	LiGHT Grant Application 2026	
	2026 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines	

Name of individual, group or organization: Hope's Harbor

Contact name(s): Hannah Cottingham

Address: 7922 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Phone number: (260) 459-8550

Email Address: hannah@hopesharborfw.org

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: Overnight accommodations for Wells County families

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected:

Hope's Harbor provides free hospitality services to families of children receiving medical care at Northeast Indiana hospitals, including overnight accommodations, meals, laundry, and a safe place to rest close to their child. In 2025, Hope's Harbor served 32 individuals from Wells County for 99 days and nights of respite and hospitality services. We are seeking \$2,500 to help support the daily operating costs of providing these essential services to Wells County families during a child's medical crisis.

Dollar amount requested: \$2,500

Would the program be offered if only a partial grant from LiGHT is made?

Yes, we do not turn away families who need our support, and we will continue providing hospitality services to families in need regardless of the amount of grant funding received.

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested:

Hope's Harbor provides free hospitality services to families of children receiving medical care at Northeast Indiana hospitals, including overnight accommodations, meals, laundry, and a safe place to rest close to their child. In 2025, Hope's Harbor served 32 individuals from Wells County for 99 days and nights of respite and hospitality services. We are seeking \$2,500 to help support the daily operating costs of providing these essential services to Wells County families during a child's medical crisis.



Hope's Harbor

Family Hospitality Homes

MAIN OFFICE

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STRENGTH NEXT DOOR

When a child requires hospitalization, families can face an unexpected and overwhelming combination of medical, emotional, and financial challenges. Families may need to travel significant distances to access specialized pediatric or neonatal care while also managing time away from work, childcare, meals, transportation, and other everyday expenses.

Hope's Harbor Family Hospitality Homes provides a place for families to stay close to their hospitalized child while reducing some of the financial and logistical burdens that accompany a medical crisis. Our two Fort Wayne hospitality homes serve families of children receiving care at Northeast Indiana hospitals, including families referred by hospital nurses, social workers, and case managers. In 2025, Hope's Harbor served 32 individuals from Wells County, providing a total of 99 days and nights of respite and hospitality services. For these families, access to a safe, supportive place to stay near their child's medical care can make it possible to remain present during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

"Hope Harbor was a saving grace in the midst of a happy yet hard time for our family. We were so thankful for the hospitality of Hope Harbor so that we could be close to our baby but also have a space for rest and healing. It was also great that there was space for our family to come visit with our other kids during our NICU stay."

— Lydia and Luke McConnell, parents of Baby Lowen

The need is especially significant for families whose children require extended hospitalizations. At Dupont Hospital, the NICU serves some of the region's most medically fragile infants, many of whom require extended parental presence. In 2025, the average Hope's Harbor stay was approximately eight nights, with many families—particularly those with infants in the NICU—staying for several weeks or longer. Hope's Harbor helps ensure that proximity to a child's medical care is not determined by a family's ability to afford temporary lodging.

Our two Fort Wayne locations currently provide a combined 14 private guest rooms, including 10 rooms with private bathrooms. To meet the growing need for family hospitality, Hope's Harbor is expanding its Dupont Campus House from four guest rooms with shared bathrooms to 10 private rooms with private bathrooms, along with a dedicated playroom, family rooms, and an outdoor respite area. This expansion will allow us to provide greater comfort and support to more families while keeping them close to their child's medical care.

Hope's Harbor provides families with private guest rooms, kitchens, family spaces, play areas, laundry facilities, meals, and other hospitality services. We also accommodate entire families, including siblings and grandparents, recognizing that a child's hospitalization affects the entire family. Families are welcomed regardless of their financial circumstances, and all Hope's Harbor hospitality services are provided free of charge to families.

Grant-supported services will be provided throughout the grant period as Wells County families are referred to and utilize Hope's Harbor services. Because Hope's Harbor operates 365 days a year, funds will support ongoing hospitality services throughout the year. Families are connected to our services through hospital referrals as well as direct contact with Hope's Harbor staff. Our team conducts regular rounds at Lutheran Hospital and Dupont Hospital to identify families who may



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Family Hospitality Homes

benefit from hospitality services, while nurses, social workers, and case managers refer families when lodging, meals, or other support would help them remain close to their hospitalized child. Hospital partners receive regular facility tours and orientation to ensure they are aware of available services and can connect families to support quickly.

Volunteers are also essential to program delivery. Volunteer groups prepare meals, organize donation drives, and provide in-kind contributions that directly reduce operating costs and help ensure families have access to food and other basic necessities.

Grant funding from the LiGHT Foundation will help support the hospitality services provided to Wells County families, including food, lodging, utilities, laundry, household supplies, and other daily operating costs necessary to maintain a welcoming and supportive environment. A \$2,500 grant will help Hope's Harbor continue providing these essential services to families who may otherwise face significant additional expenses during a child's hospitalization.

Hope's Harbor measures program effectiveness through guest exit surveys, occupancy tracking, service utilization data, and ongoing staff and Board review. Guest feedback demonstrates the meaningful impact of these services. In 2025, 96% of guests reported that Hope's Harbor helped them spend more time with their hospitalized loved one, 96% reported improved communication with medical staff, and 98% reported that the program prevented additional financial burden. Additionally, 97% reported increased access to regular meals and snacks, 98% reported being able to get quality sleep, 99% reported that Hope's Harbor staff were helpful and supportive, 99% reported that the space was comfortable and restorative, and 99% reported feeling safe and secure.

Hope's Harbor's services are made possible through strong partnerships with hospitals, corporations, civic organizations, volunteers, and individual donors. Lutheran Health Network and Dupont Hospital serve as important referral partners, connecting families in need with Hope's Harbor services. Community organizations, businesses, schools, churches, and volunteer groups provide meals, supplies, financial support, and volunteer service that help sustain daily operations. Together, these partnerships allow Hope's Harbor to respond quickly when families experience a medical crisis and ensure that support is available regardless of a family's ability to pay.

Since opening in 2003, Hope's Harbor has served more than 14,000 guests for more than 55,000 nights, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to supporting families throughout Northeast Indiana during times of medical crisis. We do not turn families away because of financial circumstances, and we will continue to serve Wells County families even if only partial funding is received from the LiGHT Foundation. Support from LiGHT will help ensure that families from Wells County have a safe place to stay, nutritious food, and compassionate support when their child needs medical care.

Dan Rich, Board President

STRENGTH NEXT DOOR

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Family Hospitality Homes

Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget

May 1, 2026-April 30, 2027

Operating Budget FY2027 Summary

Annual Fundraised Income	\$	784,651
<i>In Kind Donations</i>	\$	239,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$	1,023,651
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	1,021,001
Net Income	\$	2,650

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Total Program	Total Fundraising	Total Administration
\$ 828,701	\$ 116,200	\$ 76,100

Program
81%

Administrative
8%

Fundraising
11%

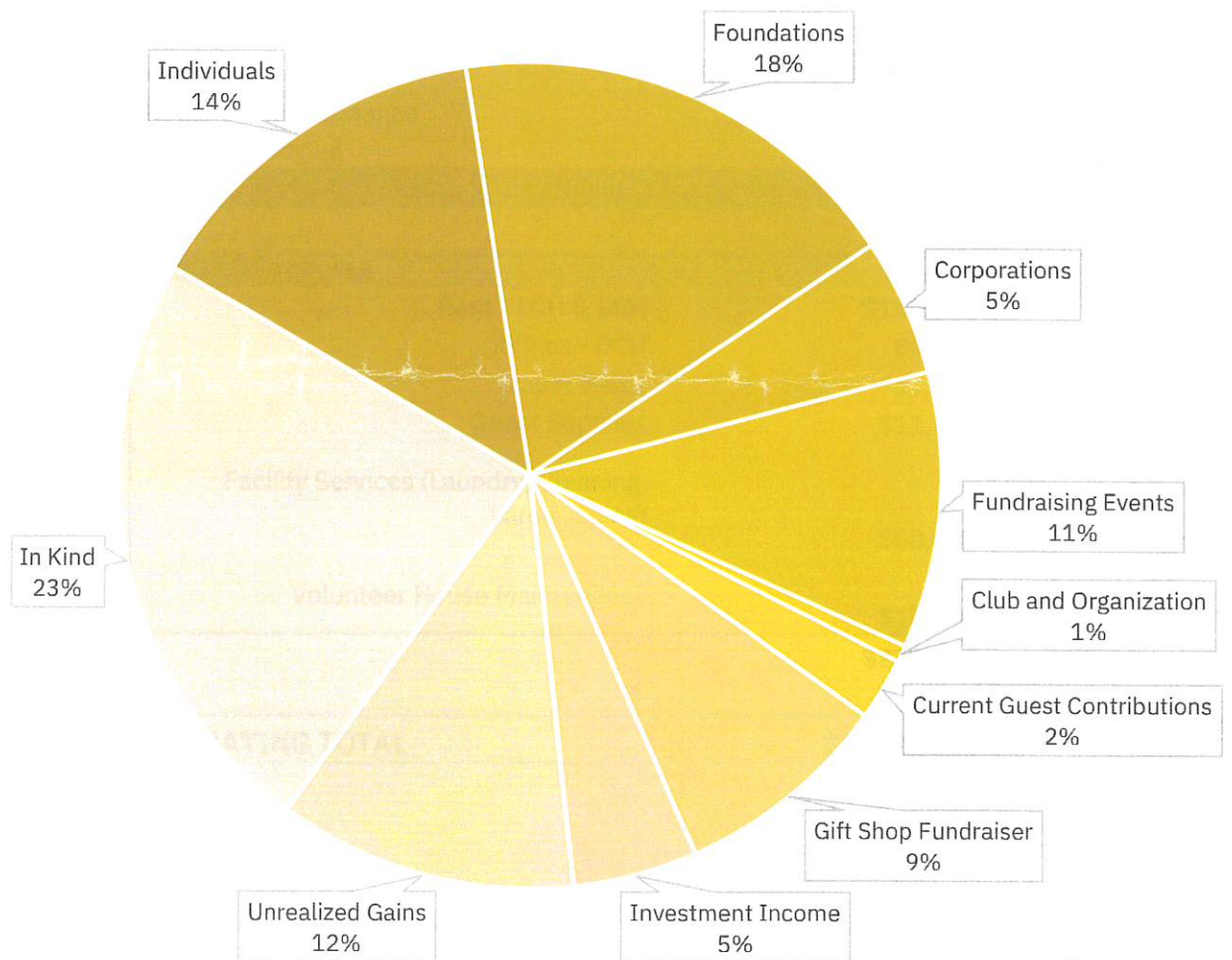
Cost Per Room Per Night

\$162.17

Cost Per Day Pass Per Day

\$126.13

RAYS OF HOPE ANNUAL FUND		
Individuals	\$	145,000
Foundations	\$	185,000
Corporations	\$	55,000
Fundraising Events	\$	110,401
Club and Organization	\$	6,750
Current Guest Contributions	\$	25,000
Gift Shop Fundraiser	\$	87,500
Investment Income	\$	50,000
Unrealized Gains	\$	120,000
Grand Total Annual Funds Raised	\$	784,651
<i>Total In Kind</i>	\$	<i>239,000</i>
Total Annual Funds In Kind & Dollars	\$	1,023,651



Program Expense Detail

Program Expenses	Total Program	Program General	Dupont House	Lutheran House
Furniture & Equipment	\$5,800		\$800	\$5,000
Accounting Services				
Professional Services				
Bank and CC Fees				
Conferences and education	\$500	\$500		
Contract Labor	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Depreciation Expense	\$120,000	\$120,000		
Dues and subscriptions	\$1,000	\$1,000		
House Supplies & Pantry	\$20,000		\$10,000	\$10,000
Insurance	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Investment fees				
Licenses and Permits	\$100	\$100		
Marketing	\$2,500	\$2,500		
Meeting Expense				
Misc Expense	\$300	\$300		
Office supplies	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Salaries, Tax, Benefits	\$360,400		\$188,300	\$172,100
Payroll Fees (Gusto & HI)	\$4,500	\$4,500		
Postage	\$500	\$500		
Rent	\$1			\$1
Repairs & maintenance	\$8,000		\$1,000	\$7,000
Mileage, Lodging	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$500
Utilities	\$38,600		\$3,800	\$34,800
IN KIND				
Rent - LCH & DCH	\$140,000		\$100,000	\$40,000
Utilities - DCH	\$9,000		\$9,000	
Guest Meals	\$7,000		\$2,000	\$5,000
Guest Supplies	\$11,000		\$3,000	\$8,000
Facility Services	\$60,000		\$20,000	\$40,000
House Maintenance	\$12,000		\$2,000	\$10,000
Program Expenses	Total Program	Program General	Dupont House	Lutheran House
Total Program Budget	\$ 828,701	\$ 154,900	\$ 341,400	\$ 332,401