

# HOSPICE of SAN JOAQUIN




## *The Importance of Hospice Care*

*By Dr. Shrivastava, Hospice of San Joaquin Medical Director*

Hospice care is specialized care that focuses on the quality of life for people with life-limiting illnesses. While people are in the last phase of an incurable disease, hospice providers are trained to deliver compassionate care to improve the quality of life for the remainder of time. Hospice care does not hasten or postpone death. Hospice care does not treat the disease but effectively treats the symptoms of the disease and the person. Hospice benefits are not limited to the person only, but it includes patients and their families and making decisions.

Hospice care is centered in the home or wherever patient lives including homeless individuals but allows receiving care at a specialized inpatient hospice unit, similar service delivered in the hospital or a nursing home either to manage symptoms or to give respite to the caregivers. Hospice care includes medical social worker services, spiritual care services and bereavement care.

There are many misconceptions amongst people at the healthcare providers. Hospice related misconceptions and myths require clarification, explanation and education so that people are not prevented from receiving the entitlement of the benefits that are due to them. That means hospice care is free! Let's dispel some of these myths...

### **#1. You have to pay for hospice care**

Medicare and Medi-Cal hospice benefit is an entitlement and there is no cost. This is all inclusive basic medical service, physician and nursing service, visits to the patient wherever they are located, all hospice related medications and equipment. It also includes social services, special services, bereavement services, and assistant in homemaking services.

### **#2. Once you signed up you cannot get out of the hospice program**

All it takes is to make a phone call or tell someone that you no longer want hospice services and want to return to curative care. Also, you can reenter the program anytime and any number of times if you meet the enrollment criteria for hospice care.

### **#3. There is an age criterion for hospice**

While the majority of the people who receive hospice service are older, there is no age limit to receive the service. Hospice provides care to newborn babies, children and young adults, adults and elderly alike.

### **#4. People in hospice die faster**

That is not true. Hospice care is designed only to improve quality of life and offers symptom management, emotional support and spiritual services by specially trained individuals.

### **#5. You must have only a few days to live to receive hospice care**

No! That is not correct. There is no time limit to enroll in the hospice. However, due to the nature of the terminal disease, patient prognosis is generally 6 months or less. Number of people on the hospice service live longer than 6 months.

### **#6. You must have cancer to receive hospice care.**

The truth is that patients with any terminal healthcare problem with a prognosis of 6 months or less can be enrolled in the hospice. It includes cancer, heart disease, different types of dementia, respiratory disease, kidney disease and stroke related complications.

### **#7. Your doctor must refer you to enroll in hospice care**

You can call yourself, a family member, a friend, a healthcare provider, social worker, clergy or anyone can refer a patient to hospice.

### **#8. Hospice and palliative care are different names for the same service**

There are many similarities between the 2 services in terms of pain control and symptom management 24 hours a day. However, major differences include the fact that on hospice you are no longer pursuing curative treatment like what you would do while on palliative care.

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## VISION

To be the leader in ensuring quality of the journey, from serious illness through end of life.

## MISSION

Our Mission is to honor life by ensuring Patients and their Caregivers are the focus of everything we do.

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### #9. You will have to leave your home to be placed elsewhere if you sign up with hospice.

Hospice care is designed to be delivered at home or wherever you live. Temporary and short-term accommodation is available in inpatient units, in selected hospitals and nursing homes so you can receive more aggressive management of the symptoms until you return to your original location.

### #10. Your family will not receive any benefits when you pass away.

Hospice benefit programs continue to provide bereavement and grief support services up to 1 year after the passing away of the patient. Consultations are available for many issues that happen after the patient passes away. This comes as a great help to the survivors as they may not be ready to deal with major changes that follow the passing of the patient.

Hospice of San Joaquin is a nonprofit organization that is supported by outstanding and well-trained hospice nursing staff, specializing medical social workers and chaplains, home health aides and hospice trained and board-certified medical staff. The services are available 24 hours a day to serve the community. Hospice of San Joaquin has been rated to be the best provider in San Joaquin County year after year. Hospice of San Joaquin is governed by a board of community members that guides the outstanding administrative officials to carry the mission forward. The medical director of hospice of San Joaquin and all the hospice physicians are available to answer any questions and assist with your plans as you and your family goes through the challenging times.

## 2022 AT-A-GLANCE



**169**

**Hospice House**  
provided services to  
patients & families



**331**

People attended  
workshops and sessions for  
**Grief Support**



**125**

**Veteran Patients**  
served



**4,773**

**VOLUNTEERED  
HOURS**

- THANK YOU!**  
For the support and dedication of our staff, volunteers,  
donors and the community we serve
- Administration
  - Bereavement
  - Pet Therapy
  - Butterfly Auxiliary
  - Family Team
  - Veteran to Veteran
  - Hospice House
  - Special Events



**2737**

**Patient Family Members**  
received grief  
support



**1041**

**Hospice & Palliative  
Care Patients**  
served



**171**

**Memory Bears**  
made in memory of  
a loved one



# RECAP OF EVENTS



## CAMP CATERPILLAR

Our second ever Lodi Camp Caterpillar was a fantastic success. With community support from sponsors and volunteers, we provided support for children who have lost a loved one. Some of our Campers were first-timers, and others familiar faces from previous camps. Each camper was grouped with others their own age and assigned a personal Camp Buddy, who worked with parents ahead of the camp to ensure the best support for their children. Our next Camp Caterpillar is September in Stockton, and registration is already filling up. This twice a year program is always free to our community and is supported by the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers.



## VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

We honored 85 volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 13. Our volunteers raise money for our charity programs, support grieving families, create beautiful quilts and gowns for patients, and so much more. We are so grateful to everyone who does so much volunteering for Hospice of San Joaquin. Thank you for showing that volunteering is “a work of heart!”

## EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Our Tracy Butterfly Auxiliary once again knocked it out of the park for Eggstravaganza. Guests purchased eggs at the event and opened them up to see if they won big and got to take home one of over 300 prizes. It's a twist on an Egg Hunt that the whole family could enjoy. This year the Tracy Butterflies added charcuterie boards as lunch add-ons, which were a huge hit. Proceeds from this event benefited our Hospice House.



## CHAMPAGNE & ENGLISH TEA

An ever-popular Stockton tradition, our annual tea sold out quickly this year. This event was hosted by the Stockton Butterfly Auxiliary, with elegant décor, raffle baskets, and beautiful bouquets. Proceeds from this event benefited our Hospice House.



## KENTUCKY DERBY WEST

Rain couldn't stop the party that was the 10th Annual Kentucky Derby West on May 6. From the moment guests arrived they were greeted with mint juleps, tasty bites, a live broadcast of the Kentucky Derby, and over 100 silent auction baskets. Spirits were high, hats were flaunted, and the arena cheered on their favorite horses to the finish line. We want to thank all our generous sponsors, donors, and guests for making the day a huge success! Proceeds from this event benefited our Hospice House and Camp Caterpillar.

“We're the one with the Butterfly”

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### JUNE 19-26 | VIRTUAL BUTTERFLY WALK

Get active in the community and support the nonprofit mission of Hospice of San Joaquin. Every dollar raised through the Butterfly Walk allows Hospice of San Joaquin patients to live life to the fullest through high-level hospice services that include comprehensive and compassionate medical care, counseling and support with state-of-the-art pain control and symptom management. This walk will be hosted virtually, which means walkers can create their own path and walk when they choose. Be sure to use the hashtag, #HSJButterflyWalk to share your walk!



### SEPTEMBER 23 CAMP CATERPILLAR STOCKTON

Camp Caterpillar is a child grief day camp experience for children in kindergarten through 8th grade who have had a loved one die within the last two years. This event is held twice a year, once in Lodi and once in Stockton. Parents of campers meet with our volunteer “Buddies” before the camp day to discuss individual children and their needs, so every child has individual support. Campers will learn they are not alone in their feelings of grief or their anxiety about the ways their lives have changed. This program is free and open to the public.



### AUGUST 19 | MOONLIGHT SIP & STROLL

A Stockton tradition 20 years strong, Sip and Stroll is the perfect summer event! Guests will stroll through a section of Brookside Classics on Heron Lake while enjoying live music, wine, and food from dozens of local businesses. Last year our 800+ tickets were sold out a month in advance, so if you are interested, don't delay in getting yours either on our website or by calling our office. This is a true treat you won't want to miss!

## FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

During my own life I have had three experiences with Hospice – once when my mother was dying, once with my sister, plus I lived with a wonderful Hospice nurse for several years. I have come to view your professionals as 'living angels'. Dying and death exist almost as a separate reality in our culture. Consequently, we are often unprepared for the difficult challenges and emotional trauma that confront us when a family member lays dying before our very eyes. Hospice service and interventions provide a vital support in assisting both the dying and their attending families.



## Patient Story

“A year ago I was bed ridden and was not supposed to make it. Thanks to Hospice of San Joaquin I am alive and doing what I do best. Thanks for giving my life back to me. Forever grateful Captain and Training Officer for the Red Hawk Fire Department.”

-David C., former patient