



HOSPICE SAVANNAH

Gratitude Report for 2017

Photo credits: volunteer Les Wilkes



"There are not adequate words to express my appreciation for how this hospice shepherded me, our family, and our loved one through this final journey. I will be forever grateful for your compassionate care."



"My mother had an amazing life, and because of the outstanding care provided by Hospice Savannah, she had an amazing death. Bless all the caring and compassionate staff."

Because you care...

Our Annual Gratitude Report celebrates your support of the help provided by Hospice Savannah, our Steward Center for Palliative Care and our Foundation.

Because you care, 1,155 of our neighbors received the best clinical, psychosocial and spiritual care at their end of life. Because you care, their loved ones received compassionate support. Because you care, those grieving had a place to go for help. Because you care, those suffering from a life-limiting serious illness found relief, and their family caregivers found practical assistance and loving help.

It has been my honor to serve as Board Chair and to work beside our staff and volunteers – truly they are “people with a gift for helping™”

With deepest gratitude,

Philip Solomons, Jr., Chair, Hospice Savannah Board of Directors





At the root of everything we do is the end-of-life hospice care we provide to patients and their loved ones in our Hospice House or in their own home, nursing home or assisted living facility in Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty or Long counties.

In addition to managing medications and symptoms, bathing and dressing, providing spiritual and psychosocial support and navigating sometimes difficult family dynamics, we help our patients live life as fully as possible. We love to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, plan weddings and host Happy Hour at Hospice House!

In the next few pages, you will read about some of the other services we offer because of your generous support. These are the additional life-enriching programs not covered by the Hospice Medicare benefit. They are services that make Hospice Savannah stand out from the other 15 or 16 hospices in our community, and set us apart as the clear choice for end-of-life care.

The only hospice to have received the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval®, Hospice Savannah is where compassion and expertise come together.



The Edel Caregiver Institute



Because you care, this free community resource is available to any unpaid family member or volunteer caregiver who needs advice, comfort or support while caring for a loved one with a disability, serious illness or dementia – long before there is a need for hospice care.

Being a caregiver is not something for which most of us plan. An accident or unexpected diagnosis often throws us into a suddenly overwhelming situation. Staff members Tonya and Jill are here to help whether their clients have just begun their caregiver journey or are seasoned veterans. In 2017 they were joined by Project Sherpa, a local group of retired physicians who offer their expertise, companionship and help as caregivers climb “the medical mountain.”

Learn more about free classes and support groups at www.EdelCaregiverInstitute.org or call 912.629.1331.

Because you care, we are able to offer expert pain and symptom management to patients long before their end-of-life. Those with a serious illness such as congestive heart failure, cancer, kidney failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease may need additional help to manage nausea, poor appetite, depression, shortness of breath, anxiety, etc.

Our doctors and nurse practitioners provided in-patient palliative care consultations and clinic visits to 541 patients throughout the St. Joseph's/Candler health system in 2017. Additionally, we made community palliative care visits to 70 patients unable to come into the outpatient clinic.

Learn more about palliative care at www.StewardCenter.org or call 912.354.8014.

The Steward Center for Palliative Care



Complementary Therapies



Because you care, Hospice Savannah is the only local hospice to offer massage therapy, story keeping and music therapy to our patients. Throughout 2017 certified music therapist, Sara, provided 980 healing sessions and our certified massage therapist, Jordyn, provided 441 massages.

Additionally, Sara and specially trained volunteers meet with our patients to record their life stories; pet therapy is offered by volunteers with certified therapy dogs throughout Hospice House and to our patients in facilities; and finally, your generosity also allows us to provide "Pet Peace of Mind" so that our patients' beloved pets can also be well cared for and, if necessary, be placed with a forever family.

(Sara is pictured with a pediatric patient we began helping last year.)

Honoring Veterans

Many of us know men and women who are reluctant to mention their service to our country, or who fight some internal demons as a result of combat memories. And of course, we realize that Vietnam-era veterans sometimes faced persecution or shame upon their return, never receiving our country's gratitude for their service

Because you care, Hospice Savannah offers a "We Honor Veterans" program to recognize and thank our patients who have served. In 2017 we acknowledged 207 veterans under our care, and conducted 27 military presentations accompanied by active duty personnel.



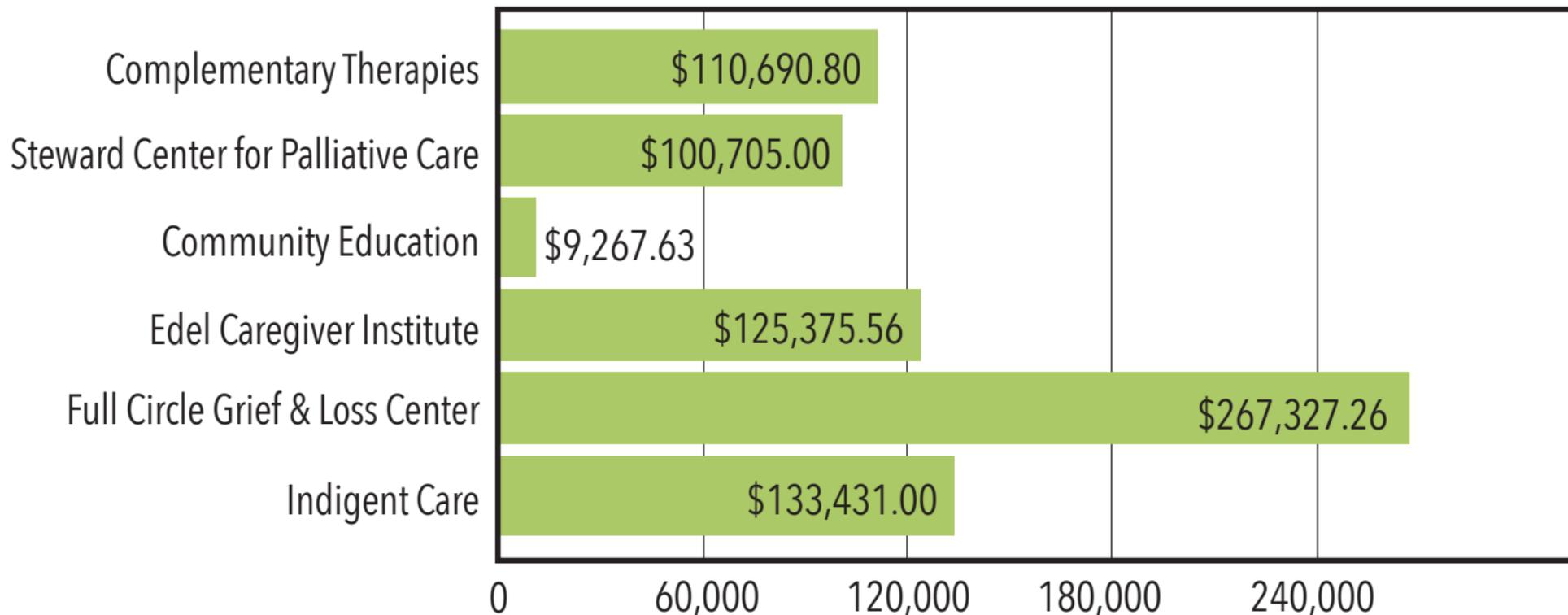
Full Circle Grief and Loss Center



Because you care, we are fortunate to have three bereavement professionals who not only support Hospice Savannah's grieving families, but also provide comfort to any child, teen or adult in our community.

In 2017 these Full Circle staff members and volunteers supported 41 at-risk youth who had experienced a loss by gun violence; held support groups in four local schools; responded to the sudden death of student and principal in two schools; supported ten survivors of suicide; helped 61 children at Camp Aloha; and provided over 400 one-on-one sessions with bereaved community members.

Because you care, we are able to allocate \$746,797.25 to the following uncompensated care and services in 2017





Thanks to our 2017-2018 leadership Hospice Savannah, Inc.



Philip Solomons, Jr. (Chair)
Maura Sovchen (Vice Chair)
William C. Keightley (Secretary)
Joseph R. Ross (Treasurer)
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Dr. Richard Leighton
Eula Parker
R. Clay Ratterree
Joseph Roberts
Dr. L. E. Robertson
Marjorie Young
Derek Zimmerman

Special thanks to Paul, Connie, Zeke and Joe Roberts who are rotating off the board.

Thanks to our 2017-2018 leadership

Hospice Savannah Foundation, Inc.

Fran Kaminsky (Chair)	William C. Keightley
Connie Darbyshire (Vice Chair)	Stephanie Lindley
Amy Piersol (Secretary/Treasurer)	Paul D. Meyer
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Bruce Barragan	Eula Parker
Merry Bodziner	Joseph Roberts
Frank Brown	Nancy Sheets
E. B. Gaines, III	Einar S. Trosdal III
Myron Kaminsky	Dr. Blenda Wilson

Special thanks to Amy, Zeke, Myron and Caroline who are rotating off the board, and condolences to the family of Randy Bart who died in August.

The Steward Center for Palliative Care, Inc.

Dr. Kathleen Benton (Chair)	Dr. Anthony Costrini
Dr. Grant Lewis (Vice Chair)	Sherry Danello
Holden Hayes (Secretary/Treasurer)	Dr. Marie Dent
Helen Steward (Honorary Lifetime Member)	Dr. Paul Drwiega
Barbara Bart	Dr. Theodora Gongaware
Hurley S. Cook, III	Dr. Martin Greenberg

Special thanks to Kathleen, Grant, Sherry, and Martin who are rotating off the board, and condolences to the family of Dr. T. who died under our care in January of 2018.

Because you care, we continue to fulfill our mission of providing our community the best services and resources on living with a life-limiting illness, dying, death, grief and loss.





The center leaf in our logo represents our patients. They are surrounded by family members and loved ones; compassionate Hospice Savannah staff and volunteers; and by the donors who make our care possible.

We thank the more than 2,000 individual donors, foundations, corporations and institutions that supported our work in 2017.

Helping throughout Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty and Long counties

Hospice Savannah Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 13190, Savannah, GA 31416 www.HospiceSavannah.org/Give 912.629.1055