

Dear Friends

Being an exceptional hospice provider requires a laser focus on day-to-day operations, a proactive response to regulatory and industry change, and a decision-making discipline that keeps our mission front and center. The "patient chair" is central to all leadership decisions.

After three years of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the pandemic had minimal impact on Northern Illinois Hospice's daily operations in 2022. Infection prevention, PPE, COVID testing, and nursing facility restrictions and protocols were a way of life for our staff and volunteers. We were pleased that more nursing facilities permitted more clinical disciplines to enter their buildings, allowing residents to experience hospice care the way it was before the pandemic. Life was getting back to normal.

After intensive planning and training, in March 2022, we started accepting patients in DeKalb County and opened a satellite office in Sycamore, across the street from Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital. As the only non-profit, community hospice with a DeKalb County office, we offer a unique service to those needing support through end of life: first rate, community-based hospice care provided by local staff and volunteers. Navigating the vulnerable journey of a terminal illness requires an expert team of professionals and we are proud to offer our high-quality care and heart-felt mission to DeKalb County families and healthcare partners.

By summer 2022, hospice public reporting went live on Care Compare, the Medicare website. This platform allows individuals and caregivers to research Medicare-certified hospices serving their zip code, then compare them based on the quality of care provided. Last year, Northern Illinois Hospice

was the highest-rated Rockford-based provider. The quality of our care and safety are top-of-mind for us, and we are working diligently to make sure Care Compare ratings remain at the highest level.



From left: Northern Illinois Hospice Chief Executive Officer Lisa Novak and Board of Directors President Jon Aldrich, CPA, CFP®

We have periodically updated you on our work to develop a community-based palliative care program, a service line for individuals navigating a life-limiting illness who are not yet eligible for hospice care. We made great progress in 2022, and by late 2023, our program will be up and running. With palliative care, we will work collaboratively with patients' primary care providers and specialists, managing day-to-day symptoms and pain associated with serious illness. Our support will help prevent unnecessary (and unwanted) hospital stays and trips to the doctor's office. We look forward to sharing more about this soon.

A couple of management changes occurred in the last half of 2022. We had a Medical Director transition and added a new position, Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer, to manage the palliative program and help us prepare for the claims processing transition from Medicare to Medicare Advantage organizations. We also hired a full-time Director of Human Resources, who is intently focused on employee recruitment and retention. Our talent is our greatest asset, and Human Resources plays a critical role in guiding leadership's direction.

We are incredibly grateful for your support of Northern Illinois Hospice and its vital, 40+ year mission of providing extraordinary and dignified care, comfort and compassion to individuals and families at the end of life. As a benefactor of our wonderful mission, you walk this journey with patients and families. On their behalf, we applaud you - and thank you.

Jon Aldrich, CPA, CFP® Board President

Lisa Novak Chief Executive Officer



MISSION

Northern Illinois Hospice is a trusted community partner dedicated to:

- providing extraordinary and dignified care, comfort and compassion to individuals and families at the end of life;
- removing barriers to care access so all eligible individuals, regardless of ability to pay and payment source, receive exceptional care and support; and
- educating others about end-of-life planning and hospice and palliative care.

VISION

Our vision is to be a local and national leader in hospice and palliative care and to enrich end-of-life experiences through our quality, innovative approaches, and supportive education.

CORE VALUES

COMMUNITY

COMPASSION

EXCELLENCE

GRATITUDE

INTEGRITY

QUALITY

SERVICE

STEWARDSHIP

VISION



Impact

In 2022, Northern Illinois Hospice proudly marked its 43rd year as our community's hospice! The agency's strong, nonprofit roots held tight, supporting a growing mission that now includes DeKalb County! Our clinical teams, including nurses, social workers, chaplains, and therapists, provided seamless, compassionate care, wherever patients called home throughout our six-county service area. Northern Illinois Hospice staff were welcomed and entrusted to provide outstanding expertise, guidance, and tailored support to those traveling life's final journey. At the helm of mission and supporting patients and families throughout 2022 were hundreds of Northern Illinois Hospice volunteers and more than a thousand donors and friends.

> COVER: Northern Illinois Hospice Case Manager Sarah Rutledge, RN visits with patient Eugenia Shayka.



total days of patient care 43,834

clinical team
22,708



cutting at 2225 Gateway Drive, Sycamore.



left) Jenna Lafferty, Daniel Bicklein and Karn

Mejudhon cleared yard waste for a patient.

TOTAL HOURS GIVEN BY
Volunteevs
4.459

Dear Donors

In 2022, we were thrilled to thank you and 834 other Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation supporters for 1,200 generous gifts. Wow! Your thoughtfulness inspired us every day! As your nonprofit community hospice, it is you, our supporters, who always have and always will walk alongside us. Simply put, your generosity and goodwill made our mission, programs, and care grow last year. Here are just a few highlights.

- Northern Illinois Hospice brought nationally-known Opus Peace Founder Deborah Grassman, ARNP to Rockford for a free, daylong Veteran Care Symposium, "Finding Peace at End of Life." Veterans were recognized and clinicians and caregivers gained insight into caring for veterans at the end of life. (Special thanks to supporters Bergstrom Charitable Foundation and Olson Funeral and Cremation Services for underwriting the event.)
- Our expert Bereavement staff helped grieving adults, plus children and teens, virtually and in-person. The titles of our group sessions reflect the populations served and the help given: Small Voices, Big Feelings Grief Symposium, Bluebirds Fly Child Grief Support Group, Memorial Ornament Workshop, Bridge of Hope Bereavement Care Group, Meditation for Grief and Resilience, and Mindful Grief Wanderings & Awareness.
- Volunteer Services supported over 100 active volunteers throughout six counties. Working directly with patients and families and providing administrative support, volunteers made a difference. For example, 2,259 "Check in Calls" were made by volunteers to our patients and families!
- Our mission expanded by 632 square miles in 2022! Thanks to the generosity and vision of many, DeKalb County is now served by Northern Illinois Hospice!

We wish there was more space to list all the ways donations impacted patient care last year. So, please consider calling us anytime to chat, visit, or tour! We have so much to share with you...because of you!

Hally Dinsmae

Kelly Dinsmore President, Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation Board Suoun Sunder

Susan Lundin Director of Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation

More than a job... A passion

Tonya Cooper's first job was working in the kitchen at her hometown's nursing facility at 14. Even at this young age, she had a "soft spot" for elderly and vulnerable people. When she became a nurse in her early 30s, she knew that caring for others was more than a "soft spot" in her heart; it was her passion and her calling.

Today, Tonya is a registered nurse and Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse with Northern Illinois Hospice. As a team leader, she supervises a clinical team of 20 Northern Illinois Hospice nurses, social workers, chaplains, music therapists, and certified nursing assistants. "I take the mission of Northern Illinois Hospice very seriously," says Tonya. "We are coming into peoples' lives when they are the most vulnerable and uncertain. It's our job to ease that fear and guide and educate them, so they can have a peaceful journey through death."

Not only is Tonya deeply honored to serve our patients and families as a staff member, but she is also a dedicated and proud donor to Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation. When asked why she donates, Tonya responds, "Because I believe in our mission as a community nonprofit hospice taking care of our community, our friends, and neighbors." Tonya's professional commitment to agency excellence aligns with her personal passion for accessible community eldercare. Since her first day with Northern Illinois Hospice nine

years ago, Tonya has seen the impact donations make on the programs and services Northern Illinois Hospice provides. Veteran programs, volunteer services, end-oflife education, and extensive integrative therapies, including massage, music and aroma, are especially "near and dear" to Tonya's heart. Donor generosity allows these programs



"Our patients depend on us and trust us" says Tonya. "I tell them, we are in this together. You are driving the bus and we're here to make sure the ride is safe and comfortable. This is your journey."

Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation is grateful to all our donors, just like Tonya, who give so generously to ensure all Northern Illinois Hospice patients can travel their final journey on their own terms, cared for in ways that are meaningful, comforting and uplifting for them.



Tonya Cooper RN CHPN Team Leader

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position Year Ending December 31, 2022

Assets

Assets	
Current assets:	
· Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,259,213
· Accounts receivable, net of allowand	ce
of \$30,809 in 2022	1,070,782
· Prepaid expenses	97,680
Total current assets	2,427,675
Other assets:	
· Investments	3,998,120
· Land, buildings, and equipment,	
net of accumulated depreciation	2,753,851
· Right-of-use lease assets-operating	
lease	28,455
· Deposits	5,583
Total assets	9,213,684
Liabilities	
Current liabilities:	
· Accounts payable	634,971
· Accrued compensation &	
other liabilities	144,747
· Deferred revenue	4,520
Current maturities:	
- Operating lease liability	9,788
- Note payable	42,587
Total current liabilities	836, 613
 Long-term portion: 	
- Operating lease liability	18,667
- Note payable	1,175,808

Net Assets

Total liabilities

Total net assets	7 182 596
Total net assets	7,182,596
Total liabilities and net assets	60 217 69/

2.031.088

Legacy

The Legacy Society is a group of vital supporters who have included Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation in their wills, trusts or estate plans. Legacy Society members in 2022 include: Dick and Carol Bennett, Gary and Debra Chessare, Steve and Jeanine Elsberg, (the late) Carol and Bruce Ewald, Gregory and Laurel Franchini, Jane Hawkins-Hoff, Jack and Colleen Holmbeck, Sherry D. Johnson, (the late) Philip (Skip) McDonald, Jeff and Carol Moll, Jerry and Connie Paris, Carole Rose, Gary and Debbi Tiffany, and several individuals who wish to remain anonymous. We are so grateful to every member of the Legacy Society for their support. If you are considering a planned gift, please let us know so we may help you and your financial advisors complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your intention to help Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation. For more information, please contact Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation at 779.210.3577 or slundin@niha.org.

Contributions

Hundreds of donors supported the work of Northern Illinois Hospice Foundation in 2022. Charitable contributions represent an important percentage of our annual budget and help cover special programs as well as the difference between the reimbursements we receive and the actual cost of care.

We gratefully acknowledge our donors and strive for a flawless list. If you should notice an error or omission, please let us know at 779.210.3577 or slundin@niha.org. Thank you!

HONOR GIFTS

The following individuals were recognized in 2022 with an honor gift to mark an anniversary, birthday, or other celebratory event:

Jen Conley
Anne Godin
Alex S. Halle
David and Yukiko Halle
Rick and Sara Halle-Podell
Susan Halle
Marilyn Horey
Pati Johnson
Lani Negin Kirschner
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The Jeff Nelson Family

Northern Illinois Hospice DeKalb Volunteers Northern Illinois Hospice Staff and Volunteers Laura Peña Ella Stackowitz Michelle Halle Stern and David Stern Susan Stone Cathie and Bill Thiede Pat Ward

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Listed below are the individuals/businesses who supported us with in-kind donations in 2022:

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Listed below are the names of the individuals whose lives were remembered in 2022 with a memorial gift:

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The following individuals contributed memorial, honor, restricted, and unrestricted gifts in 2022.

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