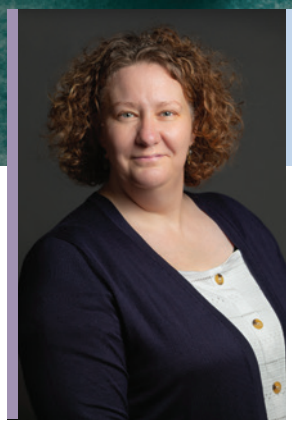
House Happenings

grace house
A COMFORT CARE HOME

Autumn 2026

Estate Planning



Dear Friends,

There is something about fall that invites us to pause, reflect, and look ahead. As another season begins to change around us, I find myself thinking about how much Grace House has grown since we first opened our doors.

What began as a simple hope, to create a home where no one would have to face the end of life alone, has grown into something much greater. Grace House has become a place of comfort, belonging, and connection for the people we have had the privilege of serving.

Over the years, we have welcomed individuals who might otherwise have faced their final days without a caregiver, without a home, or without someone beside them. Instead, they found a place where they were seen, accepted, cared for, and treated with dignity. They were surrounded by people who understood that every life deserves to be honored, right through the very end.

That is the heart of Grace House. And it is a heart made possible by you.

Every volunteer who walks through our doors. Every donor who chooses to give. Every person who shares our story, offers a kind word, or believes in what we are building. Together, you have helped turn a house into a home and a vision into a lasting part of our community.

And now, we find ourselves looking toward an especially meaningful milestone. Next year, Grace House Akron will celebrate five years of opening our doors. Five years of learning. Five years of growing. Five years of discovering, again and again, what it means to make sure no one has to die alone.

As we look toward the next five years and beyond, we invite you to consider a different kind of generosity: planned giving.

Planned giving is a way to extend the values you hold close into the future. By including Grace House in your estate plans, you can help ensure that the comfort, dignity, and human connection at the heart of our mission continue for generations to come.

It is not simply about leaving a gift. It is about leaving something of yourself behind. A belief that every person deserves to be cared for. A commitment to dignity. A reminder that no one should have to face the end of life alone.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find more information about how planned giving can become part of your legacy and help shape the future of Grace House.

As we reflect on where we have been and look with hope toward where we are going, we are deeply grateful that you are part of this story.

Thank you for believing in Grace House.

With gratitude,

Holly Klein
Executive Director & Co-Founder
Grace House Akron

Lei-ing on the gratitude

Grace House Akron rolled out the grass skirts and leis to celebrate the volunteers who make our mission possible. With a Luau theme setting the tone, we welcomed our volunteers with a good meal, good company, and a small token of thanks, a volunteer t-shirt for every guest.

It was an afternoon of laughter, connection, and heartfelt appreciation for the people who give their time so generously to our residents and families. Grace House Akron simply would not be possible without them.

"You know, every role matters here, and so does every one of you."

– Demi Bengston

"Since our last appreciation event, we've cared for 36 residents and this year, you given 1,864 hours. That works out to nearly $64,000 in economic impact — but really, that number only tells part of the story. It doesn't capture the actual difference you make for someone in a hard moment. So truly, thank you so much."

– Demi Bengston

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

A current gift supports Grace House today. Planned giving allows you to make a lasting impact on the future of our mission.

Planned gifts are thoughtful ways to include Grace House in your long-term financial or estate plans. They can help create a lasting legacy while providing potential financial and tax benefits to you and your family.

A planned gift can help you:

- Leave a legacy by supporting Grace House for years to come.
- Put your assets to work in a way that reflects the values that matter most to you.
- Plan for the future while supporting a mission you believe in.
- Create lasting impact by helping Grace House remain a place of dignity, compassion, and belonging for generations to come.

COMMON WAYS TO GIVE

Will or Trust

Include Grace House in your will or living trust by leaving a specific amount, percentage, or portion of your estate.

Beneficiary Designation

Name Grace House as a beneficiary of an IRA, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other eligible account.

Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you are eligible, you may be able to make a charitable gift directly from your IRA. This can be a tax-savvy way to support Grace House while meeting certain required distributions.

Gifts of Stock or Other Assets

Gifts of appreciated securities or other assets may provide meaningful support while offering potential tax advantages.

Real Estate

Certain residential, commercial, or undeveloped properties may be eligible to be donated to Grace House. Because each property is unique, please contact us to explore whether this option may be right for you.

Charitable Gift Annuities & Trusts

These options can allow you to make a future gift to Grace House while potentially receiving income or tax benefits during your lifetime.

YOUR LEGACY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Planned giving is about more than what you leave behind. It is about what you leave possible.

By including Grace House in your plans, you can help ensure that compassionate care, dignity, and human connection remain at the heart of our work for years to come.

We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor, tax professional, or attorney to determine which planned giving option may be right for you.

Planned Giving at Grace House Akron

Some of the most meaningful gifts to Grace House aren't written today, they're planned for tomorrow. Planned giving allows anyone, regardless of income, to make a lasting impact on our mission. Whether through a bequest in your will, a beneficiary designation, or a tax-smart option like a Qualified Charitable Distribution, these future gifts help ensure Grace House Akron can continue offering comfort, dignity, and love to residents for generations to come.

If you've ever thought about the legacy you'd like to leave, our development team would welcome the conversation.

Visit **gracehouseakron.org/planned-giving** or contact us at **330-572-4476** to learn more.

In 2018 my dear friend, Dr. Skip Radwany, asked me to attend a launch party for a novel idea, Grace House. Finally, a way to help people who have no home. Like so many, I have felt guilty and ashamed of our society's (and my) inability to help our fellow citizens. Grace House makes a difference in people's lives when they are at their most vulnerable with the sort of care family members provide.

As a daughter, sister, wife and mother I have observed the Grace House team caring for their residents as I would and (maybe even more importantly!) as I would want to be cared for myself. They provide the practical necessities of daily life-meals, laundry, housekeeping, and transportation-while also offering something just as essential and deeply human: nurturing relationships, companionship, tenderness, humor, and encouragement.

This is why I support the Circle of Love which unites women who believe no one should face the end of life alone. Through collective giving, members sustain our caregiver and resident fund and meaningful end-of-life experiences for Grace House Akron residents, ensuring dignity, comfort, and love for every person served. Please consider becoming a member today.

Alita Rogers

Join the Circle of Love

No one should face the end of life alone. That belief is at the heart of the Circle of Love. A community of women united by compassion and a shared commitment to ensuring dignity, comfort, and love for every resident at Grace House Akron.

Through collective giving, Circle of Love members help sustain our Caregiver and Resident Fund, making possible the meaningful end-of-life experiences that define our care. Members may also be invited to support special projects or urgent needs as they arise, and many choose to direct their annual membership toward the Grace House Akron Endowment Fund, becoming partners in our long-term financial sustainability and helping ensure compassionate care continues for generations to come.

If you're a woman who believes in the power of showing up for others in their final days, we invite you to join the Circle.

For additional information about the Circle of Love scan the QR.

For more information, please contact Ashley Manning, Director of Development and Communications, at ashley.manning@gracehouseakron.org

GIVING TUESDAY

Give with Purpose. Heart. Love.

Save the date: December 1st

Everything Grace House Akron does is built on three simple truths: Purpose, Heart, and Love. This Giving Tuesday, we invite you to see our mission through each of them.

PURPOSE: Why We Exist

Everyone deserves to be remembered, not overlooked. Home is more than a place. It's the feeling of knowing someone is there. We believe a person's circumstances should never determine how their story ends, and that purpose is found in standing beside people when they have nowhere else to turn.

Every community is measured by how it cares for its most vulnerable neighbors. Grace House fills a gap no one should have to face alone. When someone has been forgotten by the world, we choose to remember them.

HEART: Why People Give

Heart is choosing to show up for someone. It's less about what Grace House does and more about the people who make it possible. Small acts create lasting impact. Giving is an act of hope, and kindness has a ripple effect far beyond the moment it's given.

Every gift tells someone, "You matter." The strongest communities aren't built by grand gestures. They're built by ordinary people doing extraordinary things together. When you give, you become part of someone's story.

LOVE: The Foundation of Everything We Do

Love is an action. It isn't complicated. It starts with caring about another person, and it looks like showing up. Love says, "You belong here." Love makes room for everyone, love creates home, and love leaves a lasting legacy. Every resident's story reminds us that love can change the way someone experiences life's final chapter.

Multiply the Impact

This Giving Tuesday, your generosity doesn't just make an impact. It multiplies it. Every gift made on December 1st will be matched dollar for dollar, turning one act of kindness into twice the hope, twice the comfort, and twice the opportunity to welcome someone home.

Double Your Impact.
Give with Love.

purpose heart love

Long before the doors open and the music starts, there is a lot happening behind the scenes to bring Graceful Gathering to life.

Our biggest event of the year takes months of planning, countless conversations, generous donations, creative ideas, and a whole lot of teamwork. From gathering silent auction treasures and coordinating sponsors to planning the menu, creating the décor, preparing the details, and making sure every guest feels welcomed, so much care goes into creating an evening worthy of the Grace House community.

And then, in what feels like an instant, the planning comes together for one unforgettable night.

Graceful Gathering is more than an event. It is a reflection of what can happen when a community comes together around a shared belief in compassion, dignity, and the importance of caring for one another.

As we look back on this year's celebration, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who helped make it possible. To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, guests, auction donors, and everyone who shared our mission, thank you.

Your support extends far beyond one evening. It helps make the work happening inside Grace House possible every single day.

Scan to learn more about how you can attend, donate or participant in our silent auction.

grace house
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NO ONE DIES ALONE.

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