



## *Our Unique Vision*

*Solace's goal is to create and maintain a welcoming residential environment we will call "Solace Home," where terminally ill individuals who are underserved in the current system can live and be cared for during the last days or months of their lives.*

### *A Welcoming, Homelike Setting*

Solace Home is based on a model supported by The Omega Home Network, a national organization that promotes the development and expansion of community homes offering non-medical, family-like care for dying people. We will not only ensure that basic needs such as shelter, food, hydration, and hygiene are met, those



we serve will receive person-centered care that nurtures bodily comfort, emotional, social, and spiritual wholeness, and individual dignity. There are currently fewer than 50 such homes in the U.S., with approximately 20 more in development.

***Solace Home would be the first of its kind in Wisconsin.*** Community supported homes for end-of-life care are:

- not a hospital, nursing home, hospice, or medical facility—simply "home and family"
- independent and freestanding; complementary to and distinct from what already exists in the community
- inclusive and open to all people, according to local regulations
- grassroots in nature; managed by non-profit organizations, funded by the community
- staffed by paid caregivers and volunteers who are considered "extended family"
- in collaborative working relationships with the residents' hospice/medical care providers

Solace is not, and will not be, licensed as a hospice provider; it will supplement rather than replace clinical care services delivered by area hospice organizations. As a result, Solace will help to reduce many of the burdens and barriers hospice staff may face while trying to serve this population, therefore benefitting both care recipients and care providers.

- Hospices will be responsible for physician oversight, scheduled visits from nurses, nursing assistants, social workers, and others. They will also supply medications, durable medical equipment, and other care supplies and treatments necessary for symptom management.
- Solace will offer additional support just as family caregivers do when hospice patients receive in-home care. This includes providing companionship and community, meals, and assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, toileting, dressing, as well as housekeeping tasks like cleaning and laundry.

*Community, Comfort, & Care at Life's End*

## Creating a More Equitable Community

*Too many people suffer needlessly as they die—usually individuals who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, extreme poverty, mental and emotional health issues, substance abuse disorders, and/or social isolation.*

We believe that every human being has the right to die in a dignified manner, surrounded by compassion, respect, love, and grace. As an organization whose purpose is to reduce suffering at the end of life, we support physical comfort, as well as emotional and spiritual wholeness for all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, education, age, sexual/affectual orientation, physical ability, language, political affiliation, economic position, immigrant/citizenship status, military experience, and legal standing. Solace will work to eliminate destructive disparities in our society that are due to the many covert and overt discriminatory practices that disproportionately affect those who are Black,

Indigenous, and Persons of Color—including inequities in the health- and death-care systems, that too often lead to increased morbidity and mortality in these populations.

## Guiding Principles and Values

- Our intent is for guests to have safety, comfort, and community at the end of life
- Administrative, service, and community efforts will be informed by:
  - compassionate presence
  - hospitality, generosity, and flexibility
  - respect for the worth and dignity of all
  - diversity, equity, and inclusion
  - social and distributive justice
  - reverence for the natural process of dying
  - communications grounded in transparency and honesty
- Those who are the most vulnerable and in the greatest need will be prioritized for admission
- Services are offered regardless of an individual's ability to pay

## Finding and Funding Solace Home

In July 2022, Solace Friends was able to reach several critically important milestones. With support from Monona Bank and Forward Community Investments we worked together to create a lending package that would allow us to shop for our first Solace Home. The same week that the loan was solidified, our dedicated realtor, Ann Raschein of Mad City Dream Homes, located an amazing property ideally suited for our needs. Within days, we submitted an offer which was quickly accepted, and we're now fully immersed in the process of renovating the building and readying our programming so that we can begin offering services as soon as feasibly possible.



A nonprofit organization relies upon monetary donations to help support the costs of programming and operations. Solace is no exception; however, our pressing need is to secure the funds necessary to cover our mortgage down payment, renovation, and facility maintenance expenses for the first two years of operations. Financial contributions of any amount are needed and welcome. For more details on how to give, please visit our donor page at: [www.solacefriends.org](http://www.solacefriends.org).

*Solace Friends, Inc. is a nonprofit organization working to bridge the existing gaps in end-of-life services for people in Dane County*

[www.solacefriends.org](http://www.solacefriends.org)

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