

# Continuum Care

## HOSPICE

### Director's Corner

Dear Friends, Families and Community Partners,

It is with profound excitement and a sense of shared purpose that I introduce our Hospice Newsletter. We have established such a beautiful reputation for compassionate, patient-centered care in our community - that we wanted to share it with you as well!

I believe that end-of-life care is about maximizing the quality of life, dignity, and comfort for patients and their loved ones. As we look toward the future at Continuum Care Hospice, my focus is on sustaining the high-touch, personalized care that our patients deserve.

Thank you for your continued support, whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word about our services. Your belief in our mission allows us to continue serving those in our community with love and dedication.

With gratitude,  
Amy Allen MSN RN  
Executive Director



### Social Work Spotlight

Hospice social workers are an intricate part of the hospice team. Our social workers are Masters level prepared and have extensive experience working in healthcare with a special focus on end of life. Hospice social workers provide emotional support to the patient and family, conducting psychosocial assessments covering all aspects of life such as patient's history, relationships and family dynamics, physical needs, emotional needs, spiritual needs, coping abilities, advance directives, code status, funeral plans, and safety. Social workers evaluate each area, discuss patient and family goals, and connect them with services and needed resources.

Hospice social workers offer anticipatory grief support as the patient's disease progresses, and we continue to assess changes and increasing needs. Pre-bereavement and education are provided to assist with coping and understanding. Hospice social workers help to facilitate moments of celebration as well as reconciliation within the family when needed. Social workers give genuine care, empathy, and use active listening to help guide the family and patient, meeting them where they are at in their journey and encouraging them to work towards the goals they have for their life. Social workers take on tasks such as trying to find a lost family member, discussing final wishes and difficult choices, coordinating for a veteran to go home for one last Christmas, and throwing a 50th wedding anniversary gathering for a patient that can no longer leave the nursing facility.

If you have a need or a question you can always ask your social worker, they will listen and help you themselves if they are able and if not they will connect you with the person who can help you.



# History of Hospice

The word “hospice” shares the same Latin word origins with both hospital and hospitality, encapsulating the root of hospice which has remained through the very beginnings of hospice through its evolution to modern times. In the Middle Ages, hospice meant a place of shelter and a place to care for sick travelers. Hospices in this time were often found in monasteries, and they cared for all people who were in need.

The first modern hospice, which encompassed holistic and compassionate care, was implemented in London in 1967 by Dame Cicely Saunders, a social worker, nurse and later a physician, who worked with terminally ill patients. Dame Saunders brought the idea of hospice to Yale University which led the Yale School of Nursing Dean, Florence Wald to found the first hospice in the United States in 1974. With over thousands of hospices currently in the United States, many people have received dignified, empathetic, and holistic end-of-life care. Dame Saunders’ vision remains an integral part of modern hospice care - “You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life.”



Memorial Challenge Coin



Spring Bunny Ornament

# What's New?

On March 29<sup>th</sup> of every year, the U.S. celebrates National Vietnam War Veteran's Day. This year, Continuum Care Hospice was able to give our Vietnam veteran patients, as well as the Vietnam Veterans in the nursing homes that we serve, a small token of appreciation – memorial challenge coins that were donated by the Cuyahoga County Veteran's Service Commission. We were fortunate enough to have one of our veteran volunteers personally present several of them. Thank you to the Cuyahoga County Veteran Service Commission for your donation and THANK YOU to our veterans!

One of our wonderful volunteers assembled dozens of these Spring bunny ornaments, and they were distributed to all of our nursing home patients a few weeks ago. A little something to help welcome the warmer weather!

## Bereavement

Continuum Care Hospice offers support from a bereavement coordinator at all times. Call or email [HospiceCares@lhshealth.com](mailto:HospiceCares@lhshealth.com), and our Bereavement Coordinator, Dan, will reach out to you.

### Support

- Grief Support for the loss of a loved one
  - Corner Stone of Hope
  - [cornerstoneofhope.org](http://cornerstoneofhope.org)
- Grief Support in a group setting
  - Grief Share
  - [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)
- Grief support for school-aged children and their families who have experienced loss
  - Joels Place for Children
  - [joelsplaceforchildren.org](http://joelsplaceforchildren.org)

### Events

- Memorial Butterfly Release
  - Release a butterfly, nature's symbol of transformation and beauty, to honor and remember your loved one.
  - June 27, 2026 at 9am and 10:30am
  - [cleveland.cornerstoneofhope.org/events/butterfly-release](http://cleveland.cornerstoneofhope.org/events/butterfly-release)

## Volunteering

Create cherished memories. Help keep the memory of your loved one alive in your heart with a personalized Forever Bear. Our Forever Bears can be made from any shirt, dress, coat or personal fabric to preserve the memory of your loved one.

Want to volunteer?

Visit [continuumcarehospiceohio.com/volunteer/](http://continuumcarehospiceohio.com/volunteer/)



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