



## KATHY'S HOUSE LAUNCHES PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO BUILD NEW HOUSE

*A growing need for lodging for cancer patients and others with serious illnesses is the catalyst for a \$12 million campaign launched by Kathy's House on August 27.*

"This is a tremendous step for us—our staff, our board, but most of all, our guests," said Patty Metropulos, president and chief executive officer. "We've been operating at capacity for several years, and frequently face the heartbreaking task of turning people away. A new, larger House is the best thing we can do for patients and their families. I'm thrilled to kick off this campaign to the public."

A lead pledge of \$6 million from Froedtert Hospital set the stage for the campaign, followed by significant gifts from Fotsch Family Foundation, Ladish Co. Foundation, Schneider, and Mike & Ginny McBride. To date, these and other substantial gifts total \$9.8 million (82% of goal).



Peggy Hashoian, Patty Metropulos, Marilyn Thiet, Donna Skwierawski



Val Latzke, Scott Latzke, Greg Schauer and Kelly Baxter



Jack Anick 5-some with Dick Schaefer, George Lubeley, Wayne Schultz and Dan Burbach



Sprecher Brewery provided a special tap beer for Oktoberfest



Board member Abby Brzezinski and guests enjoy Oktoberfest



**Speakers at the Campaign Launch (l to r):** Mike McBride, Challenge Grant Sponsor; Wayne Larsen, Ladish Co. Foundation; Denise Smith, House guest, Patty Metropulos, Kathy's House; Cathy Buck, Froedtert Hospital; Roger Caplinger, Milwaukee Brewers, cancer survivor.



Denise Smith, guest and Geri (Nana) Fotsch, Fotsch Family Foundation.

At the launch, a \$100,000 challenge grant was offered by the McBrides, longtime supporters of Kathy's House and donations are being matched dollar-for-dollar. "The need is so great. We are deeply concerned about the number of guests who are turned away. It's critical that this new House gets built as soon as possible," said Mike McBride.

"Kathy's House has quietly been doing important work in our community for almost 20 years," said Wayne Larsen, trustee, Ladish Co. Foundation. "When we learned about the incredible care they provide for people in medical crisis, supporting this campaign was an easy decision."

"In the past five years, more than 1,000 Brown County residents stayed at Kathy's House," said Mary Gronnert-Kollross, former foundation coordinator for Schneider, the Green Bay-based transportation and logistics company. "That number struck home because Schneider believes in giving back to organizations that help improve the quality of life for its associates. Every day, Kathy's House helps sick people get the medical care they need, even if it's 100 miles from home. The enterprise is proud to support that."

The new House will have 36 rooms, doubling current capacity, with a separate wing for patients with compromised immune systems and a patient services room for blood draws and private consultations. It will be located on a 3.6-acre site on North 92nd St. between Doyne and Wisconsin Aves., near the Froedtert & the Medical College Clinical Cancer Center.

"The relationship between Kathy's House and Froedtert Hospital goes back many years," said Cathy Buck, president of Froedtert Hospital. "Increasingly, medical care is being provided on an outpatient basis, and our doctors and nurses count on the supportive, compassionate home away from home that our patients find at Kathy's House."

For information about the capital campaign and to donate, visit [www.kathys-house.org/new-home](http://www.kathys-house.org/new-home).

## PASSAGES

Donors of **Kathy's House** have recently honored the memories of:

Betty Alecksen  
Timothy Bednarz  
Lisa Boyea  
William Brackett  
Janice Church  
George Courtis  
Susan Sell Deaner  
Joan & Earl Delzell  
Dennis Dietzen  
Darrell Fideler  
Julian Gorden  
Marlene Grinde  
James Guse  
Wayne Hader  
Jeanne & Emmett Hare  
Jason Harvey  
Sarah Herbe  
Geri Herling  
Bruce Higley  
Kathy Jackson  
Pamela Jones  
Michael Josephs  
Michael (Pooch) Kamke  
Gary Kupec  
Jane Lennon  
Marla Lichtenberger  
Lindsay Wenzel Lopez  
James Marx  
David Moore  
Jen Clarks mother  
Bill Munns  
Clayton Poquette  
Wayne Robertson  
Eddie Roeder  
Jim Rohn  
Helen & Elmer Schulte  
Arthur Schultz  
Beverly Simet  
Mary Singer  
Russell Skorik  
Larry Smith  
Susan Tucker  
Ralph & Nancy Watry  
Christine Webster  
Glenn Whelan  
Viola Wrycha

## BARB BURMEISTER, RN, EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEER, NAMED HEALTHCARE HERO BY BIZ TIMES

A bone marrow transplant nurse, Barb Burmeister took care of Kathy when she was at Froedtert Hospital in 2000. She was also there to help the family after Kathy passed away. Barb remembers the Vogel and Kuettner family well and even heard Kathy herself express concern for fellow inpatients who were alone, being grateful that so many of her friends and family could easily visit. Kathy witnessed a young man die alone in his room and asked her family to do something to help these families stay together. One year later, July 4, 2001, Kathy's House opened.



Barb was a Kathy's House supporter from the moment it opened, making her first donation in October 2001. That year, she organized the first dinner for Kathy's House guests provided by the nurses on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. It has continued without pause twice a year ever since!

A huge Milwaukee Brewer fan, Barb has raised over \$11,000 since 2015 selling bobble-heads and other memorabilia on e-Bay and sending the profits our way! She attends our events, often contributing a basket of goodies to be sold at silent auctions and so much more.

The most heart-warming is when Barb is at the House and one of our guests recognizes her. Here are some of the comments our guests and supporters made on the Kathy's House Facebook post about Barb.

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"Barb helped take care of my husband after his transplant. We always knew we were in good hands with her. Thank you, Barb, for all you do for your patients and for Kathy's House." – Cindy, Fond du Lac, WI

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"Barb took care of my mom from 2001-2016. She and all the staff on the BMT unit are amazing!" – Deena, Madison

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"Barb also helped take care of my husband in 2018. I was so overwhelmed at the time and she was a great help."

– Donna, Pleasant Prairie, WI

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"Barb took care of me 21 years ago when I had my bone marrow transplant. I was so glad to have her as my nurse! Thank you for all you do." – Sarah, Milwaukee

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Board member and Kathy's sister, Laura Woods, remembers the excellent care Barb provided. "It has been 20 years since my sister Kathy Vogel Kuettner was getting treatment at Froedtert. Our memories of the nurse's care and compassion are still very profound. One nurse, Barb Burmeister holds a special place in our hearts. Barb was so kind, compassionate and intuitive with Kathy and her loved ones. Barb had a special spot in her heart for Kathy, and we all felt the same way about her."



**The Chefs who made Oktoberfest possible:** Dan Starke, Patrick Schultz, [Patty Metropulos], Steve Pardowski, Tommy Peschong, Robert Siegel and Steven Krass.



## "KATHY'S HOUSE IS A BLESSING"



Glenda Richardson

Glenda Richardson, Beloit, was with her nephew Ardie when she was told he needed to travel by helicopter to Froedtert as his lungs weren't working. He was in the CVICU for 15 days and for the first couple of nights, Glenda slept at the hospital because Kathy's House had no room.

Then a room opened. "When I walked into the front door, I felt like I was home. I'm not well myself, and I could not have stayed with Ardie without Kathy's House. The Lord has Kathy's House in his arms, and it is a blessing to all that stay there. Everything and everyone made me feel welcome and safe. I've met many strangers at Kathy's House who are now friends."

## MEET GUEST ALMA AVILA



Alma Avila and Lucas Cortes

Alma Avila, Oshkosh, stayed at Kathy's House for more than a month this summer as she received treatment at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center. Here she is joined by Luis A. Cortes, her husband. Alma says, "Everything at Kathy's House is wonderful! I really appreciate that the location is so close to Froedtert and we could come back here and rest." We loved the Tres Leche cake Alma made!

## HELP A FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Our Family Program ensures all guest families, including those in financial hardship, can access needed health care and stay together during a medical crisis. More families are traveling to Milwaukee to access advanced medical care.

- \$55 to Sponsor a Family for one night
- \$275 to Sponsor a Family for 5 nights
- \$550 to Sponsor a Family for our average 10-day length of stay

Please consider sponsoring a family. Go to [www.kathys-house.org/waystogive/](http://www.kathys-house.org/waystogive/)



Cost per Night

Average Guest Donation

Your donation will directly support lodging costs for our families so that Kathy's House can remain affordable

## "GIVING FAMILIES A SHOT" A HUGE SUCCESS

On September 27th Kathy's House was fortunate to be the recipient of proceeds raised at the "Giving Families a Shot" fundraiser organized by Jason Nenonen of J.F. Ahern Co. and Brad Weinert of Froedtert Hospital. The proceeds totaled \$29,335.30!! This is the largest proceeds Kathy's House has received from a third party fundraiser!



**Giving Families a Shot**  
Benefitting Patients and Families Facing Cancer and Serious Illness

"What Kathy's House does is fantastic! My family has experienced needing medical treatment far from home," said Brad. "I know firsthand how expensive it is to stay in a hotel. It's a big deal for a family to sustain a long period of treatment far away from home and I'm grateful to help. I'm also grateful to all the contractors that donated raffle items, sponsored teams as well as sponsoring food, beverage and appetizer stations."

"The more I learned about the Kathy's House, the more I wanted to help the families that stay there while they face a serious medical situation that requires them to be in Milwaukee," Jason said. I'm also grateful to the 170 participants, most of whom work in construction."

**This generosity means that nearly 120 families will be able to stay at Kathy's House for an average length of stay.**

We house about 1,500 families per year. One hundred twenty families is almost 10% of all who stay at Kathy's House annually. THANK YOU AGAIN from our patients, families, staff, and Board!!

## WISH LIST

Kathy's House is grateful for the generosity of all of our donors. We have created a wish list on AmazonSmile.com of our most urgent needs.



Once on Amazon Smile, select Kathy's House as your charity and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to Kathy's House!

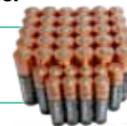
### Kathy's House Wish List

Unscented Hand Soap

New Pillows

Chlorox with bleach toilet bowl cleaner

AAA or AA batteries



Stamps

Disposable coffee cups and lids



Facial tissues and paper towels



Gift cards from Pick 'n Save, Whole Foods, Quick Trip and Speedway

Queen or Twin Mattress Pads

For additional items on our wish list, go to [www.kathys-house.org/ways-to-give/](http://www.kathys-house.org/ways-to-give/)

## Kathy's House

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Judy Vogel

## President & CEO

Patty Metropulos

## OUR MISSION

**Kathy's House** is a hospital guest house committed to providing affordable lodging and caring support in a "home away from home" environment for families who need to travel to Milwaukee for medical care.

## PATTY WINS MILWAUKEE MAGAZINE BETTY AWARD

*Congratulations to Patty Metropulos, President and CEO of Kathy's House for winning one of the six inaugural Betty Awards from Milwaukee Magazine in the category of Tenacious B: One who embodies former publisher Betty Quadracci's perseverance. With over 150 nominations, and two rounds of judging, all award winners are working to make Milwaukee better.*

### Here's some of what they said about Patty!

"When Patty Metropulos stepped through the doors of Kathy's House in 2012, the organization stood at a crossroads. The nonprofit guest house – named for Kathy Vogel Kuettner, who died of cancer in 2000 – offers lodging for those traveling to Milwaukee for medical care. At the time, it had kept just over half of its 18 rooms filled. Metropulos had to think big. One of her first moves was to strengthen the relationship with Froedtert Hospital & the Medical College of Wisconsin. "There were families and patients who just didn't know about us," she says.

"Metropulos expanded the board, identified new donors and helped rebrand Kathy's House. By 2017, annual revenues had doubled, and occupancy regularly reached 90 percent. Now, Kathy's House is planning a larger facility, which is slated to break ground by early 2020. "Over the last two years, we've had to turn away over 500 families. People now see this expansion is not only feasible, it's something we must do," she says.

Patty added in a roundtable discussion, "It wasn't until I started working at Kathy's House that I realized thousands of people in this state have to travel hundreds of miles to get the medical care they need. I love that we get to create a home for them."

**"I love that when I walk out the front door at the end of the day, our porch is full of complete strangers who are now friends."**

– Patty Metropulos, President and CEO



Award winners (l to r): Standing–Katie Sanders, Tiffany McDulfie, Sister Edna Loneergan and Patty Metropulos; Seated–Christine Flasch and Dr. Joan Prince.