

St. Joseph Health 
Hospice Services

Annual Report

St. Joseph Health Hospice Services, serving Sonoma County since 1977



St. Joseph Health 
Hospice Services

SANTA ROSA
Memorial Hospice
439 College Avenue, Santa Rosa
707-568-1094

PETALUMA
Hospice of Petaluma
16 Payran St. Petaluma
707-778-6242

HEALDSBURG
North County Hospice
205 East St., Healdsburg
707-431-1135

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POST- ACUTE SERVICES**

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**ST. JOSEPH HEALTH HOSPICE
SERVICES**

Santa Rosa ~ Memorial Hospice

Petaluma ~ Hospice of Petaluma

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*Know Me.
Care for Me.
Ease my Way.*

Our organizational promise is that when we hear this call from our patients or their families, we will respond.

Know Me. Care for Me. Ease my Way.

These are more than words to us here at Hospice. We are honored to be called upon to accompany the dying on their final journey and to hold their families after their death.

Know Me. Care for Me. Ease my Way.

This is an ethic that lives in our hearts and permeates all that we do. It beautifully captures the work that we do. This is also a reminder of the community that supports us- the donors and volunteers who, indeed, know us, care for us, and ease our way on a daily basis.

We are proud of the work we do. We are honored to do it. And we know that without you, we would not be the organization that we are and the resource that we promise to be in our community. Thank you for your belief in us, and for your support of our mission.

I hope as you read the pages that follow you will be inspired and proud.

***Thank you for
Knowing Us, Caring for Us, and for Easing our Way.***

Chris Talley

Adelina Felciano

Know me

Adelina Felciano's Hospice journey has been unexpected.

Gordon's death at age 54 was due to a malignant glioblastoma. Adelina was his caretaker throughout his 9-month illness. They availed themselves of end-of-life care from Hospice during the last two weeks of Gordon's life.

"His death left me devastated. I really thought he was going to beat his cancer. I didn't know how I was going to keep moving my life forward after he died. I thought my life was over, too. But I knew that I had to keep living, and so it was only about a month after his death when I decided to call Hospice and seek out some grief support."

Adelina's path brought her to Memorial Hospice where she connected with staff social worker Gina Carini. Eight weeks of grief counseling with Gina launched Adelina on her path toward healing. "Once I started with Gina, I knew I was going to be ok. She was so gentle and kind - and she made me realize that everything I was feeling was ok. I had my own personal way of dealing with Gordon's death, and what I was feeling and thinking was just the way it was supposed to be - for me."

Once her eight weeks were finished, Adelina continued one-to-one counseling with a Hospice volunteer. "When I shared my story with Neil, he told me about the volunteer program at Hospice. He shared how much his participation in the program had helped him and how much he'd learned through the volunteer training. He thought I might also benefit from the program. I started to think that maybe this was a path that I should consider."



"Little did I know when my husband Gordon died, my Hospice journey was only beginning."

Adelina soon applied to the volunteer program and took the eight week training class in 2018. “I came to know myself in a whole new way through the volunteer program. I heard echoes of what both Gina and Neil had told me, assuring me that I was ok and that I was processing my grief in exactly the way I should. I started to envision myself sitting in the chair opposite from where I’d been- in the chair Gina and Neil occupied. I saw myself sitting in the ‘helper chair’. And I came to know myself in a new way.”

Adelina now uses her volunteer training to support others as they navigate their own path of grief. “I learned so much about myself through this journey, and I am still learning. I am so grateful for the people at Hospice who have helped me along, and for the way they got to know me and helped guide me. Now I want to do the same. I want to lead by example.”

“It was one of the best things I’ve ever done.”

Hospice Volunteer Services

Serving the whole patient

Fall 2019 Hospice Volunteer Training

We are now interviewing applicants to serve as Patient Care and Grief Support volunteers. You will learn about our Hospice philosophy, family dynamics, communication and listening as you prepare to support our Hospice patients, families, and grief clients.



For more information
or to schedule an
interview, contact
our Volunteer Services
team: 707-568-1094

Community & Fundraising Events



2018 Human Race

The 2018 Human Race was held on a beautiful sunny day in May. This annual community event is always a joyful gathering and a lovely way to remember and honor loved ones. To all of you who donated and all who joined us on race day, thank you for supporting Hospice.



Still My Person

Still My Person is a yearly event for children and teens to honor parents, grandparents and siblings who have died. The day includes meaningful and fun activities, in an outdoor fair setting. Still My Person is put on by our Grief Services team, assisted by willing volunteers.



Dia De Los Muertos

Our annual Day of the Dead event is held on November 2nd at our office in Santa Rosa. It is a free bilingual event with children's activities. Food is served following the ceremony. Please consider joining us for this year's event!



Hospice Golf Classic

In August 2018, we held the 2nd Annual Hospice Golf Classic at Windsor Golf Club. It was an incredible day with lovely weather and brilliant golfing. The event raised more than \$50,000 to benefit our Senior Support program.

The 2019 Hospice Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 30th at Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club. We are so looking forward to bringing our special tournament to a new venue! The tournament is filling up quickly so if you are interested in participating please contact the Hospice Philanthropy Team at 707-522-3622. This year's tournament is being held in honor of a beloved member of our committee and community, Lynda T. Angell, and will benefit Hospice Community Programs.



2019 Light Up A Life

Thursday, December 5, 2019 | 6:00pm
Memorial Hospice Offices ~ Santa Rosa

Friday, December 6, 2019 | 6:00pm
Walnut Park ~ Petaluma

Saturday, December 7, 2019 | 5:00pm
Healdsburg Plaza ~ Healdsburg

Sunday, December 8, 2019 | 6:00pm
Star of the Valley Parish ~ Oakmont

Hannah Gray



Care for me

Marc Power and Hannah Gray were still very new friends when he realized he needed a friend for life.

They had only known each other about one month when Marc told Hannah that he was experiencing some strange physical symptoms. It took several months and many tests before he received a diagnosis from his doctors at UCSF. Marc had ALS. He was 44 years old.

Hannah didn't hesitate when Marc asked her if she'd stick with him. "What were two years out of my life? This man needed me. How hard was this going to be for him to endure? He was an active, vibrant person—and a control freak! He was going to be unable to take care of himself and unable to control his life. I had to do this. I knew it would scare me – but I promised him that I would be with him until the end."

Prior to his diagnosis, Marc had led an extremely active and athletic life. He was a gifted mechanic and he owned and operated his own hot rod shop. He also rode BMX bikes, wakeboarded, had two drag race cars and a ski boat. He was an avid racer and a regular at Sonoma Raceway where friends and fellow racers would ask his advice about their own hot rod and race cars.

Marc was not about to take his diagnosis in stride. He was determined to beat his disease. He tried acupuncture, went to Utah to pursue oxygen infusion therapy and traveled to Mexico twice for stem cell therapy. Nothing worked. Gradually, he lost use of his arms, his legs, and his voice. Eventually, he couldn't swallow or eat.

"The work Hospice does is not easy. You literally transition people from one life to the next."



As his disease progressed even the smallest tasks became monumental projects. Hannah knew that she needed help. Hospice came.

“From the time they arrived, I knew that I had the help that I needed to do what I promised to do and stay with Marc until the end. I was constantly amazed that when we had a need for anything – medical equipment, a change in medication, or strategies to deal with Marc’s increasing limitations, Hospice was there. I simply cannot say enough about how wonderful and responsive everyone was. I felt like I had a team of champions by my side.”

“It wasn’t long until I also understood that the Hospice staff was caring for me as well. I knew I was going to have to take a leave from my job as Marc’s condition worsened. A Hospice social worker helped me navigate this process and guided me through. I also remember so clearly one day when Marc’s health aide was there. She offered to massage my shoulders after she’d massaged Marc’s back. That was the most needed and most wonderful massage I’ve ever had. It meant so much to me that someone thought to do something for me in that moment.”

Marc took his last breath on July 24, 2015. True to her word, Hannah was at his side. Marc told Hannah she was his Guardian Angel.

“I know somehow, some way, I would have done this no matter what. But I am so grateful to have had Hospice by my side.” Hannah continues to express her gratitude every month when she sends a check to Hospice.

“The work Hospice does is not easy. You literally transition people from one life to the next. That’s why I support Hospice in any way I can. You helped me fulfill my promise to my friend. I will never forget that.”

Your partner in care....

The end-of-life care and grief support that St. Joseph Health Hospice Services provides in Sonoma County is not possible without you.

- *St. Joseph Health Hospice Services has been providing compassionate, individualized, end-of-life care and grief support to our friends and neighbors in Sonoma County since 1977.*
- *Our experienced & committed interdisciplinary team, will work hand-in-hand with patients, families and providers to deliver an individualized, compassionate plan of care.*
- *Our nursing staff is available for calls and visits around the clock so you don't have to feel alone.*
- *Smaller caseloads mean more time dedicated to our patients and their families.*
- *As a mission-driven organization, we promise to serve all patients and their families, regardless of their ability to pay.*

Funding Priorities

Dignity Fund This fund enables us to provide financial assistance to families who are unable to pay for funeral costs. When a family is unable to afford these expenses, the body of their loved one becomes a “coroner’s case” and is cremated along with others. As we fulfill our mission to care for the poor and vulnerable, we know it is our responsibility to care for our families as they grieve the loss of their loved one. You make it possible for our families to bury their loved one with dignity.

Senior Support Fund Initiated in early 2019, the Senior Support program was designed to provide support to seniors who are unable to access our grief services due to their living situation. These funds enable us to bring bereavement support to seniors who are homebound or otherwise unable to come to us. Seniors living in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living settings, board and care homes and the like are often without transportation, however just as vulnerable to the effects of grief.

Caregiver Respite Fund Caring for a dying family member can span weeks or even months. The Caregiver Respite Fund allows hospice to further assist our patients and families by providing funds to hire a professional caregiver to help those who need a break from the day to day caretaking that is required when a loved one is dying. Respite hours have been used to enable caregivers to attend to their own health needs, attending family commitments, or to simply give the caretaker additional support as they begin to manage their new normal at home.

All of the funds listed above, are supported entirely through philanthropy. Thank you for your support.

Plans for the future

A Hospice House

How we care for each other at the end of our lives is every bit as important as how we care for each other every day. In sickness or at the end of life, we have the opportunity to allow the finest qualities of humanity to shine. Hospice House will provide a place where expression of the best of these qualities and emotions can flourish.

Hospice House will provide 12 private rooms where families can be together to share time with a loved one in his or her final days.

Our vision:

- *To provide a warm, caring, home-like and peaceful environment for individuals and their families when dying at home is not possible.*
- *To provide patients and their families, regardless of their ability to pay, with exceptional end-of-life care.*
- *To be licensed and staffed in such a way that patients requiring the highest level of symptom management expertise can have their needs met.*

Our philosophy of care focuses on the relief of suffering for patients who are terminally ill. Creation of an in-patient residential Hospice House will ease the way for patients and their families.

Please join us in making this dream a reality. This worthy and meaningful project will make our community better and stronger and ensure that people are well cared for at the end of their lives.

Liz Tunney-Williams
707-547-4692
elizabeth.williams@stjoe.org



Jennifer Yount



Ease my way

Both of Jennifer's parents had hospice care in their final days. When she returned to Petaluma, she took a chance, hoping that the grief support she'd been offered in Massachusetts would be available here.

Jennifer Yount is used to being the captain of her own ship..... Literally. One of the first female graduates of the United States Coast Guard Academy, Jennifer's Coast Guard career was one of leadership and service. Her final commission was as Captain of a shipped named Dauntless. A great name for a ship. A fitting name for the Captain as well.

Jennifer grew up as the daughter of a Southern gentleman and his lady, during a time when women were supposed to be second in command. "In spite of the time, and in spite of their culture, my parents always encouraged me to become all I could be. I guess you could say I was ahead of my time in some ways. I was in the second Coast Guard Academy class that included women. But it was where I belonged, and my parents supported me. They were proud of me."

So when Jennifer's parents needed her, there was no question that she would be there for them. Her mother suffered a stroke, necessitating a move to assisted living. "Though Momma was in the memory unit and Daddy had a regular room, he would be sure to greet her every morning, and kiss her goodnight every evening. The staff used to joke that he was wearing out the carpet traveling between their two rooms. They were completely devoted to one another for 65 years."

"When I came home after Momma died, I realized I had never really grieved my Dad's death, and now I had two parents to grieve."

Jennifer's Dad died of pneumonia in August of 2016. Her mother entered hospice care the following November and died in August of 2017. Jennifer spent that year traveling back and forth between her home in California and her parents' home in Massachusetts. "It was a tough time, but I knew I only had one chance at doing this right. I wasn't there when Daddy died. I was determined to be there when Momma did."

Both Jennifer's parents had hospice care during their final days, and the organization that cared for them let her know there was grief support available to her. "When I came home after Momma died, I realized I had never really grieved Daddy's death, and now I had two parents to grieve. It really hit me hard. I am a very strong person, but I suddenly felt like I was coming apart. I felt like I had a body, but there was nothing inside. I knew I needed something." Jennifer took a chance and called Hospice of Petaluma, hoping that the grief support she'd been offered in Massachusetts would be available to her here.

"I was offered eight weeks of individual counseling, and though I wasn't sure if it would help me, I needed something to grab on to. The time I spent with Hospice here really brought me back to myself. I remember telling my counselor how much I missed talking to Daddy. She told me I could still talk to him. That would never have occurred to me. But now, when I commute into San Francisco early in the morning, as the sun is coming up, I remember that this would have been the time when we would have talked on the phone. And so I talk to him. And it comforts me."

"I also have learned that wherever I am, that's alright. Working with Hospice has made me comfortable in my own skin again and reminded me that my life will go on and that I'll be ok. I support Hospice as much as I can—I want others to have access to these services as well."

Ever the woman of the sea, Jennifer also holds the poem "Gone from My Sight" close to her heart. "I know they're there, Momma and Daddy—just over the horizon. I hold on to that and I move forward."

*"I know they're
there, Momma
and Daddy - just
over the horizon.
I hold on to
that and I move
forward."*

Thank You Hospice Supporters

Thank you, our wonderful and dedicated donors. Without your generous and genuine love for our programs and services, we would not be able to do the work that is so important to our community. We would like to recognize the following donors from our Hospice community for their gifts in 2018.

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Your faithful support of our programs allows us to be a steadfast resource to our community. Your commitment to St. Joseph Health Hospice Services strengthens our resolve to do our work well and to meet each patient and patient family in a way that makes them know they are valued and loved. Financial support from our donors is vital to our ability to fulfill our mission.

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Blakeslee Electric, Inc.	Interior Design Source	Old Timers Baseball Assoc. of San Francisco	Terrilinda Dairy Farms
Brayton Purcell LLP	J & J Dairy Supplies	Optum	The Merck Foundation
Bundesen Century 21 Real Estate	Jay & Bill's Tire Service	Pacific Gas & Electric	The Red Hot Rockers
California Team Wear	JMS Mechanical, Inc.	Pacific Properties	The Redwood Life Member Club, AT&T Pioneer
Cayuga Medical Center	Kaiser Permanente Medical Center	Patterson Enterprises, Inc.	Top Speed Data Communications, Inc.
Cheryl's Driving School	Ken Neles Trucking	Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz LLP	Transbay Security Service
Clean Team Janitorial Service	Kinnsler Software	Petaluma 7-11 Lions Club	Tuttle's Pharmacies, Inc.
Community Network	Kiwanis Club of Petaluma	Petaluma Elks Lodge 901	United Way California Capital Region
Cornelius, Inc.	Knight's Electric, Inc.	Petaluma Health Care District	United Way of the Bay Area
CourseCo, Inc.	Lifeguard Wealth	Petaluma Lodge No 26 O.D.H.S.	United Way of the Wine Country
Dan Freitas Electric, Inc.	M M Miller Construction	Petaluma USBC Association	Vallejo Street Residents Assoc.
Dollar Drug	M. Maselli & Sons, Inc	Pisenti & Brinker LLP	VFW-Petaluma Post #1929
Don's Garage Door Company	McClelland's Dairy	Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.	Volunteer Center of Sonoma County
Dry Creek Neighbors Club	McCoy Enterprises Inc.		
Electrical Equipment Co., Inc.	McNears Saloon & Dining House		

A special tribute to our Dear Nina as she retires....



When we consider who you are and how you have contributed to hospice and our community over the last 36 years, the word integrity comes to mind, but not in the way you might think. When we speak of a structure as having integrity, we are describing “the ability to retain strength—to hold together—resisting bending or breaking when subjected to the weight imposed throughout the its service life.”

THAT is you. Your strength, resilience, and ability to stay true to your intention in the midst of incredible weight are what have made your presence at Hospice and in our health system invaluable and unforgettable.

You are the keeper of WHY we do what we do—the holder of intention—the one to call when we need perspective. We have learned so much by watching you — to know when to speak up, but even more importantly to know when to simply listen. You are truthful and courageous with your words, but only when they will benefit those listening, not just for the purpose of being heard. Countless employees and volunteers over the years seek you out for wisdom and support, which you generously provide, regardless of your other obligations.

And it is in those supportive, authentic conversations that we believe you have shaped our organization most; simply listening, supporting, and gently guiding through your honest responses, you have sent waves of integrity through those who sit with you. And you have shaped and inspired all of us in more ways than you know. Thank you for all you have done for hospice and for our community. And good luck in “retirement”!

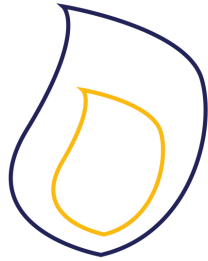
Hospice Heritage Circle

The Hospice Heritage Circle honors those generous donors who have included St. Joseph Health Hospice in their estate plans through a bequest or a planned gift. Our Heritage Circle supporters exemplify the spirit of philanthropy. Their gifts ensure the future of our community programs and guarantee that Hospice will remain the steadfast partner that our community deserves.

*Helen M. Anderson
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*If your estate plans include St. Joseph Health Hospice Services, we would love to hear from you.
Please contact our Philanthropy office at 707-522-3622.*





St. Joseph Health 
Hospice Services

light up a life

neighbor
partner uncle
friend aunt
light son
a sister up
grandmother
dad life
niece wife
brother child
mom grandpa
nephew daughter
husband

St. Joseph Health 
Hospice Services

tree lightings

THURSDAY
December 5, 2019 | 6:00PM
Memorial Hospice - Santa Rosa

FRIDAY
December 6, 2019 | 6:00PM
Walnut Park - Petaluma

SATURDAY
December 7, 2019 | 5:00PM
Healdsburg Plaza - Healdsburg

SUNDAY
December 8, 2019 | 6:00PM
Star of the Valley Parish - Oakmont

*Honoring the lives
of those you love.*



tell me,
WHAT IS IF
YOU PLAN
TO DO WITH
YOUR ONE
WILD AND
PRECIOUS
LIFE?



