



Hildegard House

dignity has a home



COMPASSION *Grows* AT HILDEGARD HOUSE

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Issue 10
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When Compassionate Companion Don Feeney met Donna, she had only lived at Hildegard House for a few days. In that short time, she charmed everyone around her with stories of her dog, Rudy, her observations of the neighborhood out her window, and her sparkling conversation. Donna was easy to talk to. The day he met her, Don noticed that Donna wore a beautiful rosary around her neck. He asked her about it.

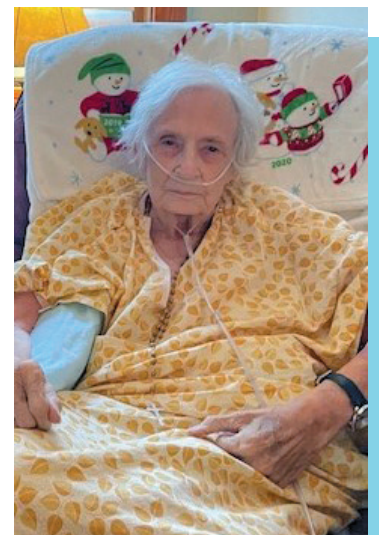
Donna told Don that she was not Catholic, but her sister brought her the rosary all the way from Jerusalem and she treasured it. Don told Donna that he was a parishioner at St. Williams Catholic Church in Louisville. As so often happens at Hildegard House, they began to share stories about their lives. That's when Donna told Don she was really worried about someone in her family.

"It touched me," Don said, "that in her position she was mentally and spiritually reaching out to someone else who was struggling."

It might seem that Donna would be worried about herself. She came to Hildegard House to spend her final weeks. Single all her life, she was sick and had no one who could provide 24-hour care for her during her final illness. But she asked Don for something else. She asked him to pray for her young great nephew "Kenny." Only 3 years old, Kenny had been fighting for his life since birth and his prolonged hospital stays had caused enormous financial hardship on his family. In her first days at Hildegard, Donna's heart was with Kenny.

"So Donna and I said a prayer together for Kenny," Don remembers. "And I told her that at St. Williams we have a prayer list. I could ask to put Kenny on the list and then he will have about 400 people praying for him"

Hildegard House is a place where people make the most of the time they have together. We often say that no one is a servant and no one is served — we come to serve each other. Compassionate Companions and residents ask for what they



Donna, Hildegard House resident

need from each other. Relationships grow quickly and deeply.

Through their relationship, Donna introduced Don to Kenny. Don introduced his parish to Kenny. The circle of compassion grew wider.

As Don recalled this story, he also recalled this quote from Dorothy Day. "We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world."



A Word from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2023 – the residents we served, our compassionate staff and volunteers, and our passionate Board of Directors — I ask myself, “What was the real impact?”

What exactly does making an impact mean? To me, it means to stop ignoring the world’s problems and to make a contribution to a better future. It means doing our part to offer solutions to our community’s suffering. I do believe Hildegard House has made an impact. We couldn’t do it without you.

Because of you, we were able to open a second home with three additional bedrooms to serve more individuals at the end of life.

Because of you, we were able to train almost 42 new Compassionate Companion volunteers.

Because of you, we were able to add an Assistant Director to our staff and we welcomed three new Board Members.

Because of you, we have been able to serve over 200 residents to date.

This email made me feel the impact. “My name is Felicity. I am Mr. Brown’s niece. He was like a dad to me. I just want to say thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for everything you did for my uncle and us. I know he didn’t suffer anymore because you all made sure he was comfortable and your wonderful care was an absolute blessing to him and to me and my family. I have never been to such a wonderful place with such wonderful people. I just wanted to say thank you. I cannot thank you all enough and words can’t describe how grateful we are for what you have done and what you do. We asked that friends and family donate to you all to help others and to grow your organization. We are forever grateful.”

We rely on donations to provide care. And we rely on yours so that we can continue to make an impact. Thanks for your support, prayers, generosity and for spreading the word about Hildegard House. We want to continue to make an impact with your help!

Blessings,

Karen Cassidy

Karen Cassidy
Executive Director

Welcome New Board Members

Hildegard House welcomed three new board members in January. These community leaders have joined our Board for a three-year term.



Larry Grossman is a consultant and business owner. He brings a wealth of experience in project management, business integration, marketing, and IT.

Kacy Noltemeyer is a licensed real-estate agent with Rainey, Allen, and Shaw. She brings to Hildegard House over ten years of fund raising experience and a wide community network.



Jim Morris is recently retired from a 37 year career in accounting and finance. He was most recently Regional Vice President of Finance for Baptist Health.

Dr. Misha Rhodes is the Chief Medical Officer for CenterWell Senior Primary Care, KY & IN.



Last Flowers BRINGS LOCAL ART TO HILDEGARD HOUSE

Join us for a reception for Last Flowers, on Thursday, April 11th from 5pm - 7pm, at Louisville Visual Art (LVA) in the Portland neighborhood. The event will celebrate and showcase a new collection of art especially curated and purchased for Hildegard House, featuring over a dozen local artists. The pop-up exhibition at LVA will run for one week, and is a rare opportunity to view the collection in person and all in one room before the individual works become installed throughout Hildegard House’s two homes. All works were curated by local artist Julie Leidner through the Curate, Purchase, Inspire (CPI) program with direction and support from Louisville artist and philanthropist Clare Hirn.

The Last Flowers pop-up exhibition will be at the Louisville Visual Arts Association at 1538 Lytle St, Louisville KY. The show will run through April 18th. For more information about LVA or the opening reception: (502) 584-8166. info@louisvillevisualart.org.



Pictured at right, from top to bottom: 92-year old artist Elmer Lucille Allen with curator Julie Leidner. Circle of Light, a painting by Terry Dunham. Terry’s husband Dennis is a Compassionate Companion. Sun Moon and Stars, by artist Denise Furnish, made with beads belonging to Collis Marshall, former resident at Hildegard House.

The Call to Compassionate Companionship

Neither Wilma Lessman nor Terry Burkhead can imagine spending Thursday nights any place other than Hildegard House. For the past two years, they’ve spent 5 PM - 10 PM together as Compassionate Companions at the Motherhouse.

“I can’t imagine not doing it” Wilma said, remembering that she was drawn to Hildegard House years ago when she learned about the mission while looking for a place to apply her rewards points at a local grocery store. “At first, the five hour commitment didn’t work for me because of my work hours. But my job transitioned and I realized I could do it.”

Terry had been retired for many years. “I just felt like I needed a mission.” He agreed that the idea of a five hour commitment was “a little rough at first. I think I imagined I could just come over whenever I thought about it.” But Hildegard House, he said, is “out there speaking to you.” So he signed up for the training, still thinking “well, I can opt out any time.”

“But now,” Terry says, “two years later here I am. I can’t imagine not doing it now. Meeting the people here — the volunteers and the residents — has been a blessing in my life.” Wilma adds, “It’s a community and really, it’s easy. I just have to show up and do my thing. And I get to know I am making a contribution for people who allow me to be part of their last days.” Terry chimes in, “They are really giving more.”

Wilma and Terry agree that serving as Compassionate Companions has been rewarding in ways they didn’t anticipate. For Wilma, “Thursday has become much more significant to me.”

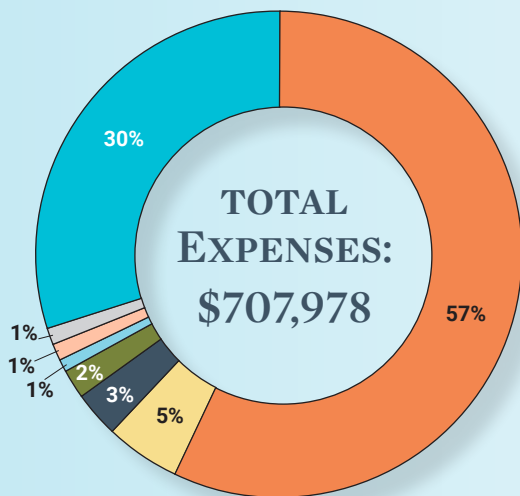
Together, they care for up to three residents each week, meeting whatever needs come up in the time they are together. “It really is a way to give without expectation of reward,” Wilma reflects. And for Terry, “It is in the doing the truth is revealed.”



Compassionate Companions Wilma Lessman and Terry Burkhead

2023

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



- People and things employed to accomplish our mission
- Story Avenue renovations
- Funds used to raise the support that drives our mission and our impact
- Home and utilities for our residents to live
- Interest Expense
- Accounting and financial requirements
- Computers and office equipment and supplies to keep us running
- Insurance, banking, and other expenses

Volunteers are the heart of Hildegard House

Compassionate Companions provide the day-to-day care for our residents just as a family member would at home — making lunch, doing laundry, or reading. Email sky@hildegardhouse.org for more information. The next volunteer training is Saturday, March 16th from 9 AM - 4 PM. Reservations required. Please fill out form at www.hildegardhouse/volunteers.



Welcome Sky

On January 9th, Sky Yeasayer joined Hildegard House as our new Volunteer Coordinator. We are grateful Jana McNally served in that role for six years and built a lasting legacy in her time here.

Our Board

Carl Herde, *Chair, Retired, Kentucky Hospital Association*

Barbara Gordon, *Vice-Chair, UofL Trager Institute*

Marilyn Cleeff, *Treasurer, Consultant*

Rev. Tara Reck, *Secretary, Anchorage Presbyterian Church*

Julie Boatright, *CenterWell*

Barret Collins, *Community Volunteer*

Larry Grossman, *Independent Consultant*

Sean Higgins, *CEO, Mint Julep Tours*

Donald Kavanaugh, *Barry Wooley Designs*

Jim Morris, *Retired, CPA, Baptist Health*

Kacy Noltemeyer, *Rainey Allen Shaw*

Derek Reed, *Retired, Chief Regional District Judge*

Misha Rhodes, *MD, CMO, CenterWell*

George Webb, *MD, Retired, Hosparus*

Kenneth "Chuck" Anderson, *Baptist Health,
Medical Director, Hildegard House*

Our Staff

Karen Cassidy, *Executive Director*

Jane Walsh, *Assistant Director*

Sky Yeasayer, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Cindy Cooper, *On-call Volunteer Assistant*

Judy Noble, *House Manager*

www.hildegardhouse.org

502-581-8267



Moments at Hildegard House

Finding time to celebrate is one of the things we do best at Hildegard House. Ice cream cake, birthday balloons, a handmade quilt, and loving volunteers. Put it all together and we have a party for one of our dear residents!



HILDEGARD HOUSE

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Louisville, KY 40255

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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We provide a home and compassionate care for individuals at the end of life who have no home or loved ones to care for them so that they may die with dignity.

Save the Date

THURSDAY
September 26, 2024

5:30 - 8 PM

WATERFRONT
BOTANICAL GARDENS

COCKTAILS
for
COMPASSION

*An evening of friendship, drinks
hors d'oeuvres,
and music to support
the mission of
Hildegard House.*

Ways to Give :

SCAN this code to
donate on our website



or MAIL using the
enclosed envelope

- Join the Compassionate Care Circle by committing to a monthly gift to Hildegard House
- Make a gift in memory or in honor of someone special
- Consider a legacy gift by making arrangements with your financial planner



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