

Trevor Thompson-

It starts as a whisper, more like a flutter, so faint you can barely hear it. In fact, so soft the lightest breeze will take it away from your ears. In fact, so faint you cannot even make out the words at first. You can only hear it in the faint distance in the beginning. But it gets louder with each day. It's the words of hope healing and love. It's the words of recovery. What Kathy's House does, is magnify that sound... allow the sound to grow and get stronger and eventually flourish for the family members and those in care.

I'm going to talk about some heavy things and that's why we're here because heavy things cannot be lifted on your own. Lifting heavy things from very low places is what Kathy's House does best. For those of you who do not know, my name is Trevor Thompson I was in a blimp crash here during the US Open on June 15th of last year. I spent a month in two of your finest hospitals receiving some of the best health care this world has to offer. I received five skin grafts from Burn Unit at Columbia St. Mary's and surgery for a broken back at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin.

I remember a woman in the hospital burn floor that was there before I arrived and was still there after I left from a bad auto accident. I don't believe she received one outside visitor. I remember her cries during the night and thought how lonely that must be. At Kathy's House that's not the reality. What an opportunity we have today to continue this great mission. Imagine the survivors 20 years from now with the families looking back and remembering the powerful impact and positivity that Kathy's House brought to them and you are a part of it. I'm a southerner and you're mid-westerners... we truly have things in common: hospitality and we take care of our own.

When my blimp caught fire and I rode it down in flames for 23 seconds from 1,000 feet. Little did I know that it would be Kathy's House that could then lift me and my family up to 30,000 feet. This is yours and your family's opportunity today, not to benefit me but benefit the people who come after me. They won't know your name and they won't know the sacrifice that you made with your financial support. What they will carry with them for the rest of their lives is the knowledge that someone that they did not know made a sacrifice for them.

I come here to Milwaukee as often as I can and visit my doctor's my nurses and my good friends here at Kathy's House.

I came to your city as a guest and I come back as a citizen.

During my hospital stays, my wife and mother lived at Kathy's House. It gave them the support that was missing from hotels. In fact, if I had my way I would rename Kathy's House to Kathy's Home. A house is where you live. A home is a very different place... it's a place of love.

When I come back to my second home I always try and stay at Kathy's House, if there's room, so I can interact with people. I try to give them something of myself, help them on their journey. This is the message of today. We should, and we need your support.

Rich men want it, wise men know it, the poor all need it and kind men show it. A quote from one of my favorite series called Gotham but I would add the injured require it..... love, compassion caring understanding empathy and in some cases true sympathy.

I was taught by my grandfather at a very young age, everything has an action and reaction. So, I'm going to spend a few minutes talking about the action, so you can understand how powerful your reaction is. If you have not yet visited Kathy's House, I encourage you to experience it, to sit on the couches and visit with strangers and truly connect for a few moments or a few hours. To be in the kitchen and to be offered cookies and other nice things that people have made. Walking into the offices and being not only greeted with a smile but greeted with a hug. This is my favorite place to stay when I come back. Today is your opportunity. Get involved. Volunteer. Provide immediate support. Become part of the capital campaign. Attend Kathy's House events. Now is a great time to get involved. Their new Home is going to be amazing.

Have you ever made a true difference in a stranger's life? Today is your opportunity.