



## Hospice Brings a Season of Hope

By Denise Stancill, Director of Business Development,  
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When people learn I work for a Hospice provider, their initial response is often a short pause followed by the question, “Isn’t it hard to work there?” This type of response isn’t uncommon and is heard by many who elect hospice as a profession. The level of complexity surrounding end of life, combined with the stigma associated with the word itself, make the mere idea of it all sound very overwhelming. By design, hospice brings compassionate care, dignity, and hope, to people who are very ill. Therefore, it brings many positives to what ordinarily is a very difficult time. These positives are what help ease the challenges associated with this specialty.

Since many people do associate hospice with giving up hope, conveying the positive side of hospice can be challenging. The truth is hope can take many forms, especially for those facing end-of-life issues. They may have hope for time with loved ones, hope for pain-free days and nights, and hope for dignity. By using the services of a hospice provider these hopes can become a reality.

Hospice as a medical specialty brings hope to those who are terminally ill and their loved ones. Circumstances surrounding one’s disease progression or prognosis may be unchangeable but hope—a feeling of what is wanted can be had—is achievable.

### How does hospice bring hope to a hospice patient?

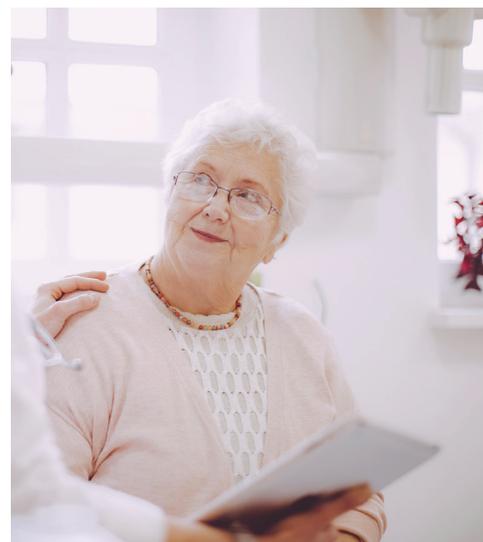
- **Hospice gives assurance that there are options available to relieve pain and discomfort.** Hospice caregivers ensure the hope for pain free days and

nights remain possible and patients are kept as comfortable as they want to be.

- **Hospice provides a comforting presence any time of the day or night.** 24-hour support from the hospice team gives those who fear death hope from having to face it alone.
- **Hospice treats the whole family not just the patient.** Social workers and bereavement counselors give patients hope for the ability to come to terms with their mortality and help family members learn how to find hope while experiencing grief and loss.
- **Hospice delivers care with dignity and compassion.** Hospice respects the end-of-life wishes of each individual served, and helps patients who fear loss of control find hope in the ability to participate in their own decision making as long as possible.
- **Hospice cares for the dying but focuses on living each day to its fullest.** Hospice caregivers strive to help each patient experience quality of life, however that is defined.

An early referral to hospice helps bring comfort and relief to both patients and their family members. It also minimizes the potential for some to say, after the fact, “I should have called hospice sooner.”

For more information about Hospice of Holland programs and services, to make a referral, or for answers to your questions about hospice care, please call 616.396.2972. View [www.hollandhospice.org](http://www.hollandhospice.org) and hear from others why care from Hospice of Holland made a difference for their loved one.




## When the time comes I know my options.

Knowing your options for end-of-life care can help your family or caregiver fulfill your wishes. Take the time now to Understand Hospice, so that you and your family may live each day to its fullest.

Understand Hospice is a service of Hospice of Holland, whose mission is to provide end-of-life care to patients facing terminal illness and their caregivers. Contact us today at 616-396-2972 to learn how hospice can help.

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