## HOSPICE OF Piedmont

## **HEART OF HOSPICE**

Fall 2025





A photo taken in 1986 from the HOP archives. Credit: William A. Faust II

Dr. Simran Mann, associate medical director, recently visiting with a HOP patient.

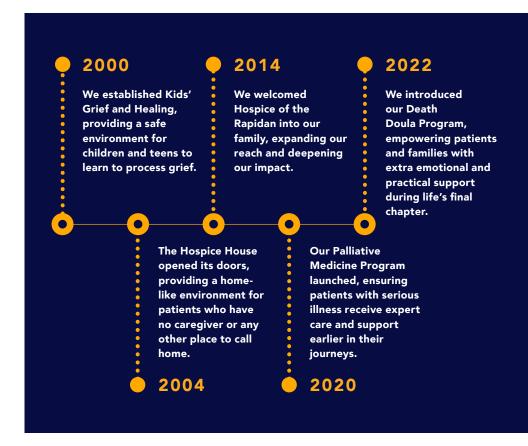
## 45 Years of Gratitude

# How our Community has shaped Hospice of the Piedmont

This year, Hospice of the Piedmont proudly celebrates 45 years of compassionate care, a legacy built on goodwill, shared humanity, and a steadfast commitment to caring for our community. From our humble beginnings in 1980 as a small, volunteer-driven organization, we've grown into the region's most trusted nonprofit hospice provider, thanks to the heartfelt dedication of our community.

For nearly half a century, generous community philanthropy has supported our mission, enabling us to meet the evolving needs of our patients and families.

### Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones.



Through these milestones, and so many more, philanthropy has driven our progress, helping us deliver not just care, but comfort, dignity, and peace.

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Philanthropic programs continue to make a meaningful difference, thanks to community support:

#### Compassionate Care Fund:

Caring for our uninsured neighbors in need, regardless of financial circumstance.

### Grief and Healing:

Providing free grief counseling for all ages, regardless of Hospice of the Piedmont affiliation.

### Serenity Fund:

Assisting with urgent patient needs like utilities, home supplies, or funeral costs.

## Supportive Music and Massage Therapy:

Bringing peace and relief through therapeutic sound and touch.

#### Veterans' Services:

Serving those who have served us with honor and specialized care.

### Companion Pets:

Easing loneliness and sparking joy with robotic therapeutic pets.

As we celebrate this 45-year journey, we reflect on the thousands of lives touched, over 50,000 patients and families guided through some of life's most difficult chapters. This milestone is not just about looking back; it's a promise to continue moving forward. Thank you for being part of our story and for helping us "Make Every Moment Count" for generations to come.





Our newest wind phone in C.M. Crockett Park in Fauquier County.

## Finding Connection Through the Wind

A common grief experience is the urge to reach for the phone to call a loved one who is no longer here. Inspired by this impulse, the "Telephone of the Wind" was first created in Japan as a way for people to speak to those they've lost, and it gained popularity there in the wake of a devastating tsunami. Wind phones are unconnected, rotary phones placed in peaceful outdoor settings in nature. This concept offers a quiet, reflective space where grief can be spoken aloud, which is often a vital part of healing.

Hospice of the Piedmont is committed to finding innovative ways to support people through their journey of loss. Our Wind Phone Project is for anyone in our community who has lost someone dear, offering a place to share memories, express unspoken words, or simply say goodbye.

One bereaved daughter came across one of our wind phones after she lost her mother. Since her mom lived out of state, much of their relationship happened over the phone. The wind phone felt like a natural way for her to process grief and 'share stories' with her mom.

"Wind phones create a space for people to grieve out in the open instead of behind closed doors," explains Hannah Barton, Community Navigator for Hospice of the Piedmont. Our Wind Phone initiative offers a unique complement to our community bereavement counseling and workshops, especially for more introverted grievers.

We are proud to partner with Parks and Recreation Departments across our region to bring wind phones to local parks and public spaces. Phones have already been installed at Darden Towe Park in Albemarle County and C.M. Crockett Park in Fauquier County, with the goal of placing at least one wind phone in every county we serve. Our third wind phone will be installed this fall at Pen Park in Charlottesville, with Orange and Rappahannock counties next in line.

The Wind Phone Project also creates unique volunteering opportunities for those in our community who are handy with a hammer and want to support HOP. We are partnering with woodworking students at Rockingham County Public Schools who will help to design and build wind phones. If you know of a good location for a wind phone or are interested in volunteering your woodworking skills, reach out to navigator@hopva.org.

## A Personal Perspective on Caregiving

One of the legacies of Rosalynn Carter was her love and support for caregivers. She believed there were four types of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers. As a nurse and CEO of Hospice of the Piedmont, I have seen the impact and importance of the caregivers who support and care for our patients. Recently, the role of caregiving became even more meaningful to me as I became a caregiver myself. This time, in a personal – not professional – way.

This past May, my older brother Dave (who lived alone in Pennsylvania) found himself with sudden back pain. The pain led to diagnostic tests which unfortunately showed no promising signs for recovery. It was then the realization set in that he could no longer live by himself, away from his support network. My husband and I were fortunate to be able to welcome him shortly after to our home, and my brother settled into his new surroundings.

As my brother's primary caregiver, I learned several lessons I feel might be familiar to some of you as well. Although I work at Hospice of the Piedmont every day, witnessing the team come to my home, sit with my brother and listen to what his wishes were, and talk through how they could help him accomplish them,

was incredible. It really hit home that hospice is the way healthcare should be. With hospice, he had a nurse, an aide, visits from social workers and the chaplain. He also had a hospice physician who sat down in our living room, listened to his concerns, and created a care plan designed just for him.

The lens I looked through as his caregiver also helped me see that it doesn't matter how experienced in the healthcare industry I was. When you are watching over a loved one, all experience and knowledge is left at the door. I looked at my brother as his sister who was filled with love for him. And, when I was anxious about the unknown of the days ahead, his hospice team spoke to me as his sister and caregiver, recognizing I might need their support too.

My brother passed away peacefully on August 2nd and I am so grateful that he could be surrounded by his family in his final weeks. I know, perhaps more than ever now, that the care and services Hospice of the Piedmont provides are invaluable.

As the only nonprofit hospice in our core service area, we have the privilege and responsibility to meet patients and families wherever they are, and to go above and beyond to ensure we holistically look at each individual patient and their needs. Whether



Dave and Nancy

through music at the bedside, robotic pets or art therapy - each contributes to the compassionate end-of-life care that sets us apart from what other hospices provide. We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of giving that allows us to provide these additional services.

Thank you for your support and for being such an important part of our mission at Hospice of the Piedmont. You are helping us to make a wonderful difference for patients and families in our community, including me.

Hanry N. Loudyul

Nancy Littlefield DNP, RN President & CEO

# Honoring the Piedmont Society

As we reflect on the 45th Anniversary of Hospice of the Piedmont, the Piedmont Society provides a clear depiction of our community's continued dedication to our mission. The Piedmont Society represents the core of our philanthropic support and is comprised of individuals and foundations that contribute \$1,000 or more annually to Hospice of the Piedmont.



We're proud to be supporters of Hospice of the Piedmont for the last 12 years. As Piedmont Society members, we've been able to support the organization's mission to deliver compassionate end-of-life care to individuals and provide valuable wraparound services throughout the community. We look forward to continuing our support of this vital organization.

— Helen and Chris Karls



Gaby Laufer, Chair, Hospice of the Piedmont Board of Directors and Diane Hillman

## The following is a list of those who contributed \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

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# Memorial Illumination

## Save the Date: Hospice of the Piedmont's 34th Annual Memorial Illumination

**Tuesday, December 9** 

Join us for Hospice of the Piedmont's 34th Annual Memorial Illumination. Each year, this meaningful gathering provides a time for reflection, remembrance, and community. In the spirit of the season, we come together to honor the lives of those we've lost, finding comfort and connection through the light we share.

To make the event more accessible to our wider community, we will host two indoor ceremonies on the same evening.

#### **CHARLOTTESVILLE ILLUMINATION**

Tuesday, December 9 | 5:00 pm First Presbyterian Church 500 Park St

Charlottesville, VA

#### **CULPEPER ILLUMINATION**

Tuesday, December 9 | 5:00 pm Culpeper United Methodist Church 1233 Oaklawn Dr Culpeper, VA

The Memorial Illumination events will feature a program with live music, reflective moments, and refreshments. The Illumination events are free and open to the public. We look forward to gathering with you in remembrance and gratitude.

For more information, and to sponsor a light in memory of or in honor of someone special, visit hopva.org/light.

## An Open Door to **Giving Back**

Volunteer at the Southern Living Idea House

Southern Living's 2025 Idea House has arrived in Keswick, and Hospice of the Piedmont is proud to be named a Charitable Partner.

This national showcase celebrates the comfort, connection, and beauty a home can offer—values we definitely understand. Most hospice patients want to be at home, and we know how the right space can make time with loved ones even more meaningful.

You can tour the Idea House Thursday -Sunday through December 21.

Want to make an even bigger difference? Volunteer at the Idea House and choose Hospice of the Piedmont as your beneficiary.

Sign up or purchase tickets at www.keswick.com/slih/

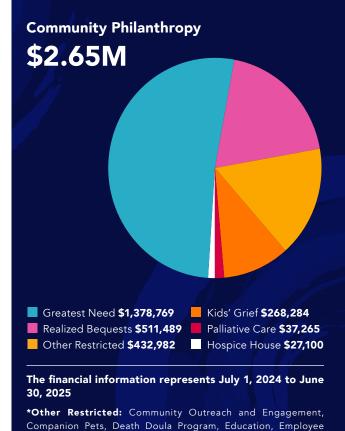


## **Impact Report FY25**

#### **MISSION**

To guide life's final journey with expertise and empathy

(\$)	Dollars provided to support uninsured patients	878,435
	Days of care provided to our hospice patients	117,626
	Interactions with grieving community members	9,363
	Hours of time and talent donated by volunteers	6,623
88	Community outreach and engagement events	221



Assistance, Grief and Healing, Supportive Music, Technology, The

Serenity Fund, and Veterans' Services.

www.hopva.org

YOUR PURPOSE

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Hospice of the Piedmont 675 Peter Jefferson Parkway Suite 300 Charlottesville, VA 22911



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