



# newsletter

## OUR NEW HOME FOR THE HEALING IS NOW OPEN



Our first guests Donna and Roger Thompson of Merrill, Wis.

### Welcoming our First Guests

On June 7, we welcomed the first guests to our new Home. Donna and Roger Thompson of Merrill, Wis. exclaimed that the "House is fabulous!" on first sight – and our hundreds of subsequent guests have echoed the sentiment.

It's not hard to see the reason for this acclaim. In addition to doubling the capacity of our original Home with 36 guest rooms, the new Home's many upgrades better position Kathy's House to serve families traveling to Milwaukee to access medical care. ADA-compliance is a game changer. Since many of our guests have mobility issues, the stairs at our original Home were a frequent challenge. In addition, design decisions throughout the new House intentionally incorporate wellness in pursuit of our vision of serving as a national model of care. Some pictures of the spaces in our new Home are below.



Regular guest rooms feature two beds, a private bath, television, refrigerator and telephone. Two-room suites include a kitchenette, allowing immunocompromised patients to self-isolate.



A mix of cooking and dining spaces allow guests and volunteers to prepare meals on-site. Highly cleanable surfaces advance our commitment to health and safety.



A variety of gathering spaces are available for guests to connect with visitors and with one another.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our Capital Campaign to construct "A New Home for Healing" is in its final phase. This campaign supports patients and families who need access to critical healthcare in our "home away from home." To help up cross the finish line, please give at: <https://kathys-house.org/new-home/>.

Goal: \$12M

Donations to Date: \$11.7M

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

July 1, 2021 marked 20 years since Kathy's House first opened its doors, almost one year to the day after our namesake Kathy Vogel Kuettners death from Burkitt's lymphoma. It did not take long for Kathy's father (and Kathy's House co-founder) Dick Vogel to see that the need for hospital guest housing was growing. He adapted his vision accordingly. His vision board, now displayed in our new Home, showed his plans for growth and a new building - in the exact spot where the New Home for Healing now stands. Although we lost Dick in 2014 his legacy and vision remain cornerstones of our new Home. The foresight and tenacity of our founders will not be forgotten.





## THE POWER OF PHILOXENIA COMES THROUGH FOR KATHY'S HOUSE FAMILIES

Although this year's gala took a pandemic-era turn, we are grateful for the sponsors and donors who made this untraditional event a success. Together, we gathered virtually with supporters to celebrate the Greek virtue of philoxenia, "hospitality toward strangers." With your help we exceeded our goal – raising more than \$100,000 for our Critical Operations Campaign. Funds raised supported all the ways that Kathy's House continues to serve guests – even during a pandemic.



Guests enjoyed a traditional Greek dinner catered by Saz's and delivered car-side by Kathy's House staff. A string quartet from Wauwatosa East provided ambient music.

### INSPIRATION OF HOPE AWARD

Cliff & Denise Smith, Crivitz, Wis.

**The "Inspiration of Hope Award" is given to a guest of Kathy's House who has demonstrated extraordinary courage and grace.**

Denise and Cliff Smith first became acquainted with Kathy's House in 2019, when they found themselves in Milwaukee battling Cliff's diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). Over the course of treatment, they made themselves at home. Visiting family came to celebrate the holidays, and Denise channeled her energy into building community with other guests.



Cliff & Denise Smith of Crivitz, Wis. pose with staff during a recent stay as they receive the Inspiration of Hope award.

Even during their most difficult days, the generous couple prioritized giving back to Kathy's House. Denise spoke at our public launch event, hosted a Facebook fundraiser, and has told her story repeatedly to funders and other families who need help from Kathy's House. We are grateful for all the ways the Smiths have supported other Kathy's House guests. Congratulations to Cliff and Denise on receiving this well-earned award!

**/// I was so moved and grateful about how Kathy's House went above and beyond, caring for our every need to ensure the healthiest outcome possible for us! It was that moment that I realized I wanted to give back to Kathy's House and to others who, like Clifford and me, live out of town and struggle to afford necessary life-saving treatment. ///**

—Denise Smith

### FOUNDERS AWARD

CG Schmidt & HGA

**The Founders Award is presented to an individual or organization who demonstrates exceptional dedication and commitment to the mission of Kathy's House.**



No one has shown more commitment to serving Kathy's House guests than the team that did the physical work of planning and building our New Home for Healing. This year's Founders Award recognized both the construction team at CG Schmidt and the architects, HGA. Both contractors have walked with us each step of this years-long journey, exploring parcels, confronting site challenges, and, ultimately, creating a structure with wellness at its core. Remarkably, in spite of the pandemic, construction of our new Home was completed within one year.

**Russell Wilson**, the architect on the project, accepted the award on behalf of HGA. Russ said, "I had always thought of Kathy's House challenge not in the technical complexity per se; it's in the complexity of providing a safe, warm, comfortable environment for the guests." The care and intention that went into making this Home "safe, warm, and comfortable" shows in the finished project. Patty Metropulos, Kathy's House President & CEO commended HGA, "They brought extraordinary patience and talent to the project."

**Cody Scherr**, Senior Project Manager, accepted the award on behalf of CG Schmidt. On presenting the award, Patty Metropulos, Kathy's House President & CEO remarked that, "CG Schmidt's professionalism and partnership have been exceptional. I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated project team." Cody also attributed the award to the hard work of everyone at CG Schmidt. "I would say I am most proud of the team that we have out here," he said. "It's a great group of guys, all here to work and allowed us to have some fun along the way."

## THE HEART OF OUR HOME



### MOTHER AND SON FIND HEALING AT KATHY'S HOUSE

Antigo residents Sam & Rebecca Ewen are among the first guests at the new Kathy's House. With mom Rebecca, Sam has been here since his June 14 discharge following a bone marrow transplant at Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin.

When Sam's doctor told him the transplant would require a two-month stay in Milwaukee, he was apprehensive - until his social worker put him in touch with Kathy's House. He chose mom as his caregiver, and it didn't take the pair long to discover the many amenities in the new House.

**/// It's just a friendly place to be. It's not like the hospital. It's the closest thing to home you can get without being home. ///**  
—Sam Ewen

"How would I describe it – fun!" Sam says. He says he's enjoyed getting to know the other patients and hearing what they've been through. "The kitchen is really fun, too," he says. "I love to cook, and it's a decked-out kitchen." Sam has also made use of the fitness center, taking advantage of the weights to rebuild some of the muscle mass he lost in the hospital. He said he really values the holistic approach to true healing, as differentiated from "feeling better." Rebecca has become a prolific puzzle solver, completing three so far during her stay. She also appreciates the pianos in the House. "Music is just super powerful for healing," she says.

## BOARD AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liz Beaudoin** recently came onboard as our new Marketing Director. Liz has more than a decade of experience in strategic communications and non-profit leadership. "This is an exciting year to join the Kathy's House team, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary and open a brand-new House," Liz says. "I'm honored to be part of an organization with a mission of compassion and healing. The staff has welcomed me like part of the family."



**Kayla Kropidowski** has joined our team as Guest Services Specialist. Kayla has a background in marketing, purchasing, and print. Kayla was moved to investigate employment at Kathy's House because of her own experience caregiving for a family member who had to travel for medical care. Her compassion and upbeat demeanor make her a natural fit for the role and the team. "I like helping people who are going through a hard time," Kayla says.



**Mickey Salzmann** is now serving in the role of Manager, Guest Services. Mickey has been working at Kathy's House since 2019 and immediately displayed what she calls her "main gifts" – empathy and the need to care for others. "I work with truly wonderful people and am looking forward to working closer with Guest Services and Housekeeping beyond my original role at Kathy's House," Mickey says.



**Kathy Wagner** has been named Director of Operations. After nearly 10 years at the House, Kathy has become an integral force in every aspect of operations. Her compassion and warmth belie a dedicated and detail-oriented member of the team. "I find it rewarding to do whatever I can to give our guests comfort during a challenging time," Kathy says.



**Abbey Magnuson** is the newest member of our Board of Directors. Abbey is an associate with Foley & Lardner LLP and a member of the firm's Estates & Trusts Practice. We are confident that her wealth of expertise will prove an asset as Kathy's House continues to grow and thrive.



## Kathy's House

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## KATHY'S HOUSE CELEBRATION

On August 4th, we gathered to celebrate the many hands who built our New Home for Healing. The event commenced with a flag ceremony, led by Milwaukee Regional Medical Center Executive Director Bob Simi, facilitated by members of the Vogel family and past guests. Distinguished speakers and blessings from our faith partners marked the occasion. Governor Tony Evers, Froedtert Hospital President Eric Conley, and CG Schmidt President & CEO Rick Schmidt spoke. The event concluded with tours and the performance of an original poem by past guest Kashvi Ramani. We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the generosity of our donors and all who contributed to our New Home for Healing.



## OUR WISHLIST

Your support helps us maintain a clean and safe environment for our guests. Check out our most urgent needs on our Wish List.

<https://bit.ly/kh-wishlist>

## SAVE THE DATES



**Monday, September 27, 2021**

Ironwood Golf Course,  
Sussex, Wis.

Register at: <https://kathys-house.org/events/>



**Thursday, October 28, 2021**

in the Kathy's House Courtyard

## "Trees of Hope"

### Dinner

**Saturday,**

**November 20, 2021**

Radisson, Wauwatosa, Wis.

Kathy's House will receive half of funds raised at this annual event by Lindsay's Voice. Learn more about Lindsay's Voice and Trees of Hope at <http://www.treesofhopewi.org/TreesofHope.aspx>

