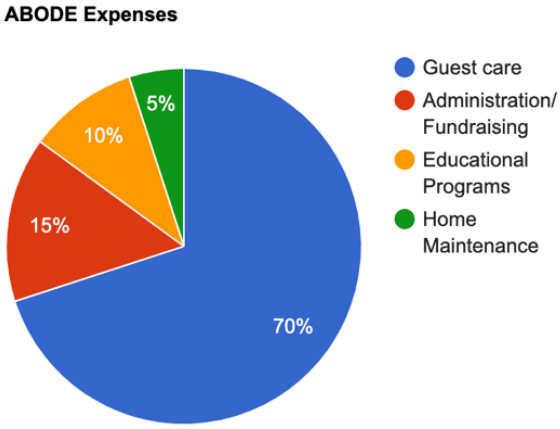
December 2021

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. We've continued to care for a wonderful variety of Guests this year, and we've 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, our staff and volunteers 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.

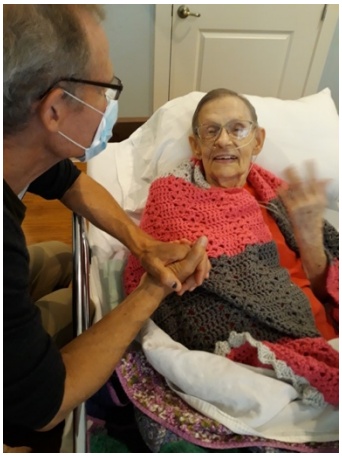
We've had a strong year in so many ways. We've trained and welcomed volunteers back to our house. We've continued to facilitate grief support groups, meditation groups and even added a caregiver support group. Our expanding educational programs are reaching folks far and wide. Yet, COVID-19 continues to dramatically affect our in-person fundraising events. **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, you can deduct $300 in charitable giving again this year, 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 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 to 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 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 – **Christine’s story** for example, as shared by her daughter, Mindi:

“It was hard moving mom from a home she’d lived in for 60 years. But we got to ABODE and saw how beautiful it was. She’d never lived in a place this nice. At ABODE, she was surrounded by people who loved her. They didn’t just care for her – *they cared about her*. And I was able to fully focus on being her daughter and not her caretaker.

“The people at ABODE became the core of my support system. The grounds at ABODE became a refuge where I could just go and calm down. I spent countless days looking at the butterflies, birds and squirrels. And Milo *(our ABODE pooch)* was a mind reader. He knew exactly when I needed a little comfort…or maybe he was looking for food, I’m not sure which!

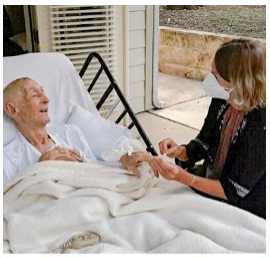
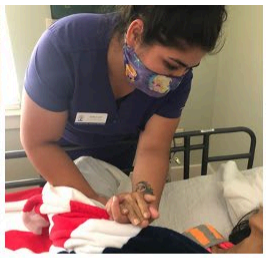
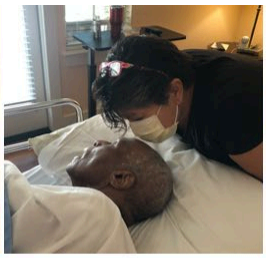
“When mom couldn’t read any longer, the staff and volunteers were always at her side, reading devotions and singing hymns. Through countless conversations with staff and volunteers at ABODE, I started to see that death wasn’t scary. It’s a natural part of life. It doesn’t have to be tragic.

“I’m blessed that I got to watch my mom transition from this life to the next. ABODE gave her a beautiful, peaceful, happily ever after that she otherwise wouldn’t have had.”

We were honored to care for your mom, Mindi, and we think of her so often. All of our ABODE Guests touch our hearts in such meaningful ways, as we strive to touch theirs.

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**. 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.

Mary Thursby Sarah Lee Ulz Deanna Mendez John Dinsmore Claudia Baca

PS: Need some extra holiday gifts? Please visit our online ABODE Boutique! You’ll find it at **abodehome.org/shop**. All proceeds benefit ABODE.

ABODE Contemplative Care for the Dying • Tax ID #27-3691295