	Resident Rooms		4	\$ 75,000
	Welcome Center	Х	0	\$ 50,000
	Gathering & Education Place	Х	0	\$ 50,000
	Caregiver Center		1	\$ 50,000
	Family Room	Х	0	\$ 50,000
	Kitchen		1	\$ 50,000
	Offices		2	\$ 25,000
	Staff Locker Room		1	\$ 20,000
	Shower Room		1	\$ 20,000
	Laundry Room		1	\$ 15,000
	Pantry	X	0	\$ 10,000
	Technology		8 TVs, 2 computers, phone system, AV	\$ 10,000
	Guest Bathroom		1	\$ 10,000
EXTERIOR	Gazebo/Pavilion	X	0	\$ 25,000
	Fountain Garden		1	\$ 25,000
	Voices in the Wind Garden	X	0	\$ 20,000
	Evergreen Garden		1	\$ 20,000
	Memorial Garden	X	0	\$ 15,000
	Bird Garden	X	0	\$ 15,000
	Ornamental Garden	X	0	\$ 15,000
	Middle Garden	X	0	\$ 10,000
	Butterfly Garden	X	0	\$ 10,000
	Sun Patio	X	0	\$ 10,000
	Dignity Path		1	\$ 10,000
	Benches		5	\$ 5,000
	Artwork/Sculptures	Х	0	\$ 2,500
	Public Phase/Pavers or Other		TBD	



THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE.

For more information on philanthropic opportunities please contact:

Holly Klein, Executive Director and Co-Founder 330-612-0334 Holly.Klein@gracehouseakron.org