



CONTEMPLATIVE  
CARE FOR THE DYING

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December 2020

There's no place like home for the holidays. And, just like at your home, here at ABODE we make everything warm, cozy and bright for our many Guests facing their end-of-life journey – at no cost to them. Despite the difficulties and uncertainty of 2020, we've continued to care for a wonderful variety of Guests and welcomed so many of their family members and friends to be with them in their final months, weeks and days. For those with no family or friends, we step into that role – sitting vigil, holding their hands and sharing the love they need so they can let go. At ABODE, no one dies alone.

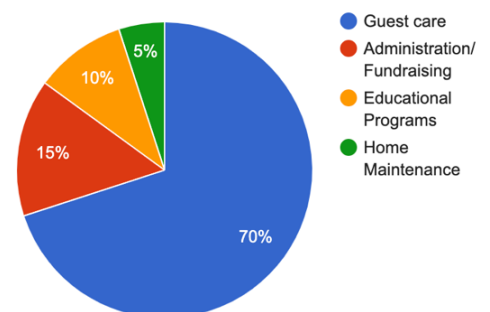
We've had a strong year in so many ways. Even though we had to close for a while to prepare for operating in this pandemic, we've cared for the same number of Guests this year as we did last year. Yet the one area that COVID-19 has dramatically affected is our in-person fundraising events that we planned and then had to cancel. **As we come to the end of this year, if you have any charitable giving budget left, please give to ABODE.** Your donations are tax-deductible – even if you don't itemize, this year you can deduct \$300 in charitable giving, thanks to the coronavirus relief bill.

Your generous gift helps us pay for care supplies, meals, staffing, utilities, maintenance – all the support necessary for us to provide meaningful care, comfort, peace and dignity to those at end of life.

We are in our sixth year of offering compassionate, interfaith and spiritual care in a contemplative community so those who are dying may leave this world with dignity and grace. It's a mission established by our founders Edwin and Patsy Sasek and carried out daily by our staff, board, volunteers and all of you, our generous donors.

As you can see on the right, we direct all funding to four key areas: 70% goes directly to our Guests' care, 15% goes to administration and fundraising initiatives, 10% funds our educational programs – education is also part of our mission – and the remaining 5% goes to keeping our home properly stocked and in tip-top shape.

ABODE Expenses



ABODE has been called “God’s Waiting Room.” There is no other home like ABODE in San Antonio – in fact, there is only one other similar home in the entire state. We do not receive city, state or federal funding, nor do we bill insurance. All of our funding comes from supporters like you, along with a limited number of very competitive grants.

Stories of our Guests’ courage and faith demonstrate the importance of your support – **Mark’s story** for example. From the moment Mark arrived at ABODE, we felt something magical in the works. With his spirited good humor and close-knit circle of friends, we knew our Green Room would be filled with friendship and laughter – and, indeed, it was.



What we didn’t know was that Mark was somewhat estranged from his sisters Pam and Terry – and from his children. In one of our favorite ABODE experiences, this family quickly reunited and rekindled their love for one another.

“At the end, in the beautiful, caring atmosphere of ABODE, we could focus solely on our relationship with Mark,” Pam says, “and we learned how to support him through the dying process. What we experienced was nothing short of heaven. You helped us heal two generations of family pain.”

And that’s just how it should be. Rest In Peace, Mark.

We hope you will support ABODE with your end-of-year tax-deductible gift by using the enclosed envelope – or donate online at [abodehome.org/donate](https://abodehome.org/donate). Your generosity will ease suffering and extend warmth, hospitality and kindness where it’s needed most.

On behalf of all of us at ABODE, we offer our deepest gratitude and wish you a wonderful holiday season.



*Nancy Thursey*

*Sarah Lee* ♥

*Diana Mendez*

*John Vinson*

*Claudia Baca*

PS: Need some extra holiday gifts? Please visit our brand-new online ABODE Boutique! You’ll find it at [abodehome.org/shop](https://abodehome.org/shop). All proceeds benefit ABODE.

ABODE Contemplative Care for the Dying  
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