

Photo credit: Les Wilkes



HOSPICE

S A V A N N A H

People with a gift for helping.™

**Annual Report
2015**

Dear Friends,

It is with pride in all we have accomplished that Hospice Savannah offers you our 2015 Annual Report. We strive to be mindful stewards of the resources entrusted to us and consider this report to be a reflection of how we have helped our friends and neighbors during the past year, and of how we can help even more in the year ahead.

Our Vision stands clear that every person accepts death as a natural part of living and experiences death with dignity, comfort and support. And our Mission keeps us focused to provide our community the best services and resources on living with a life-limiting illness, dying, death, grief and loss.

Together we have done just that - providing end-of-life care to 1,224 patients; giving practical help and compassion to 75 family caregivers since our new Edel Caregiver Institute opened in September; supporting 499 palliative care patients; and helping countless grieving children, teens and adults.

Hospice Savannah is an organization that exists not for itself, not for its leaders or stakeholders, not for its own benefit or profit or gain.....but for others.

Hospice Savannah is much more than just hospice. Together we bring care and comfort to our neighbors, their caregivers, their bereaved loved ones and to our community. Thank you for all that you do in support of Hospice Savannah, The Steward Center for Palliative Care, Inc., and Hospice Savannah Foundation, Inc.



Bruce Barragan,
Chair Hospice Savannah, Inc.
Board of Directors



Dr. Martin Greenberg,
Chair The Steward Center
for Palliative Care, Inc.
Board of Directors



Amy Peirsol,
Chair Hospice Savannah
Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees

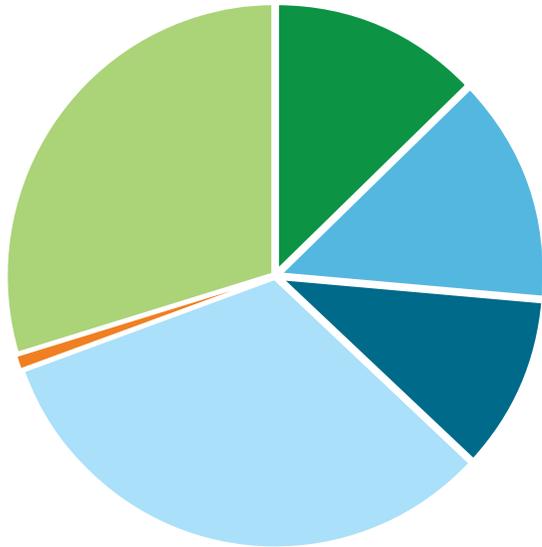


Debra Anthony Larson,
President & CEO
Hospice Savannah, Inc.

Much more than just Hospice!

During 2015, your support enabled us to provide our patients and our community with important “extra” services, not covered by the Medicare hospice benefit or by other insurances.

This commitment totaled **\$830,631** in value.



Complementary Therapies – \$106,417

Palliative Care - \$114,229

Community Education - \$86,639

Indigent Care - \$270,037

Edel Caregiver Institute - \$6,702

Full Circle Grief & Loss Services - \$246,607



2015 Highlight:

The Opening of the Demere Center for Living

Thanks to your generous support, we officially opened the beautiful Celeste C. and Robert H. Demere, Jr. Center for Living on September 25th. It is a warm, welcoming and spacious setting for our Foundation, the new Edel Caregiver Institute, Full Circle's expanded programming and The Steward Center for Palliative Care.



Photo credit: Trina Pinkney

Solace, Encouragement and Hope

916

adults - whose loved ones died from a life-limiting illness or sudden event, from suicide, through homicide, or by infant death - received help on their grief journey

225

children helped through supportive counseling in their own schools

105

children helped through attending support groups at Full Circle

56

children attended overnight Camp Aloha

681

adults attended bimonthly memorial gatherings and December's Tree of Light ceremony



Full Circle's outreach stretches far beyond the walls of our building to encompass school children struggling to keep up as they adapt to the loss of family members, communities shaken by tragedies of all kinds, and faith communities seeking leadership training in bereavement support.



Expert pain and symptom management – long before the end-of-life

499 patients helped at Memorial Health UMC and St. Joseph's/ Candler and at clinics at the Nancy N. & J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion and the Anderson Cancer Institute.

New partnerships established
with Landmark Hospital and
with St. Mary's Health Center.



Compassionate support and practical resources

The first facility in the U.S. designed to serve any unpaid and untrained family caregiver in our community opened in September: we provided classes and resources to 75 community members through the end of 2015.

“Thank you for our training last Saturday. Billy and I felt so much more secure after meeting you and learning what was offered. Your Institute will be a blessing for so many people in our situation. Thank you!”

This handwritten note was received from an eighty year-old wife who provides 'round the clock care for her husband who suffers from Parkinson's disease and many other health issues. Their son, a senior himself, moved in with his parents to try to help care for his father and ease his mother's burden. They both attended a hands-on training class and were able to speak one-on-one with our instructors, as well as get support and encouragement from other caregivers in attendance.



Story Keeping, Massage and Music Therapy – Your Financial Gifts making a Difference

We depend on your generosity to provide these complementary therapies which make such a difference in the lives of our patients. These “extras”, not covered by Medicare or other insurances, would not exist without charitable donations. Read the following reminiscences from Suzi Barber, our Story Keeper for six years:

“ When I began my journey as story keeper for Hospice Savannah I knew that it would be an honor to collect life stories and family messages from our patients. I knew that it would be interesting and enjoyable for me based on my love of history and fascination with human nature. I knew that I would collect as many stories from our veterans as possible and hoped that I would be able to help these patients reconcile war memories with the realities of their final days.



These are the things I expected with story keeping. I did not expect the hundreds of delightful, fun-loving, gracious people I would meet who would make me laugh until my stomach ached, cry when I got into my car, thank God for the wonderful family and life with which I've been blessed, and be endlessly grateful for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. It would be impossible to name favorite story tellers among all of these patients as they are as varied as the individuals who told them. The stories range from the dramatic, historically significant - such as teenage boys who became men on the beaches of Normandy or in the jungles of Vietnam - to the first-time mother who lay dying in Hospice House with her beautiful new baby next to her bed.

I am frequently asked about my favorite stories but these are difficult to name. I must admit that I felt very privileged to record the stories of our veterans and am always touched by their humility and honesty. Perhaps as a group these have been my favorite stories. When asked about the funniest story that is much easier. I once did an interview with a patient who told most of her story through a ventriloquist dummy while her pet parrot repeated her words! That's a day you don't soon forget!

I have learned that stories are the only way to truly know a person, as a person rather than as a patient. It is too easy to forget that the patients we meet had lives and loves before we ever knew them. In fact we only know them for their very brief final chapters and should always remember to say 'tell me about yourself' or 'tell me about your loved one.' ”

– Suzi, Hospice Savannah's Story Keeper for six years.

Board members 2015-2016

Hospice Savannah, Inc

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Paul Meyer, **Vice Chair**
Connie Darbyshire, **Secretary**
Joseph R. (Rusty) Ross, **Treasurer**
Maura Sovchen, **Member-at-Large**
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Rabbi Ruven Barkan
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Ross Kaminsky
William (Bill) Keightley
Richard Leighton, M.D.
Kathy McCurry
Eula Parker
Joseph Roberts
L. E. (Bud) Robertson, M.D.
William H. (Bill) Roelle, Jr.
Kevin M. (Bo) Russom
Philip Solomons, Jr.
Marjorie Young
Derek Zimmerman

Sincere thanks to Myra Hill (Past Chair), Roenia DeLoach, Ph.D. and Kevin M. (Bo) Russom who are rotating off the Board after serving six years.

Hospice Savannah Foundation, Inc.

Amey Peirsol, **Chair**
Fran Kaminsky, **Vice Chair**
R. Vincent Martin, III, **Secretary/Treasurer**

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William A. Baker, Jr.
Randall K. Bart (Honorary Member)
Pat Besser
Meredith (Merry) Bodziner
Connie Darbyshire
E. B. (Zeke) Gaines, III
Dr. Martin Greenberg
Holden Hayes
Myra Hill
Myron Kaminsky
Doug McCoy
Carolyn Luck McElveen
Caroline Nusloch
Joseph Roberts
Martha Sauter
Susan Whitaker
Blenda Wilson, Ph. D.

Sincere thanks to Samuel B. Adams who is rotating off the Board after serving fifteen years, Holden Hayes who is rotating off the board after serving nine years, and Martha Sauter who served one year.

The Steward Center for Palliative Care, Inc.

Martin Greenberg, M.D., **President**
Kathleen DeLoach Benton, DrPH, MA, **Vice President**
Holden Hayes, **Secretary/Treasurer**

Barbara Bart
Hurley S. (Trey) Cook, III
Sherry Danello
Theodora (T) Gongaware, M.D.
Fran Kaminsky
Grant Lewis, M.D.
Ramon V. Meguiar, M.D.
Nolan Moore, M.D.
Helen Steward (Honorary Member)
Tina Thompson, Ph.D.

Sincere thanks to Fran Kaminsky who is rotating off the board after serving three years.





Warm thanks to our faithful volunteer board members, listed on the left, and to the 175 other volunteers who help throughout our organization.

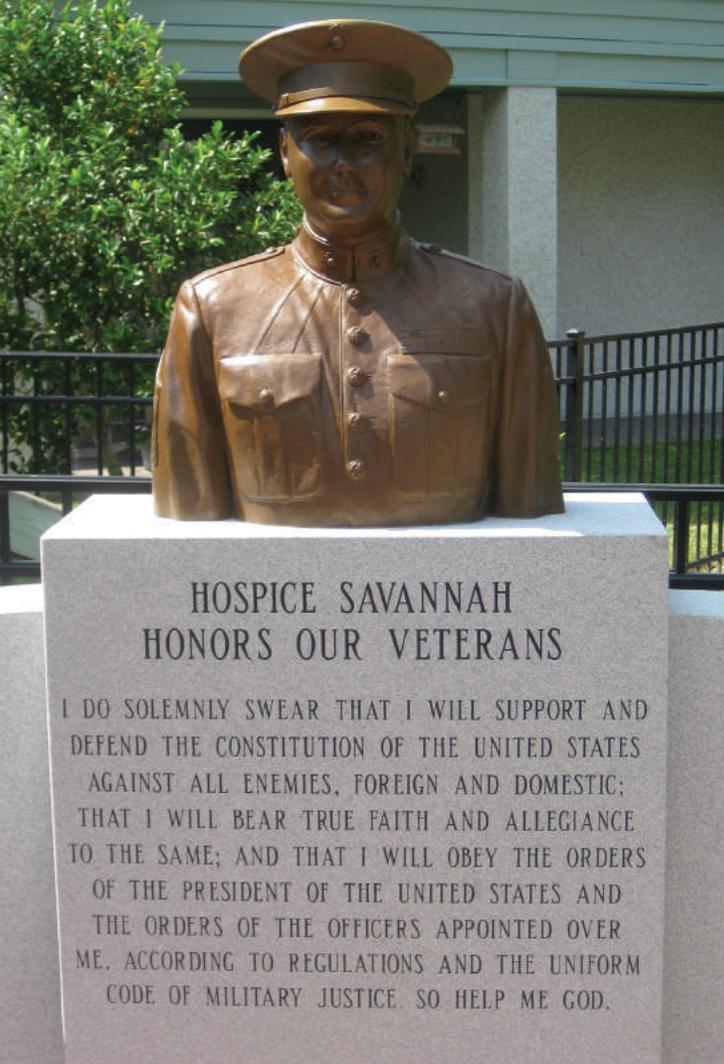
Volunteer hours given in 2015:

17,762

Equivalent to **8.5** full time employees



Christy Fulcher (L) received the inaugural United Way of the Coastal Empire's award, the Shirley Sessions Volunteer Administrator of the Year.



HOSPICE SAVANNAH
HONORS OUR VETERANS

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND
DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC;
THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE
TO THE SAME; AND THAT I WILL OBEY THE ORDERS
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND
THE ORDERS OF THE OFFICERS APPOINTED OVER
ME, ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS AND THE UNIFORM
CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE. SO HELP ME GOD.

2015 Highlight:

A Special Ceremony for a Special Patient

As a participant in our "We Honor Veterans" initiative, 96-year-old patient Amelia Jones learned of her qualification as a Tuskegee Airman during her Honor Flight Savannah visit to Washington, D.C. She was subsequently inducted into their ranks during a red jacket ceremony at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. On April 19, Sgt. Jones was awarded the Tuskegee Airman Congressional Gold Medal by 31D Deputy Commanding General, BG James R. Blackburn, Jr. and Senator Johnny Isakson at Hospice House.



WE HONOR VETERANS





Photo credit: Les Wilkes

Every Day is a Gift and Every Gift Makes a Difference!

We stand committed to continuing this progress and together can continue to make a difference. We hold ourselves accountable to achieving the highest standards of care and transparency for the benefit of those we serve.

Help us to continue to be the “People with a gift for helping”

Make a Donation

Make a Planned Gift through your will or estate

Sponsor an event

Support our fundraising events

Visit www.HospiceSavannah.org/Give or call the Hospice Savannah Foundation directly at 912.629.1055 for more information or to make a gift.

Together we can do so much more!

Hospice Savannah, Inc., P.O. Box 13190, Savannah, GA 31416
www.HospiceSavannahHelps.org 🌿 912.355.2289