

# LET'S START TALKING

As Americans age, it's more important  
than ever that families learn  
about and discuss end-of-life care.



NATIONAL HOSPICE FOUNDATION



The National Hospice Foundation delivers the facts about hospice care, so families can make an informed choice about what is best for them.

## CARE THAT HELPS THE WHOLE FAMILY

Hospice care is focused on helping families cope with what people fear most about dying— being in pain, being alone, losing control, and being a burden to others.

For patients, hospice care offers emotional and spiritual support and state-of-the-art medical care, tailored to the patient's wish to remain pain-free and alert.

For families, hospice care eases the burden of care giving, through emotional and spiritual support, respite care, and help with running the household. Bereavement services are offered to the family for a full year.

*‘The people from hospice were angels. They gave us more help caring for mom at home than we ever thought possible. They set up her medical equipment in the bedroom, prepared us for what to expect, and even ran errands. It freed our family to spend together the time mom had left. We had a lot of heartfelt talks before the end. It brought us all a lot closer.’*



## SEEING THE CHOICE

**Americans are clear about their priorities at the end of life.** Research shows they want home-based care, control over their treatment, emotional and spiritual support for themselves and loved ones, effective pain management, and freedom from financial worries.

**Hospice care offers the services Americans want,** and Medicare or health insurance most often pays the bill.

What stands in the way of more Americans choosing hospice care is limited awareness of what services it offers and how to find it.

For every terminally ill person who receives hospice care, two more could benefit.

More than 2 million Americans die every year, yet only a fraction – about 700,000 – now receive hospice care.

Minority groups and economically disadvantaged individuals are less aware of hospice care than are other segments of the population.



The National Hospice Foundation is closing the information gap by sharing the story of hospice care all over the nation.

## THE NEED IS GROWING

Each year, more than 300,000 hospice caregivers in more than 3,000 communities across the country deliver care to 700,000 people with a serious illness.

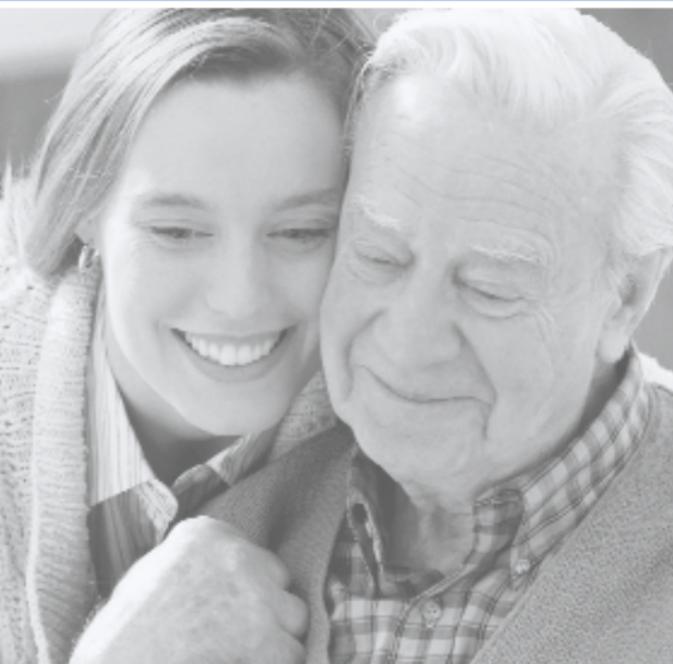
Because American society is aging, the number of people likely to face a terminal illness will grow.

With a sustained effort to put the facts about hospice care before the public, millions of Americans will be empowered to make an informed personal choice.

We communicate the hospice message in many ways, including:

- Award-winning public service announcements on TV, radio, and in newspapers across the country.
- Stories in the media about positive family experiences with hospice care.
- Brochures to help families think about end-of-life issues and select a program that meets their needs.

*‘Two of the hospice workers must have had angels’ wings under their clothing. They did so much to help dad and make our lives easier that I’ll never forget them.’*



The National Hospice Foundation helps families take control.

## TAKING THE FIRST STEP

It isn't easy to talk about death, even with those who are closest to us.

But reluctance to think about the care we want at the end of life may rob us of the chance to choose, should we be faced one day with a terminal illness.

Unfortunately, most seriously ill Americans do not receive the end-of-life care they want—largely because they do not realize that:

- hospice care is available at home or in a home-like setting in their community.
- hospice care is the proven leader in pain management, employing technological advances that have been documented as superior to conventional care.

- hospice employs a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and trained volunteers to help the patient and loved ones with their whole range of needs—physical, emotional, social and spiritual.

Today, millions of people with life-defining illnesses endure treatments that prolong discomfort when they might prefer care focused on relieving their pain.

They are taken to the hospital, cut off from familiar people and comforts, when they might prefer to spend their last days at home, surrounded by loved ones.

That's a terrible price to pay for not knowing about the end-of-life options available.

Your gifts  
help the  
National Hospice  
Foundation  
empower patients  
and families to  
choose the  
end-of-life care  
they want  
and need.

We have been expanding America's vision for end-of-life care for more than a decade.

We teach people about the dramatic ways that hospice care can improve quality of life for terminally ill people and their loved ones.

We remind the public that hospice care is most often paid for by Medicare or health insurance.

Our work in education and research is solely funded by gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations.

The National Hospice Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Your tax-deductible gifts may be sent to:

**Director of Giving & Endowments  
The National Hospice Foundation  
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 625  
Alexandria, VA 22314**

**703-516-4928**

**703-837-1233 (fax)**

To find a hospice program near you,  
please log on to:

**[www.hospiceinfo.org](http://www.hospiceinfo.org)**

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