

Celebrating our Past, Shaping our Future

A Campaign for Hospice Endowment



What the Hospice Endowment Supports

Gifts in support of the Hospice Endowment provide the financial foundation needed to sustain hospice services in perpetuity.

- Inpatient and/or outpatient hospice care provided 24/7 by a team of hospice professionals regardless of a patient's ability to pay
- Bereavement programs for patient families
- Continued professional and educational development of hospice caregivers
- Special needs of patients nearing end-of-life, including complementary therapies
- Maintenance of St. Luke's Hospice House facility and grounds

Mission Statement

The Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's, as part of the St. Luke's University Health Network, will provide compassionate, excellent quality, cost effective home health care, hospice services and home based parent/child programs.



Since 1986, St. Luke's Hospice has been providing compassionate, end-of-life care and support for patients and their grieving families. While most people don't like to think about dying, it is an inevitable part of life. Hospice helps patients and families find meaning and peace of mind during one of the most difficult and challenging times they will ever face.

In recognition of the 30-year anniversary of St. Luke's providing hospice in our community and the 10-year anniversary of our free-standing inpatient Hospice House on Black River Road, we are embarking on a special fund-raising campaign to build our hospice endowment. Our goal is to ensure that all patients and family members who need our services – now and in the future – can receive the physical, emotional and spiritual support needed to navigate through this final journey and the grieving process.

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How Hospice Makes a Difference

After a long battle with cancer, Marci entered St. Luke's Hospice House. A family friend could not stop thinking about how much Marci loved her horse, Berri, and asked the staff if she could bring Berri to visit Marci. The staff agreed and a few days later the horse trailer appeared at the hospice house. Berri was led to the patio outside of Marci's room. Marci opened her eyes and with her mother's help, lifted her hand to touch Berri and said goodbye. Marci died peacefully later that day.



An elderly hospice patient was panicked that he did not have a proper burial suit. Hospice nurses began a search for a proper suit for him. One was found and the nurse was able to show the patient. He touched the fabric, smiled and drifted to sleep. Within a few days, he passed peacefully knowing that even in death, he would be cared for.



Every Sunday you will find Vince Dondiego, 88, sitting on a bench at St. Luke's Hospice House. In his hand will be a pink rose, which he'll place in a vase next to the bench he named in Eleanor's memory. The gesture honors his wife of nearly 62 years. Vince wanted something more functional than a plaque and more permanent than a tree, so he decided that a park bench that families at the St. Luke's Hospice House could enjoy would be the perfect way to memorialize his loving wife. When Vince sits on the bench he remembers the happy times they spent together. "We've been so blessed throughout our entire lives, making a donation to the hospice house was something I wanted to do so that others can experience the same compassionate care that Eleanor received while she was a patient there. Losing Eleanor was one of the most difficult things I have ever experienced, but I know she would be pleased to know that, through my loss, I am helping others."

Why We Need Your Support

Hospice is reimbursed for only a portion of the actual cost of providing care to patients. At St. Luke's Hospice, patients and their families receive special end-of-life care. Our hospice team strives to ensure that individual needs are met. While bereavement support continues for families after the patient passes away, hospice receives no insurance reimbursement for these important bereavement services. In addition, a free-standing inpatient hospice unit like ours incurs significant operating costs because the facility remains open and staffed around the clock, whether one or twelve patients are receiving care. As the gap between reimbursement and actual cost becomes larger, it is imperative that our endowment continues to grow to ensure that our Hospice House can remain open for our community. *The Celebrating our Past, Shaping our Future* Hospice Endowment Campaign is a three-year fund-raising campaign with a goal of \$1.5 million to build our existing endowment of \$2.7 million.

A strong and viable endowment ensures that all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, have access to compassionate, end-of-life services. When patients and families call our hospice staff "angels on Earth," they are referring to a special culture of caring that has been carefully fostered over our 30-year history. Those who have experienced hospice understand how important these services are to our community. No one should be denied this incredible resource. Your philanthropic support of *Celebrating our Past, Shaping our Future* is a wonderful way to be part of the important work St. Luke's Hospice is doing to help families through their personal journey with dignity, strength and hope.

