



Hildegard House

dignity has a home



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ISSUE 05

SPRING 2020

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All was going just fine. Then the headaches started and they said she had pneumonia. A few weeks later when she had difficulty walking, she was found to have ovarian cancer that had metastasized to her brain. While in Assisted Living, she could manage chemotherapy and radiation. But she continued to decline and enrolled in Hosparus. When her bath aid found her unable to get out of bed, she was transferred to the Hosparus Inpatient Unit to have her symptoms treated.

Linda was 63 years old. A retired LPN who worked at Hazelwood, a residential hospital that provides services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She also did other caregiving jobs, but eventually went on disability due to her cancer. She had two sons, one in jail and one an active drug user. She needed hospice care. She had no insurance. And had no caregivers.



*Linda and Susie Buchanan,
Compassionate Companion*

Once Linda became stabilized, the Hosparus Inpatient Unit referred her to Hildegard House. By this time, the cancer had spread to her bones and lymph nodes of the chest, abdomen, pelvis, liver and lungs.

When residents come to Hildegard House, we fix their favorite foods for them. We found out that she liked bacon, cornbread in buttermilk, toast and jelly. She was a Southern girl! We all have memories of coming in the door to Hildegard House and smelling bacon – at all times of the day. Steroids make you hungry! And Linda liked bacon at all times of the day and night. Even now when we smell bacon, we stop and smile and say, “Linda!”

I’m not joking when I say she ate a lot of bacon. Some days she ate two pounds of bacon! The dear Compassionate Companions would buy a pound of bacon on their way in to volunteer because I would laugh and say “we didn’t budget for all this bacon!” Grape jelly and toast were also frequent favorites. And the jelly got everywhere – fingernails, sheets, bedside table.

Linda was a woman who loved her sons and struggled to do what was best for them. She gave them money to pay their bills. But she knew it was probably going to other things. During one

Continued Inside...

A Word from the Executive Director

By the time you receive this newsletter, the COVID-19 global epidemic will be upon us. Let's hope that we will continue to be our best selves! C.S. Lewis wrote these words 72 years ago. Read them and replace "atomic bomb" with coronavirus.

"In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds."

Hildegard House relies on volunteers to provide care to our residents at the end of life. We are a home for those who have no home or who have no loved ones to care for them. We do not have the resources of a medical facility. Because of the COVID-19, we had to stop admitting residents for the safety of our volunteers and staff. We had to cancel two fundraisers.

But we still have a mortgage and utilities. To date, we have served almost 100 residents. And we expect to continue to serve those in need as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then we will be praying, working, reading, listening to music, bathing the children and caring for each other. This virus may keep us socially distant, but will not dominate our minds.

Will you help us? We need you. And hope we can continue to count on you.

Karen

Karen Cassidy
Executive Director

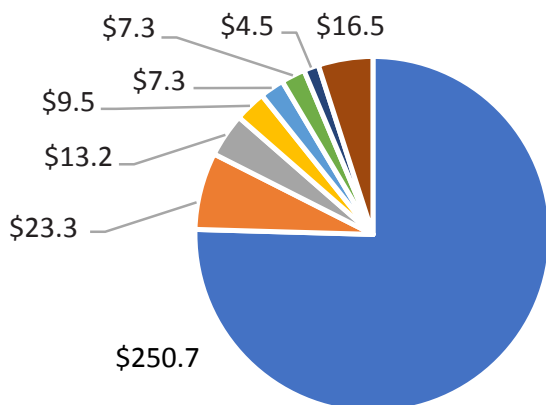
C.S. Lewis (1948) "On Living in an Atomic Age" in Present Concerns: Journalistic Essays



Financial Report 2020

How Your Money Is Spent

(in 000's)



Total Expenses = \$365.8

- People and things needed to accomplish our mission
- Home and utilities for our residents to live
- Funds we use to raise even more funds, multiplying your impact
- Interest Expense
- Training and managing volunteers & staff so they can serve our residents
- Accounting and financial requirements
- Computers and office equipment to keep us running
- Insurance, Banking, Supplies and Other expenses

The Smell of Bacon... and Grape Jelly Surprises (cont.)

of the first weeks, her son tried to take her out to the bank to withdraw money. Of course, Linda was too weak to even get out of bed. We had to have a legal guardian appointed (with the assistance of the Hosparus social worker) to keep her safe.

But reconciliation does happen. Towards the end, Linda called out for her sons frequently. We were able to get both sons to her bedside to visit before she died. She died peacefully and with dignity.

We won't forget Linda. Last week, the TV remote control needed batteries in the room where Linda stayed. One of the Compassionate Companions played a joke on another one getting ready to put new batteries in. He slid a little globule of jelly in there. When she opened up the back to install new batteries, there was the jelly. "Linda!"

Linda lived at Hildegard House in Bedroom One for 190 days. May she rest in peace.

Compassionate Companions remember Linda:

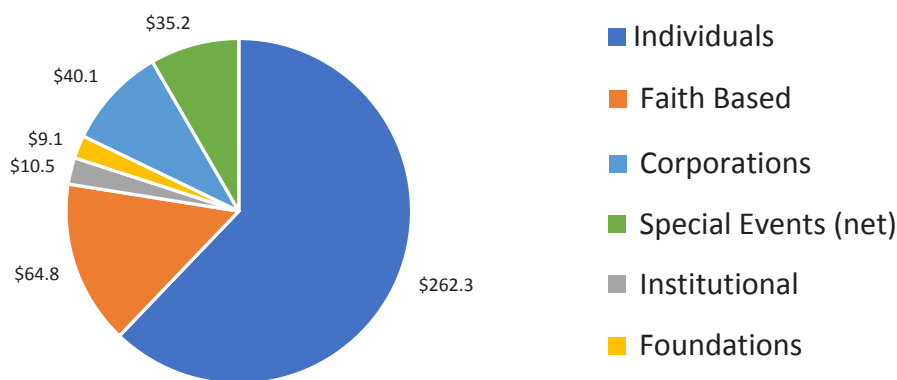
"Linda was from Bell County where my husband is from and we lived there for 20 years. I enjoyed talking with her about that. And watching The Young and the Restless at 4pm. We laughed about how silly it all was. I miss her sweetness."

"Linda was so proud of her granddaughter. During Easter, a volunteer brought baskets for each of the residents. Linda was worried that she didn't have something for her granddaughter. I held that basket full of candy up for her to see and assured her that she could use that. She settled back down and was no longer worried. I am so thankful to that volunteer who brought in those baskets. It gave her comfort. She never actually gave it away, but it was the comfort of knowing it was there."

"Linda really touched my heart. Before we were her family, she was alone. I think she faced her diagnosis and treatment alone. She was still the one who cared for her family and others. She didn't have anyone to care for her. Hildegard House became her home and we became her family. She knew we were always with her and would look after her...even feeding her bacon and jelly toast. She was pleasant and always tried to help us take care of her. She showed such great strength and love to us as she drew closer to her death. It was a privilege to have been there for her."

Source of Funding

(in 000's)



Total Revenue = \$422

Inkind Donations (not included in total) = \$33.5

Volunteer Value = \$334

Interested in Volunteering?

Come join a Compassionate Community!

Volunteers are the heart of Hildegard House.

Compassionate Companions provide care for residents just as a family member would at home – making toast, throwing in a load of laundry, and giving medication. We ask for a commitment of a least one five-hour shift per week. We will teach you everything you need to know to feel confident.

The next training is Friday, July 17 from 6-8pm and Saturday July 18, 9-4 pm. If you would like to attend, fill out the form on the website www.hildegardhouse.org

Call Jana McNally,
Volunteer Coordinator
at 502-581-8267

Email Jana at
Jana@hildegardhouse.org

Other ways to volunteer:

We love to provide home cooked meals for our residents. You could provide a meal once a week or once a month. Whatever works for you!

We have housecleaning needs like every other household. You could volunteer to help clean once a week or once a month.

Collect Kroger gift cards. We use them to buy milk, bread, fruit, and other perishables.

Share your musical talent. Come play your instrument or sing for our residents.

Lawn care. We are in need of someone to cut our small front yard this year.

*Where there's a will there's a way.
Consider leaving a legacy to
memorialize your important
values.*

Our Board

Stephen E. Sage, *Chair*
Missy Stober, *Vice Chair*
Carl Herde, *Treasurer*
Joanne Weis, *Secretary*
Betty J. Adkins
Julie Boatright
Virginia Bradford
Wes Burgiss
Beverly Glascock,
Jennifer Glassner
Barbara Gordon
Mary Beth Hatch
Donald Kavanaugh
Sr. Janet Marie Peterworth
Donna Trabue
Chuck Anderson, MD, *Medical Director*

Staff

Karen Cassidy, *Executive Director*
Jana McNally, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Tara Durnil, *Administrative Assistant*



Hildegard House
PO Box 5613
Louisville, KY 40255



Hildegard House

dignity has a home

www.hildegardhouse.org
502-581-8267

Our Mission

Providing 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.

Hildegard House Needs Your Help

- Due to Covid-19, an online donation is preferred, if possible, through our secure website: www.hildegardhouse.org
- Consider becoming a monthly donor to help offset our bills at this challenging time.



Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

Hit it for Hildegard Golf Scramble
October 4th at
Heritage Hill Golf Club

Compassionate Companion Training
July 17 and 18, 2020