



**SOLACE
FRIENDS**

Annual Report 24/25

MISSION

Solace Home provides safe shelter and compassionate end-of-life caregiving within an adult family home for people experiencing terminal illness and housing insecurity.

VISION

All people, regardless of resources or past life experiences, will have access to dying in a safe environment with the support of people committed to honoring their comfort, dignity, and humanity.



Hello to our community of Solace Friends supporters!

It scarcely seems possible, but May marks the one-year anniversary of welcoming our first resident to Solace Home in 2024. This milestone offers us a chance to reflect and share about the abundant blessings of the past year.

Through your generous support, Solace Friends achieved our Capital Campaign goal of raising \$1.1 million to complete the purchase and renovation of Solace Home. The home is a welcoming and beautiful space where we are intentional about loving people without judgement.

Twelve unique individuals have chosen to live in Solace Home at the end of their lives and we are forever changed by the experience of welcoming and saying good-bye to these incredible people over the last year.

Whether you have supported Solace Friends as a donor, staff member, volunteer, committee member, board member, or ongoing cheerleader, we remain deeply grateful for your belief in the importance of our work.

Please join us in celebrating all that we have accomplished.....**TOGETHER.**

Thank You



"My mom and I were blown away by the amazing people we met while visiting. You are real life angels. This is an amazing place you have helped create."

-Friend of a Solace Home Resident



WE WELCOMED 13 PEOPLE TO SOLACE HOME



8 men



5 women

Age range 40-78 years old

Shortest Length of Stay 7 days

Longest Length of Stay 349 days

Average Length of Stay 21 days

Racial Demographics:

8 White, 4 Black, 1 American Indian



“You took a chance and chose to welcome me and treat me with respect. I will never forget that. I will forever be grateful.”

-Solace Home resident



HOUSING AND 24/7 CAREGIVING

- Relentlessly kind and dedicated Solace Home staff:
 - 4 full-time caregivers
 - 4 per diem caregivers
 - Care Coordinator
 - Executive Director
- Solace Friends established provider contracts with five certified hospice agencies
- Solace Home operated at capacity and maintained a waiting list for >50% of the year in its first year of existence
- Two residents were discharged from Solace Home
 - One improved and “graduated” off hospice care
 - One returned to living in a hotel at her request
- Solace Home served as the site/home for a person granted a Compassionate Release from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Establishing provider contracts with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to maximize residents’ support services

VOLUNTEER SUPPORTED

- 157 total volunteers
 - Training completed or in process
- 35 volunteers trained to provide hands-on, direct care for residents
 - Voluntarily completed 15 hours of additional training for direct care role
- 2500+ total volunteer hours
 - Organizational value of \$85,000 (per national data from Independent Sector)
- All-volunteer Food Committee acquires food donations (to account for 80% of all residents’ food), plans and cooks meals
- All-volunteer Spiritual Care team offers 24/7 on-call support for staff and residents’ spiritual care needs
- Volunteers offer daily presence at Solace Home to offer resident companionship, cook meals, clean, garden, assist with errands/projects, sit vigil at end of life

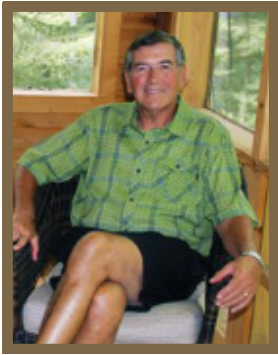
“Each and every one of the residents have touched my life in ways that I never could have imagined. I feel so blessed to volunteer and be part of it.”

-Solace Friends Volunteer

SPIRIT OF SOLACE AWARD

Peter Tropman is the 2025 Recipient of the Spirit of Solace Award.

Peter and his wife Virginia Graves are strong supporters of Solace Friends. Peter chaired the successful **Home At Last (HAL) Capital Campaign**, which raised **\$1.1 million** to pay back the mortgage on the Solace Home and cover the cost of extensive renovations.

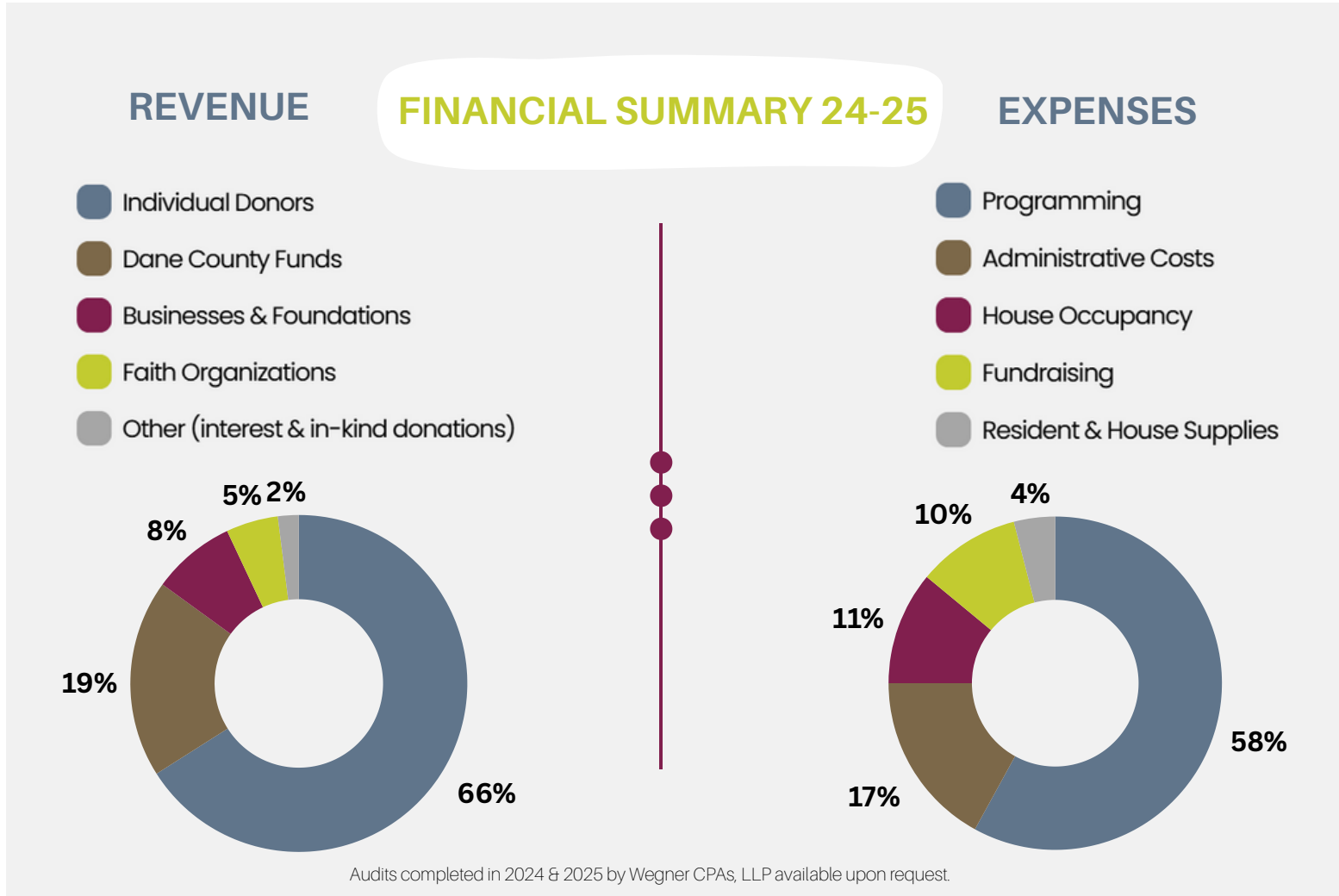


He was a key contributor to the development of the HAL Campaign strategy, recruited individuals to serve on the Campaign Cabinet, and personally reached out to several major donors to the campaign.

Peter served in the Wisconsin Assembly for three terms in the 1970s, representing an inner-city Milwaukee district. He became a leader on various progressive issues in the legislature, especially in the area of human services.

Later he became the Administrator of the Division of Policy and Budget within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. After leaving state government, Peter and Virginia started The Management Group, which has been a key player in the evolution of long-term care in Wisconsin toward a system which is more responsive to the choices of older adults and people with disabilities.

Thank you Peter and Virginia for all that you have done to support the ongoing success and sustainability of Solace Friends!



Letter from the Board President

Solace Home has been welcoming residents now for a year. What an accomplishment! It has been a time of growth and learning for the Board and staff. We have been humbled by the many people who are willing to support Solace using their time, treasure, and talents.

Speaking on behalf of the Solace Board, we are grateful for our impressive staff who have worked hard to greet residents, meet them where they are, and provide compassionate care to each one of them.

We are also thankful for all those who work behind the scenes on committees or on the Board, establishing policies and procedures and caring for the finances of the organization. If you are interested in being on a committee or serving on the Board, please be in touch.

We are amazed by the number of volunteers who have prepared meals, worked on the house and yard, sat vigil, planned special events, and accompanied our residents through their final months. It is impossible to recognize everyone and express all they have done to make the house a special place.

The Solace Board is also pleased to announce that Peter Tropman is the recipient of the Solace Spirit Award for 2025—he did an incredible job leading our fundraising efforts, along with the other members of the Campaign Committee and the co-chairs of the Fundraising Committee—Joan Karan and Lynn Breedlove. Can you believe that we were able to finance all the renovations and pay off our mortgage? Thanks to them and to all of you who contributed in large and small ways to make this possible.

Our Solace Board, Executive Director Dr. Kendra Deja, and our committees are working on exciting initiatives to refine and grow our work as we forge ahead. I am full of gratitude for all that this Solace community has become and look forward to seeing what our second year holds!

Kathy Kamp



Solace Friends Board of Directors

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|------------------|--------------------------|
| Lisa Berry | Kathy Kamp |
| Lisa Cappelli | Joan Karan |
| Dr. Ann Catlett | Latasha Robinson |
| Jane Corkery | Laura Rose |
| Ed Hughes | Dr. Marco Torrez-Miranda |
| Dr. James Ircink | |



**SOLACE
FRIENDS**

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