

# House Happenings



Spring 2024



Dear Friends,

As we enter into another spring season, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've embarked on together. It's been a year filled with challenges, triumphs, and most importantly, a profound sense of purpose in serving our community.

I am continually humbled by the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, board, and supporters who tirelessly work to ensure that every individual who walks through our doors receives the care, compassion, and dignity they deserve, especially during their most vulnerable moments.

At Grace House, our mission to provide housing and caregiving for homeless or alone individuals at the end of life remains at the forefront of everything we do. Since opening, we have served 66 individuals.

Through your generosity and unwavering support, we have been able to create a safe haven where terminally-ill individuals facing homelessness or isolation can find solace, companionship, and support as they navigate their final journey.

In the past year, we have expanded our staff, volunteers, and community partnerships to meet the growing needs

of our community, offering holistic care that addresses not only the physical needs of our residents but also their emotional, spiritual, and social well-being. From providing access to medical care and mental health services, to organizing activities and social gatherings, we strive to create an environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and loved.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited to continue our work in transforming lives and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. But none of this would be possible without the continued support of individuals like you. Your generosity fuels our mission and enables us to provide vital services to those in need.

On behalf of everyone at Grace House, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our cause. Together, we are creating a world where no one dies alone, regardless of their circumstances.

With gratitude,

Holly Klein  
Executive Director  
Grace House Akron

NO ONE DIES ALONE

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Sean and Nancy Ward

Nancy first learned about the plans for Grace House through social media and Holly Klein. In August 2022, she and Sean took a tour and were both sold on the mission and vision, feeling a strong desire to support it. As a geriatrician, Nancy had firsthand experience with the need for the services provided by Grace House. She was moved by how the organization met residents' needs and collaborated with existing hospice programs and community agencies. Sean was inspired by Holly's dedication and perseverance in bringing the idea to fruition.



Witnessing the opening of Grace House and its impact on the community has been heartwarming for Nancy and Sean. They feel fulfilled in knowing they are part of something meaningful. The couple donates to ensure Grace House has the necessary resources to continue serving its current and future residents.

“We want to ensure that Grace House has the resources to continue to meet the needs of its residents both current and future.”

Nancy and Sean also played a role in developing the outdoor living space for Grace House residents. After completing the patio and grill station, they hosted a cookout for residents and staff, allowing them to connect, hear stories, and share a meal. This experience highlighted the true value of their investment and deepened their appreciation for the impact Grace House has on individuals' lives.

On Valentine's Day, the couple offered a challenge grant to encourage others to support Grace House, aiming to meet and exceed fundraising goals. Thanks to them, Grace House raised \$27,000 this Valentine's Day. They hope this initiative inspired more people to give, engage, and experience the magic of Grace House.

*“We want to ensure that Grace House has the resources to continue to meet the needs of its residents both current and future.”*



Sarah Mason, residing in Akron, serves as a caregiver helper at Grace House Akron. In this role, she aids with activities of daily living, housekeeping, meal preparation, and extends her assistance to providing residents with mani/pedis and massages. Having recently graduated with a B.S. in Biology from The University of Akron, Sarah is currently employed as a resident care assistant in a memory care unit and plans to pursue further education and become a physician assistant.

Her decision to volunteer at GHA stemmed from a search for local opportunities where her caregiving experience could be beneficial. Having dedicated approximately four months to volunteering, Sarah notes the profound impact Grace House has on the community, offering a home for individuals at the end of life. She loves that residents are treated with respect, dignity, and cared for and loved like family, irrespective of their backgrounds.

*“Grace House has been a blessing to the community.”*

Sarah emphasizes the importance of hospice care for all and encourages community involvement at Grace House. While acknowledging the excellent work of the staff, she highlights the significant contribution of volunteers in various capacities, such as pet care, housekeeping, and providing companionship to residents.

Despite the emotional challenges inherent in volunteering, Sarah appreciates the warm and friendly atmosphere at GHA. Interactions with the staff and the appreciation of residents make each volunteer session rewarding. Sarah says “A little really does go a long way. I love getting to know them and their stories. Many of them have a really good sense of humor too!” She values the uniqueness of GHA in its welcoming environment and the camaraderie among staff and volunteers.

*“Every time I volunteer at Grace House, I leave with a smile on my face.”*

For those contemplating volunteering at GHA, Sarah emphasizes the invaluable experience of connecting with residents and the supportive community. Her time at GHA has taught her that caregiving is not just about daily tasks but also about being present for individuals who truly appreciate the time invested.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are a vital part of Grace House Akron. We offer a broad range of volunteer opportunities that help to serve our residents and staff. We welcome individuals, groups, families, and businesses to volunteer with us. Volunteer opportunities range from one-time, weekly, or monthly depending on your desire and availability.



Because we work with hospice-enrolled individuals, we're always looking for volunteers with hospice and/or nursing experience. If you're a hospice volunteer or a current or retired nurse in the Akron area, please consider joining us as a volunteer at Grace House; our residents and staff need your wisdom and experience.

Not a healthcare worker? No problem. The following is a list of our current volunteer opportunities. Please review the list and apply to help our residents today.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**Welcome Desk Host/Hostess:** Welcome desk volunteers are needed to greet, check-in, and assist visitors. Provide hospitality to our guests and families. Conduct tours and distribute brochures. Occasionally answer the phone, record, and distribute messages.

**Clerical Assistant:** Assist with data entry, filing, record keeping, mailings, and other clerical projects. Assists with creation of brochures, power point presentations, invitations, and other publications.

**Special Events Assistant:** Assist with the planning and coordination of events, fundraisers, volunteer events, memorial services. Schedule and assist with campus use by community groups.

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## CARE SERVICES

**Caregiver to the Caregiver:** Assist staff caregiver with resident personal needs. Assist staff with interventions according to plan of care. Maintain guests' bedrooms/bathrooms. Observe Grace House Standards of Care.

**Vigil:** Support during resident active dying phase.

## HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

**Gardener:** Maintain lawn, gardens, annual and perennial beds. Maintain patios, pavilion, outdoor areas, water features and exterior buildings.

**Handyperson:** Perform routine building maintenance and repairs. Perform basic construction and installations.

**Household Assistant:** Perform housekeeping duties and routine cleaning. Ensure a pleasant, healthy, and safe living environment for families and visitors. Shop and run errands. Stock and inventory food and household supplies. Facilitate use of community agencies for food and supply donations. Organize and maintain books and resources.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Companion:** Provide emotional and spiritual support and hospitality to guests, family and visitors. Read aloud and participate in supportive activities with guests and families.

**Pet Therapy Visit:** Provide pet therapy visits.

**Musician:** Provide music to residents and visitors.

**Spa Services Assistant:** Perform hair care and styling. Perform nail care (filing, nail polish).

**Guest Chef/Cook:** Provide a nourishing home cooked meal to guests.

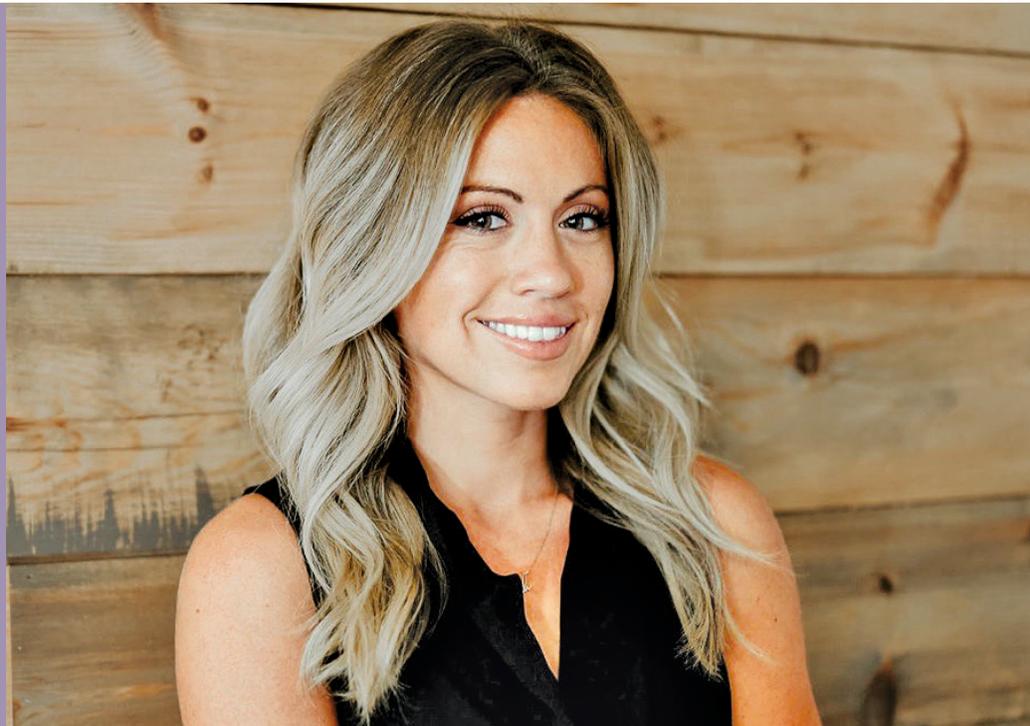
**Animal Lover:** Perform routine pet duties – pet walking, grooming, shop errands for supplies and routine cleaning. Stock and inventory animal food and animal supplies. Provide companionship to GH resident's animals.

## GUEST CHEFS

Want to provide a meal for our residents?



*“Grace House is one of the first organizations in the nation to be a resource to those in need. Providing a safe, comfortable, and loving space to some who may have never felt that in their lives is amazing, but to be a part of it in my community and my hometown makes it hit a little harder,”*



“How has working at Grace House Akron impacted your life?” This simple question elicited a profound response from Sarah, Grace House’s vibrant, new Marketing Coordinator. With a sense of gratitude and purpose, Sarah reflects on her journey with Grace House, which has not only transformed her professional life but also touched her heart profoundly.

“Where do I begin?” Sarah muses, her voice brimming with sincerity. “Being immersed in a community, although knowing it was out there, but feeling like it was too large of a feat to take on myself inspires me daily. Grace House makes you wake up daily and be grateful for what you have, which drives you to want to give back.”

Grace House Akron is a beacon of hope and compassion in the community. As the first organization in Akron to provide a haven for those at the end of life, Grace House is a testament to the power of kindness and empathy.

“Our residents all have different stories and situations that may have led them to Grace House, but I’ve heard stories from residents saying that they have never received love, care, food, or shelter in their entire life like they experienced here. That statement will change

you forever when you think about that,” Sarah shares, her voice tinged with emotion.

Working at Grace House is more than just a job for Sarah; it’s a calling. “Grace House will change how you look at life. How you can make a difference in others’ lives,” she explains.

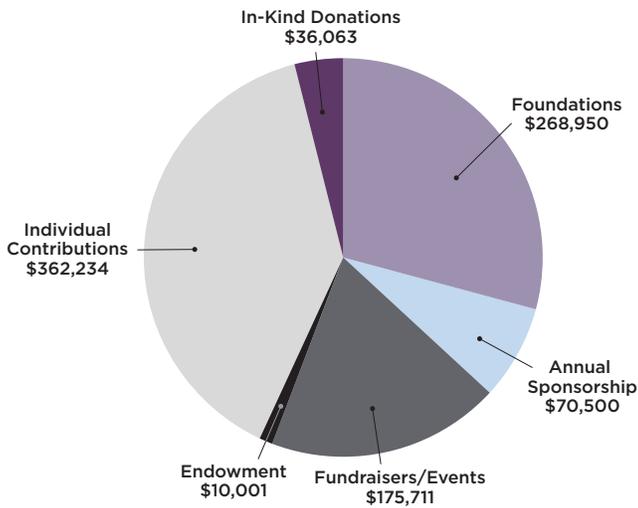
But the work at Grace House isn’t without its challenges. Sarah acknowledges the emotional toll of the job but finds solace in self-care strategies like talking with others, enjoying nature walks, and spending time with horses – activities that rejuvenate her spirit and offer a sense of peace amidst the chaos.

According to Sarah, Grace House’s uniqueness lies in its mission and welcoming environment. “The welcoming environment is a feeling you cannot deny,” she says, emphasizing the warmth and camaraderie among staff, residents, and volunteers.

As Sarah’s journey unfolds at Grace House Akron, she remains steadfast in her commitment to serving others with compassion, empathy, and unwavering dedication. And in doing so, she enriches the lives of those around her and finds fulfillment in her own.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 2023 REVENUE



**TOTAL: \$923,459**

All Grace House Akron care is provided to residents free of charge, allowing residents to pass peacefully, without financial barriers. We do not receive payment or insurance reimbursement of any kind for our services.

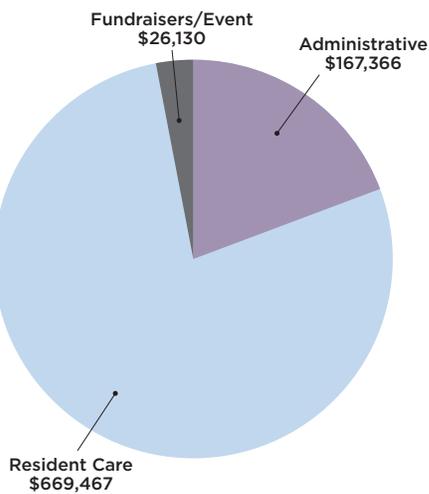
We rely solely upon the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations like you, to provide 24/7, round-the-clock care to our residents during the final days of their lives.

This year, thanks to your generosity, we exceeded revenue projections by 20%.

We truly appreciate every gift you graciously entrust to Grace House and its residents.

*“We do not receive payment or insurance reimbursement of any kind for our services.”*

## 2023 EXPENSES



**TOTAL: \$862,963**



475 North Howard St.  
Akron, OH 44310

*grace house*

A COMFORT CARE HOME

NO ONE DIES ALONE.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLEVELAND OH  
PERMIT NO. 498

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### WALK FOR GRACE 2024

June 22, 2024

Location: Akron Zoo  
500 Edgewood Ave  
Akron, OH 44307

Time: 9 - 11 AM

Join us for a Zoo Walk and Scavenger Hunt at the Akron Zoo!

Gather your crew and head to the Akron Zoo for an exciting expedition. Join us as we search for clues in the Komodo Kingdom, Penguin Point, Tiger Valley and more. Work with your friends and family to complete the Scavenger Hunt for fun prizes and in-person access to our silent auction. Enjoy all day Zoo access after your hunt is complete.

Purchase tickets here: <https://bit.ly/43rbDVY>



Or scan this QR code



### GRACEFUL GATHERING 2024

October 17, 2024

Location: The Tangier - Fairlawn  
507 S Cleveland Massillon Rd  
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Time: 5:30 - 9 PM

Put on your polyester bell-bottoms and platform shoes, mood rings and roller skates - and join us for an out of sight night that's totally right on for a righteous cause. Join us for dinner, open bar, and an awesome silent auction all to support Akron's only comfort care home.

Purchase tickets here: <https://bit.ly/3TodBSx>



Or scan this QR code