

News from Hospice Care  
 of the Lowcountry

# caring TIMES

Dear Friends,

Our story began with compassion and community. How do we care for loved ones at end of life, how do we honor them, how do we make it OK for them and their family? In 1982, a group of forward-thinking individuals launched the mission of hospice care in the Lowcountry.

36+ years later, we continue that mission. Patients and their families dealing with the challenges of terminal illness at end of life receive compassionate physical, emotional and spiritual care in their home. Our highly skilled team of physicians, nurses, counselors, therapists, aides and volunteers provide this care.

We serve hundreds of patients and families each year; of all ages, of all cultures, of all socioeconomic diversities. These patients and families are offered all our services; physician and nurse visits, personal care, pain and symptom management, counseling, therapy, medication management, medical equipment and supplies.

THANK YOU! Your on-going support of this mission allows us to provide the care and services needed to obtain peace, comfort and maintain dignity for our patients. It is your generous donations that permits us to continue our mission.

In order to honor and recognize our donors, I am proud to unveil our new Giving Societies. On page 3, you can read the detail and benefits of becoming a member of one of these societies through your generous donation.

Again, thank you; donors, friends, volunteers and supporters for illuminating the impact of our very important work.



*Founder Annalou Thomas  
 with Sidney Sweet, Hospice  
 President (1985-96)*

## a message from our board chairman



**JANET PORTER**

We are so blessed at Hospice Care of the Lowcountry to have compassionate staff, committed volunteers and skilled board members. We all stand on the shoulders of volunteers and staff who dedicated themselves over the last 36 years to end-of-life patients and their families. The board is working hard to build on that legacy to further enhance our services and support to the community.

As Board chair, I plan to keep the community abreast of regulatory changes that can effect Hospice Care of the Lowcountry, and you. Please read the article about the proposed 2% cut to the Medicare hospice benefit. This will increase the gap in the actual cost of care and services we provide and the payments received, creating an additional loss of at least \$50,000 to HCL in 2020. Patient care is our priority, we will increase our fundraising and appeal efforts accordingly. Quality end of life care is our bottom line.

As MedPAC has recommended a zero percent update to the hospice payment rates since 2014, for many providers in the hospice community, MedPAC's current proposal to reduce the fiscal year 2020 Medicare payment rate by two percent is the issue that stands out in the March report.

You may read the entire article on our website.



Sincerely,

*Janet Porter*

## Hospice care by the numbers

Have you ever considered giving a gift but didn't think it would make a big difference? Small gifts collectively add up to a great amount! The most important factor in deciding to give is knowing that your gift will produce an outcome. Take a look at the facts below and realize how your gift will contribute to the greater good for our hospice patients and their families. And truly, not only will you make a difference in the lives of others, but YOU will feel a change as well! Thank you for choosing to help today!



**\$100**

will provide a flag, box, pin and certificate to honor a Veteran patient.



**\$250**

will provide veterinary care, medications, grooming and exercise to help a hospice patient keep their beloved pet.



**\$500**

will provide ongoing Bereavement support for a youth who has lost a parent or sibling. HCL offers many support service that are open to the community.



**\$1,000**

will provide a week of an overnight private duty home health aide to allow the family caregiver some much needed rest.



**\$5,000**

will provide some monthly expenses for those community members on hospice who are underinsured or have no insurance and may not be eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

## Thank you, HCL...



“ Hospice Care of the Lowcountry played a significant role in the life of my husband Bruce Ross. First, Bruce served as a Board member following his retirement from full-time work and was very proud to be involved with such a dedicated and diverse group of individuals. He loved sharing his time and business acumen with an organization that he believed in strongly and that meshed with his lifelong career dedicated to improving people's health and well-being. Later, when Bruce was diagnosed with and succumbed to a lung disease, Hospice Care of the Lowcountry was there for him physically, emotionally, and spiritually, making what felt to me like an impossible task – caring for someone at the very end of their life – a nurturing and compassionate experience. Bruce found comfort in knowing that he was being cared for by kind and skilled caregivers. The days the hospice staff were with Bruce and his family felt like a blur at the time but, upon reflection, their steady hands and empathy are what guided all of us through Bruce's last days. Through this gift, I am hoping others can experience the same strength, comfort and peace provided by Hospice Care of the Lowcountry. ”

–Sue Ross

## Giving societies

In deep gratitude for the generous gifts of so many donors, we have established Hospice Care of the Lowcountry Giving Societies. When your annual giving accumulates to an amount outlined below, you will automatically become a member of one of our Giving Societies and become a part of the Hospice Care of the Lowcountry family as one of our most valued supporters. Beyond the knowledge that you are truly helping our patients, each level has its own unique benefits. We invite you to learn more about our giving societies and to discover how, by thoughtfully showing your financial support of hospice and palliative care, you will ensure that Hospice Care of the Lowcountry will continue to be here for those in need for generations to come.

For more information, please contact Robin Nieto at [rnieto@hospicecarelc.org](mailto:rnieto@hospicecarelc.org)

### Annual Leadership Circles

**\$25,000+** Angels

**\$10,000+** Champions

**\$5,000+** Nightingales

**\$1,000+** Founders

### Partnership Circles

**\$500+** Compassion

**\$250+** Dignity

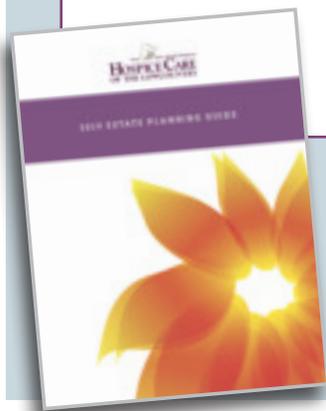
**\$100+** Hope

### Monthly Donor

These contributions are critical and provide Hospice Care of the Lowcountry with a steady, ongoing source of funding.

### 1982 Legacy Society

Those who inform us that they have made a provision in their estate plan to support Hospice Care of the Lowcountry are invited to join this honorary giving society. There is no minimum gift required, and requests for anonymity are always respected. HCL staff are able to help guide you in this process. Please contact us today.



◀ If you would like more information about estate planning PLEASE REQUEST A FREE COPY OF OUR ESTATE PLANNING GUIDE by emailing [info@hospicecarelc.org](mailto:info@hospicecarelc.org)

Please consider making a gift today!

## Other ways you can help!

✓ **Kroeger Community Rewards:** Sign up with your Plus Card at [www.kroeger.com](http://www.kroeger.com) and select Hospice Care of the Lowcountry as the organization you'd like to support. Kroeger will donate back to HCL every time you shop!

✓ **AmazonSmile:** When you shop on [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Simply indicate Hospice Care of the Lowcountry when you sign in to your Amazon Smile account and then shop as usual!



Want to receive this newsletter digitally? Sign up to go paperless at: <http://eepurl.com/cl2hM5>

SAVE THESE DATES...

**NOVEMBER 7**  
**2019**



We're searching for the most inventive local crafters for our take on the HGTV show *Flea Market Flip*. Here's the premise: pick up a piece of furniture at a local thrift store. Unleash your creativity and completely transform it into something creative and new. Join us at the Flip Party on November 7, from 5-8 pm at the LOCAL life office where these creations will be judged, prizes awarded, and each stylish recreation will be auctioned off in an offbeat silent auction.

**MAY 3**  
**2020**



The Yacht Hop, Hospice Care of the Lowcountry's largest annual fundraiser, will take place during the month of May in the Harbour Town Yacht Basin in The Sea Pines Resort. Guests are invited to step aboard stunning yachts and be treated to mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres prepared fresh by some of the area's premier chefs! Guests also enjoy music by The Headliners and silent & live auctions. The evening closes with dessert and a champagne toast.