

# HEART OF GRACE UPDATE

*Inaugural Annual Issue | Spring 2026*

## FROM OUR FOUNDERS

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**Dear friends,**

Heart of Grace was founded in memory of our daughter, Grace. She is the reason for everything this organization does, and the reason we believe no family walking through a hospital hallway with a critically ill child should feel alone in it.

This past year has been one of rebuilding. For a time, Heart of Grace was quiet. We stepped back to reassess and regroup, and to lay a foundation that, when we reactivated, would carry the discipline and accountability the mission deserves. In February, we reconvened our board, adopted the governance policies any serious nonprofit needs, and filed for reinstatement with the State of Nebraska. In March, we launched our first active fundraising campaign in years. Today, our first Family Care Bag sets are packed and ready for the families who will soon receive them.

We wanted to share where things stand, what you have made possible, and where we are headed next.

With gratitude,

**Jason & Angela Stearns**

*Co-Founders, Heart of Grace*

## WHERE WE ARE

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***A reconstituted board.*** In February 2026, Nevaeh Arnett was elected to our Board of Directors. Nevaeh also serves as Communications Lead, bringing voice and energy to our outreach. She joins co-founders Jason and Angela Stearns on the board.

***Foundational policies adopted.*** At the February board meeting, we adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy, a Financial Controls Policy, and additional governance policies covering document retention, whistleblower protection, and related matters. These are not formalities. They are the framework that protects every dollar you give and ensures decisions are made with integrity.

***Reinstated with the State of Nebraska.*** Our reinstatement filing was accepted in March 2026. Heart of Grace is once again a Nebraska nonprofit in good standing, and we are committed to staying that way.

## PROGRAMS IN MOTION

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***Family Care Bag Sets.*** Each set contains three bags designed around the people most affected when a child faces a long hospital stay: a Family Comfort Bag for parents and caregivers, a Child Comfort Bag for the hospitalized child, and a Sibling Support Bag for the brothers and sisters at home who are often overlooked. Our first sets are assembled and ready. We are actively working to establish a formal

partnership with an Omaha-area children’s hospital so these bags can reach families through a trusted referral pathway.

**The Comfort in a Bag Campaign.** On March 15, we launched our Comfort in a Bag spring campaign with a goal of funding 40 or more Family Care Bag sets for families in 2026. The campaign runs through May 9. Every gift, regardless of size, brings us closer to that goal.

## BY THE NUMBERS: Q1 2026

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We are a small organization building carefully, and our first-quarter numbers reflect exactly that. Every dollar is accounted for, reconciled monthly against our bank statements, and tracked against a board-approved budget. When someone gives to Heart of Grace, we want them to know exactly where it went.

Total revenue raised	<b>\$795.20</b>
Unique donors	<b>8</b>
Total gifts received	<b>11</b>
Total expenses	<b>\$175.70</b>
Invested in program materials	<b>83%</b>
Net income for the quarter	<b>\$619.50</b>
Comfort in a Bag campaign goal	<b>\$5,000</b>
Family Care Bag sets funded at goal	<b>40+</b>

## WHAT’S AHEAD

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The rest of 2026 is focused on execution. We will close the Comfort in a Bag campaign on May 9 and move immediately into our first bag assembly and delivery cycle. We expect to formalize our hospital partnership in the months ahead, which will open a steady referral pipeline. We will continue building relationships with local businesses for in-kind donations, and we are laying the groundwork to pursue grants once we have documented program outcomes to report.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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**Give.** Donations can be made securely and fee-free through [theheartofgrace.org](https://theheartofgrace.org). One-time and recurring monthly gifts are both deeply appreciated.

**Refer a family.** If you know a family in the Omaha area caring for a child in long-term hospital care, a Family Care Bag set may be exactly what they need. Our referral form lives at [theheartofgrace.org/refer](https://theheartofgrace.org/refer).

**Partner with us.** If your business can donate goods or services that would help families in hardship, we would love to hear from you. Reach out at [info@theheartofgrace.org](mailto:info@theheartofgrace.org).



**Share.** Follow us on Facebook (Heart of Grace), Instagram (@heartofgraceomaha), and LinkedIn, and help us reach the families and supporters who need to know we exist.

## FOR GRACE

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Everything Heart of Grace does traces back to a simple idea: no family standing in a hospital hallway with a critically ill child should feel invisible. We are still a small organization. But we are here, we are active, and we are committed to showing up for the families who need us.

Thank you for being part of this with us.

With love,

**Jason & Angela Stearns**

*Co-Founders, Heart of Grace, Inc.*

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