



# Restoring *Hope* Transplant House

7457 Terrace Avenue ■ Middleton, WI 53562 ■ (608) 831-1726 ■ [www.restoringhope.org](http://www.restoringhope.org)



## We Are So Thankful

Over the course of a year, there are so many moments that truly capture the spirit of this house and inspire us all. We have taken a loving wife in who slept in the chilly parking garage on the night of her husband's transplant to help the family save some money. We have shared a home with patients who couldn't breathe without supplemental oxygen and watched them breathe freely after double lung transplants. We have welcomed old friends from across the country because UW Health is one of the finest transplant hospitals in the country for their condition. We have witnessed the miracle of a stroke patient regain the ability to walk and talk when it was feared that may never return. With strict Covid restrictions in place, we have served as the loving family to caregivers when a loved one has passed away. We had the good fortune to witness a grateful recipient meet their donor family for the first time in person. We have gathered around a computer screen to emotionally say our final goodbyes to a transplant friend who passed away from Covid. We have seen dear friends who were barely clinging to life be brought back to life thanks to the skilled hands and great care at the hospital. Throughout all the pandemic related challenges, we have safely and effectively continued to care for our transplant families when they have needed this house and the caring atmosphere it provides now more than ever. On a typical morning, a group of guests will safely space themselves out around our dining room table and share stories of the day. These conversations are often emotional, powerful and extremely personal. This house has always been at it's very best in providing the much needed community to help celebrate great days, offer support in stressful days and give unconditional love in some of the saddest days imaginable. This is truly a difference-making place. Even with the ripple effects of a pandemic still lingering, we are so grateful to be open to serve guests. We have seen a 75-80% increase in guest stays this year since the onset of the Covid in 2020. In many ways, life has returned more to normal for this house and our families. As a transplant family ourselves that has to be even more mindful of our health, we appreciate everyone for their continued understanding of life-saving safety protocols and those who have so loyally supported RHTH to help keep this house very much operational and excited for the future when other non-profits have struggled mightily to survive the impact of Covid. We thank you all!



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## The Impact of Health & Covid

Some significant trends we have noticed this past year that make RHTH a tremendous resource for families going through the transplant journey in the midst of the greatest pandemic of our lifetime:

- A significant increase in patients and caregivers with diabetes related issues
- Financial concerns for transplant families are greater than ever before
- Huge increase in Green Bay to Kenosha area transplant families
- The impact of families missing regular checkups during the pandemic is a critical issue
- Significant increase in obesity and poor overall physical health
- Depression and anxiety has increased while coping with health issues and a pandemic
- Caregiving has become more challenging with Covid restrictions and worsening health
- Covid is especially risky for transplant recipients. Guests seem to appreciate the use of masks and safety protocols here at RHTH to limit those risks
- Transplant is a lifelong commitment that requires out of pocket expenses in many cases that this house helps to alleviate
- We have seen more life lost this past year than normal from Covid and a lack of checkups. This house is at its supportive best in those sad times

## Expansion Update: Building Costs & Supply Delay

RHTH has raised over \$1 million for our construction efforts. Given the impact of Covid, the fundraising over the past couple years has been incredible. With the guidance of our leadership and construction team, we continue to raise major funds to reduce our overall construction debt while waiting for the historic pandemic construction costs to return more to normal. Similar projects are currently 30% over the initial budget and with significant supply chain delays. We continue to serve families in need until these return to more stable levels. We are excited for the future!

## Year End Giving Helps RHTH

During this festive holiday season of giving, please remember that year end giving is crucial to sustaining our mission and expanding our home for the future.

Donations can be made via PayPal at [www.restoringhope.org](http://www.restoringhope.org) or sent to:

RHTH

7457 Terrace Avenue  
Middleton, WI 53562



*This August, I had a life-changing lung transplant that now has me entirely off of oxygen and heading towards a much higher quality of life. The other night we relaxed on the front porch here at Restoring Hope Transplant House on a picture perfect night. This house has been such a blessing for me on my road to recovery!*

-Don

Lung Transplant Recipient  
Hartland, WI



*As soon as I arrived at The Restoring Hope Transplant House, I was welcomed so warmly. I felt so comfortable right away. I was very impressed with how my parents were treated and the support they received was excellent! The house is kept so nice and it is so lovely. Being part of the RHTH family has been one of the best parts of my auto transplant and recovery, they really have made me feel like family.*

-Sarah

Kidney Autotransplant Recipient  
Reedsburg, WI