



Thanks to our 2022-2023 LEADERSHIP

HOSPICE SAVANNAH, INC.

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HOSPICE SAVANNAH'S Annual GRATITUDE REPORT to the COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

In 1979, Anne Stewart along with other members of the community recognized the need for hospice care in our area. 43 years later, Hospice Savannah continues with our mission to "help people live".

Over the past year, we have collaborated with key leaders in the community to identify additional unmet needs. As a result, we have been able to implement new programs for pulmonary and cardiac patients who have become dependent on temporary, life extending treatments. Because of your support, we have been able to purchase the equipment, medications, supplies and staff to compassionately address these complex patients when their treatment is no longer effective. These additional resources allow patients to spend their last days in a setting of their choice, surrounded by family and friends at a time of their choosing.

In addition to these programs, we dedicated an entire campaign to address the needs of the most vulnerable patients in the community, our children. In 2022, we were able to provide concurrent care through our Butterfly Program to more children than ever before and our program continues to grow.

As we begin a new year, Hospice Savannah will continue the tradition of "helping" by introducing national programs that have not yet made their way to this area. Thank you for your ongoing support of our services; we look forward to working alongside you in 2023.

Sincerely,

Kathleen D. Benton
Kathleen Benton, DrPH
CEO & President of Hospice Savannah



Daniel Sims



Lisa Dean

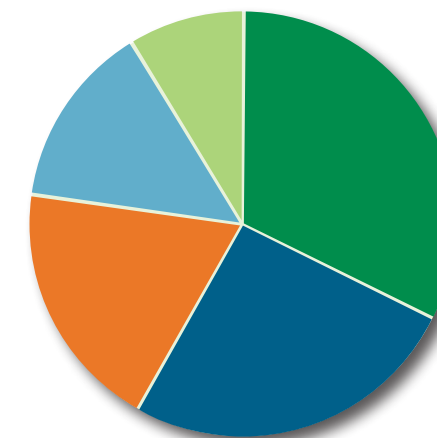


Erin Edwards



Dr. Kathleen D. Benton

Because of your *generous support*, our Foundation allocated
\$953,417 to the following uncompensated care and services in 2022:



Steward Center for Palliative Care - \$361,026

Indigent Care - \$260,171

Full Circle Grief & Loss Center - \$140,000

Healing Arts of Massage, Music, & Story Keeping - \$110,308

Edel Caregiver Institute - \$81,912

We thank all individual donors, foundations, corporations, and institutions that supported our work in 2022.



MEDICAL DIRECTOR

In 2022, we welcomed Dr. Hayda Torres Perdue as the Medical Director for Hospice Savannah and the Steward Center for Palliative Care. As a Board-Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Physician, Dr. Perdue brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Healthcare Relations Educators played a crucial role this year by offering on-site, post-pandemic education for our local and regional hospitals, rehabilitation centers, physician offices, independent/assisted living, and skilled nursing facilities. They increased and sustained the number of facility residents under our care to over 50 which enabled us to deliver care on-site and assist in keeping them out of the acute care setting. Our team provided community education as well in a number of forums including lectures, health expos, and illness-specific seminars.

EDEL CAREGIVER INSTITUTE

In 2022, the Edel Caregiver Institute (ECI) provided support to 385 caregivers. Following these initial consultations, ECI provided 833 return consultations. ECI participates in various seminars, conferences, health & wellness fairs, and other community events to increase collaboration and awareness of available community resources. ECI hosted 48 caregiver support groups and 47 caregiver restorative yoga classes both online and in-person. ECI staff presented at 8 community organizations, including one in Boulder, Colorado. These support services are provided thanks to your generosity.

STEWARD CENTER FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

In 2022, the Steward Center for Palliative Care provided 3,297 visits to patients located at St. Joseph’s and Candler Hospitals, the Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion Outpatient Clinic as well as in the personal homes of several of our patients. The Steward Center continued to pave the way for innovative care by also introducing the use of Virtual Reality (VR) as a means of symptom management. An IRB reviewed clinical study will be published on its impact in early 2023.

HIPU & HOMECARE

Last year, our team of physicians, nurses, certified nursing assistants, social workers, chaplains, allied therapists, and volunteers had the privilege of caring for a total of 1,435 patients. 386 of these patients were cared for in our Hospice In-Patient Unit (HIPU). The other 1,049 patients were taken care of by our Home Care Team in the comfort of those patient’s homes.

BUTTERFLY PROGRAM

Although pediatric hospice patients are less common than adults, Hospice Savannah experienced an increase in the number of children requiring our care in 2022. With our Butterfly Program, our Board certified Hospice and Palliative Care physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, nursing assistants, and volunteers worked in tandem with the child’s medical team to provide concurrent care, symptom relief, education and support for the parents and immediate family members.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Our massage therapist, in conjunction with other therapies, coordinated with the care team to identify ways to reduce anxiety, pain, agitation, and insomnia through the art of touch. Last year, we increased the number of patients cared for by 6.4% for a total of 249 patients. Of these patients, there were 587 massage therapy sessions to the patient’s homes and 94 sessions provided in our HIPU. These visits were possible because of the donor support received from our community.



MUSIC THERAPY

Donor support also allowed us to provide music therapy for a total of 121 patients. These patients received 40 HIPU visits and 591 therapy sessions in the patient’s home setting. The main objective of music therapy is to decrease pain perception and anxiety while improving mood and increasing family interaction. With this therapy, there was an opportunity for increased communication with patients and their families regarding physical, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional concerns.

STORY KEEPING

Our wonderful Story Keepers were able to capture the life stories of 20 unique individuals through 51 in-person visits and 115 phone calls. After capturing these important stories, each family was given a memorable keepsake to remember their loved one for years to come.

FULL CIRCLE GRIEF & LOSS CENTER

Our dedicated team of bereavement professionals have become an integral part of our community providing 180 in-person bereavement sessions for hospice individuals and 610 to members of our community this past year. The Full Circle team placed 2,921 phone calls to Hospice Savannah patients, families, and friends and 1,732 calls to community members. This year, we offered our annual Camp Aloha for children ages 6-17 who had experienced the death of a loved one and had 26 participants attend. Our memorial services had 200 individuals gather in-person while 2,117 attendees participated virtually.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Hospice Savannah Volunteers enrich the lives of our patients and their loved ones with their presence. In 2022, we reported over 10,410 volunteer hours. Of the total hours 9,278 were Direct Care Hours, which totaled 5,653 visits to our patients. Volunteers also made 4,268 patient phone calls to inquire on their medication and supply needs. 30 patients enjoyed haircuts, 79 enjoyed massages, and there were 235 flower deliveries made to our patients at home and in our local assisted living and skilled nursing facilities throughout the year. Our Veterans Program delivered 123 certificates to honor those who have served with a pin, certificate, and most importantly the recognition they deserve. We also experienced the loss of our beloved Carole Tutan, who had volunteered with us for 26 years. We will remember her fondly, as she brightened the lives of patients and staff with her kindness.

VIRTUAL REALITY

In 2022, Hospice Savannah continued its collaboration with Professor Teri Yarbrow and the SCAD students who provided our patients with the benefits of VR Immersive Therapy. Over the last year, 21 homecare, 4 HIPU, and 9 palliative care patients were able to experience custom-created virtual reality experiences. Virtual Reality Therapy can be used to assist and enhance the treatment of anxiety, phobias, depression, trauma, stress, ADHD, OCD, and PTSD.

REFUGEE PROGRAM

Starting in 2022, Hospice Savannah, Inspiritus Services (formerly known as Lutheran Services), and Savannah Technical College began working collaboratively to provide educational support to refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Congo, Uganda, and Turkey. Prior to relocating to the United States, these individuals worked as nurses, midwives, entrepreneurs, educators, and computer analysts. Due to war and natural disasters, vital records such as identification cards, birth records, and school transcripts of higher learning and/or experience were destroyed creating barriers to integrate. Current job opportunities are limited to housekeeping, construction, and the food & beverage industry. Hospice Savannah created scholarships for individuals seeking new career paths as certified nursing assistants. Successful completion of the program will allow individuals a new career path with our agency that furthers support integration and stabilization into our community.