

Hospice
of the
Calumet
Area

Cherishing Life
OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER



ANNUAL
REPORT
20
24



Welcome

Cherishing Life: Our Journey Together is more than a theme. It's the heart of who we are. This past year reminded us that it takes a community of compassionate hearts and dedicated hands to bring comfort, dignity and peace to those navigating life's most sacred journey.

Thanks to our donors, partners and volunteers, we've continued to grow and deepen our impact. Every patient cared for, every hand held, every comforting word—it's all possible because of you. Together, we've empowered families, supported caregivers and uplifted patients with love and dignity. Your belief in our mission has helped light the way, even in the darkest times. As you read this report, we hope you see your reflection in every story and every life touched.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The Hospice of the Calumet Area Family



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A Message from our CEO and Board President

Hospice of the Calumet Area (HCA) is proud to be recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as the only 5-Star, nonprofit hospice in our community. A 5-star rating indicates a high level of patient and family caregiver satisfaction and reflects HCA's commitment to our Cherishing Life philosophy of care.

Our mission is rooted in the belief that every life has meaning and every moment holds value. This philosophy guides every aspect of our work, from care of pre-hospice Transitions clients to hospice patients and their families to bereavement care for HCA families and community members in need of grief support. We care for individuals of all ages and illnesses, not just those with cancer. Patients ranged from 28 to 106 years old during 2024, with over half having diverse illnesses such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, heart disease or breathing disorders.

Despite increased awareness of hospice, many still have not heard the word or mistakenly associate it with giving up or being only for the last few days of life. In reality, hospice is designed to support patients and their families throughout the last six months of life, providing physical, emotional and spiritual care. These misunderstandings come at a cost - denying patients and their families the full scope of comfort, dignity and peace they deserve in this sacred chapter of life.

Our interdisciplinary team focuses on the unique goal that each patient and family have for their hospice care, and we work aggressively to help them attain their goals. In addition to the use of traditional medications to bring comfort, we also use alternate therapies, such as pet therapy and music therapy to

ease pain, reduce anxiety and facilitate family sharing and connections. Care at our inpatient hospice house, the William J. Riley Memorial Residence, is another benefit for those in our care who can no longer be safely cared for in their own home. During 2024, 217 people called the William J. Riley Memorial Residence home for all or a portion of their care.

Transitions is our support program that provides valuable education about care options and links to community resources for those not hospice ready or eligible. HCA has been providing this program free of charge in our community since 2001. Education is central to the care of clients in this program.

Education is an essential piece in our vision of bringing care, compassion and comfort for all facing a life-limiting illness, regardless of ability to pay. Through radio shows, community outreach and partnerships and collaboration with healthcare providers, we are making that vision a reality. This commitment also is reflected in the \$3.6 million in charity, discounted and uncompensated care we provided in 2024.

Many in our community still don't know where to turn in their time of need. With your continued support, we can bring comfort, care, and compassion to more families facing life-limiting illness. Thank you for helping us Cherish Life.



ADRIANNE MAY | CEO

Adrienne



GENE DIAMOND | BOARD PRESIDENT

Gene

IMPACT IN 2024
Our Journey Together

542

Hospice
Patients/Families
Cared For

\$3.6 million

Charity, Discounted,
Uncompensated Care

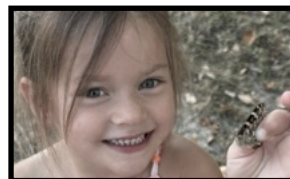
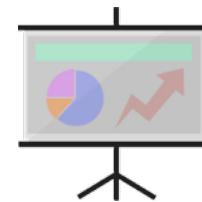
217

Patients cared for
at William J. Riley
Memorial
Residence

311



Transitions Clients Assisted

93%
Excellence
Care Rating
(by caregivers)
Natl. Avg-86%99%
Would
Recommend Us
(by caregivers)
Natl. Avg-96%103
Veterans
Cared For373
Active
Volunteers3,612
Followers4.1K
WJOB/WIMS
Monthly
Listeners/
Viewers5,557
TV Spots/
3 Zones41
Educational
Community
InitiativesHIGHLAND/GRIFFITH
CHAMBERMUNSTER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCESchererville Chamber
of CommerceDuneland
Chamber

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



Volunteers: Cherishing Life Through Service

At HCA, compassion isn't just part of our care—it's at the very core. In 2024, that compassion came to life through 373 volunteers who gave more than 18,883 hours of their time. Their service provided not just an estimated \$633,416 in savings, but dignity and comfort.

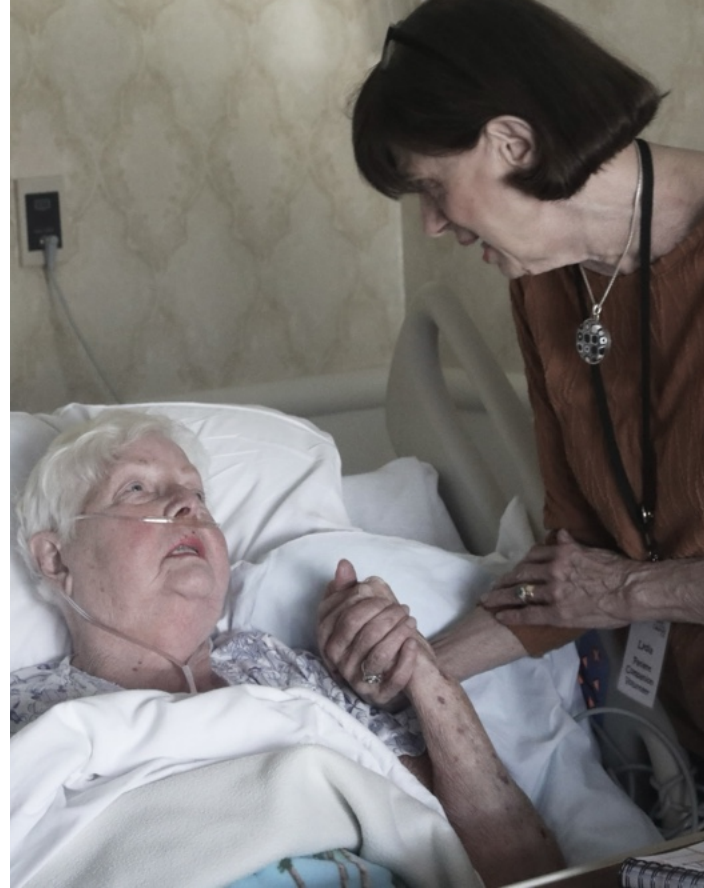
Our volunteers pack supplies for patients they'll never meet, offer silent strength at memorial services, sit at bedsides with calming voices and lend their creativity to raise vital funds.

In 2024, we celebrated Lydia Dershewitz, whose 25 years of service at our William J. Riley Memorial Residence have made her a constant, steady light for patients and families. Lydia's compassion is quiet but powerful—whether she's holding the hand of a patient or guiding a grieving family with gentle reassurance. As Project Director of the Hospice Artisans, Lydia has a remarkable gift for uniting people through creativity. The one-of-a-kind pieces they create, which include jewelry, cards, woodwork and art, carry stories of hope and healing. In 2024, their efforts raised over \$58,000 to support our mission.

HCA also honored Mike Buchanan, a Vietnam veteran who has spent the past two decades assembling admission packets every Friday—preparing the first resource that families receive. Also, with his loyal Caring Canine therapy dog, Chloe, Mike and his wife, Becky, bring joy and comfort, to hospital rooms and hospice bedsides.

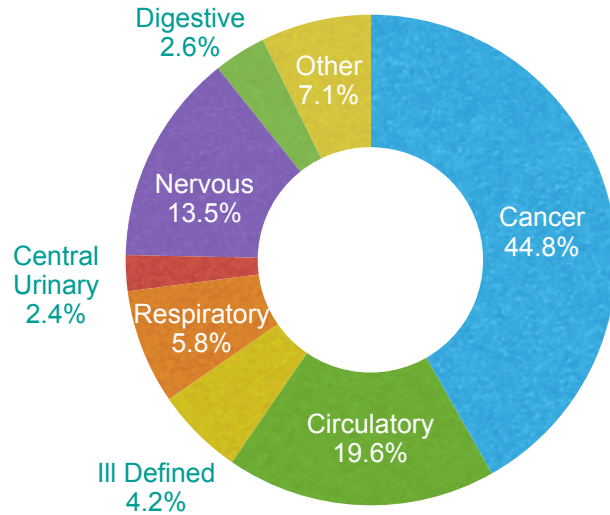
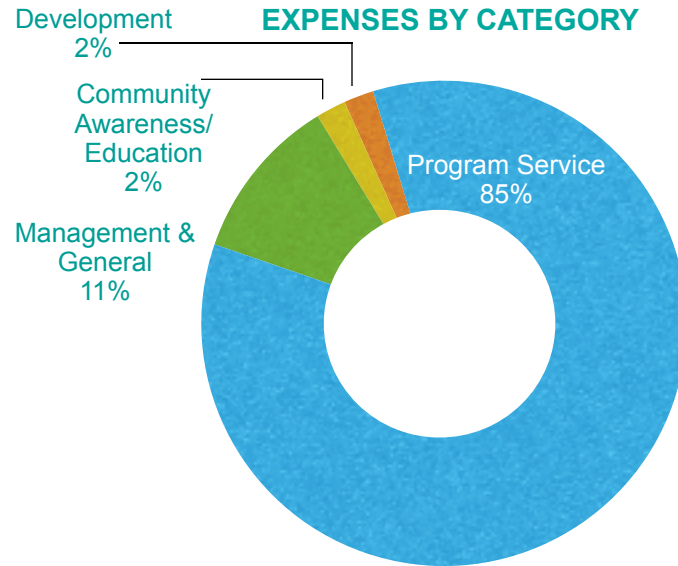
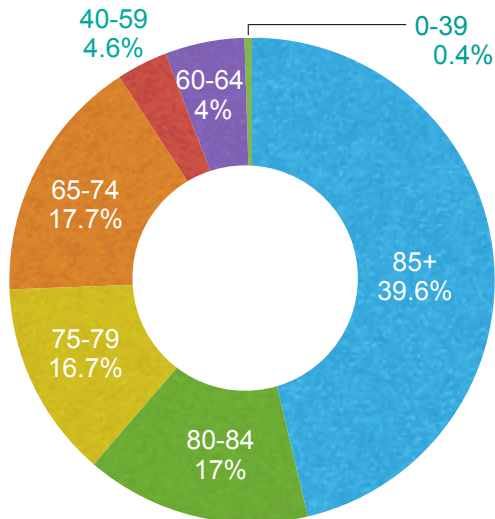
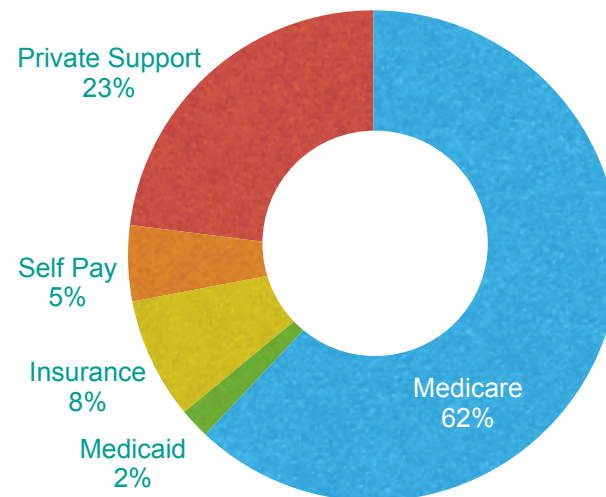
Last November, when HCA Marketing Director Damian Rico's 8-year-old daughter, Monica, still grieving the loss of her grandfather, struggled during her school's Veterans Day ceremony, Mike quietly stepped in. Mike stood proudly in her grandfather's place—giving her someone to salute, someone to hug, someone to honor. And when Monica's brother, Anthony, played Taps on his trumpet, Mike stood tall with tears in his eyes, not just as a veteran, but as an adopted grandfather, helping grieving children find peace and comfort.

"Lydia and Mike are more than volunteers," Damian said. "They are the embodiment of what it means to Cherish Life. Their compassion inspires and guides us."



A CLOSER LOOK

Key Figures

PATIENTS BY DIAGNOSIS**EXPENSES BY CATEGORY****PATIENTS BY AGE****REVENUE BY CATEGORY**

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

Board of Directors

RUTHELLYN BOBAK ✚

LINDA DELUNAS, PhD
Professor of Nursing Emerita
IU Northwest

GENE DIAMOND
Board President

JANICE S. DOBRINICH

LINDA G. EISENHAUER ✚

DONALD P. FESKO
Community Foundation of NWI

R. MITCHELL GAFFIGAN
Purdue Federal Credit Union

R. LOUIE GONZALEZ
Retired Chancellor
Ivy Tech Community College Lake Co.

REBECCA A. GROVE
Franciscan Alliance

WILLIAM A. HASSE III
Hasse Construction

PATRICIA A. LAZZARO

JOANNE C. MARKIEWICZ

JEFFREY M. MONBERG
Quarles, LLP

ROCHARDA MOORE MORRIS
Innovative Solutions

LYLE R. MUNN, MD
Hospice of the Calumet Area

RALPH D. NEFF
Mechanical Concepts, Inc.

DAVID B. NELLANS

KAY NELSON
Northwest Indiana Forum

LINDA D. RANDOLPH
Innovative Solutions

RICHARD G. REFFKIN, DDS

PEYMON TORABI
JCBank

COURTNEY MARKOVICH
Friends of Hospice, ex-officio
Federal Reserve Bank

ADRIANNE MAY, CEO
Hospice of the Calumet Area

EMERITUS MEMBERS

PATRICIA A. KISH ✚

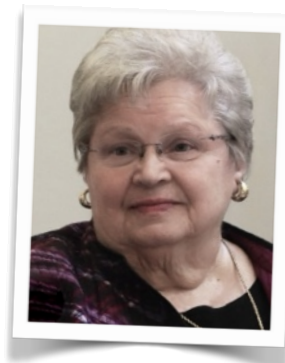
MSGR. JOSEPH SEMANCIK

IN MEMORIAM — WOMEN OF HCA



Remembering Ruthellyn Bobak, The Hugger

For 35 years, Ruthellyn Bobak served HCA with devotion, quiet strength, and a heart full of compassion. Known lovingly as The Hugger, Ruth's embrace became her signature. It was a warm gesture rooted in admiration and love that left a lasting impression on everyone she met.



Though small in stature, Ruth's presence was mighty. She faithfully served on our Board of Directors since 1989, including terms as board president, vice president, secretary, and chairwoman of the Quality Management Committee for over two decades. She was a fierce advocate for quality hospice care and never missed an opportunity to educate others or ask how we could do better.

Her hugs weren't just kindness; they were her way of honoring life, lifting spirits and reminding us that we matter. In every role, in every room, Ruth exemplified what it means to Cherish Life.



Remembering Linda Eisenhower, The Humanitarian

Linda Einsenhauer was a true embodiment of kindness, grace and heartfelt service. For 32 years, she gave her time and talents to the Board of HCA, serving faithfully as secretary and a vital voice on the Development and Marketing Committee.

A passionate champion for the arts, education, and healthcare, Linda helped shape the region's cultural landscape as a founding member of the Regional Arts Council and supporter of the Northwest Indiana and Chicago Symphony orchestras, Tri Kappa, and the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

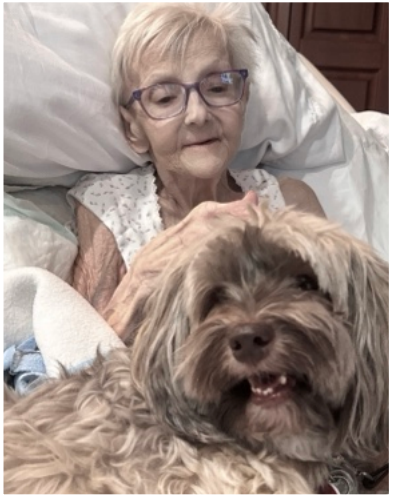
A lifelong learner and devoted teacher, she gently nurtured everyone around her, quietly embracing the philosophy of her favorite poem, *Be the Best* by Douglas Malloch. Linda's legacy lives on in every life she touched—with compassion, leadership, and love.

Remembering Patricia Kish, The Healer

For over three decades, Patricia Kish served Hospice of the Calumet Area with heart, wisdom and compassion. As vice president and co-owner of Burns-Kish Funeral Homes and a dedicated HCA board member since 1989, Pat held numerous leadership roles and left a monumental mark on our mission.



She was the visionary behind The Wounded Healers, a grief support program that continues to bring comfort and healing to those mourning the loss of a loved one. Her legacy is one of empathy, advocacy and unwavering dedication to those in need of care and connection. Pat's presence was a guiding light for our organization, and her impact will be felt for generations to come.



A Tradition of Light and Love: Volunteers Bring Holiday Magic to William J. Riley Memorial Residence

For more than two decades, Thanksgiving has marked the beginning of a cherished holiday tradition at the William J. Riley Memorial Residence. It's a tradition filled with warmth, generosity and the spirit of community; a reflection of what the season is all about.

The celebration begins with Laura Arcella, a beloved HCA certified nursing assistant, who organizes a special holiday meal for patients and their families. Then, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, a dedicated team of volunteers arrives to transform the residence into a winter wonderland, spreading holiday cheer throughout the halls.

"This is definitely one of my favorite ways to start the holidays," said Arcella. "Every year, we worry about having enough resources, but the generosity of our partners and volunteers is always so inspiring. We've been doing this for over 20 years, and it's a beautiful reminder of what the season is about."

At the heart of this annual transformation is a trio of former Purdue engineering students—Chad Hunter, Scott Schaller and Oscar Munoz—who have led the decorating efforts for 25 years. What began as an act of kindness blossomed into a commitment that brings joy and peace to families facing life's most tender moments.

"To be quite honest, this began as a one-time way of giving back between friends," said Hunter. "But we were so humbled by the mission of Hospice of the Calumet Area and the dedication of its staff and volunteers that we knew we had to keep coming back."



Over the years, the team of volunteers has grown to include students, parents and community members from local institutions such as St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Bishop Noll Institute and even the Indiana University Northwest soccer team. Together, they carefully decorate Christmas trees, adorn the meeting and dining areas and install wreaths and lights both inside and out, bringing magic to every room.

"The power of kindness is mind-blowing," said Damian Rico, director of Marketing and Community Relations. "When I started here seven years ago, our 7-year-old Schererville baseball players and families sang Christmas carols to patients, and it was nothing short of life-changing."

These annual traditions not only bring joy to hospice patients and their families, but they strengthen the deep bond between HCA and the community it serves.

With each twinkling light and carefully placed ornament, these volunteers help create hope in an atmosphere of comfort and beauty, allowing families to make meaningful memories even in the midst of grief.



Phanie G.
Patient
Counselor
Volunteer

Nancy W.
Patient
Counselor
Volunteer

Happy
TURKEY DAY

Celebrating Four Decades of Dedication: Friends of Hospice Raise Over \$1.5 million in Support of Compassionate Care

The Friends of Hospice have been the heart behind some of the most beloved fundraising efforts supporting Hospice of the Calumet Area. Formed 40 years ago, this volunteer auxiliary was established to help financially sustain HCA's mission of providing expert, compassionate end-of-life care to all—regardless of their ability to pay.

"What began as a small group of individuals volunteering their time and talent now has more than 250 Friends," said Courtney Markovich, president of Friends of Hospice. "We remain fully committed to supporting the mission of Hospice of the Calumet Area to serve patients and families."

Over the years, the Friends of Hospice has raised \$1.5 million through a wide array of creative and heartfelt events, including luncheons, the cherished Art and Garden Party, Butterflies in the Park, Cherishing Life Raffle, and many more. These events also raise awareness, helping to connect more families to the care and support they need during life's most precious time.

Their enduring efforts and generosity continue to inspire and uplift the HCA team and the community, serving as a heartfelt reminder of the power of cherishing life.

"We are deeply grateful for the support and spirit of the Friends," said Adrienne May, HCA CEO. "They are not just supporters of our mission—they are part of our HCA family, and their impact can be felt in every life we touch."



As we reflect on 40 years of meaningful service, we celebrate the Friends for their extraordinary compassion, dedication, and partnership. Their legacy is written in every life they've helped us cherish.

Beyond remarkable fundraising success, the Friends also serve as passionate ambassadors for the mission of Hospice of the Calumet Area. Whether through community outreach, securing sponsorships or simply sharing stories of hope and healing, the Friends play a vital role in educating others about hospice care and reducing the stigma surrounding end-of-life support. Their commitment goes far beyond event planning—they offer their time, energy and hearts to ensure that no patient or

family ever feels alone.

Looking ahead, the Friends remain focused on innovation and growth, exploring new ways to engage the next generation of volunteers. With a strong foundation of leadership and a growing network of compassionate individuals, the group is poised to build on its 40-year legacy. Their dedication continues to ensure that HCA can expand its reach and continue Cherishing Life.



A Heartfelt Goodbye: First Presbyterian Church Leaves a Legacy of Love

When longtime pastor Rev. Linda Skaggs learned that Hammond's First Presbyterian Church would be closing its doors after decades of ministry, her heart sank. The church had been a beacon of faith, service and community for generations.

But that heartbreak quickly transformed into hope and pride when she was asked to lead a bold and compassionate farewell effort: distributing over \$1.3 million to local nonprofits that reflect the church's mission and values.

"I was very proud of our board and leadership for wanting to go out with a bang," said Skaggs. "For 35 years, our very mission was to minister our faith into the heart of our community and impact as many as we could along the way. Our church may have been small, but our vision and commitment were always large."

Through this final act of giving, the church supported organizations like Hospice of the Calumet Area, the NWI Food Bank, St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen, Phil's Friends, Opportunity Enterprises, Haven House, Humane Indiana, Meals on Wheels, Northwest Cancer Centers Foundation and the Salvation Army, to name a few, ensuring that their spirit of service lives on in the lives of those in need.

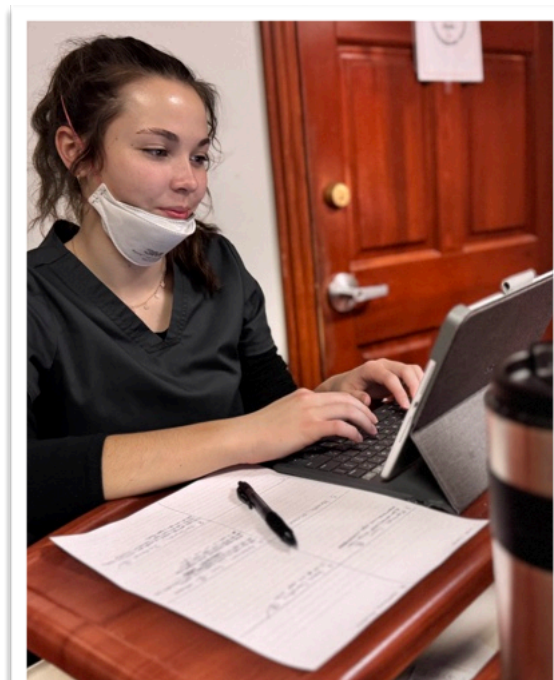
"It's bittersweet but I know we're ending just as we lived—by lifting others," Skaggs said.

Hospice of the Calumet Area CEO Adrienne May recalls the moment she received a call from Pastor

Skaggs—a moment she describes as nothing short of divine timing. "We were facing some urgent technology and infrastructure challenges," said May. "That call from Linda came at exactly the right time. Her message wasn't just about generosity—it was about trust, impact and hope."

Thanks to the gift from First Presbyterian Church, HCA was able to invest in much-needed upgrades, including iPads, a commercial shredder and dining chairs for each of their eight suites, supporting the care and connection patients and families rely on each day.

"It's more than a donation," said May. "It was a lifeline—one that will continue to empower our mission."



Though First Presbyterian Church may have closed its physical doors, its spirit lives on in every patient comforted, every caregiver supported and every moment of dignity preserved through this generous gift. Its legacy is now woven into the fabric of our compassionate care, proving that even in parting, a community of faith continues to be a light for others.



Partners in Compassion: Serving with a Purpose, Sustaining with Dignity and Love

At Hospice of the Calumet Area, we long have believed that every life holds immeasurable value and every journey toward its end should be honored with dignity, compassion and care. Since 1981, our mission has guided us through hospital rooms, family living rooms, and quiet bedside moments, providing expert medical care, emotional comfort and spiritual guidance during life's most tender and sacred transitions.

But with every visit from a nurse, every word of comfort from a social worker or spiritual counselor, every moment of peace, we are never alone.

HCA is embraced by a community whose heartbeat echoes our own. Our sponsors, donors and partners believe deeply in our mission. They are not simply supporters, but co-authors in every story of comfort, dignity, and peace.

"Hospice care goes far beyond medicine. It's about the presence of comfort," said Sarah Ricciardi, Peoples Bank senior vice president, director of Marketing. "Hospice of the Calumet Area provides dignity. While their incredible team delivers this care directly to patients and families, it is an honor to support their work of compassion."



Whether it's Calumet Electric, Powers Health, Peoples Bank, The Times of Northwest Indiana, Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana, Strack & Van Til, or any of our faithful supporters—they are the lifeblood of our mission. They help us Cherish Life, not just in words, but in tangible, life-giving ways.

Their support allows HCA to say "yes" to every family in need, regardless of their ability to pay. It allows us to host grief support groups for children, teens and adults, honor veterans through touching ceremonies and offer compassionate end-of-life education.

It allows us to provide what insurance often doesn't, like memory-making experiences, music therapy, and round-the-clock inpatient care at our William J. Riley Memorial Residence. These are not extras, they are essentials for healing hearts and honoring lives.

To support Hospice of the Calumet Area is to take part in a sacred journey. It is to say that every person deserves to be comforted, remembered and celebrated—especially when time is limited. Because of partnerships, no one walks this path alone—not the patient, not the caregiver, not the family. Together, we create something enduring. Together, we Cherish Life.

Strack & Van Til

food market

Strack & Van Til
food market

DATE

5-7-24

PAY TO
THE ORDER OF

Hospice of the Calumet Area \$ 17,102

Seventeen thousand one hundred two

DOLLARS

MEMO

Round Up

SIGNATURE

Strack & Van Til Generous Customers



Hospice
of the
Calumet
Area



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Porter County Office, 1190 N. State Road 49, Porter, IN 46304
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