# What hospice has to offer



*Laura Bilbrey*

I started Hope Hospice 10 years ago as a way to offer more compassionate care to terminally ill patients. I had been in the food and beverage industry and had no health care background, but had a passion to make a difference.

My dad was on hospice in 2003 and when he died, he was at home with my mom. She thought the end was coming and asked the nurse to come out. The nurse told her to just let him go and to call her when he was gone. I thought that was just horrible.

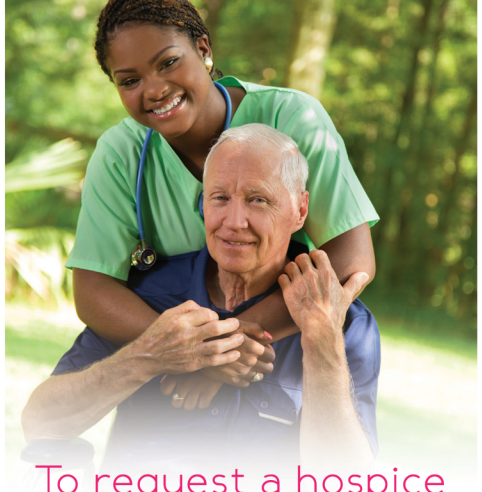
Hospice provides dying patients, as well as their loved ones, with comfort and support when an illness no longer responds to treatments designed to cure the patient. The primary focus is pain management and symptom control.

Palliative care is similar but still includes aggressive treatment. All treatment with the intent to cure is halted when a patient chooses hospice care.

Although Medicare requires that hospice patients must have a terminal illness with a prognosis of six months or less to live, there is no set amount of time that one can utilize the hospice benefit. Research has proven that those who utilize hospice care typically live longer than those who go through the dying process alone. Some patients actually "graduate" from hospice. That's because suddenly the patient has a nurse, a home health aide, a social worker, maybe a music therapist and massage therapist who are seeing them every day. They are helping them and they actually get better.

Hospice can serve a greater purpose than just making the patient comfortable. Hospice can assist with things such as documenting memories or writing letters for family members, creating advance directives and educate about having a do not resuscitate (DNR) order. Having an advance directive is one of the greatest gifts you can give to your family. It allows the family and health care professionals to carry out your wishes. That is a way for you to decide and control how to die with dignity.

***— Laura Bilbrey,***
***Co-Owner and Administrator of Hope Hospice***



To request a hospice consultation, please call and speak with a Hope Hospice representative.

Hope Hospice
"Our Family, Caring For Yours"


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**St. Louis City • St. Louis County • St. Charles County**
**Jefferson County • Franklin County**

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
BBB Rating: A+

We Honor Veterans



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# An Introduction to the Hospice Team

Our hospice team of professionals and volunteers provide services tailored to fit everyone's needs, wherever a person calls home. We focus on providing personalized comfort care that enables a person to remain in his or her home, and live as independently as possible, surrounded with love.



## The Hospice Benefit: What it Covers

- Physician & Nurse Practitioner Services
- Nursing Care (on call available 24 hours a day)
- Home Health Aide Care
- Homemaker Services
- Medical Equipment
- Medical Supplies
- Medications Related to Terminal Diagnosis
- Respite Care
- Social Work Service
- Spiritual Care
- Volunteer Participation

## Why Hope Hospice?

- Locally owned, family operated
- Provides up to 5 day a week home health RN/aide visits
- Continuity of care, dedicated care team
- One hour referral response time
- Massage therapy *(without restrictions such as diagnosis or level of pain)*
- Music therapy
- 24/7 weekend & holiday admissions

***Medicare***
***Medicaid***
***Private Insurance***




## Indicators One May be Eligible for Hospice Care

- Frequent Hospitalizations
- Frequent Falls
- Reoccurring Infections
- Decrease in Function requiring assistance for walking, eating, bathing, dressing or going to the bathroom
- Decreased appetite / weight loss
- An increase in pain, nausea, breathing distress or other symptoms
- Oxygen dependence
- Bedbound



## The following diagnoses may qualify:

- Cancer
- Heart Disease
- Renal Failure
- ALS/MS
- Liver Disease
- Stroke
- Alzheimers Disease/Dementia
- Generalized Debility
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)/Emphysema

"Death need not be frightening with the help of the hospice team."


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