Why We Need Your Ongoing Support

- Major research studies have consistently shown that patients who receive hospice care for at least 30 days live longer, utilize fewer health care dollars, and have a better quality of life while in care.

- The benefits of receiving hospice care are maximized when a patient receives care for at least 90 days. Today, patients are seeking hospice care much later in their illness. Over half of our patients are in care for less than 3 weeks.

Hospice by the Bay is reimbursed under the Hospice Medicare Benefit a flat per patient, per day rate regardless of the amount of care required. More care is needed at the beginning and also at the end of the patient’s stay. Often Medicare reimbursement does not cover the total cost of care during short stays of a few weeks. We rely on community support to help us fill this gap.

- The number of uninsured and underinsured patients increased by 43% this year as we spent $270,750 in charitable care to ensure that these individuals could access the hospice services they needed.

- The number of children with life threatening illness served through our By the Bay Kids program increased by 60% this past year.

Helpful Resources - we can send you free of charge.

Call (415) 526.5500 or email development@hospicebythebay.org

Just in Case brochure – a quick form to list your key information about medical care, finances and more.

Grief Counseling brochure – an overview of individual, group and youth services

Is It Time for Hospice? – by Dr. Margaret Boume, Hospice by the Bay Chief Medical Director. Available at www.hospicebythebay.org or in print.

LivingBeforeLeaving.org website – a collection of tools to make conversations about your end-of-life wishes easier to have with your loved ones.
The Benefits of Choosing Hospice Earlier

Hospice care is designed to be most effective when patients are on service for 3 to 6 months. The thing we hear most from family members is: I wish I would have called Hospice by the Bay sooner. The following two scenarios demonstrate why choosing hospice care earlier can make a world of difference for both the patient and their loved ones.

Matt's Story

M y father had heard about hospice from his doctor and his sister, but he kept telling us he didn’t need a bunch of people coming over to the house fussing over him. But one Friday evening, he was in so much pain I called Hospice by the Bay in a panic. When the nurse came out, her primary focus was to get his pain under control.

We had 2 nursing visits that weekend along with a social worker. They were making every effort to listen to what my dad wanted and at the same time address his symptoms. My father and I had not talked about his end-of-life wishes, so I had no idea if he had things in order or not. I phoned my sister back east but she didn’t know anything either.

I was relieved that my father’s pain was being controlled. He was resting much more comfortably now. I felt better when the nurse said she would come first thing Monday morning and schedule a home health aide visit for my dad.

But when Monday morning came, the nurse told me he was near the end and loved ones should come now if they wanted to see him.

I was scrambling making phone calls to close friends nearby while my aunt helped family members make flight arrangements.

In all the chaos, the nurse gently calmed me so I could recognize if my father’s pain was increasing.

I was there when he died but all I remember was the look on my sister’s face when I had to tell her later that she didn’t make it in time.

Afterwards I was so grateful for the grief counselor who helped me sort through the overwhelming feelings from those 3 intense days.

Jenny’s Story

M y mother was living on her own and her breathing problems were getting worse when her doctor said hospice care could be helpful. We called that afternoon.

A nurse came out, talked with mom and developed a plan to address her symptoms. That week mom was visited by a social worker and a home health aide. My brother visited from out of state and the nurse spent time answering our questions about my mom’s medications.

With her breathing improved, she felt better and, after several visits by the social worker, she confided in him that she wasn’t sure if her trust was how she wanted it. He helped her obtain a referral for legal assistance.

When my mom became weaker, I didn’t know how I was going to fit errands into my work schedule. But a Hospice by the Bay volunteer offered to shop for groceries and fix her lunch.

Another volunteer came weekly to read to her, which really lifted her spirits.

I was so concerned when my very private mother became bed bound and needed help with personal care. But she had developed such a great relationship with her home health aide that she even let her help with bathing. Hearing them laugh together was comforting.

At the very end mom stopped eating and it was clear that her time was close. The nurse said that if family needed to fly in to say goodbye, now was the time. Her only grandson held her hand and she smiled. We were relieved when hospice honored our mother’s wish to have a chaplain visit. She seemed calmer after their time together.

On that last day, we were able to just focus on being with her since all the final arrangements were in place, just as she wanted them.

You can call Hospice by the Bay anytime for your own peace of mind.

We appreciate your curiosity and know it is better to educate yourself about hospice care before you really need it. We are happy to answer your questions.