



**Hildegard House**

*dignity has a home*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Founder, leader of end-of-life care organization to retire**

**Louisville, Kentucky** — Hildegard House, the Louisville-based nonprofit providing end-of-life care to individuals lacking adequate housing, resources or support, announced that its founder and CEO, Karen Cassidy, will retire from her role after 10 years with the organization.

Launched in 2016 by Cassidy, a palliative care nurse, Hildegard House has become a nationally recognized model for dignity-centered hospice and end-of-life care, offering comfort, safety and human connection to some of the community's most vulnerable individuals.

Hildegard House is named for St. Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century German Benedictine healer, mystic and saint who, in tending to the dying at her abbey, was likely the first to provide what is known today as hospice care.

“Karen’s inspiration and drive have built an incredible organization from the ground up, with incredible staff and committed volunteers who ensure everyone has the ability to die with dignity,” said Larry Grossman, board chair of Hildegard House. “Karen is unselfish in her dedication to our community and should be praised and recognized for her work to make Louisville a much more compassionate city.”

Under Cassidy’s leadership, the organization has grown from a visionary concept into a vital part of Louisville’s healthcare and social service ecosystem, filling a



*Karen Cassidy, founder and CEO of Louisville nonprofit Hildegard House, will retire this year.*

critical gap in end-of-life care for vulnerable individuals so they may die with dignity. Hildegard House receives referrals from hospitals, Hosparus Health and other community organizations, caring for people who are homeless and those who do not have caregivers. Since 2016, approximately 400 individuals have received care from Hildegard House.

The nonprofit owns two adjacent buildings in the Butchertown neighborhood, 114 Adams Street and 1427 Story Avenue, that comprise six resident rooms, a volunteer training room, offices, laundry and storage. A third structure at 1431 Story Avenue is under renovation for a future training and education center, The Center for Caregiving Education, which is anticipated to open late spring 2026.

The board of directors has initiated a national search for Hildegard House's next leader. In collaboration with local consulting firm Ashley|Rountree and Associates, which supports nonprofits in fund development, strategic planning, executive searches and more, Hildegard House anticipates hiring a CEO by summer 2026. Cassidy will assist with the new leader's transition into the role and will remain available for ongoing counsel as needed.

"I am continually impressed by the compassion our team shows to residents, whether they live with us a single day or for months," Cassidy said. "But I've been most surprised and touched by the bonds between our staff, volunteers, and board members who serve one another so well in this sacred work we do. I am proud of the community we've built and confident the person who leads our next chapter will continue to strengthen the way we serve all those who come through our doors."

### **About Hildegard House**

Rooted in dignity, comfort and respect, Hildegard House offers a peaceful home environment where residents receive care, dignity and presence at the end of life. As Kentucky's first and only comfort care home, Hildegard House offers short-term support for people without a home or loved ones who can provide care. Each resident is served by a hospice team and volunteers called Compassionate Companions who provide care and connection. For more information, visit [hildegardhouse.org](http://hildegardhouse.org).

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