



A History of Community Roots

1979

- United Way Task Force formed to organize first hospice in the Coastal Empire, chaired by Anne Stewart, who reported on her visit to St. Christopher's Hospice in London, England.
- **March 13:** Georgia Medical Society sponsors seminar on hospice with guest speakers from oldest hospice in United States, established 1971 in Connecticut.
- **June 11:** Incorporation of Hospice Savannah, Inc. as nonprofit agency.
- **September:** First Board of Directors elected:
- First volunteer training held with 75 participants at First Presbyterian Church.
- First paid staff member, Linda Leone Warren, employed as administrative assistant.
- First office site opened, in Senior Citizens Building, 3025 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia.
- The senior pioneer hospice programs in Georgia met in Atlanta to form statewide association, the Georgia Hospice Organization.

1980

- Patient and Family Services initiated, under medical direction of Dr. Caroline J. Williams; with Marcia Welldon, Nurse Coordinator.
- **June 5:** First Annual Meeting at First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Vernon Gramling, Director of Grady Hospice in Atlanta was keynote speaker.
- Hospice Savannah budget for 1980: \$48,000.
- First grants received from City of Savannah and Chatham County
- Achieves 501 c (3) status as not-for-profit organization.
- Ten patients are served in program by March. Average Daily Census by year's end: 7 - 8 patients.

1981

- Anne Stewart appointed executive director by board of directors.
- Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, author and lecturer on death & dying, was guest speaker at Georgia Southern College in April. 12 Hospice Savannah board members, staff and volunteers attended.
- First child, Letha, enrolled in hospice care.
- Operating expenses in 1981: \$62,197.
- First Hospice Savannah membership drive.
- 112 patients served in program.

1982

- Volunteer nurses begin providing emergency call on nights and weekends.
- First Bereavement Support Group held, organized by Al Bishop, Patient Care Volunteer.
- Long Range Planning Committee activated by Board of Directors.
- U.S. Congress approves hospice reimbursement through Medicare program.
- 145 patients served in program.

1983

- **January 9:** First Memorial Gathering held at First Baptist Church.
- Hospice Savannah becomes a United Way agency.
- Hospice Savannah hosts Georgia Hospice Organization Annual Meeting.
- Policies and procedures manual developed in preparation for Medicare survey.
- 120 patients served in program.

1984

- Hospice licensure law in Georgia introduced by local attorney Bobby Phillips. The new law was passed.
- Hospice Savannah licensed by State of Georgia.
- Medicare certification received.
- Contracts signed with all local hospitals for provision of inpatient care for symptom management and respite.
- 37 active volunteers participated in program.
- 123 patients served in program.

1985

- The Hospice Savannah Memorial Building Fund initiated.
- Purchase of durable medical equipment.
- On-call nurses employed on part-time basis.
- Senior Companion and Homemaker services available.
- 72 volunteers.
- 107 patients served in program.

1986

- Services extended to Effingham County.
- Board of Directors study feasibility of establishing inpatient, residential facility.
- Hosted Georgia Hospice Organization Annual Conference.
- 113 patients served in program.

1987

- Computer system installed.
- Appeal to Chatham County Commissioners for inpatient building site.
- Funding received from the Coastal Area Planning & Development Commission for Hospice House.
- **July:** Medicaid Hospice Benefit made available.
- 144 patients served.

1988

- Capital Campaign for \$1,000,000 to build Hospice House launched at Annual Meeting.
- Chatham County Commission donates 3 acres for Hospice House.
- 82 active volunteers provided supportive services.
- 125 patients served in program.

1989

- Architectural plans for Hospice House submitted by Cogdell & Mendrala, Architects.
- 102 active volunteers.
- Capital campaign results in over \$1 million being raised.
- 148 patients served in program.

1990

- *Seasons of Sorrow*, Hospice Savannah video receives National Hospice Organization's President's Award of Excellence.
- After pond (donated by Union Camp) resolves use of wetlands, Army Corps of Engineers grants building permit for Hospice House.
- 115 active volunteers.
- **December:** Ground breaking held for Hospice House on Eisenhower Drive.
- Average Daily Census reaches 14.3.
- Georgia Hospice Organization Spring Conference and Symposium hosted.
- 127 patients served in program.

1991

- Construction activity on Hospice House throughout the year.
- Dr. Caroline Williams retires as medical director.
- 123 active volunteers.
- 162 patients served in program.

1992

- **May 2:** Hospice House completed.
- **May 3:** Hospice House is dedicated, Open House draws over 200 attendees. Hospice House is debt-free.
- Jules Victor, III, MD and Benjamin L. Watson, MD named as medical directors.
- First *Memorial Tree of Light* sponsored in Oglethorpe Mall.
- Hospice House serves 74 patients.
- 261 patients served in Hospice House & HomeCare programs.

1993

- **August:** Judith B. Brunger appointed as executive director for Hospice Savannah.
- **September:** Anne Stewart retires as first executive director for Hospice Savannah, after 15 years of service.
- The Anne K. Stewart Hospice Savannah Endowment Fund established.
- First managed care contract signed.
- 312 patients served in program.

1994

- Hospice Savannah extends services into Bryan County.
- First Golf Tournament held to benefit Hospice Savannah.
- First Children's Grief Camp, *Hold My Hand* held.
- The Jeanne Heard Hunter endowment, for the establishment of a center for grief and loss received.
- Over 1200 receive bereavement care.
- Budget over \$650,000.
- 396 patients served in program.

1995

- Hospice Savannah extends services into Liberty County.
- 100% of depreciation funded.
- Four months of operating reserves created for first time.
- 1996 budget set for approximately \$3.6 million.
- 527 Patients served in program.

1996

- Hospice Savannah establishes the Hospice Savannah Foundation, Inc., to enable remaining a free-standing, community-based hospice.
- Board of Directors approves strategic planning for Hospice Savannah's growth through 2001.
- Quarterly Gardening Days begin as a tradition to enable the community to develop the Gardens of Hospice Savannah.

1997

- Efforts to voluntarily undergo accreditation survey by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) begun.
- 753 patients served in program.
- National Hospice Organization Photographic Inquiry exhibit is displayed in Georgia for the first time as a conjoint effort of the Telfair Academy of Arts and Hospice Savannah.
- United Way designations to Hospice Savannah by the community exceed allocation ... the first time any United Way agency has experienced this outcome.

1998

- JCAHO Accreditation with Commendation awarded, with a score of 98 out of 100. Less than 7% of all HomeCare programs nationally receive this distinction of quality.
- First Annual Fishing Tournament to benefit Hospice Savannah starts, through the efforts of Tubby's Tank House & H&H Budweiser Distributors.
- Hospice Savannah becomes certified as a Drug Free Workplace.
- Over 200 active volunteers
- 823 patients served in program.

1999

- Anniversary of **20 Years of Service** by the volunteers and staff of Hospice Savannah, Inc.
- We served 926 patients and provided grief and loss support to over 3,000 family members.
- Provided education for Memorial Medical Center and Medical School of Georgia educating Family Practice resident physicians and students on end-of-life care and pain management.
- Successful hurricane evacuation of Hospice House to V.A. Medical Center in Dublin.
- Provided education on grief and loss to 3,868 persons in our surrounding communities.
- We were the hospice site for the unveiling of the United States Postage Service – Hospice Care commemorative stamp for southeast Georgia.
- Inaugurated First Hospice Savannah Volunteer Regional Meetings for volunteers to receive continuing education and share fellowship with each other.
- Eagle Scout Edward Derst, IV designed and constructed the Garden Gazebo for Hospice House.
- Held the first “Storyfest,” a storytelling festival gift to the community.
- Along with patients and families, produced a 9 minute video explaining programs and services. The Savannah College of Art and Design donated the expertise to complete the video.
- Moved Hospice Savannah homecare offices off-site because of space demands at Eisenhower Drive.
- Held a Yellow Ribbon Memorial event with a planting of an oak tree during National Hospice Month to remember those who have died.
- Board of Directors begins plans for development and expansion of Hospice Savannah programs and the Hospice House facility.

2000

- We served 1,046 patients.
- 45 children attended the 8th Annual *Hold My Hand* grief camp at New Ebenezer Retreat Center.
- Co-sponsored teleconference “Living with Grief – Children, Adolescents & Loss” with the Hospice Foundation of America, Memorial Health University Medical Center and VistaCare.
- Unveiled portrait in recognition of Dr. Caroline Williams to the Georgia Medical Society and placed in lobby of Hospice House.
- Held 1st All Staff Retreat with 100 staff in attendance November 1-2, 2000.
- Sponsored Pain Management & Palliative Care Clinical Nursing Specialist, Kim Kuebler to speak to professional nurses in the area.
- Held Storyfest for 400 attendees with two national storytellers, Syd Liberman from Illinois and Milbre Burch from North Carolina.
- Launched our \$5 million Spirit of Living Capital Campaign.
- Reached a \$3 million goal for the year.

2001

- We served 1,165 patients.
- Grief and loss support was provided to 4,076 family members of our patients.
- We officially opened the *Full Circle Grief and Loss Center* in February 2001.
- We were surveyed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations on April 4-6, 2001. We were awarded Accreditation without Type I Recommendations for three years. Our overall evaluation score was 96 out of 100.
- 54 children attended the 8th Annual *Hold My Hand* grief camp at New Ebenezer Retreat Center.
- 117 patients in Hospice House received music therapy.
- 26 referrals were made to the story keeper.
- 214 patients in Hospice House, 23 patients in nursing homes and 3 patients in their homes received harp therapy.
- Our Music Therapist and Story Keeper won 2nd place in Georgia Medical Association category of Innovation in Medicine.
- We cared for 39 patients in our Palliative Care Program.
- Volunteers provided 16,710 hours of support, representing a cost savings of \$257,165.
- “Tree of Light” raised over \$66,000 to be used for our bereavement programs.
- We surpassed our \$5 million *Spirit of Living* Campaign goal.

2002

- We served 1,366 Hospice patients and 60 Palliative Care (comfort care) patients, for a total of 1,426 patients served. (Some patients graduated from the program and subsequently were readmitted.)
- Grief and loss support was provided to 6,164 family members of our patients. During this same period, 2,298 families from the community utilized our bereavement services.
- **January:** The *Spirit of Living* logo was approved by the Board of Directors and its use as the official logo of Hospice Savannah, Inc. began on January 1, 2002.
- **May:** Hospice Savannah, Wesley Community Center, and Memorial Health University Medical Center, partnered for the 1st Annual “*We Remember Mama*” luncheon held at Savannah Station on May 8th with over 300 in attendance.
- 40 children attended the Annual “Hold My Hand” grief camp at New Ebenezer Retreat Center.
- 223 patients in Hospice House received music therapy. There were 135 music therapy referrals. A total of 485 music therapy visits were done in Home Care.
- 32 stories were completed by our Story Keeper providing a lasting legacy for our patients and their families.
- **June:** Hospice House patients were moved to our temporary location on LaRoche Avenue on June 11th, and groundbreaking for Hospice House expansion was attended by our community supporters on June 12th.
- **September:** Construction for the renovation and expansion of Hospice House began on September 1st.
- Volunteers provided 17,642 hours of support, representing a cost savings of \$271,510. This is a 5.6% increase over 2001.
- **November:** 1st Annual EPEC (Education for Physicians on End-of-Life Care) Conference, sponsored by The Hospice Savannah Foundation was held at The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort on November 8th-9th.
- Our 11th Annual Tree of Light ceremony was held for the first time at *Full Circle Grief & Loss Center* and raised over \$63,000 for our Bereavement Programs.

2003

- We served 1,366 Hospice patients and 72 Palliative Care (comfort care) patients, for a total of 1,438 patients served. (Some patients graduated from the program and subsequently were readmitted.)
- Grief and loss support was provided to 6,610 family members of our patients. During this same period, 2,248 families from the community utilized our bereavement services.
- **March:** Hospice Savannah hires our first full-time Chief Medical Director, Dr. Kelly Erola.

- **May:** Hospice Savannah and Wesley Community Center partnered for the 2nd Annual “*We Remember Mama*” luncheon held at the Hyatt Regency on May 7th, with over 400 in attendance.
- 68 children attended the Annual “Hold My Hand” grief camp at New Ebenezer Retreat Center.
- 192 patients in Hospice House received music therapy. There were 127 music therapy referrals. A total of 543 music therapy visits were done in Home Care.
- 69 stories were completed by our Story Keeper providing a lasting legacy for our patients and their families.
- Volunteers provided 18,456 hours of support, representing a cost savings of \$305,312. As of December 2003, Hospice Savannah had 237 active volunteers.
- **July:** After 10 years of dedicated service to Hospice Savannah, CEO Judy Brunger leaves to head State hospice organization for North and South Carolina. Marna Lewin, VP of Clinical Services, steps in as Interim CEO.
- **November:** Held 4th Annual All Staff Retreat on Tybee Island with over 100 staff in attendance on November 1st.
- Individual donations enabled us to provide over \$80,000 in financial assistance to people in need of Hospice care who had no insurance and no ability to pay for Hospice care and an additional \$420,000 provided assistance to others in the form of reduced fees and allowances.
- **December:** Our 12th Annual Tree of Light ceremony was held for the 2nd year at *Full Circle Grief & Loss Center*, on December 7th, and raised close to \$60,000 for our Bereavement Programs.
- **December:** Grand Reopening Dedication Reception for the community was held at Hospice House on December 7th.

2004

- Anniversary of **25 Years of Service** to the community by staff and volunteers of Hospice Savannah, Inc.
- We served a total of 1,550 Hospice and Palliative Care (comfort care) patients.
- Grief and loss support was provided to 8,073 family members and friends. During this same period, 2,033 families from the community utilized our bereavement services.
- **February:** Board of Directors unanimously approved the selection of Margaret A. “Marna” Lewin as President & CEO of Hospice Savannah, Inc.
- **March:** Hospice Savannah underwent a survey by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and received no deficiencies. This allowed a newly renovated 28-bed Hospice House to re-open.
- **April:** Ribbon cutting and dedication of Hospice House. Patients were moved back.
- **April:** We were surveyed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations on April 20-23, 2004, and awarded Accreditation.
- **May:** 3rd Annual “*We Remember Mama*” luncheon held at The Westin Savannah Harbor on May 10th, with over 300 in attendance.

- Support was provided to 43 children who had experienced a loss by death during the *Hold My Hand* Grief Camp. A total of 270 children received services through support groups and camp.
- Music Therapist provided 654 visits.
- Story Keeper received 93 referrals. 67 stories were completed and returned to families.
- 265 active volunteers provided 17,217 hours of support, representing a cost savings of \$295,960.
- **June:** Team Physician and Vice President of Clinical Services hired. Hospice Savannah and Memorial Health University Medical Center collaborated on “Pilot” Palliative Care Program.
- Dr. Kelly Erola, Chief Medical Director, received the Healthcare Heroes Community Outreach award from the Georgia Medical Society for the Geriatric Rotation for Medical Residency Program.
- Beth Logan, Volunteer Coordinator, received the Healthcare Heroes Employees Making a Significant Contribution to Healthcare award from the Georgia Medical Society.
- **November:** Held 5th Annual All Staff Retreat on November 9th, to introduce “*Fish*” Philosophy.
- Individual donations enabled us to provide over \$500,000 in financial assistance in the form of free care to indigent patients and reduced fees and allowances to others.
- **December:** Our 13th Annual Tree of Light ceremony was held for the 3rd year at *Full Circle Grief & Loss Center*, on December 5th. Tree of Light raised approximately \$80,000 for our Bereavement Programs.

2005

- We served a total of 1,738 Hospice and Palliative Care (comfort care) patients.
- Grief and loss support was provided to 8,657 family members and friends. During this same period, 3,843 families from the community utilized our bereavement services.
- **January:** Dr. Kelly Erola was certified as a Board Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Physician, by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is one of 23 in the State of Georgia.
- **March:** After receiving *SPLOST* funds, Hospice Savannah purchased 1674 Chatham Parkway, the new headquarters for Administration and Home Care. The move was completed in November.
- **March:** Marna Lewin presented a poster at the National Conference for the Advancement of Palliative Care.
- **March:** 12th annual Golf Tournament held at Savannah Harbor Golf Club.
- **May:** The Steward Center for Palliative Care was incorporated. A total of 292 consults received for 2005.
- **May:** 4th annual “*We Remember Mama*” luncheon held at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto on May 6th.

- **May:** Support was provided to 68 children who attended Camp Aloha, May 6-8.
- **September:** Marna Lewin received the Healthcare Heroes Healthcare Innovations award from the Georgia Medical Society.
- Music Therapist provided 858 visits.
- Story Keeper received 120 referrals. 100 stories were completed and returned to families.
- 272 active volunteers provided 16,946 hours of support, representing a cost savings of \$285,047.
- **November:** Held 6th annual All Staff Retreat on November 8th.
- As a result of Employee Satisfaction Survey, Compensation and Competency Task Forces were created. The Task Forces were charged with changing the job descriptions and the evaluation tool to reflect the newly developed competencies and values.
- Informal Recognition Committee was created to provide a way to recognize staff in an effort to boost morale. As a result, the Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year awards were created. Eddie Oliver was selected as Employee of the Year for 2005.
- **December:** Our 14th annual Tree of Light ceremony was held at *Full Circle Grief & Loss Center*, on December 4th.

2006

- We served a total of 1,651 Hospice and Palliative Care (comfort care) patients.
- Grief and loss support was provided to 235 people from the community through one to one support with a counselor, 786 Community members received information and education through phone calls and 1,727 Community members received bereavement support through groups and training.
- We utilized the services of 246 volunteers (16,836 volunteer hours) – Board Members, Special Events, Bereavement, Homecare, Administration, Hospice House, Music, Hug-A-Pet and Grief Camp Volunteers.
- **January:** An Open House was held at the new home of Administration and Home Care at 1674 Chatham Parkway.
- **January:** Dr. Ellen Richardson received certification as a Board Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Physician.
- **January:** Dr. Cindy Carter received certification as a Family Practice Physician.
- **March:** Fundraising event for Hospice Foundation, a Golf Tournament was held March 23rd at The Club at Savannah Harbor.
- **April:** Dedication of the Hospice House Meditation Room in Memory of Volunteer Chaplain Rev. David Wright
- **May:** A dedication event was held to honor “The Steward Center for Palliative Care, Inc.” at the First City Club on May 4th.
- **May:** 5th Annual “*We Remember Mama*” luncheon held at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront on May 12th.
- **May:** Support was provided to 66 children who attended Camp Aloha, May 5-7.

- **October:** The Admissions Department was re-named “The Referral Center”.
- **November:** Dedication of the Hospice House Art Gallery in memory of Board Member Dr. Victor Marrero, who died in July.
- **December:** Our 15th Annual Tree of Light ceremony was held at *Full Circle Grief & Loss Center*, on December 3rd.

2007

- We served 1,717 Hospice and Palliative Care (comfort care) patients.
- Grief and loss support was provided to 8,506 Hospice Savannah family members and friends.
- 276 volunteers provided 18,656 hours of support, representing a cost savings of \$359,501.
- **January:** Dr. Cindy Carter Received Certification as a Board Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Physician.
- **February:** Triennial Joint Commission Survey Conducted—Received Full Accreditation.
- **February:** Homecare Volunteer, Toledo Hatcher won the Effingham County Rotary Club’s Volunteer of the Year and a \$750 check for Hospice Savannah, Inc.
- **March:** Dr. Kelly Erola was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the Georgia House Study Committee on Pain Management.
- **APRIL:** Hosted the 14th Annual Golf Tournament at The Club at Savannah Harbor.
- **APRIL:** Marna Lewin was honored by the Azalea-Hostess Chapter of The American Business Women’s Association with their “Citizen of the Year Award”.
- **MAY:** Support was provided to 60 children who attended Camp Aloha, May 4-6.
- **July:** Laurel McKeith and Debra Larson were co-presenters at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s “Quality Partners Improvement Collaborative” in Washington, D.C.
- **July:** Full Circle, A Center For Education and Grief Support Began a support group for mothers who have lost infants and toddlers, and another group specifically for those who have suffered the loss of a spouse or partner.
- **August:** Georgia Nurses Association Celebrated their 100th Anniversary by holding their State-Wide Conference in Savannah and our very own Dottie Kluttz was asked to participate in planning the program and offered a workshop on Story Keeping.
- **September:** Lora Matos, Message Therapist, was honored by the Georgia Medical Society as their “Healthcare Hero” in the Allied Therapy category.
- **September:** Marna Lewin and Laura Wiggins presented “Palliative Care—There Is Something We Can Do” at the Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s Fall Conference.
- **NOVEMBER:** Participated in the “Tree Of Life” Gala To Benefit the local Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
- **NOVEMBER:** Chris Foley and Jamey Espina Presented “Camp Aloha; The Real Experience” at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s Conference in New Orleans.

- **December:** Archie Seabrooks, Chaplain for Home Care Team I was selected as Employee of the Year For 2007.
- **December:** Hosted 16th Annual Tree of Light Ceremony at *Full Circle, A Center For Education and Grief Support*.

2008

- **January:** Diane Crawford Evans became Executive Director of Hospice Savannah Foundation, Inc.
- **January:** Successfully received State and Federal licensing and recertification after a 5 day on-site survey.
- **January:** Dr. Kelly Erola, Medical Director, named to Steering Committee of the Georgia Pain Initiative.
- **February:** Jamey Espina, Chris Foley and Laura Wiggins presented “Coping with Grief in the Workplace” and “Camp Aloha: Life is Hello, Life is Goodbye” at the Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (GHPCO) Annual Conference.
- **March:** Service Excellence Committee rolled out “Employee/Volunteer Credo”.
- **March:** Chris Foley was appointed Chair of the Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (GHPCO) Education Committee.
- **April:** Hosted the 15th Annual George Minor Peagler Golf Tournament at The Club at Savannah Harbor.
- **April:** Art Gnann joined organization as Vice President of Finance.
- **April:** Art Gnann graduated from Multi-View’s CFO Program.
- **May:** CEO Marna Lewin retired with Debra Anthony Larson appointed by the Board of Directors as Interim CEO.
- **May:** Support and fun was provided to 94 children who attended Camp Aloha. This was the largest group ever to attend bereavement camp.
- **May:** Dr. Kelly Erola, Medical Director, was the closing speaker at the conference “Improving Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Frail Older Adults” by the Georgia Geriatric Education Center sponsored by The University of Georgia, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Mercer University and Middle Georgia College.
- **June:** Monica Anderson, V. P. Clinical Services graduated from University of Phoenix with a Masters of Business Administration/Healthcare Management.
- **July:** Due to the changing economic pressures that hospices face, a major cost control initiative was implemented, which significantly improved profitability without impacting quality of patient care.
- **September:** Tonya Scott-Green, Facilities Manager completed the Community Health Advisors Training sponsored by the Nancy N. and J. C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion. This training affords us the opportunity to educate the community on cancer awareness.
- **September:** Clinical managers began extensive training in preparation of the new December 2008 Medicare Certification.
- **October:** The Georgia Medical Society honored Donna McElhaney, RN, CHPN and the Butterfly Team at their annual “Health Care Heroes” Awards for their contributions in pediatric hospice care.

- **October:** Hospice Savannah staff contributed over \$12,000 to the 2008 United Way “Pacesetter” campaign, surpassing their previous year’s contribution by \$2,000.
- **November:** Throughout the year our clinical staff provided education to more than 140 Nursing and Pharmacy students from Armstrong Atlantic State University, Coastal Georgia Community College, Georgia Southern University, Savannah Vo-Technical College and South University.
- **November:** Dr. Kelly Erola, Medical Director, published “When and How to Choose a Hospice...and Why It Matters” in Savannah Health Perspective.
- **December:** Kathy Lewis, RN selected as Employee of the Year for 2008.
- **December:** Hosted 17th Annual Tree of Light ceremony at *Full Circle, A Center for Education and Grief Support*.
- **December:** Service Excellence Committee rolled out new “Service Standards” for employees and volunteers.

2009

- **January:** First Annual Lecture Series featuring Dr. Marcia Levetown.
- **January:** Participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade, honoring 2008 Volunteer with the most hours, Sarah Brown.
- **February:** State Representative Earl “Buddy” Carter presented Hospice Savannah with a special House Resolution honoring 30 years of nonprofit end-of-life and bereavement care.
- **March:** Hospice Savannah launched their official “Facebook” web page.
- **March:** Participated in the St. Patrick’s Day parade, honoring 2008 Employee of the Year, Kathy Lewis, Homecare Team One RN.
- **March:** Board of Directors unanimously approved the selection of Debra A. Larson as President & CEO of Hospice Savannah, Inc.
- **March:** Debra A. Larson, CEO, elected to Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s Board of Directors.
- **April:** The Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., Botanical Garden and Hospice Savannah, Inc. held ribbon cutting ceremony to open the wheelchair accessible bridge between the grounds of Hospice House and the rose gardens of the Botanical Garden.
- **April:** Hospice Savannah employee team participated in Savannah’s first annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.
- **May:** Support and fun was provided to 82 children who attended the Camp Aloha bereavement camp.
- **May:** Hospice Savannah’s Helping Hands team participated in American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.
- **June:** June 11th was the 30th Anniversary of the incorporation of Hospice Savannah, Inc.
- **June:** Board of Directors approved new capital campaign for a new building to house The Full Circle Center of Excellence.
- **July:** 30th Anniversary Birthday Ice Cream Social held in Forsyth Park.
- **September:** 30th Anniversary Art Show held in the Hospice Savannah Art Gallery.
- **October:** The Georgia Medical Society honored Christy Smoak, Home Care Volunteer Coordinator in the Allied Therapy category and honored Sarah Copeland, Hospice House Volunteer Coordinator and volunteer Debby Huff, for implementing “Chad’s Companions”, a service of The Steward Center for Palliative Care, Inc.
- **November:** First Annual Pinning Ceremony for 40 staff who passed their certification exams in Hospice and Palliative Care.

- **November:** Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast had a 30th birthday party theme and clinical staff was invited to honor their volunteers.
- **November:** 30th Anniversary Gala held at *Vic's on the River* honoring our founders, Anne Stewart, Pat Persse, Sally Mandel, Dr. David Tanner, Dr. Martha Fay and the Georgia Medical Society.
- **December:** Hosted 18th Annual Tree of Light ceremony at Hospice House with music provided by The Savannah Children's Choir.
- **December:** Full Circle relocated to newly leased offices at 450 Mall Boulevard.