



**OMEGA
HOUSE**

A community leader in end-of-life care

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Strategic Vision 2020



Residential End-of-Life Care

Our founding and primary mission is providing quality residential end-of-life care for terminally ill Upper Peninsula residents. Since opening our doors in 2005 we have provided compassionate care for over four hundred Upper Peninsula residents. With the wonderful support we receive from individuals and families, church and civic groups, area businesses and foundations, we look to our future with optimism with the commitment that no one in need will be turned away for financial reasons.

Our Mission

To provide a home-like environment where people at the end of life may live fully, receiving compassionate and competent care from professional, volunteer and family caregivers.

Our Vision

To be a community leader and resource for end-of-life care issues.

Advance Care Planning Initiative

Omega House believes Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a fundamental component to providing quality person-centered health care in all settings. ACP is the process of designating a health care advocate, and discussing, documenting and sharing personal choices for health and end-of-life care with family members and health care providers. Our vision is to be a community leader in ACP, providing information, resource materials and trained ACP facilitators for individuals, families, community groups and health care providers. The goals of the Omega House ACP initiative include:

- Increase in satisfaction for patients and families with end-of-life care in all settings.
- Decrease in grief, guilt and depression in surviving family members.
- A standardization of ACP documents and tools in our community.
- Decrease in time spent in the ICU in the last 6 months of life.
- Increase in number of area residents with designated durable power of attorney for health care.
- Increase in number of area residents with ACP documents shared with family members and health care providers.





Respite Care Program

The Omega House Respite Care program seeks to relieve individuals and families from the burden of providing 24 hour care for physically dependent loved ones by providing short-term residential respite care at an affordable rate. Respite care stays can range from one day to several weeks. Stays can be arranged in advance or on shorter notice for times of caregiver crisis. Omega House will seek state, federal, private and foundation funding to make Respite Care accessible and affordable to those in need in our community.

Community Grief Support Program

Grief and loss affects individuals, families, businesses, organizations and schools. At times, grief and loss issues can affect our entire community. Omega House seeks to create a lasting partnership with the Community Coalition on Grief and Bereavement, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, and the Rice Memorial Clinic Foundation to provide grief education, resource materials and professional and volunteer grief support counselors for those affected by grief and loss in our community. The Community Grief Support program (CGSP) will work in concert with local hospice bereavement support programs and staff. The CGSP will be directed by a steering committee, with representation from the program partners.

Community Grief Support Program Goals:

- Provide grief support from trained staff and volunteers to those in need.
- Work collaboratively with existing community resources and staff.
- Provide community-wide and focused educational and support programs for individuals, families, schools, civic organizations and faith groups.
- Develop a network of grief support volunteers throughout the community.
- Have a designated program director, office, resource materials and dedicated phone line at Omega House for the CGSP.
- Employ diverse development strategies to make the program self-sustaining within three years.



Palliative Care Program

Palliative care focuses on providing comfort and symptom management of chronic and pre-terminal conditions while also providing life-sustaining or prolonging treatments for individuals who may not be eligible for, or prepared for, enrollment in hospice care. Omega House will designate one room for palliative care residents who are not able to stay in their own home while receiving care. A sliding scale fee system will be used to make this care accessible and affordable to those in need.

“It was hard being so far away. It comforts me to know my father had such caring people caring for him each day. I am thankful for every kind word and gesture. I thank you with all my heart.”

Volunteering in Service to Community

Omega House seeks to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for persons of all ages. Fifty active volunteers provide over four thousand hours of service each year, assisting the house in a variety of ways. Resident care volunteers assist our aides and staff in providing compassionate bedside care. They help to cook and assist residents at meal time; they engage in active listening and show their concern for our residents and their loved ones in many tangible ways. Our house and grounds volunteers mow the lawn, rake leaves, tend to the gardens, shovel snow and provide assistance in maintaining the beauty and functions of the house and grounds. Mailing volunteers gather each spring and fall to help process our larger appeals, gathering in the spirit of service. We invite you, your family, your service or church group, your school or business association to join with us in this spirit of service. Many hands make light work.



End-of-Life Resource Center

With the designated support from major donors and foundations, we seek to create an end-of-life resource center which will allow for:

- Designated Respite Care.
- Designated Palliative Care.
- Ample storage spaces for supplies and equipment.
- New space for volunteers and volunteer training and resource materials.
- Designated space for Advance Care Planning program staff and resources.
- Designated space for Community Grief Support program staff and resources.
- Multi-use meeting space for hospice training programs, grief support groups, organizational mailings and board meetings.
- An office for development.

Legacy Program

Omega House will seek planned gifts to help secure the long-term financial future of the house. Through the “Legacy Society” program, board members and development staff will work to inform our community members and area financial planners about the mission and vision of Omega House and the benefits of planned gifts for the donor, Omega House and our community.

“Our family worked hard to care for my father in his own home. But there came a time when we all knew it was best for Dad to receive care at Omega House. We were all treated with respect and compassion, and his final days of life were peaceful and dignified. I am proud to be an Omega House supporter.”





From the Board of Directors

Through a series of integrated initiatives, the Omega House Strategic Vision 2020 addresses a variety of health care needs in our community related to end-of-life care. Each initiative has its own timeline for realization, board and community champions, as well as unique funding needs and strategies. We ask all members of our community to read and reflect upon our vision and bold initiatives. We seek to partner with our loyal supporters and new donors, with community and church groups, and with Upper Peninsula foundations to help us realize these goals designed to improve end-of-life care for all in our community. We invite your support and ask you to be part of the next ten years of Omega House.

In service to our community.

Deb Young, President
Vice President Portage Health

Guy St. Germain, Vice President
Community Board Member

Wanda Kolb, Secretary
Retired Administrator Keweenaw Home Nursing & Hospice

Donald VanUum, Treasurer
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Dr. Jeff Huotari
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Dr. Sig Janners Founding board member
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Leah Kinnunen, RN CHPN
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Sharon Fisher
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Dr. Katriina Hopper
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