



Hospice
of the
Calumet
Area

cherishing life

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Honoring Legacies



Heartfelt THANK YOU!

To all of our patients, families, staff, volunteers and supporters who invest in helping us cherish life. Your inspiring dedication enables us to serve with love, compassion and grace.



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Honoring Legacies

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Based on program growth and demonstrated value, we added an additional full-time social worker to the program in December, which was partially funded with a \$12,500 grant from the Legacy Foundation.



Adrienne May
ADRIANNE MAY
CEO



Janice Dobrinich
JANICE DOBRINICH
BOARD PRESIDENT

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We are proud of our long history as a quality leader and our commitment to providing that same level of care regardless of an individual's ability to pay. We were founded by caring, forward-thinking volunteers, and we have been blessed throughout our 38-year history to have community members who support every aspect of our diverse and growing program. The 2018 value of our charity care, discounted care and other adjustments totaled \$2 million in uncompensated care. We are grateful for your support and generosity. Together, we are improving quality of life. Thank you for caring.

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Volunteers Change Lives

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area volunteers contributed 13,079 hours of service, which led to an organizational financial savings of \$322,920.

Hospice of the Calumet Area has more than 500 active volunteers who package supplies, visit patients, attend memorial services, perform office work, plan events, fundraise, create and sell art and more.

“Being president of Friends of Hospice has meant so much. I have had the opportunity to serve twice,” said Candice Logue. “It is important that we make the most of life and do our best to make a positive impact.”

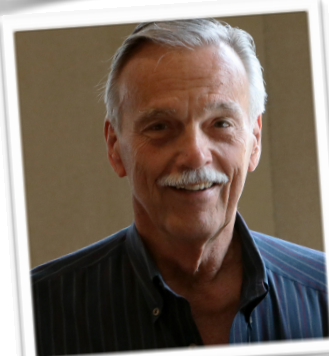
In 2018, Friends of Hospice, the auxiliary fundraising group of HCA, hosted its 18th Annual Mums the Word luncheon and recognized Kathy Loktu and Arlene Waldron as volunteers of the year for their dedication to the organization.

After a 30-year nursing career, Kathy retired and was encouraged by her daughter to join Friends of Hospice. Kathy knitted comfort shawls and helped with the Artisans’ Annual Holiday Boutique. Her volunteer experience reminded her how moving nursing was, inspiring her to work part time at the William J. Riley Memorial Residence.

“Helping families and patients is so gratifying,” said Kathy. “It takes caring people to empathize during a tough time.”

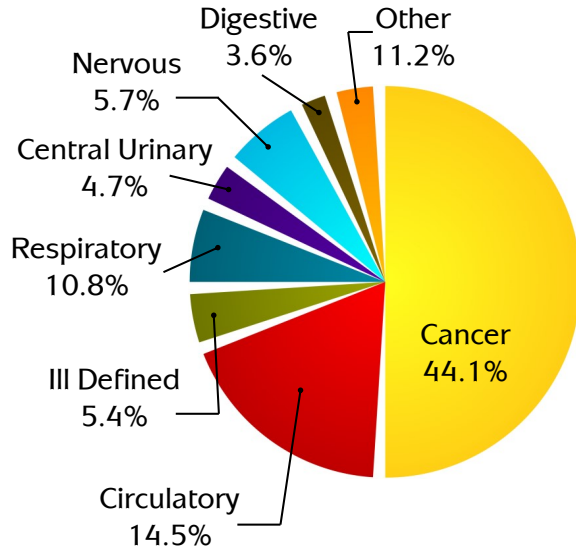
Beginning her career in retail, Arlene Waldron found comfort in helping patients as a nurse’s aide. During her 15 years as an aide, she became familiar with HCA and was touched by its dedication to helping patients and families with their journey.

“One patient told me they had no idea how wonderful Hospice of the Calumet Area was and how grateful they were to have us,” said Arlene. “He told me we helped him overcome his fears. I’ll never forget that. I am so proud to be a part of this organization.”

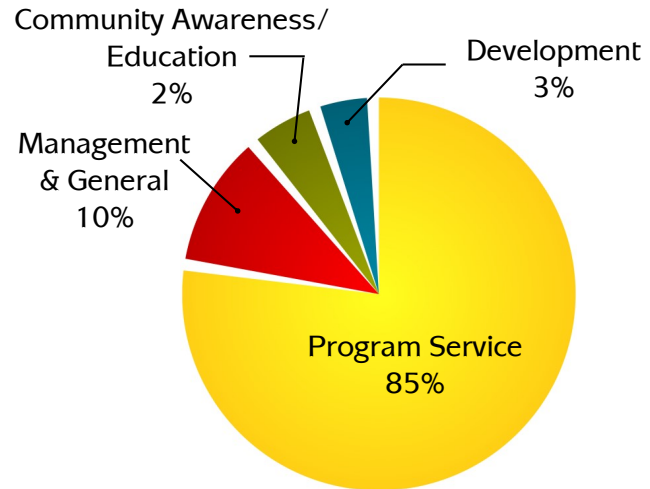


HCA Key Figures

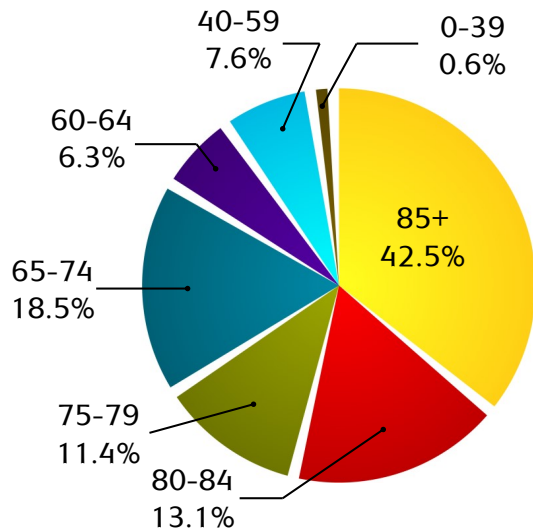
PATIENTS BY DIAGNOSIS



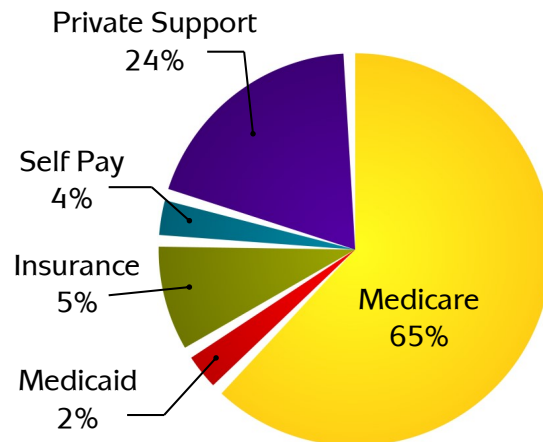
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



PATIENTS BY AGE



REVENUE BY CATEGORY



Providing Excellence in Care

When Hospice of the Calumet Area RN Lisa Rothchild found out the devastating news that her ailing mother's health was deteriorating quickly, she called best friends Tammy VanVleet and Lisa Snooks to be at her side.

"I comfort patients and families every single day, but this was my mom," recalled Rothchild. "I am so grateful that my HCA family allowed me to be a daughter and not a nurse for my mother in her last days. As painful as it was, I knew she was in wonderful and inspiring hands. Our team takes great pride in what we do, and I felt comfort in knowing they were there for my family."

Since 2015, Hospice of the Calumet Area has been honored with HEALTHCAREfirst's prestigious Hospice Honors every single year. This year, HCA was recognized with Hospice Honors elite status.

Hospice Honors is a landmark compilation of hospices providing the best patient and caregiver experience. The honor recognizes the highest level of care measured from the caregiver's point of view. The recognition endorses high-performing agencies by analyzing the performance of their Hospice quality measures. In order for a hospice group to be recognized, it must have superior performance measures in 20 of 24 quality measures. This year, HCA garnered excellence in all 24 measures resulting in Hospice Honors elite status.

"Hospice Honors is a reflection of the dedication our staff puts in," said Kim Morris, Hospice of the Calumet Area performance improvement coordinator. "We place families first and it makes a tremendous difference in how we serve. Our jobs are not easy, but they are very rewarding. The constant praise and support we get from our patients and families is why we do what we do here at HCA."



HOSPICE HONORS elite

Hospice of the Calumet Area CEO Adrienne May feels Hospice Honors is a meaningful reflection of the service everybody contributes—from the staff and volunteers to the board of directors, donors and community.

"We often hear about excellence in the words of gratitude from our patient's family members," added Adrienne May. "Families send us countless thank you letters often naming specific partners on our care team who were especially helpful. Excellence is reflected in every aspect of our organization and in our Cherishing Life philosophy."



Above, HCA Counseling Coordinator Kristi Nance-Hmurovich was recognized as the National Association of Social Workers Region One Social Worker of the Year.



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Board of Directors



RUTHELLYN BOBAK

LINDA DELUNAS, PhD
Indiana University Northwest

GENE DIAMOND
Franciscan Alliance

JANICE DOBRINICH, PRESIDENT

LINDA EISENHAUER

DONALD FESKO
Community Healthcare System

MITCHELL GAFFIGAN
Purdue Federal Credit Union

R. LOUIE GONZALEZ
Ivy Tech Community College

REBECCA GROVE
Franciscan Alliance

WILLIAM A. HASSE III
Hasse Construction

PAT KISH
The Wounded Healers

PATTY LAZZARO

JOANNE MARKIEWICZ

JEFFREY MONBERG
Quarles & Brady LLP

CHERYL MORGAN-IHRIG, MD
Cancer Health Treatment Centers P.C.

ROCHARDA MOORE MORRIS
Innovative Solutions

LYLE R. MUNN, MD

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Emerson-Neff LLP

RALPH NEFF
Mechanical Concepts, Inc.

DAVID NELLANS
Town of Munster

KAY NELSON
Northwest Indiana Forum

LINDA RANDOLPH
Innovative Solutions

RICHARD REFFKIN, DDS

DAVID SCHNEIDER

GLORIA SMOKVINA, PhD

JOHN T. STEPHENS

PEYMON TORABI
Peoples Bank

RABBI LEONARD ZUKROW
Temple Beth-El

CANDICE LOGUE
Friends of Hospice,
ex-officio
Peoples Bank

ADRIANNE MAY, CEO
Hospice of the Calumet Area

EMERITUS MEMBERS

NATE CARRAS

ELEANOR KAY-MIRICH 

MSGR. JOSEPH SEMANCIK

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In Memorium—Marion "Red" Fulte

It's with a heavy heart that we report the loss of Board Member Marion "Red" Fulte. Red was a true gentleman and his spirit will live in the hearts of our Hospice of the Calumet Area family for years to come.

"My father cared for his mother at the age of 12," said Janet Fulte Papesh, Red's daughter. "He was raised on a farm with little resources, and he served my grandmother with pure love. I know he was passionate about hospice and its mission because he experienced what it means to honor the wishes of a loved one from an early age."

Red was a champion for the hospice mission and served on HCA's Board of Directors for nearly 10 years. During his time, he served as board secretary from 2010 – 2012 and board VP from 2012 – 2014. He also lent his talents to the Building & Maintenance and Finance & Budget committees.

Red was a respected business owner, operating Calumet Electric Supply Corp. in East Chicago. In 2016, he was recognized as the Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce's East Chicago Business Man of the Year.

Over the years, he served as president of the East Chicago Kiwanis Club, president of the Munster Lion's Club (recognized as Munster Lion of the year in 2002) and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow for dedicated humanitarian services by Lions Clubs International Foundation. Red also served as a board member of the Munster Economic Development Commission and Carnegie Library Foundation.



"Red was so humble about helping others," said R. Louie Gonzalez, Ivy Tech vice chancellor and HCA board member. "He had a big heart for people. We are all better to have known him. He had a real zest for life, always full of radiance and a warm smile."

Janet said her father always took great pride in his HCA board membership and rarely missed meetings because he always said, "Hospice is a cause that is very near and dear to me."

I know he was passionate about hospice and its mission because he experienced what it means to honor the wishes of a loved one from an early age.

Continuing a Legacy

As a Hospice of the Calumet Area board member, Mitch Gaffigan believes in the power of leaving a strong legacy. After all, it's the very reason he serves.

Mitch's parents, Marcia and Michael, helped create the nonprofit and supported the organization since its beginning in 1981. Mitch's mother, Marcia, was a founding member and original co-chair of the Friends of Hospice, and faithfully served as a member of the Friends until her death in 1990. Shortly after Marcia's passing, his father, Michael Gaffigan, joined the Board of Directors of Hospice of the Calumet Area and served for six years until his death in 1999.

"This hospice mission was very important to my parents, and I also strongly believe in the power of helping families cherish life," said Gaffigan. "There are so many dedicated staff, volunteers and donors. I'm fortunate to be part of this organization."

Mitch is one of six children and credits his parents as being role models as they raised their family understanding the power of giving back.

A Northwest Indiana native, Mitch appreciates the power of community and volunteers with numerous local organizations helping to advance their missions. Mitch has served on the Board of Hospice of the Calumet Area for the past 14 years, two of those years as board president and two years as treasurer. Mitch also serves on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Indiana Forum, Diocese of Gary Finance Council, Catholic Foundation for Northwest Indiana and Moose Charities Advisory Committee.

In 2015, Mitch was instrumental in encouraging his brother and renowned comedian Jim Gaffigan to perform a fundraiser for HCA that raised a substantial amount of funds for the nonprofit.



In 2018, Mitch Gaffigan's leadership was celebrated during the Friends of Hospice annual Seeds of Hope Dinner, which raised \$85,000 for patient and family services, and included upgrades to suites at HCA's William J. Riley Memorial Residence.

The morning of the event, Peter and Debra Nau were so inspired by an article they read in the The Times of Northwest Indiana about the Gaffigan legacy, they made a \$25,000 contribution to HCA.

"We thought that it would be a wonderful way to revere Mitch's commitment and also pay tribute to our mothers, Marcia and Patsy, who both served as founding members of the Friends of Hospice," added Peter Nau.

This hospice mission was very important to my parents, and I also strongly believe in the power of helping families cherish life.

Above, Mitch Gaffigan is presented with a gift during the Seeds of Hope Dinner. At right, Hospice CEO Adrienne May, Friends of Hospice members Candice Logue and Theresa Mudd celebrate Mitch at the annual fundraising event.



Honoring those who served

When Vietnam veteran Jim Chancellor recently gave a presentation about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through the eyes of a door gunner, there was absolute silence in the room as 75 Hospice of the Calumet Area volunteers listened reverently.

“When dealing with veterans, it’s better just to listen,” said Chancellor. “Many of us are still dealing with the moral assaults on our soul decades later. It’s an honor to work with a group like Hospice of the Calumet Area that gives our veterans and their families the respect they deserve, especially in the final stages of life.”

HCA volunteer and U.S. Marine Tom Evans knows just how important compassion and understanding is when visiting heroes and their families. In the past six years, Evans has visited more than 120 men and women veterans as part of Hospice of the Calumet Area’s We Honor Veterans Program.

“It’s a privilege to give them the recognition they deserve for their commitment and service,” said Evans. “Veterans will open up and share things with us that sometimes their families don’t even know. It’s really amazing and very healing for them and their families alike.”

We Honor Veterans is intended to provide quality care and awareness for veterans by partnering hospices with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Evans feels one of the strongest components to the program is the pride the family has in celebrating their loved ones.



“This recognition really made my dad feel special,” said Sue Herrold Castaneda, daughter of patient David Herrold. “It’s just beautiful to know that this organization truly cares about these inspiring patients and their families. We are extremely grateful.”

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area cared for 220 veteran patients.

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soul decades later.

Top, Hospice of the Calumet Area patient Eugene Wallace following his pinning ceremony. Right, HCA patient David Herrold salutes HCA We Honor Veterans volunteer Tom Evans.



Compassion and Inspiration

Cassondra Hughes had many reservations about hospice care when the concept was introduced to her family. She thought it meant “giving up.”

“My dad meant the world to us, and I was so wrong about hospice services,” said Cassondra. “There’s just so much I didn’t understand and our family felt very vulnerable and unsure. I am so glad we trusted and embraced Hospice of the Calumet Area to care for my father.”

The Hughes family built a life-changing relationship with the staff who cared for “Howie” and are grateful to HCA for guiding them through their journey with “Pa.” Their heartfelt relationship with RN J.D. Dzuovcik and CNA Bernice Besse gave them great comfort and they now consider them “family.”

“My grandfather would call J.D. ‘the doctor’ and always had some funny story or joke to tell him, and Bernice was just wonderful,” said granddaughter CaSera Heining. “They both strengthened our entire family and reinforced encouragement and support. We had five beautiful months with him, and I really feel it was because of them that he enjoyed such a quality of life.”

Both Cassondra and CaSera feel that they have a better understanding of hospice care and want to do whatever they can to share their experience to ease the burden of others. They feel education and empowerment play a major factor in having a great hospice experience.”

“There are so many resources we were able to take advantage of, and we really had no idea what a wonderful experience this journey would be for our family,” added Cassondra.



“Our family was lost and so worried about what we were going to do. Hospice of the Calumet Area were angels behind us, holding us up every step of the way. We will be forever indebted.”

Bernice refers to the care the Hughes family provided to their father as “inspiring.”

“I know they give us all the credit, but actually they did a beautiful job caring with compassion and pure love,” said Bernice. “In the end, that’s really what most people want. It’s a gift to be surrounded by the people you love and to share and establish wonderful memories filled with tears and laughter.”

Hospice of the Calumet Area were angels behind us, holding us up every step of the way. We will be forever indebted.

Top, HCA RN J.D. Dzuovcik and CaSera Heining at the Friends and Fashion fundraiser. Right, CaSera Carissa, Lorenzo, Cassondra, and with one of their favorite “angels,” CNA Bernice Besse.



Healing Power of Music

The power of music is undeniable. Studies suggest that it can actually be used to ease pain and help heal patients from Parkinson's disease and strokes. Music has a neurological effect that stimulates several parts of the body, making it a powerful tool for improving a patient's quality of life.

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area received a bequest from Ralph Kilmer Spencer, who believed strongly in the organization's mission. Ralph loved music and shared his joy of music with many people serving as a piano, organ, and voice instructor at both the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and at his studio in Griffith. HCA's CEO Adrienne May thought it was fitting to allocate a portion of his gift to establish the Ralph Kilmer Spencer Music Therapy Program.

The therapeutic effects of music are incredible, especially for patients like Penny Dow. There wasn't a day when former HCA admissions coordinator Penny didn't talk about music. It was her life.

When diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's 10 years ago, her HCA family was devastated as she transitioned from a dedicated employee to a hospice patient.

When the HCA's Music Therapy Program was established, it was only fitting that Penny be the first patient enrolled in music therapy.

"My mother is a beautiful soul that filled our house and childhood memories with music," said daughter Andrea Lambert. "I know she is proud that [HCA] is offering this program because music really does affect the soul."

All of HCA's music therapists have a master's degree and are certified. They complete a comprehensive assessment for each patient and design a plan to meet the patient's needs.



On a recent visit, Penny played bells for nearly 25 minutes alongside therapist Airen Harris as she sang and strummed through the likes of Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and others.

"She's never played this long," said Harris. "This is moving. She's becoming more engaged each visit."

Last June, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and Rascals founder Felix Cavaliere and The Spaniels Forever performed a benefit concert to help raise additional funds for the kickoff of the music therapy initiative. Cavaliere called the initiative "innovative."

The concert was sponsored by The Times of Northwest Indiana, Largus Graphix Solutions, Steri-Clean, Meyer's Companies, NITCO, Louie & Martha Gonzalez, Luke Oil, Don Quijote Restaurant, Amy Halloran and Scott Doranski and Crown Brewing.

My mother was a beautiful soul that filled our house and childhood memories with music.

Top, Ralph Kilmer Spencer's portrait. Rascals founder Felix Cavaliere performs during the Hospice of the Calumet Area benefit concert. Right, Penny Dow plays the bells with music therapist Airen Harris.





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WITH US!



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Porter County Office, 1190 N. State Road 49, Porter, IN 46304
Illinois Office, 3256 Ridge Road, Suite 207, Lansing, IL 60438
219.922.2732/708.895.8332

HospiceCalumet.org

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Hospice of the Calumet Area cares for individuals regardless of their age or diagnosis. While the largest percentage of our patients had cancer, nearly 60% suffered from other medical conditions such as heart disease, Alzheimer's or stroke. During 2018, our patients ranged in age from 35 to 105, with an average age of 79. While the majority of our hospice patients were 65 and older, 14% of those cared for in 2018 were younger than 65. Patients older than 80 made up our largest care population, accounting for 53% of the hospice patients we cared for in 2018, with 13 age 100 or older.

Transitions™, our palliative program that is offered at no cost to clients, also had a record-breaking year, with a 34% increase in program admissions. Transitions is a special program for those dealing with serious illness, but not yet hospice ready.

Based on program growth and demonstrated value, we added an additional full-time social worker to the program in December, which was partially funded with a \$12,500 grant from the Legacy Foundation.



Adrienne May
ADRIANNE MAY
CEO



Janice Dobrinich
JANICE DOBRINICH
BOARD PRESIDENT

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area accomplished improvements to our physical infrastructure, as well as our clinical program. In December, HCA opened a new office in Porter, Indiana. This allows us to better serve our growing number of Porter County patients and expand our quality hospice care to LaPorte County.

A significant interior update was completed at the William J. Riley Memorial Residence to improve comfort and maintain safety. The renovations were funded, in part, by you, our supporters, who contributed to the fund-a-need program during our Seeds of Hope dinner in May. The positive response from patients, families, staff and volunteers has been outstanding.

After more than a year of planning, a major fundraising concert and a generous bequest, HCA launched our Kilmer Spencer Music Therapy Program. We are the only hospice program in our area to provide this innovative and effective adjunct therapy to facilitate symptom control and patient comfort.

We are proud of our long history as a quality leader and our commitment to providing that same level of care regardless of an individual's ability to pay. We were founded by caring, forward-thinking volunteers, and we have been blessed throughout our 38-year history to have community members who support every aspect of our diverse and growing program. The 2018 value of our charity care, discounted care and other adjustments totaled \$2 million in uncompensated care. We are grateful for your support and generosity. Together, we are improving quality of life. Thank you for caring.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Volunteers Change Lives

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area volunteers contributed 13,079 hours of service, which led to an organizational financial savings of \$322,920.

Hospice of the Calumet Area has more than 500 active volunteers who package supplies, visit patients, attend memorial services, perform office work, plan events, fundraise, create and sell art and more.

“Being president of Friends of Hospice has meant so much. I have had the opportunity to serve twice,” said Candice Logue. “It is important that we make the most of life and do our best to make a positive impact.”

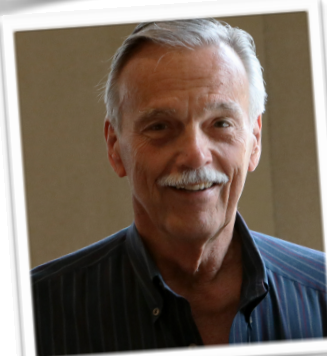
In 2018, Friends of Hospice, the auxiliary fundraising group of HCA, hosted its 18th Annual Mums the Word luncheon and recognized Kathy Loktu and Arlene Waldron as volunteers of the year for their dedication to the organization.

After a 30-year nursing career, Kathy retired and was encouraged by her daughter to join Friends of Hospice. Kathy knitted comfort shawls and helped with the Artisans’ Annual Holiday Boutique. Her volunteer experience reminded her how moving nursing was, inspiring her to work part time at the William J. Riley Memorial Residence.

“Helping families and patients is so gratifying,” said Kathy. “It takes caring people to empathize during a tough time.”

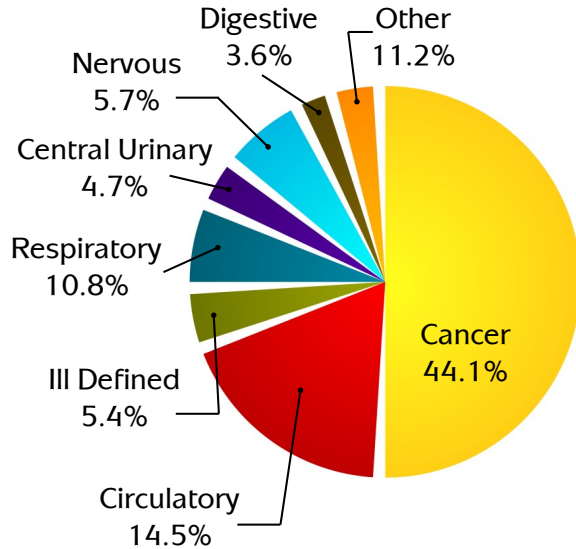
Beginning her career in retail, Arlene Waldron found comfort in helping patients as a nurse’s aide. During her 15 years as an aide, she became familiar with HCA and was touched by its dedication to helping patients and families with their journey.

“One patient told me they had no idea how wonderful Hospice of the Calumet Area was and how grateful they were to have us,” said Arlene. “He told me we helped him overcome his fears. I’ll never forget that. I am so proud to be a part of this organization.”

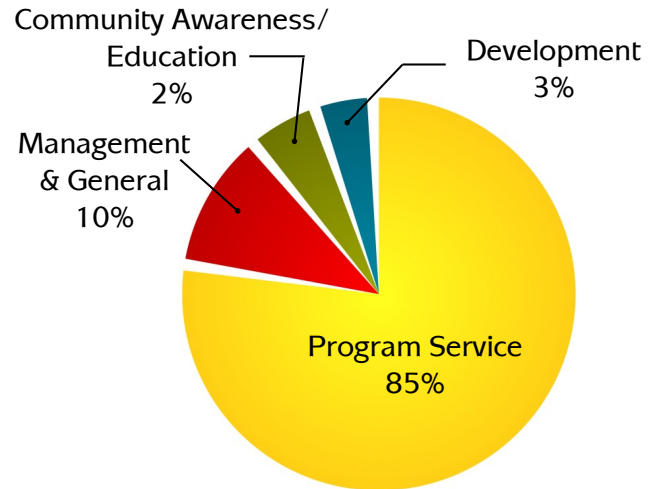


HCA Key Figures

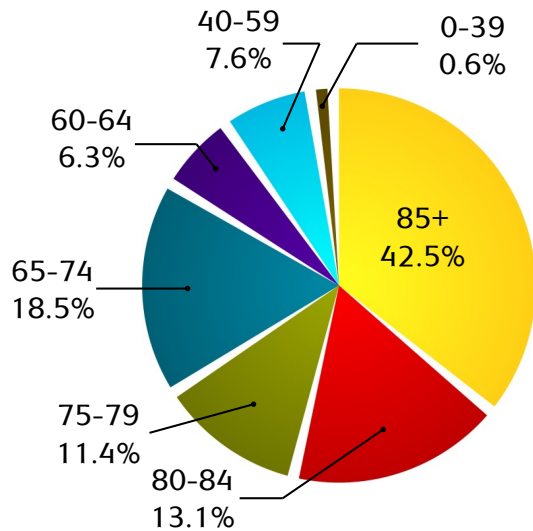
PATIENTS BY DIAGNOSIS



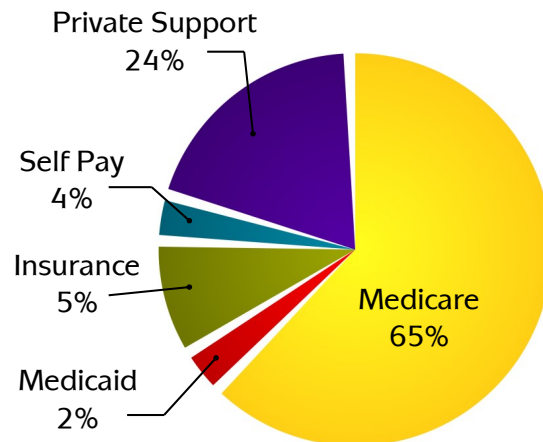
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



PATIENTS BY AGE



REVENUE BY CATEGORY



Providing Excellence in Care

When Hospice of the Calumet Area RN Lisa Rothchild found out the devastating news that her ailing mother's health was deteriorating quickly, she called best friends Tammy VanVleet and Lisa Snooks to be at her side.

"I comfort patients and families every single day, but this was my mom," recalled Rothchild. "I am so grateful that my HCA family allowed me to be a daughter and not a nurse for my mother in her last days. As painful as it was, I knew she was in wonderful and inspiring hands. Our team takes great pride in what we do, and I felt comfort in knowing they were there for my family."

Since 2015, Hospice of the Calumet Area has been honored with HEALTHCAREfirst's prestigious Hospice Honors every single year. This year, HCA was recognized with Hospice Honors elite status.

Hospice Honors is a landmark compilation of hospices providing the best patient and caregiver experience. The honor recognizes the highest level of care measured from the caregiver's point of view. The recognition endorses high-performing agencies by analyzing the performance of their Hospice quality measures. In order for a hospice group to be recognized, it must have superior performance measures in 20 of 24 quality measures. This year, HCA garnered excellence in all 24 measures resulting in Hospice Honors elite status.

"Hospice Honors is a reflection of the dedication our staff puts in," said Kim Morris, Hospice of the Calumet Area performance improvement coordinator. "We place families first and it makes a tremendous difference in how we serve. Our jobs are not easy, but they are very rewarding. The constant praise and support we get from our patients and families is why we do what we do here at HCA."



HOSPICE HONORS elite

Hospice of the Calumet Area CEO Adrienne May feels Hospice Honors is a meaningful reflection of the service everybody contributes—from the staff and volunteers to the board of directors, donors and community.

"We often hear about excellence in the words of gratitude from our patient's family members," added Adrienne May. "Families send us countless thank you letters often naming specific partners on our care team who were especially helpful. Excellence is reflected in every aspect of our organization and in our Cherishing Life philosophy."



Above, HCA Counseling Coordinator Kristi Nance-Hmurovich was recognized as the National Association of Social Workers Region One Social Worker of the Year.



In Memorium—Marion "Red" Fulte

It's with a heavy heart that we report the loss of Board Member Marion "Red" Fulte. Red was a true gentleman and his spirit will live in the hearts of our Hospice of the Calumet Area family for years to come.

"My father cared for his mother at the age of 12," said Janet Fulte Papesh, Red's daughter. "He was raised on a farm with little resources, and he served my grandmother with pure love. I know he was passionate about hospice and its mission because he experienced what it means to honor the wishes of a loved one from an early age."

Red was a champion for the hospice mission and served on HCA's Board of Directors for nearly 10 years. During his time, he served as board secretary from 2010 – 2012 and board VP from 2012 – 2014. He also lent his talents to the Building & Maintenance and Finance & Budget committees.

Red was a respected business owner, operating Calumet Electric Supply Corp. in East Chicago. In 2016, he was recognized as the Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce's East Chicago Business Man of the Year.

Over the years, he served as president of the East Chicago Kiwanis Club, president of the Munster Lion's Club (recognized as Munster Lion of the year in 2002) and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow for dedicated humanitarian services by Lions Clubs International Foundation. Red also served as a board member of the Munster Economic Development Commission and Carnegie Library Foundation.



"Red was so humble about helping others," said R. Louie Gonzalez, Ivy Tech vice chancellor and HCA board member. "He had a big heart for people. We are all better to have known him. He had a real zest for life, always full of radiance and a warm smile."

Janet said her father always took great pride in his HCA board membership and rarely missed meetings because he always said, "Hospice is a cause that is very near and dear to me."

I know he was passionate about hospice and its mission because he experienced what it means to honor the wishes of a loved one from an early age.

Continuing a Legacy

As a Hospice of the Calumet Area board member, Mitch Gaffigan believes in the power of leaving a strong legacy. After all, it's the very reason he serves.

Mitch's parents, Marcia and Michael, helped create the nonprofit and supported the organization since its beginning in 1981. Mitch's mother, Marcia, was a founding member and original co-chair of the Friends of Hospice, and faithfully served as a member of the Friends until her death in 1990. Shortly after Marcia's passing, his father, Michael Gaffigan, joined the Board of Directors of Hospice of the Calumet Area and served for six years until his death in 1999.

"This hospice mission was very important to my parents, and I also strongly believe in the power of helping families cherish life," said Gaffigan. "There are so many dedicated staff, volunteers and donors. I'm fortunate to be part of this organization."

Mitch is one of six children and credits his parents as being role models as they raised their family understanding the power of giving back.

A Northwest Indiana native, Mitch appreciates the power of community and volunteers with numerous local organizations helping to advance their missions. Mitch has served on the Board of Hospice of the Calumet Area for the past 14 years, two of those years as board president and two years as treasurer. Mitch also serves on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Indiana Forum, Diocese of Gary Finance Council, Catholic Foundation for Northwest Indiana and Moose Charities Advisory Committee.

In 2015, Mitch was instrumental in encouraging his brother and renowned comedian Jim Gaffigan to perform a fundraiser for HCA that raised a substantial amount of funds for the nonprofit.



In 2018, Mitch Gaffigan's leadership was celebrated during the Friends of Hospice annual Seeds of Hope Dinner, which raised \$85,000 for patient and family services, and included upgrades to suites at HCA's William J. Riley Memorial Residence.

The morning of the event, Peter and Debra Nau were so inspired by an article they read in the *The Times of Northwest Indiana* about the Gaffigan legacy, they made a \$25,000 contribution to HCA.

"We thought that it would be a wonderful way to revere Mitch's commitment and also pay tribute to our mothers, Marcia and Patsy, who both served as founding members of the Friends of Hospice," added Peter Nau.

This hospice mission was very important to my parents, and I also strongly believe in the power of helping families cherish life.

Above, Mitch Gaffigan is presented with a gift during the Seeds of Hope Dinner. At right, Hospice CEO Adrienne May, Friends of Hospice members Candice Logue and Theresa Mudd celebrate Mitch at the annual fundraising event.



Honoring those who served

When Vietnam veteran Jim Chancellor recently gave a presentation about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through the eyes of a door gunner, there was absolute silence in the room as 75 Hospice of the Calumet Area volunteers listened reverently.

“When dealing with veterans, it’s better just to listen,” said Chancellor. “Many of us are still dealing with the moral assaults on our soul decades later. It’s an honor to work with a group like Hospice of the Calumet Area that gives our veterans and their families the respect they deserve, especially in the final stages of life.”

HCA volunteer and U.S. Marine Tom Evans knows just how important compassion and understanding is when visiting heroes and their families. In the past six years, Evans has visited more than 120 men and women veterans as part of Hospice of the Calumet Area’s We Honor Veterans Program.

“It’s a privilege to give them the recognition they deserve for their commitment and service,” said Evans. “Veterans will open up and share things with us that sometimes their families don’t even know. It’s really amazing and very healing for them and their families alike.”

We Honor Veterans is intended to provide quality care and awareness for veterans by partnering hospices with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Evans feels one of the strongest components to the program is the pride the family has in celebrating their loved ones.



“This recognition really made my dad feel special,” said Sue Herrold Castaneda, daughter of patient David Herrold. “It’s just beautiful to know that this organization truly cares about these inspiring patients and their families. We are extremely grateful.”

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area cared for 220 veteran patients.

When dealing with veterans,
it's better just to listen.
Many of us are still dealing
with the moral assaults on our
soul decades later.

Top, Hospice of the Calumet Area patient Eugene Wallace following his pinning ceremony. Right, HCA patient David Herrold salutes HCA We Honor Veterans volunteer Tom Evans.



Compassion and Inspiration

Cassondra Hughes had many reservations about hospice care when the concept was introduced to her family. She thought it meant “giving up.”

“My dad meant the world to us, and I was so wrong about hospice services,” said Cassondra. “There’s just so much I didn’t understand and our family felt very vulnerable and unsure. I am so glad we trusted and embraced Hospice of the Calumet Area to care for my father.”

The Hughes family built a life-changing relationship with the staff who cared for “Howie” and are grateful to HCA for guiding them through their journey with “Pa.” Their heartfelt relationship with RN J.D. Dzurovcik and CNA Bernice Besse gave them great comfort and they now consider them “family.”

“My grandfather would call J.D. ‘the doctor’ and always had some funny story or joke to tell him, and Bernice was just wonderful,” said granddaughter CaSera Heining. “They both strengthened our entire family and reinforced encouragement and support. We had five beautiful months with him, and I really feel it was because of them that he enjoyed such a quality of life.”

Both Cassondra and CaSera feel that they have a better understanding of hospice care and want to do whatever they can to share their experience to ease the burden of others. They feel education and empowerment play a major factor in having a great hospice experience.”

“There are so many resources we were able to take advantage of, and we really had no idea what a wonderful experience this journey would be for our family,” added Cassondra.



“Our family was lost and so worried about what we were going to do. Hospice of the Calumet Area were angels behind us, holding us up every step of the way. We will be forever indebted.”

Bernice refers to the care the Hughes family provided to their father as “inspiring.”

“I know they give us all the credit, but actually they did a beautiful job caring with compassion and pure love,” said Bernice. “In the end, that’s really what most people want. It’s a gift to be surrounded by the people you love and to share and establish wonderful memories filled with tears and laughter.”

Hospice of the Calumet Area were angels behind us, holding us up every step of the way. We will be forever indebted.

Top, HCA RN J.D. Dzurovcik and CaSera Heining at the Friends and Fashion fundraiser. Right, CaSera Carissa, Lorenzo, Cassondra, and with one of their favorite “angels,” CNA Bernice Besse.



Healing Power of Music

The power of music is undeniable. Studies suggest that it can actually be used to ease pain and help heal patients from Parkinson's disease and strokes. Music has a neurological effect that stimulates several parts of the body, making it a powerful tool for improving a patient's quality of life.

In 2018, Hospice of the Calumet Area received a bequest from Ralph Kilmer Spencer, who believed strongly in the organization's mission. Ralph loved music and shared his joy of music with many people serving as a piano, organ, and voice instructor at both the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and at his studio in Griffith. HCA's CEO Adrienne May thought it was fitting to allocate a portion of his gift to establish the Ralph Kilmer Spencer Music Therapy Program.

The therapeutic effects of music are incredible, especially for patients like Penny Dow. There wasn't a day when former HCA admissions coordinator Penny didn't talk about music. It was her life.

When diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's 10 years ago, her HCA family was devastated as she transitioned from a dedicated employee to a hospice patient.

When the HCA's Music Therapy Program was established, it was only fitting that Penny be the first patient enrolled in music therapy.

"My mother is a beautiful soul that filled our house and childhood memories with music," said daughter Andrea Lambert. "I know she is proud that [HCA] is offering this program because music really does affect the soul."

All of HCA's music therapists have a master's degree and are certified. They complete a comprehensive assessment for each patient and design a plan to meet the patient's needs.



On a recent visit, Penny played bells for nearly 25 minutes alongside therapist Airen Harris as she sang and strummed through the likes of Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and others.

"She's never played this long," said Harris. "This is moving. She's becoming more engaged each visit."

Last June, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and Rascals founder Felix Cavaliere and The Spaniels Forever performed a benefit concert to help raise additional funds for the kickoff of the music therapy initiative. Cavaliere called the initiative "innovative."

The concert was sponsored by The Times of Northwest Indiana, Largus Graphix Solutions, Steri-Clean, Meyer's Companies, NITCO, Louie & Martha Gonzalez, Luke Oil, Don Quijote Restaurant, Amy Halloran and Scott Doranski and Crown Brewing.

My mother was a beautiful soul that filled our house and childhood memories with music.

Top, Ralph Kilmer Spencer's portrait. Rascals founder Felix Cavaliere performs during the Hospice of the Calumet Area benefit concert. Right, Penny Dow plays the bells with music therapist Airen Harris.



Cherish Life
WITH US!



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