

A HOSPICE STORY

Meet Beatrice

The Best Choice for Beatrice

Beatrice was first diagnosed with breast cancer ten years ago. She underwent extensive treatments and fought against two recurrences in the years that followed. Beatrice was all too familiar with the symptoms and side effects of her disease and corresponding treatments. But when she faced a diagnosis of terminal breast cancer that had metastasized to her lungs, her quality of life started to change.

Beatrice suffered from shortness of breath, intense fatigue, and had difficulty eating and sleeping. Her treatments were no longer effective and only drained Beatrice of energy.

After her daughter noticed she was spending nearly half of her day in bed, was rapidly losing weight, and lived in constant pain, she approached Beatrice's doctor to consider recommending hospice to her family.

"Choosing hospice was in many ways both simple and complex," her daughter says. "Mom knew she needed a different type of care, but the rest of us had a hard time accepting this new phase." Her doctor explained that hospice wasn't giving up hope – it was about redefining hope with her best interests in mind. "After she transitioned to hospice, Mom immediately felt more relaxed and at ease. We were fortunate enough to spend more quality time with her in the comfort of her own home."

Helping Beatrice best manage her pain opened up space to focus on what was most important: the people she loved. She reminisced with a sister she hadn't seen in years, mended fences with an old friend, and – with the help of hospice's spiritual care counselors – she developed a sense of serenity and acceptance about death and dying.

"Without the incredible efforts to successfully manage Mom's pain, I don't think she could have fully experienced a complete sense of peace and closure before she passed away."

Have you seen a "Beatrice" today?
We Can Help.

*** According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, almost 40% of those entering hospice care in the United States are facing advanced stages of cancer.

Hospice patients
with **CANCER**
have specific
supportive
care needs.



Home Health &
Hospice of KANSAS

HOME HEALTH * HOSPICE * CARE PLUS PALLIATIVE

How Do You Know WHEN It's Time?

An evaluation is recommended when a patient exhibits all of the following signs:

- Widespread, aggressive, or progressive malignancy with increasing symptoms
- Worsening lab values and/or evidence of metastatic disease
- Palliative Performance $\leq 70\%$
- Refusal of life-prolonging therapy or little to no improvement with definitive therapy

Additional Symptoms to Substantiate Hospice Care:

- Hypercalcemia > 12
- Cachexia and/or weight loss of $> 5\%$ within three months
- Progression of disease resulting in pleural effusion, malignant ascites, persistent nausea, and need for blood transfusions.

Embracing the Benefits of Hospice Care for Families impacted by Cancer

Choosing hospice care is a meaningful way to ensure your loved one receives exceptional support and comfort. Our focus is on enhancing the quality of life for both patients and families.

Key Benefits of Hospice Care:

- **Comprehensive Symptom Relief:** Alleviate pain, nausea, and side effects for greater comfort.
- **Personalized Treatment:** Tailored care for dementia and related health conditions.
- **Family Empowerment:** Educating families on what to expect and how to support their loved one effectively.
- **Nutritional Support:** Meeting dietary needs to promote overall health and well-being.
- **Emotional Support:** Access to mental health counseling for both the patient and family members.
- **Holistic Services:** Medical social work, optional spiritual counseling, and bereavement support.

When to Consider Hospice:

If your loved one shows signs of a progressive illness, worsening health, or significant weight loss, it's time to explore the compassionate options our hospice provides.

Discover How We Can Help You!

Choosing hospice is a loving decision that prioritizes comfort and dignity. Contact us today to learn how we can support your family through this journey. Remember, you're not alone—we're here to help. Phone: 316.869.0015



Home Health & Hospice of Kansas - Home Health, Hospice, Palliative Care & Home Plus

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