

# Katherine Thompson, CEO of Family House SF

**K**atherine Thompson is the Chief Executive Officer of Family House San Francisco, leading the nonprofit's mission since August 2023. She oversees all aspects of operations, working to provide state-of-the-art, family-centered care for critically ill children and their families.

Founded in 1981 by pediatric oncologist Dr. Art Ablin and a community of volunteers, Family House San Francisco serves as a home away from home for families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses being treated at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. Located in San Francisco's Mission Bay neighborhood, situated between Oracle Park and the Chase Center, Family House is a five-story, 80-bedroom facility that sustains an over 100% occupancy rate. It houses more than 330 people each night, serves 4,000 guests annually, and is 100% free of charge, fully funded by generous philanthropy.

While most guests are children undergoing bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy, or radiation, Family House also accommodates families of children facing other life-threatening illnesses, including those in need of fetal surgery, transplants and cardiac care, as space allows. About 90% of the families who stay at Family House are from California, although families also come from other states and internationally to receive treatment at UCSF.

As Family House's fearless leader, Katherine brings over 20 years of experience in nonprofit administration, development, and communications, with a focus on building inclusive community. She began volunteering with SFMOMA, which led to fundraising roles at MOCA Cleveland and Case Western Reserve University. Early in her career, Katherine held marketing positions

at Wells Fargo, Stern Marketing, and Charles Schwab, where she gained insight into building brands and fostering values-based cultures. Before joining Family House San Francisco, she spent over a decade at Grace Cathedral, where she led development, communications, and arts programming. In that role, she supported the Cathedral and its leadership in expanding fundraising, global reach, and civic engagement.

Katherine's dedication to supporting families during their children's treatment is her greatest strength at Family House. In her short time there, she has introduced family-centered engagement programs like Friday at Four, a monthly event featuring food and activities for families on the first Friday of each month. Katherine has also revitalized the volunteer program, building volunteer numbers to pre-pandemic levels and enhancing community involvement.

"Family House is the most generous expression of compassion and hospitality that I've experienced in our welcoming city, made possible by an extraordinarily committed staff, board, and community," Katherine shared. "Becoming a leader in this mission is the honor of a lifetime, and I'm grateful for the deep spirit of philanthropy that grounds its past, present, and future."



**FAMILY HOUSE**

**Family House Inc.**

415-476-8321

[info@familyhouseinc.org](mailto:info@familyhouseinc.org)

[familyhouseinc.org](http://familyhouseinc.org)

