



HOSPICE GIVING FOUNDATION

About Hospice Giving Foundation

Mission Statement

Hospice Giving Foundation believes living well includes dying peacefully, in comfort, and with dignity. Advocating compassionate end-of-life care, we raise funds and award grants to strengthen local providers' ability to serve our community. We promote advance planning so families can prepare for and access choices for end-of-life care.

Operational Definition:

Hospice Giving Foundation is an independent foundation that raises funds in order to award grants to a network of agencies that provide compassionate end-of-life care in Monterey and San Benito Counties. Since 1997, Hospice Giving Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$22 million.

Hospice Giving Foundation's vision is to see our community become a leader in delivering top-quality end-of-life care. Our funding priorities are determined based on input from direct service providers, community needs, and relevant health care trends. The primary funding areas include: hospice care, palliative care, care for terminally-ill children, bereavement and family support services, as well as outreach and education for end-of-life preparedness. We fund specialized end-of-life care services for families and for those afflicted with terminal medical conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. Hospice Giving Foundation encourages innovative approaches to expanding and improving end-of-life care in our community.

What exactly does Hospice Giving Foundation do?

We have four primary roles:

1. Financial Management: To raise, carefully manage, and invest donor funds and ensure donor dollars are properly directed.
2. Grants: To award grants to qualified agencies and to fully vet all proposals from existing grantees and prospective non-profit agencies.
3. Scope: To support a breadth and depth of end-of-life services throughout our community, not just a single entity or type of service. By funding direct patient care, family support, community education, and planning we support a continuum of services.
4. Education: Effective Fall 2015 HGF will assume the role of conducting a range of education and outreach activities with the goal to increase knowledge of and planning for end of life care.

How do you fulfill those primary roles?

1. Financial Management: We retain professional consultants, Wurts and Associates, to manage our investments. Hospice Giving Foundation maintains spending policies that preserve funds in order to support services for the long term. Our investment advisory committee is composed of local professionals [both board and non-board] who provide neutral advice, monitor investment returns, evaluate the consultants, and provide guidance on investment strategies. We strictly adhere to accepted standards for managing all restricted gifts or permanently endowed gifts.

2. Grants: There is a detailed, formal grant application process. Applicants must submit project, financial, and organizational information in order to be eligible for consideration of a grant. A committee of the board fully reviews and evaluates all proposals, conducts site visits, and reviews semi-annual and annual reports from grantees which inform us on accomplishments, challenges, and progress.
3. Scope:
 - A. We have identified five core areas that are funded annually and accept proposals that help fulfill those service areas:
 - I. Hospice Care
 - II. Palliative Care
 - III. Care for Terminally Ill Children
 - B. Bereavement and Family Support (includes services for specialty populations such as Alzheimer patients, HIV-AIDS patients, and Veterans)
 - I. Community Outreach and Education (for end-of-life preparedness)
 - C. We provide funding for services that are offered throughout Monterey and San Benito County. Special efforts are made to support services in South Monterey County or other similarly underserved areas of our community.
4. Education:
 - A. Conduct workshops with professionals on use of the POLST, Advance Care Directives, and ethical consideration for end of life care.
 - B. Conduct brief (2-hour) information sessions for the general public on POLST, Advance Care Directives, Financial and estate planning, the Five Wishes, and having the 'conversation' about end of life wishes.
 - C. Host expanded workshops (4-week sessions) for small groups to plan for and prepare end of life documents.
 - D. Host an annual conference for professionals about a relevant end of life topic
 - E. Collaborate with grantee organization on educational programs related to specific topics: e.g.: Alzheimer's, Children's Grief, Grief at the Holidays, etc.
 - F. Provide an online tool kit for planning and maintain an updated list of appropriate local or web-based resources.

Can you explain the history?

Hospice Giving Foundation started as a direct service hospice provider in the late 1970s. Starting out as a six-bed cancer recovery facility in Carmel Valley, the organization went through various changes, including name changes and affiliations with other service providers. In the 80s a group of community members launched a capital campaign to build a state of the art, 28-bed hospice facility and agreed on the name Hospice of the Central Coast.

The Foundation was established in 1997 as a result of three interrelated decisions:

1. To no longer provide direct hospice care
2. To sell its hospice facility (now known as Westland House), the services, and the name Hospice of the Central Coast, to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula
3. To focus on raising funds to support a breadth and depth of end-of-life services throughout our community.

Beyond the basics, what makes Hospice Giving Foundation stand out?

Hospice Giving Foundation stays abreast of current local needs as well as looks at trends that will impact future demands for end-of-life care. Funding existing services while simultaneously looking at emerging needs enables us to identify and encourage the provision of services by grantee organizations (e.g.: supporting new initiatives around Palliative Care in the early 2000s). We consider ourselves instrumental in getting people to talk about and plan for end-of-life care.

Our unique model of funding and building awareness for palliative and hospice care helps individuals in our community access appropriate services in a timely manner. This not only enhances quality of life but saves money that might otherwise be spent on costly cure-focused medical interventions. Most Americans still say they want to die at home, yet the dying process often includes unnecessary trips to hospitals and ERs. While patients hope for a peaceful dying process, many still die in fear and in pain.

Hospice Giving Foundation encourages innovative approaches to expanding and improving end-of-life care in our community while supporting programs that provide for dignified and peaceful end of life.

Why do you exist as an independent foundation? Why should I direct gifts to you?

As an independent foundation Hospice Giving Foundation is unique in its purpose to support a broad scope of services addressing a serious social issue that affects everyone: end-of-life care. Directing gifts to Hospice Giving Foundation allows donors to support a spectrum of services without having to research individual agencies. However, as a donor, you do have the choice to request your gift be directed to a specific element of end of life care (see Scope above). You may have had a very positive hospice experience in one facility; however your friends, employees, co-workers, and neighbors may not need that specific service. Thanks to funding from Hospice Giving Foundation, they have choices.

As an independent, issue-focused foundation we bring attention to this universal issue. Our funding priorities include ensuring people have choices, access, and opportunities regardless of where in Monterey or San Benito Counties they reside and irrespective of financial status. We support programs which advocate for system-wide improvements, are cost effective, and responsive to current healthcare trends. Through our grants, Hospice Giving Foundation gives structure, strength, and stability to end-of-life care; ensuring services are available for the long term, throughout our community.

Grants awarded in 2015-2016

Alzheimer's Association
Catholic Charities
Central Coast VNA & Hospice, Inc.
Children's Hospice & Palliative Care Coalition
Coastal Kid's Home Care
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula
Hazel Hawkins Hospital
Hospice of Santa Cruz County
Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services
Legal Services for Seniors
Natividad Medical Center

Board of Directors

Executive Committee:
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Mary Kay Acquazzino Basham, Secretary
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Bill Hastie
Sarah Hills
Matt Nelson
Laurel Krzeminski
Nancy Porteous-Thomas
Bill Tebbe
Kelly V. Vasquez

Testimonials

“The work of Hospice Giving Foundation constantly amazes me.”

Nanci Markey, Pebble Beach CA

“Supporting Hospice Giving Foundation is something that is a part of life. Every family that faces a debilitating illness needs a peaceful approach. Hospice allows people to receive compassionate treatment during their last days.”

Sarah Bonner

“Hospice Giving Foundation is such a high-impact, top nonprofit in the area. We wanted to lend our names to it as well. For the last eight to ten years we’ve donated all the floral arrangements for the Golf Scramble fundraising event. It is a big donation for us and we’re happy to do it.”

Mark Silacci, Owner of Swenson & Silacci

“It was excellent to hear that grieving is unique to an individual’s culture, spirituality, nature, faith and emotions. Thank you for providing this free workshop.”

2014 Coping with Grief at the Holidays Attendee

“It has been a very rewarding experience to collaborate with the Veterans Administration and Hospice Giving Foundation to provide our patients with the quality of care they deserve. Allowing our veterans, and all of our patients, to have a trusted partner to discuss their end-of-life goals, and to provide them with comfort, respect and dignity during their journey, is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role as a social worker.”

Katya Kuska, Presenter at Monterey’s Trees of Life

“The pride I felt watching an entire community come together to celebrate and support this organization was indescribable. The generosity of this community never ceases to amaze me! It was an absolutely perfect day and so much fun had by all.”

Matt & Whitney Pridey, Attendees at Back to the Valley Fundraising Event

Contact Us

831.333.9023

info@hospicegiving.org

80 Garden Court, Suite 201 • Monterey CA 93940