



Restoring *Hope* Transplant House

7457 Terrace Avenue • Middleton, WI 53562 • (608) 831-1726 • www.restoringhope.org

Restoring Hope Transplant House Lions Council Report – June 2022

Dear Lion Council,

Thank you so much for your continued support of Restoring Hope Transplant House and our visiting families who come from all parts of Wisconsin and beyond in search of a second chance at life through the miracle of transplantation. What your clubs and members have done throughout the pandemic to continue to find ways to support people, communities and causes in need has been nothing short of miraculous and is always so inspiring.

In the destructive recent storms that swept through our area the other week, we sustained major damage to two trees and some of our porch siding. The first person to show up on the scene to try to help was our friend Lion Al. Where there was a need, there has always been a Lion. We are forever grateful for the love, friendship, generosity and genuine compassion for those who call RHTH their home away from home.

This week, we received news that one of our double lung transplant patients from the Milwaukee area had to be admitted for an unexpected issue. Her family are longtime Wisconsin Lions and always so incredibly supportive of Restoring Hope. Happy to report that she went home the other day and is on the mend, but please know that your support for this house not only serves your community and your districts but also your fellow Lions. I wish you all could personally experience the difference this house makes in so many lives when it is needed the most. As we hugged a dear long-term guest from Appleton shortly after she lost her husband to cancer after several grueling days at the hospital, they were so thankful to the community of support and love provided by the house and so many of our families over the years. When things are at their worst, this house is often at its best. It is a life changing place!

We have included some house and Lions related updates below. We would also invite you all to follow our Restoring Hope Transplant House Facebook page for daily updates on the house, incredible stories from our transplant families, event news as well as Lions related efforts to help make these daily miracles possible.

If you would like to know more about RHTH or how you can get involved, please contact Cindy Herbst or myself at 608-821-1726. Keep up the great work everyone!

Lion Cindy Herbst
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Restoring Hope Transplant House



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RHTH Updates – June 2022

- Our occupancy rates have returned to pre-Covid numbers as transplants and hospital restrictions have normalized closer to normal.
- The new Program Director for Transplant at UW Health visited RHTH last week and was so moved by our efforts that she would like to volunteer on a monthly basis. She will also be promoting the house throughout the transplant program and is excited to get more engaged in the fundraising efforts for expansion. This was a truly exciting meeting as our ongoing relationship with UW Hospital is so vital. This house is a perfect complement to a world-class transplant hospital and in the words of the head of transplantation, “the greatest resource for our transplant families!”
- For the moment, UW Hospital is now allowing 2 caregivers per day to visit each family. This is a huge difference in the support of patients and also for our overall guest stays.
- The new UW Health Transplant Clinic is finally scheduled to open in a few months. That project, made possible by a generous donation from Pleasant Rowland has endured many of the increases and significant delays we have feared with our own construction. When finished, it will be such a major improvement for our families and make our work here at RHTH even more critical going forward.
- We have continued to see a record number of guests from the Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine areas after Froedtert stopped performing some critical types of organ transplants. Had a night this past week with 3 Milwaukee families.
- With Covid precautions in place, we are very proud of the fact that no cases of Covid have ever been traced back to RHTH. This is especially critical given the immune compromised cases we see in transplantation. Covid remains a very serious issue in the transplant community. As such, we maintain similar standards to the hospital for the protection of our high risk guests.
- Lions from several area clubs continue to find ways to support this house from speaking on our behalf, maintenance, opening new doors, donation much needed food and supplies to volunteer work days...it all makes such a huge difference.
- Last year, RHTH raised over 800,000 in funds outside of Lions raised in donations and pledges specifically earmarked for construction from several prominent businesses,

foundations and groups including The Culver's Foundation, an anonymous major donor through the Madison Community Foundation, kidney recipient Pleasant Rowland, Endres Mfg., Springs Industries, and even our own transplant families to name just a handful. Major funding efforts continue with a mix of previous donors and new groups.

- We were overjoyed this week to be contacted by Epic Systems who handles all of the medical software for UW Hospital and so many hospitals throughout the country about the potential for yearly major funding. We look forward to this developing relationship.
- One of our recent transplant families is connected by family to the retired CEO of a major US company. In addition to their family staying here for parts of two months, the wife of the retired CEO made a point to come visit RHTH last week. She was so grateful for the care her loved-one received here and was excited to hear about the future plans for the house. We look forward to connecting further with them.
- Our Board President has connected us with a major donor connected with the University of Wisconsin who was so touched by the stories of our house that he has pledged to get more involved and make a donation.
- Our pause for construction continues until a return to normalcy within the construction industry and supply chain normalizes. With construction delay LCIF requested RHTH return \$75,000 grant earmarked for construction. That money was returned in full on June 22, 2022. More details in enclosed letter.
- The support of generous statewide Lions has amounted to about 1/3 of our operations and 1/3 of our construction funding. Amazing work throughout the state!
- We continue to touch base with our Lions Club Advisory Council on construction progress and fundraising. Regular contact with banking, insurance and our trusted house and construction advisors as well as other out of state transplant houses that are also on hold.
- Our paperwork was just submitted and accepted through WDFI for running a non-profit for the coming year. Certificate received on 6/29/22 is attached.
- We had a kidney-pancreas patient in this week who is nearly totally blind from the effects of Type 1 diabetes. Diabetes is an issue that impacts a huge percentage of our guests including all of our current recipients. Between diabetes education, an increased awareness of pancreas transplantation as an option and the costs of insulin, we all need to continue in our mission to spread the word about these critical health issues.
- If you have any additional leads, ideas or suggestions on how we can continue to keep this momentum going towards making Wisconsin a national leader in all areas of transplantation and keeping our area at the epicenter of it all, please contact Cindy Herbst at any time at 608-831-1726 or via email at restoringhope@tds.net.

To all who are looking to donate to an inspiring cause with an undeniable impact, this letter is to you!

My name is Karen Hagy, and I have been residing at Restoring Hope Transplant House, for over a month with my brother who has been waiting for the gift of a liver. In the stillness of each morning, I get up before dawn and have coffee in a cozy living room and stare at a little sign on a puzzle table that says, “This house is built on love.” A trite sentimental thought for sure but in some cases, genuinely true and so much more...

These past few weeks, while sipping my morning Dunkin’s, I have thought a lot about “home.” I think about the home I miss in New England because home is the place that matters most in my life. It is where my beloveds live and where I find meaning, relationships, and shelter. My home provides me with security, comfort, nourishment, and a sense of belonging and it brings me health and great happiness. Home to me is so much more “than a roof over my head.”

There are other places, if you are really paying attention, that become a “home away from home” in a sacred and profound way and that are also so much more “than just a roof over your head.” I have found such a place at the Restoring Hope Transplant House, which has become for my brother and me, a home of hospitality and friendship as well as a place of sustenance, wellness, and great hope.

At RHTH... You will become part of a family of new friends bound together by a shared life experience that unless you have been through it, you cannot possibly fully know or understand what it’s like to long for a transplant.

You will find collective wisdom that when shared, it becomes transformational and life-changing and can make the difference between a person just surviving to thriving, when undergoing transplantation.

Encouragement and cheerleading are mainstays in this house and on the bad days, the days when suffering is ever present and palpable, like when the gift of an organ becomes problematic or gets withdrawn, it really does ‘take a village’ of people to get you through.

I want you all to know that the staff are the foundation of this home. Their compassion and humor can carry the day and make you laugh when all you want to do is give up and cry, and this home is the rare place where both transplant recipient and caregiver are treated equally with dignity, care, and kindness.

And yes, this house really is built on love, “love for neighbor,” love for fellow transplant recipients, caregivers, volunteers, and donors alike, and that love promotes healing. ‘Home really is where the heart is,’ or where the liver or kidney is or where people reside who are going through what you are going through, and where abiding hope flourishes amongst community that extends far and wide. Home is the Restoring Hope Transplant House for all those of us on a journey towards and through transplantation to a long and healthy new life.

Won’t you please join me in giving to this wonderful, inspiring home that impacts everyone who walks through its doors? RHTH needs your support now so that it can be a place that matters most for folks undergoing transplants in the future, so that many, many more people will experience its lasting awesome, beneficial impact.

I once read, “that home is the nicest word there is.” Today, Restoring Hope Transplant House are the nicest words I can share with all of you. Let us give with glad and generous hearts so that others will find a “home away from home” at RHTH in Middleton, Wisconsin just when people truly need it.

Thanks for making a gift that will advance RHTH’s mission. Know you and your donation are most appreciated! Together, we can make a beautiful difference to transplant recipients and their caregivers! Blessings to you!

Karen Hagy, A Beyond Grateful Sister, and Liver Transplant Caregiver from New Hampshire. Spring of 2022.



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May 1, 2022

Dear LCIF Board,

Since opening our doors to transplant families in 2013, we have welcomed transplant families from all parts of Wisconsin, 44 different states and even 8 other countries who have come in search of a second chance at life through the miracle of transplantation at nearby UW Hospital and the adjacent VA Hospital.

Lions Clubs of Wisconsin and beyond have been amongst our most loyal supporters for over a decade now and are a big reason we have become such a life-changing part of the transplant community. One of Lions' greatest missions is their fight against diabetes which is something that impacts so many of our guests. UW Hospital is the #1 hospital in the country for pancreas transplantation each year which gives new life to countless type 1 diabetics from all across the country. We see firsthand the incredible difference this makes in the lives of so many diabetics crippled with life-threatening issues. A new pancreas transplant gives hope and a higher quality of life to families like the one we have currently from Missouri. We hope Lions throughout our state and beyond take great pride in knowing RHTH provides a much needed home away from home for a condition that Lions are so passionate about...not to mention every other transplant imaginable. With the loyal support of Lions, this house has become a special oasis of compassion and community and we are forever grateful.

Wherever there has been a need there has always been a Lion. From yard work, painting, fixing steps, putting up a fence, deep cleaning, fundraisers, volunteer support, food for our guests, changing a tire for one of our families, help with our Christmas tree to friendship, love, wisdom and sharing our mission with others...Lions have always been there for this house and our families. Our many great successes over the years have been in large part due to Lions like you.

The timing of our initial LCIF grant occurred right around our opening with dreams of getting started, establishing a foundation of guests, learning the heartbeat of the house and what needed to happen for the future based on that wisdom and ultimately expanding and remodeling upon our historic house to create a strong future home for future generations of transplant families.

Over those years, we have collectively built something very special that we are extremely proud of. The other night, we had dinner with families representing every major transplantable organ all gathered around the table sharing stories from their journey. I wish you could all spend a day here just to see the impact this place has on families in need during some of their most challenging days ever.

Raising major funding for expansion has not been easy as you well know especially with all the challenges of Covid. Last year, with the incredible support of kind-hearted donors, we raised \$815,000 towards our construction efforts. It was so uplifting to see people step up during one of the worst pandemic marred years ever because they believed so powerfully in our mission and the direction of this house for the future. We were also extremely blessed to pay off the remainder of our mortgage on the house. It was an invigorating jolt of momentum after covid greatly impacted our guest stays during the months in which the hospital was largely on lock down and not taking any transplant families. To bounce back not only financially like we did but also in terms of guest stay numbers, it really lifted our spirits for life after covid and momentum towards construction.

When the impact of covid was at it's very worst, our wisdom and leadership people in banking, venture capital, business, construction and even other transplant house non-profits we are close with, warned us about what was coming with the ripple effects of the pandemic. In fact, the board and financial experts at Mayo Clinic told Gift of Life Transplant House to stop their building addition immediately as it was simply not wise stewardship of funds from donors with costs increasing exponentially and supply chain issues.

As painful as this is to be writing a letter about giving back an LCIF grant of \$75,000 which was so critical in getting our construction momentum going, we believe for the long-term well-being of this house and our availability for families who need it most that this project must be done smartly and on a timeline that is not rushed given all these circumstances. To juggle outrageous budget increases, supply shortages and potentially shut down a million dollar house that has already been paid for and leave our families with no support while we wait this all out would have been even more heartbreaking for us after all our years of dedicating our lives to this mission.

We are thankful for your patience and motivation to see this through. I can promise you that nobody wants this more than we do. We will work harder than ever to overcome this significant loss and move this project forward to build upon the momentum that has been building from last year.

As a fellow Lion myself, I thank you for your compassion for humanity and love for serving those in need. I am a better person and leader because of my time as a Lion and the incredible people I have met within this organization. I have a great deal of respect for you all and for everything you stand for as Lions. As such, please know that we will honor your request for the return of \$75,000 from the LCIF grant. Thanks for believing in us and our mission. It is heartbreaking to feel as though we have let you all down, but I can promise you this house will move forward and will continue to make you all very proud!

Gratefully!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lion Cindy Herbst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Herbst
Restoring Hope Transplant House
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Middleton Lions Club Member

The State of Wisconsin
Department of Financial Institutions

RESTORING HOPE TRANSPLANT HOUSE INC

is hereby certified to engage in business as a

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

in the State of Wisconsin. This certification was approved
on the 30th day of June in the year 2014.

The authority granted herein must be renewed
by August 1 of each year by the granting authority.

In witness thereof, the State of Wisconsin
Department of Financial Institutions
has caused this certificate to be issued under
the seal of the Department of Financial Institutions



Handwritten signature of Cheryl Olson-Collins in black ink.

Cheryll Olson-Collins
Secretary, Department of Financial Institutions

Handwritten signature of Michelle Y. Knuese in black ink.

Michelle Y. Knuese
Administrator, Division of Corporate and Consumer Services

This certificate of registration must be displayed conspicuously in the registrant's office or place of business.

This certificate was printed on the 29th day of June in the year 2022