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## Cincinnati nonprofit Giving Voice Foundation opens its first brick-and-mortar space




The Giving Voice Foundation opened its first brick-and-mortar meeting space for patients and families in its Purposeful Planning program.

GIVING VOICE FOUNDATION



By [Lara Schwartz](#) – Staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier  
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A Cincinnati health care nonprofit has opened its first brick-and-mortar space to better serve its patients and their families.

The Giving Voice Foundation opened a living room-style, 250-square-foot space at 4225 Malsbary Road in Blue Ash to provide a non-medical meeting space to its patients and their families.



The Giving Voice Foundation is a nonprofit that focuses on advocacy, education, engagement and storytelling for adults living with Alzheimer’s or dementia and their families.

The foundation will use the space to meet with patients and families dealing with a recent diagnosis of Alzheimer’s or dementia and help them connect with resources, create a care plan and more.

“Our goal is to provide direct programming to families with dementia,” Dr. Christian Gausvik, the foundation’s co-founder, told me. “Often (families) don’t know what to do

next and there are amazing resources in the city, but knowing how to connect with them can be difficult.”



Dr. Christian Gausvik is a primary care physician who founded the Giving Voice Foundation with his partner, Cody Gausvik.

GIVING VOICE FOUNDATION

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This space will serve as the foundation’s base for its Purposeful Planning program, in which its three staff social workers work with families to connect them with resources and provide programming to engage the patients at no cost to the families.

“We looked all over and started by looking at the over 500 families we’ve served to see where they were coming from and we realized that we’re really pulling from the entire region,” Gausvik said. “We were looking for a central (location) for easy access for any of those folks and, thinking about working with older adults, we were specifically looking a place that had easy parking and an elevator to come up.”

During its search, the foundation was attracted to the Blue Ash space’s large windows and view, which looks out at trees and nature, to not only create a peaceful environment

but also to avoid creating an environment that feels like a health care facility or nursing home to ease patients' nerves during their difficult times.

Families can access the Giving Voice Foundation's services through physician referrals or self-referrals online. It has partnerships with local health systems like UC Health's Memory Disorders Clinic and the Christ Hospital's Health and Aging Center.

"Doctors don't have the time to offer the support that we do," Kristin Cooley, the foundation's full-time program director, told me. "To be able to connect, for free, with us to brainstorm what services are out there that are free ... the value of that is huge."

In addition to its Purposeful Planning program, Giving Voice offers another program, Creative Connections, which is a weekly program during which patients combine music and physical exercise with instructors while families participate in support groups. This program has locations in West Chester Township, Hartwell and Hyde Park.

"If we can take out the whole financial aspect for folks and the insurance piece and having to go into a medical office, then maybe we're helping some people that otherwise would have fallen through the cracks," Cooley said.

The foundation holds two fundraisers each year, Mimosas for Memories and Cincy Brews for Brains, and uses those funds as well as donations from grass-root donors and grants to keep its programming free.

Giving Voice plans to continue to meet the growing need for its services by expanding its programs as well as potentially opening other locations. Gausvik noted a particular need in Northern Kentucky and that it is one of the places the foundation will consider opening a second office in.

The Giving Voice Foundation was founded in 2020 by Gausvik and his partner, Cody Gausvik, after years of holding fundraisers for the Alzheimer's Association. He wanted to ensure the money they were raising was supporting local families in need and decided to localize it himself. Giving Voice has five full-time staff and a five-member board. To date, it has served 527 families, saving them more than \$105,000.



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Total revenue

Rank	Prior Rank	Business name
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2	2	Greater Cincinnati Foundation
3	3	University of Cincinnati Foundation

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