



2018 AT-A-GLANCE

Hospice of San Joaquin



142

Hospice House
provided services to
patients & families



167

Kids received
grief support



169

Veterans
served

THANK YOU!

For the support and dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors and the community that we serve.

12,500 Volunteer Hours

- Family Team
- Bereavement
- Hospice House
- Administration
- Pet Therapy
- Butterfly Auxiliary



748

Grieving
loved ones
received support



1061

Patients
served



450

Memory Bears
made in memory
of a loved one

'Angels' Among Us

A caring friend and Hospice of San Joaquin provide care to a dying man who couldn't pay for it

For decades Enrique Diaz toiled under the California sun, doing farm labor. An undocumented immigrant for 50 years, when he wasn't at work he lived in the shadows.

When Diaz retired in 2010, he had no Social Security benefits, no work pension, no medical insurance, no bank savings, no known family to care for him.

And yet, despite being destitute, Diaz died with dignity in a Stockton nursing home on Nov. 13, 2017. He was 82.

His friend Rosendo Ortiz and social worker Josie Minor saw to it that Diaz received hospice care — in his Stockton home and elsewhere — as he battled leukemia, a respiratory ailment and other afflictions.

"Enrique was content with his simple life. He had a peaceful ending," Minor, of Hospice of San Joaquin, said recently.

According to Ortiz, his friend never sought "a death with luxuries."

"But Enrique didn't want to die on the streets or under a bridge," said Ortiz.

Minor said Diaz was aided by "angels," starting with Ortiz, who cared for the sickly man for months, without compensation.

The other angels: good Samaritans who allow nonprofit hospices like Hospice of San Joaquin to serve the poor.

"I'm very proud that my agency, a nonprofit, is able to provide services to everyone, including the uninsured," Minor said. "Families who receive hospice are very appreciative. So they make contributions for indigent cases." Diaz and Ortiz — both Mexico-born — first met in 2000. At the time, Diaz lived



in a rundown home, sharing expenses with co-tenants.

When Ortiz moved into that home in March 2016, Diaz was no longer working and could not contribute to the rent. Ortiz and another housemate split the monthly \$400 rent and shared their meals with Diaz. Other friends would visit, handing Diaz a few dollars each time. By mid-2016, Diaz's health was so poor, Ortiz became his full-time caregiver. He cooked for him, bathed him, and performed other tasks, even though he also worked a full-time job.

In October 2016, Diaz's condition worsened and he was hospitalized. He was then transferred to San Joaquin's Hospice House. That day, Minor became Diaz's social worker.

Two months later, Diaz returned to his residence with new accommodations. For the first time, he had access to an in-home oxygen tank and comfort medications thanks to a treatment plan established by his hospice team who visited him frequently.

Diaz enjoyed living at home for several months before moving to a nursing home with hospice services, which is where he died. He is fondly remembered by those

who knew him, who are grateful that he had comfort at the end of his life.

"He died happy," Ortiz said.

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Every Life Experience is Exceptional

When a cure is no longer an option, we will provide quality hospice care, allowing you to live life to the fullest.