



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENDIX AND R.H. SHEPPARD AWARD \$25,000 TO SUPPORT PAPPUS HOUSE

*Grant Funding for the Region's Only End-of-Life Care Home Supports Its
Expansion and Relocation to a Larger Property Near Hanover, Pennsylvania*

AVON, Ohio – March 15, 2022 – Sometimes, the most meaningful way to support a community is to support the needs of its most vulnerable. This was the impetus behind Bendix's recent two-year, \$25,000 grant to Pappus House in York, Pennsylvania.

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) awarded the funds to the nonprofit organization on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary R.H. Sheppard Co. Inc. (Sheppard), based in nearby Hanover. The grant supports the organization's expansion and relocation to a larger facility in the community.

Pappus House provides a unique form of supportive care services and assistance to those needing 24-hour end-of-life hospice care, but who want that care to take place in a household setting. The home's York location can house only three residents at a time, although many more regularly request admittance and are turned away. Now, through its capital campaign project, the organization plans to increase that capacity by renovating and relocating to a larger property.

Bendix is the North American leader in the design, development, and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking solutions for commercial vehicles. It is a member of Munich, Germany-based Knorr-Bremse, the global market leader for braking systems and a leading supplier of other safety-critical rail and commercial vehicle systems. R.H. Sheppard specializes in the design and manufacture of power steering gears for the heavy commercial and specialty vehicle market. Together, the companies champion a robust community giving

and outreach program that invests in local organizations with a positive impact on employees' daily lives in the areas of education, healthy living, and family support.

"We are so very proud to partner with Pappus House, on behalf of Bendix and R.H. Sheppard, and to support the growth of the only community-supported home for end-of-life care in the region," said Eric Eldridge, R.H. Sheppard plant manager. "Pappus House stands alone in its mission, providing individuals and families with compassionate 24-hour care in a household setting designed for situations when family members are unable or unavailable to care for their loved ones who are dying. We're pleased to assist this special organization as it strives to do even more for the community by making its services available to additional individuals and families."

A Home in the Community for End-of-Life Care

Pappus House was founded in 2017 out of a need in the community for an alternative form of hospice care. The home provides residents who are receiving hospice services with 24-hour care and supervision in a home-like setting where they can be surrounded by family and friends.

"When asked about their desires for end-of-life care, most people state that they wish to die at home," explained Amy Jansky, executive director of Pappus House. "However, many are unable to safely remain at home because of a lack of caregiver support, challenges of symptom management, and the limitations of their environment. We wanted to do something different. Around York County, we wanted to be the home where any hospice agency that had a patient in need of a residence could offer another option that truly felt like home – providing that home care and support for the family."

The home is named after the filaments, or "pappus," on the flowers of milkweed plants, which serve as the food source for the caterpillars that transition to become monarch butterflies, thereby representing the home's mission to care for individuals at the end of their lives.

In creating Pappus House, the founders aimed to design a home unlike other end-of-life care facilities in the region: Any hospice patient over the age of 18 would be eligible to live there, regardless of the hospice agency supporting them. Prior to its opening, institutional care was the only option in the Greater York community.

Support for residents' families is another key component of the services at Pappus House. A small staff of volunteers and employees – who are trained in personal care but are not medical professionals – care for the residents. While hospice nurses visit residents each week, staff members care for guests by cooking their favorite meals, welcoming family members, and

tending to the normal operations of the home. In this way, the house aims to support the unique needs of residents, enabling their families and friends to spend time with loved ones without the physical, emotional, and financial demands of caregiving.

A founding member of the organization, Katie Herrington, who now serves as development coordinator, saw a need in the community for this form of non-institutional end-of-life care.

“We set out to do something that was unique and hadn’t been done before in Pennsylvania,” Herrington said. “We had heard about an option called hospice houses in other parts of the country, but not in our hometown.”

The founding members created a nonprofit organization to support their vision, starting small with a three-bedroom house.

“In our first four years, we proved that there was a huge need beyond what we anticipated,” Herrington said. By late 2018, the house remained at capacity and had to maintain a waiting list, with more than 50% of the referrals frequently being turned away.

“They may not have family members who are able to take care of them,” Jansky said. “So, we’re thankful to be able to have this opportunity – to be able to meet more people’s needs. It’s going to help a lot more families than we’re currently able to serve.”

Besides adding capacity, relocating will also allow Pappus House to choose and modify a building with more space throughout and will improve the overall financial sustainability of the organization.

Funding Its Relocation, Expansion, and Legacy

Pappus House kicked off its \$3 million capital campaign by purchasing an existing 6,500-square-foot structure that, with renovations, will be rebuilt into a state-licensed personal care home with eight private bedrooms on the first floor. The campaign also includes expenses for major modifications and landscaping around the property, as well as internal furnishings and equipment, along with endowment funding for ongoing operations.

“The new home will be constructed with deliberate attention to the details that make the home inclusive and accessible to residents and their family members of all ages and abilities,” Jansky said.

Plans include the addition of private outdoor patios for each bedroom. Bedrooms will also feature specialized bathrooms designed for residents with limited mobility.

Additional highlights of the home are a large kitchen and dining area for families and visitors, tranquil gardens and walking paths on its 9-acre lot, wide hallways, separate laundry

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facilities for each resident, and a spiritual sanctuary. In addition, the property will include a children's playroom and teen respite area, as well as an additional guest residence room for family members who may need a place to stay overnight. This room will be named in honor of R.H. Sheppard.

"We wanted to have a separate bedroom if someone is coming from out of town and needs to stay overnight," Herrington said. "Or if they just want to have a private family meeting about what they're dealing with. It's a respite area for whatever needs they have."

Construction, slated to begin in spring of 2022, is scheduled to be completed in late 2022, when the property will be opened for its first residents. The home also expects to double its staff of direct care providers supplemented by a team of volunteers.

Supporting a Need in the Community

So far, Pappus House has earned close to 75% of its fundraising goal during the silent phase of its capital campaign. The public phase of the campaign will launch in the coming months.

In applying for grant support from Bendix and R.H. Sheppard, Pappus House initially submitted a request for \$10,000 to help fund renovations at the new property. However, the organization was awarded a much larger gift: a grant of \$25,000, spread over two years.

"We were quite touched in visiting Pappus House and learning about their unique mission," said Maria Gutierrez, Bendix director of corporate responsibility and sustainability. "It's been our honor to support such a cause that is clearly also very dear to the community in York County."

Herrington said Pappus House is thrilled with the gift.

"We're just very honored that the team understood how important our mission was, and how important it was to be able to bring this to the Hanover area," Herrington said. "R.H. Sheppard is such an integral part of this community. Knowing that they were one of the first organizations in the Hanover area to embrace this is huge for us."

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,100 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](https://www.bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](https://www.knowledge-dock.com).

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