



For Immediate Release

March 1, 2021

Media Contact:

Liz Beaudoin

(414) 453-8290

[lizb@kathys-house.org](mailto:lizb@kathys-house.org)

## **Anonymous Donor Boosts Kathy's House Capital Campaign** *Challenge grant will match donations up to \$500,000 for new House*



**Milwaukee, Wis. (March 1, 2021)** – A half-million-dollar pledge from an anonymous donor in the form of a challenge grant has spurred new momentum in the fundraising effort to build a new Kathy's House in Wauwatosa. The nonprofit hospital guest house provides affordable lodging for out-of-town patients and their families who must stay in Milwaukee for medical care.

The challenge grant will match donations up to \$500,000 through June 1. If the matching target is met, Kathy's House would be within 96% of its \$12 million goal when the new facility opens this summer.

“We're overwhelmed with gratitude,” said Kathy's House president and CEO Patty Metropulos. “This unexpected, wonderful donation brings us so close to the finish line, especially because the matching component doubles the impact of every gift.

Achieving our capital campaign goal reduces the need to borrow money to finish construction, allowing us to direct operational dollars to our guests, not paying off debt.”

One Kathy's House supporter has already stepped up to the challenge, contributing \$90,000, his third donation to the capital campaign.

Steady, strong demand for services was the catalyst for building the new Kathy's House. For several years, Kathy's House operated at near or full capacity and was forced to turn away approximately 300 families a year. Although COVID-19 safety protocols temporarily limited the number of available rooms, Kathy's House remained open and continued to house guests in 2020.

The new House is under construction on a 3.6-acre site near the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center. With 36 rooms, the new House will double current capacity, and will be fully compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. It also will have a kitchen, dining area, library, family room, fitness room, laundry facilities, courtyard, patio, walking trail and parking, and a patient services room for blood draws and private consultations (performed by contracted clinic staff).

A lead pledge of \$6 million from Froedtert Hospital set the stage for the campaign in 2017, followed by significant gifts from the Fotsch Family Foundation, Ladish Co. Foundation and Schneider (of Green Bay). Although Kathy's House has served guests from all 50 states, most live in northeastern Wisconsin, where access to advanced treatments for complex diseases like cancer or organ failure may be limited. Metropulos states that approximately 85% of guests have cancer or a loved one with cancer. She noted that more than 40% of patient guests report that they would be unable to access the care they need without Kathy's House.

For information about the capital campaign, a one-minute video tour of the new House, and to donate, visit <https://kathys-house.org/new-home/>

### **About Kathy's House**

Kathy's House is a nonprofit hospital guest house that provides affordable lodging and caring support in a "home away from home" environment for people who need to travel to Milwaukee for medical care. Open 365 days a year, it is the only such facility in southeastern Wisconsin that serves patients of all ages and their families and caregivers. Annually, Kathy's House serves approximately 1,500 guests; roughly half are patients and half are family members. Most are cancer patients and more than 70 percent live in Wisconsin. Kathy's House was founded in 2001 by the parents of Kathy Vogel Kuettner, a Milwaukee cancer patient who had deep empathy for fellow patients who traveled to the city for care and faced illness without the support of nearby family and friends. Kathy died in 2000 but her wish to help others lives on. For more information, visit [www.kathys-house.org](http://www.kathys-house.org).