

We're in this together

Strong community connections are vital to our success. Whether you act individually, as a family, or represent a business, civic organization, faith community, foundation, or other kind of group—your interest in and involvement with Solace Friends (Solace) benefits us all.

Invest

We are seeking financial support from the community with a goal of \$500,000 so that we can serve our guests as soon as possible.



Gifts in any amount are welcome and appreciated. Donations can be made easily through our secure website at www.solacefriends.org. We also accept checks, contributions through Facebook, and pledges.

A "wish list" of additional in-kind donations for house furnishings, office supplies, food and sundries, clothing, and other personal items for our guests is listed on our website.

More ways to connect and contribute

You can make a big difference by sharing your valuable time and talent :

- Become a member of our *board of directors* to provide strategic oversight and leadership that guides our mission and vision.
- Join one of our *working committees* that oversee program development and administration, fund-raising, communications, community education and outreach, and other important projects.
- *Volunteer*. Solace has many rewarding opportunities ranging from direct personal caregiving and companionship, to administrative tasks, shopping and meal prep, transportation and errands, special events, house maintenance, and more.



If you are interested in any of the above, please contact us at: info@solacefriends.org.

We are especially interested in broadening our cultural diversity on all levels. Solace supports physical comfort, emotional and spiritual wholeness for all persons, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, class, education, age, sexual or affectional orientation, physical ability, language, political affiliation, economic position, citizenship status, military experience, and legal standing.

Creating a more equitable community



Solace Friends, Inc. (Solace) is a 501c3 non-profit organization working to bridge the existing gaps in end-of-life care services for terminally ill people in Dane County.

Our purpose is to help ensure that high-quality end-of-life care is available to the most vulnerable individuals in our community—especially those who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, extreme poverty, mental and emotional health issues, substance-use disorders, social isolation, and neglect.



www.solacefriends.org

(608) 843-8191

P.O. Box 5587

Madison, WI 53705

info@solacefriends.org

*Living on the street
is hard enough —
No one should have
to die there.*



SOLACE
FRIENDS

*Community, comfort, and care
at life's end*

Imagine...

...having to face the end of your life sick and in pain, without a roof over your head—no bed, heat, or plumbing, no food storage or cooking capabilities, no medicine, and no caregivers to help manage symptoms or provide even the most basic support and solace.

Even under the best circumstances, death isn't easy. But some have it better than others. While most Dane County residents are lucky to have access to many of the world's best medical and hospice resources, huge disparities in end-of-life care still exist between different segments of our population.

A high percentage of those living in the margins of society suffer from untreated or undertreated medical conditions that often result in higher mortality rates, premature death, and unnecessary hardship and misery during the final chapter of life.



Eliminating barriers

No official records document how many Dane County residents die without adequate housing or caregiver support each year. We do know that the number is significant and climbing.

Besides those who are unsheltered, countless more die in places that are ill-equipped to address the unique needs and desires of our most vulnerable and disenfranchised community members.

Current conditions

- Homeless shelters cannot accommodate terminally ill patients.
- Supportive housing agencies don't have the resources necessary to provide adequate end-of-life care.
- Assisted living facilities require residents to have a higher level of self-sufficiency and financial independence than many dying people possess.
- Hospitals, skilled nursing, and even our local residential hospice center can't always provide all that's needed to serve this population.
- Location, accessibility, and other environmental conditions found in many institutional settings can pose problems as well.

Bridging the gap— Solace Home



Our vision is to provide an option called *Solace Home*—a safe and welcoming place where people will live as they receive supportive end-of-life care.

At Solace Home, we will ensure that basic human needs such as shelter, food, hydration, and hygiene are met. Residents will also receive comprehensive, compassionate, person-centered care that focuses on physical comfort and nurtures emotional, social, and spiritual wholeness.

Partnering with our local hospices

Solace itself will not be licensed as a hospice provider. Instead, Solace staff and volunteers will supplement—not replace—the services offered by area hospice care organizations.

Hospices will be responsible for medical support and symptom management for Solace Home residents. Solace staff and volunteers will offer additional non-medical support just as family caregivers do when hospice patients receive in-home care. This includes meals and assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, toileting, dressing, as well as housekeeping, etc. Just as importantly, Solace will also offer companionship and community.

This model helps to reduce many of the burdens and barriers hospice and other health and social service professionals face while trying to serve our mutual clients, benefitting both care recipients and their care providers.

