

Southern California Hospice Foundation

Hospice Care Promotes Life

Recent studies show that individuals that receive hospice care live longer than those that continue to seek aggressive medical treatment.

According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, more than 1.4 million people living with a life-limiting illness receive care from hospice and palliative care providers every year. Michelle Wulfestieg, Executive Director of the Southern California Hospice Foundation, describes the Foundation's accomplishments and mission as follows: "For more than eight years, the Southern California Hospice Foundation has brought dignity and hope to people at the end of life's journey. Our mission is to deliver a breadth of resources to caregivers, families and patients who are confronting the final stages of life and we are working hard to educate the community about quality end-of-life care. Far too many people wait until they are in the midst of a health care crisis before thinking about what options are available. We believe that the time to learn about hospice is before a life-threatening illness occurs. The earlier hospice is involved, the more it can make the patient's remaining time here on earth as comfortable as possible. We are here to help with information surrounding end-of-life issues and the benefits provided by the loving care of hospice."

Frequently Asked Questions about Hospice Care:

What is the difference between hospice and palliative care?

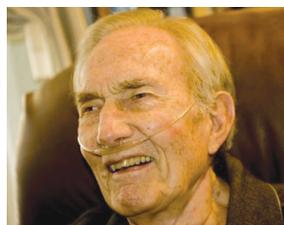
Hospice and palliative care both focus on pain and symptom management. However the main difference between the two is that under palliative care, the patient has a life-threatening illness that is not necessarily terminal and may still be seeking curative treatment. A person is eligible to receive hospice services if their physician has determined that their illness is likely to result in death within six months and is not seeking curative treatment.

What should I ask when looking for a hospice program?

Hospice is not a place; it's a concept about the quality of life for terminally ill patients, their families and friends. When medicine cannot provide a cure, hospice offers comfort, care and



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assistance, allowing the patient to die comfortably with dignity and respect.

Below is a list of questions you should consider when looking for a hospice program:

- ◆ What services are provided?
- ◆ What kind of support is available to the family/caregiver?
- ◆ How does hospice work to keep the patient comfortable?

How can I afford hospice care?

The Medicare Hospice benefit, Medicaid, and most private health plans cover hospice services. In addition, the Southern California Hospice Foundation receives grants and community donations, which allows us to fill many needs of terminally ill patients not covered by medical insurance.

Where does hospice take place?

The majority of hospice patients are cared for in their own home or in the home of a loved one. However, hospice goes wherever the patient calls home – including assisted living, board and care, or skilled nursing facilities.

How does hospice serve patients and families?

Hospice care is a family-centered approach that includes a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, counselors, and trained volunteers. The interdisciplinary team of medical professionals focuses on the patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, with the goal of keeping the patient as comfortable as possible until the time of death. The family is also comforted and supported as their loved one comes to the end of life.

Many people think that hospice is synonymous with giving up. On the contrary, we often hear from our families that they wish they would had known about hospice sooner, as hospice provides a wide range of services to the family and patient that maximize the quality of life, helping people to live as fully as possible in the time they have left. Early hospice referrals are encouraged so that patients and their families can receive all the benefits of hospice care.

The Southern California Hospice Foundation will be active throughout the month of November, reaching out to raise awareness and discuss the unique system of support hospice can provide.

For more information contact us at (877) 661-0087 or visit us on the web at www.SoCalHospiceFoundation.com.

Leaving a Legacy of Compassion:

The Southern California Hospice Foundation Salutes Local Hospice Champions

The month of November is National Hospice & Palliative Care Month. It is a time to recognize and celebrate those who provide hospice and palliative care to patients and their families, and to help raise awareness about important care issues for people coping with a life-limiting illness. We would especially like to recognize those who have given of their time, talent and treasure to support hospice care in our community.



Hospice Champions in the Community

Marjorie Mosher
Schmidt Foundation



Respiratory Therapy Home Care



Disney VoluntEARS
Community Fund



Hospice Champions in the Medical Profession

L. Stuart Nagasawa, MD
Oncology/Hematology, Mission Viejo

Adam Kendall, MD, MPH
Palliative Care Medicine, Hoag Hospital

Edward Taub, MD
Director of Integrative Medicine, SCHF

Anne Newsome, MD
Family Practitioner, Garden Grove
Medical Director, Companion Hospice

Haresh Jhangiani, MD,
Oncology/Hematology, Fountain Valley

Ashley Mires, MD
Hospitalist, Chest and Critical Care Consultants

Michael Haga, MD & Joomo Yang, MD
AMHP, Inc., San Clemente

Roger N. Tran, MD
Geriatric and Family Medicine, Laguna Hills

Nicholas Jauregui, MD
Medical Director, Palliative Care Medical Group

Chris Vallandigham, RN
COO, Companion Home Health & Hospice

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