



A Visitor's Guide to Caring House

2842 El Dorado Street Torrance, California 90503 (310) 796-6625
yourcaringhouse.org contact@yourcaringhouse.org License Number: 198602078

Welcome

Welcome to Caring House. Caring House is a private home, in a peaceful residential neighborhood. Whether you are a resident or a family member or friend of a resident, our goal is to provide for you a place of peace, comfort and support.

Goals of Care

Setting goals of care is a crucial part of making appropriate care decisions. At Caring House we welcome residents for whom the goals of care have shifted to peace, comfort and support.

Our Residents

Caring House provides care, supervision and assistance for up to six residents at any one time. While we are not a medical facility, we are allowed to serve residents who suffer from heart disease, lung disease, cancer, neurological diseases and other conditions. This includes terminally ill residents who are receiving services from a Medicare-certified hospice agency.

We seek to admit residents whose needs are compatible with our other residents and who we judge will be safe and well-served. Residents must be age 60 or older or, if younger, have needs compatible with our other residents.

Caring House and Hospice

At Caring House we welcome residents who are using Medicare-certified hospice services. Hospice service teams offer medical care and pain and symptom management, as well as spiritual support, counseling and education. Hospice team members will visit those residents just as they would in their homes and provide vital support to them and their loved ones, in collaboration with our staff.

Caring House is not a hospice facility or hospice house and is not licensed as a hospice facility, service or agency under the Health and Safety Code or other California or Federal law.

Admissions Information

If you'd like information about a possible admission to Caring House, speak with our Resident Care Manager or call 310-796-6625, extension 2.

We're Good Neighbors -- Together

As a visitor to Caring House, we need your help.

Caring House is part of a calm and peaceful residential neighborhood. We intend to keep it that way. We respect our neighborhood and strive to treat it and our neighbors well.

We remind all Caring House employees, volunteers, residents and visitors that each of us is responsible for treating our neighborhood and neighbors well.

Examples of what being a good neighbor looks like,

- **Be Friendly:** When we're walking and see a neighbor on the street, we smile and say hello.
- **Quiet:** When we talk with others in person or on a mobile phone, we do it quietly (so no one more than 3 feet away can hear us). We close car doors quietly, start cars without revving and honk horns only in an emergency.
- **Group meetings:** We use the Caring House sitting areas and conference room and avoid gatherings in front of neighbor homes.
- **Trash:** If we find trash on the Caring House property or in the street, we put it in a waste barrel. We keep our own trash (including cigarette butts) with us and dispose of it properly in a public waste barrel, at home or at Caring House.
- **Smoking:** Caring House is a smoke-free property. Smoking happens only while walking and never near a neighbor's home more than a few seconds.
- **Safety:** We notice anyone acting suspiciously in the neighborhood. When in doubt, we call the police.

If you have suggestions or questions on how we can be a good neighbor, don't hesitate to talk with Karen (Resident Care Manager) or Ed (Executive Director).

Parking

Please - Please - Please: Park in the parking lot at the Blue Church. It's around the corner and only 15 minutes away. Parking in **our driveway is only** for vehicles transporting Caring House residents and brief use for Caring House operations. Parking **in front of our house** is only for short-term use of hospice staff. Continuous care staff should park at the Blue Church. Help us keep peace in our neighborhood -- don't park in front of any neighbor's home.

Visiting Hours

General visiting hours are 9 am to 8 pm, seven days a week. Visitors are expected to respect and be sensitive to the rights of all residents and not interfere with care schedules and established activities.

Meeting with visitors may be tiring for a resident. There may be times when a visit is not advisable. **We recommend that visitors check ahead about the best time for visiting**, out of respect for all residents and to maintain a peaceful home. An overnight stay for one adult visitor can be arranged in advance in the discretion of our Resident Care Manager (or her designee).

Telephoning a Resident

The quality of mobile phone reception in our neighborhood varies. To leave a “landline” telephone message for a resident or visitor at Caring House, call 310-796-6625 extension 3. Our Caregivers can pass along a message.

Guest Wi-Fi

Our guest Wi-Fi network is called **CaringHouseGuest**. The password is **peace&comfort**.

Remember the Life

“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.” — Thomas Campbell, author and physicist

An important part of the Caring House mission is remembering the lives of those entrusted to our care. Upon arriving at Caring House, each resident is acknowledged by a unique heart-shaped “memory stone” showing his or her first name and date of admission to Caring House. Each memory stone is placed in the Remember the Life area at the house.

We invite residents and loved ones to share their stories, history and photos for the Remember the Life archives kept at Caring House. With permission, we share the archives with others at Caring House, and at times share parts of them on the Caring House website and elsewhere.

Caregiving Staff

Our 24/7 paid staff of Caregivers is under the direction of our Resident Care Manager.

Caring community volunteers assist our caregiving staff and help with activities, in the kitchen, with maintenance and with outreach and fundraising. And perhaps most importantly with listening, companionship and support for residents and their loved ones.

If a resident is receiving hospice services, members of the hospice team will visit the resident and provide support to them and their loved ones, in collaboration with our staff.

Smoking

Caring House is a smoke-free property.

Pets

No pets are allowed except visits by pet therapy or as approved in advance by our Resident Care Manager.

About Caring House

Mission

Caring House provides a home completely focused on end-of-life needs, with care for those who are dying and support for their families and loved ones.

History

When Caring House welcomed its first resident and family on February 19, 2016, it became the ***first non-medical home in Los Angeles County totally focused on end-of-life care.***

The idea for Caring House originated more than a dozen years earlier, when a group of South Bay nonprofits serving older adults worked together to identify what important services for older adults were missing from the South Bay. The group identified the unmet need for a home dedicated to end-of-life care, and several volunteers from the group then launched the effort to develop Caring House for the South Bay.

Since that beginning donors and volunteers have banded together to make Caring House happen.

Work Completed (when)

- Organize:** Recognize need, examine models, choose structure, incorporate (2004).
- 501(c)(3):** Obtain IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (2008).
- Funds for Purchase:** Raise funding for property purchase (2013).
- Property:** Purchase a home suitable for Caring House services (2013).
- Funds for Renovation:** Seek funding for needed property renovations (2015).
- Design:** Design renovation work and obtain needed permits (2015).
- Renovate:** Hire contractor, undertake and complete work (2015).
- Equip and Furnish:** Equip and furnish six private bedrooms, 2.5 baths, kitchen and living and dining room, sitting areas and other common areas for residents and visitors (2015).
- RCFE License:** Obtain license as a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly from the CA Department of Social Services (2015).
- Senior Staff:** Hire resident care manager (2014).
- Staffing:** Hire and train initial caregivers (2016).
- Welcome Residents:** Welcome our first resident and their caring family and loved ones (February 19, 2016).

Revenues and Charges

Caring House revenues come from resident charges and from donations.

We charge \$255 a day (which equals \$7,650 for 30 days) to help cover our costs.

If a resident and family cannot afford the full amount, we could admit the resident depending on what they can afford to pay and the finances of Caring House.

Donations

Funds donated now will help us

- cover ongoing operating costs,
- admit and retain men and women who cannot afford to pay the standard charge, and/or
- help us maintain prudent operating reserves.

Legal Structure

Caring House, Incorporated is organized as a nonprofit public benefit corporation under California law. It operates under the direction of an independent board of directors. We are licensed as a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly by the CA Department of Social Services. License number: 198602078.

Board of Directors

- Robin Camrin, CPMSM, CPCS, Vice President, Medical Staff Services/Performance Improvement, Torrance Memorial Medical Center
- Dan Hudson, M.Div, BCC, Pastor, Mission Ebenezer Family Church
- Jane Flynn, BS, RN, Cardiovascular Services, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center – Torrance
- Ellen Gorbunoff, RN, Community Director of Education and Professional Development, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center – Torrance and San Pedro
- Edward Long, JD, co-founder of Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation (H.E.L.P.) (retired)
- Patty Long, BA, co-founder of Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation (H.E.L.P.) (retired)
- Kathleen Phillips, MA, Director, South Bay Adult Care Center (retired)
- Jill Schultz, Director of Volunteer Services, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center – Torrance and San Pedro (retired)

Circle of Advisors

The Circle of Advisors is a special group of community leaders and professionals who share their expertise, recommendations and prestige. By doing this, members of the Circle of Advisors enhance Caring House and its mission of care for our residents and support for their families and loved ones. For more information see yourcaringhouse.org/circle.

Members include Kevin Ashworth, CFA; William F. Duncan, CPCU ; Kitty Edler, CRS, SREA; Katherine (Kathy) Gould, BA, MS; Mary Harris, CFP; Cathy Hendrickson, BA; Francis J. (Jack) Hourigan, JD; Lisa Humphreys, MD, MPH; Sister Terrence Landini, RN, BSN, LCM; Claire Tehan, MA; and Rabbi Didi Thomas.

Senior Staff

- Executive Director (volunteer), Edward Long, JD, ed.long@yourcaringhouse.org, 310-796-6625 extension 1.
- Resident Care Manager, Karen Hlavaty-Pearson, karen@yourcaringhouse.org, 310-796-6625 extension 2.

Donating and Volunteering

Caring House is an IRC §501(c)(3) charity, and donations are deductible as charitable contributions. Caring House's tax identification number is 20-2201206.

Thanks to past donated support, Caring House purchased its home in a peaceful Torrance neighborhood and completed a major renovation. We've also furnished, equipped and landscaped our home.

Donors are now providing funds help us cover ongoing operating costs, admit and retain men and women who cannot afford to pay the standard charge, and/or help us maintain prudent operating reserves.

Supporters

Everything we've accomplished so far is thanks to the support of more than four hundred donors and volunteers. Their generosity makes it possible for us to bring peace, comfort and support to our residents and their loved ones.

Individuals, couples and families have together provided the largest part of donated funds. Major financial support has also been provided by organizations including Torrance Memorial Medical Center, John Gogian Family Foundation, Providence Little Company of Mary Foundation and Continental Development Corporation.

Volunteers

Caring House is a volunteer-originated project for our community. Our caring volunteers make Caring House special.

Volunteers assist our caregiving staff and help with activities, in the kitchen, with maintenance and with outreach and fundraising. And perhaps most importantly with listening, companionship and support for our residents and their loved ones.

For more information, see yourcaringhouse.org/volunteer.

In-Kind Donations

You can help by donating the supplies needed for Caring House to operate. Our **online Wish List** shows a wide range of items that will help us serve our residents and families. All items should be new (or unused and in excellent condition). See yourcaringhouse.org/wishlist

We also welcome Gift Cards from:

- Vons, Ralphs, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods and other grocery stores;
- Staples, Office Depot and other office supply stores;
- Sam's, Costco, Walmart and other retailers;
- Walgreens, CVS, RiteAid and other drug stores;
- Subway, In-N-Out, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A and other popular food locations.

"In Lieu of" Gifts

We welcome "in lieu of" gifts. Suggested language related to a funeral or memorial is "In lieu of flowers consider donating to Caring House, 2842 El Dorado Street, Torrance, CA 90503, yourcaringhouse.org." Similar language can be used related to birthdays and anniversaries.

Leave a Legacy

If you want to leave a legacy gift, be sure to work with an experienced and capable advisor to create the proper legal paperwork. For example, consider the following language for a will or trust:

I give [describe gift] to Caring House, Incorporated (also known as Caring House), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, to be used in such manner as its Board of Directors shall determine. The Caring House tax identification number is 20-2201206.

If you wish to designate your gift for a particular purpose, we would be happy to discuss options with you. For more information see yourcaringhouse.org/legacy or speak with our Executive Director.

Join In

Caring House is a project by our community for our community. It is and will be something we actively do together. To join in online,

- See yourcaringhouse.org/join to receive email updates
- Or yourcaringhouse.org/tour
- Or yourcaringhouse.org/volunteer
- Or yourcaringhouse.org/donate.

Updated: December 27, 2016