



HOUSTON HOSPICE

Life Matters

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 2

Houston Hospice Gave My Family Comfort

Houston Hospice had the honor of providing end-of-life care for David in 2019. Every year since then, his wife and two daughters have contributed to Houston Hospice's Charity Care Fund as a way to honor David and also show their gratitude for helping their family when they needed it the most.

When David's family learned that he was dying and needed hospice care, they had the added stressor of figuring out how to pay for his care. During his brave battle with cancer, David had to stop working and upon leaving work, he no longer had access to insurance benefits.

"We were treated with so much compassion, kindness, and professionalism," remembered David's daughter, Yen.

"Houston Hospice gave my family comfort knowing my dad would peacefully transition to the end of life," said David's daughter, Ly.

Thankfully, we were able to cover the costs of David's care through the Charity Care program and help his family navigate one of the most stressful times in life. When David was admitted to the inpatient unit at The Texas Medical Center, a tremendous weight was lifted off the family's shoulders.

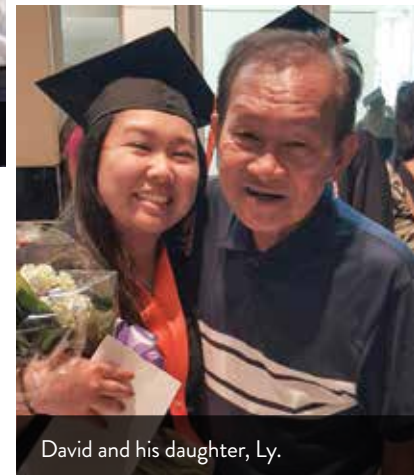
"We were treated with so much compassion, kindness, and professionalism," remembered David's daughter, Yen.

Our holistic, end-of-life care was tailored to meet David and his family's physical, emotional and spiritual needs to diffuse some of the fears, stressors and anxieties associated with advanced illnesses.

"Houston Hospice gave my family comfort knowing my dad would peacefully transition to the end of life," said David's daughter, Ly. "Not only did the team provide care for my dad, but they also made sure our family's needs were addressed as well. Their patience and compassion provided so much guidance during a very overwhelming time."



David and his daughter, Yen.



David and his daughter, Ly.

Since then, the family proudly memorialize their father and husband by making annual donations, and at the same time ensuring these services are there for others in their time of need, regardless of their ability to pay.

Houston Hospice receives no federal or state funds to cover costs for treating uninsured or underinsured patients like David who suddenly find themselves at the end of life without resources for expert end-of-life care. The program is 100-percent philanthropically funded.

Donations like yours go beyond just helping Houston Hospice patients. These funds serve the entire family by providing the guidance and support they need to continue making precious memories together.

Houston Hospice's 25th Annual Spirit Award Dinner Honors Sue White



Sue White is a beloved mother, grandmother, friend, supporter and inspiration to many in the Houston community. Deservedly so, Sue will be recognized this fall with the Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award for her selfless commitment to Houston Hospice and other worthy organizations.

As the daughter of a career Army officer, Sue's family moved often while she was growing up. Her family always

embraced and became an active part of the community through church, school, and volunteerism. From her mother's example, Sue now graciously gives her time, energy, and support to causes across the Houston area.

Sue returned to her family's roots in Texas and has been in Houston since graduating from The University of Texas at Austin. Once her two sons were in school, Sue began a fulfilling twenty-one-year career as an early childhood teacher at The House at Pooh Corner.

Sue is a member of The Garden Club of Houston where she served as president and received The Garden Club of America's Medal of Merit. She became involved with Houston Hospice when she joined the board of directors in 2014 by way of her membership with The Garden Club of Houston. Her role was to strengthen the growing relationship between the two organizations. For many years, The Garden Club of Houston has preserved, restored and maintained the historic gardens of our inpatient facility in the heart of the Texas Medical Center.

When Sue's father died in his home, she experienced hospice care for the first time. "Like many of you, my family witnessed hospice care in a most intimate way," said Sue. "We were so thankful."

Sue's work with The Garden Club of Houston also led to her involvement with the National Parks Conservation Association where she serves as a regional council member.

Actively involved in First Presbyterian Church, Sue has touched the lives of many. Sue and her late husband, Buz, mentored a young couples and family class for many years, a ministry that greatly enriched their lives. She was ordained an elder, has chaired multiple ministries and committees and has been a circle leader in the women's ministry for over 20 years. Sue is a current board member of Holly Hall Retirement Community and a member of the Junior League of Houston.

We are so excited to honor Sue at the 25th Annual Spirit Award Dinner on October 18.

Compassionately Serving Those Who Served Our Country

With the rising population of veterans needing end-of-life care, Houston Hospice recognizes the specialized needs of these brave men and women who have served our country. Since January, Houston Hospice has cared for over 150 veteran patients and their families.

Pinning ceremonies for veteran patients, staff and volunteers are a small way Houston Hospice can show our gratitude for the bravery and sacrifice of the true heroes who walk amongst us every day.

Since 2021, Houston Hospice is the only We Honor Veterans Level 5 Partner, the highest level possible, in its 13-county Southeast Texas service area. Because of your support, Houston Hospice continues to go the extra mile to provide for the unique needs of veteran patients and it is our honor to serve those who served our country.



(pictured left to right) U.S. Navy Veteran and Houston Hospice volunteer, LaNissa Byrd, presented Air Force Veteran and fellow Houston Hospice volunteer, Kelly Howard, with a pin and certificate for his service alongside Monica James, Houston Hospice community engagement coordinator.

Houston Astros Outfielder Highlights Hospice Heroes

We know everyone at Houston Hospice has a hospice heart and now, thanks to our partnership with the Kyle Tucker Foundation, everyone in Astros nation and beyond knows it too!

The Hospice Hero program was born when Houston Astros outfielder, Kyle Tucker, and his foundation chose to celebrate hospice staff who selflessly care for patients and families. During the 2023 MLB season, Houston Hospice staff enjoyed weekly highlights of their accomplishments and dedication to end-of-life care.

In 2021, Kyle Tucker and his family experienced the power of hospice care when his grandfather, who never missed watching a baseball game Kyle played in, received compassionate end-of-life care. Following this experience, Kyle recognized the need for this type of care for other families going through similar situations. His foundation brings awareness to nonprofit hospice organizations and supports the needs and education of the hospice community.

We are so grateful to Kyle Tucker, his family and his foundation for shining a light on the importance of hospice care and sharing what a difference it can make for patients and their loved ones.



Wishes Really DO Come True at Houston Hospice

This summer was no different! Our inpatient unit had the good fortune to make a lasting memory for a patient and her family by throwing a birthday party.

A young, single mother with school-aged children was admitted for around the clock care in Houston Hospice's inpatient unit. As the nurses and social workers created a care plan, the patient became tearful when discussing her youngest son's upcoming birthday and worried it might be forgotten. She wanted to make sure he received the remote-controlled car on his wish list.

The Houston Hospice clinical team opted to "go big" for the patient and family so they could share one final birthday together. After a walk in the garden, the family was surprised with balloons, party hats, cupcakes, presents and singing. Through the Wishes Fund, we were able to give the proud 7-year-old boy his birthday present, as well as a final celebration with his mom and brothers.

The Wishes Fund is supported entirely by community philanthropy and allows our teams to help patients and families create memories they can hold dear beyond their time in our care. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Houston Hospice can make these powerful moments a reality.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Newsletter is published by Houston Hospice, a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive end-of-life services and education to Greater Houston and surrounding communities.



Join Houston Hospice on
NOVEMBER 29TH
for an evening of
remembrance
as we illuminate
**Houston Hospice's
Historic Garden**
with over
**100,000 beautiful,
shining lights!**

Ways to Support Houston Hospice

The holidays and New Year are a good time for giving gifts to those you care about and to support charitable causes that have touched your life. Here are some ways you can give & help hospice patients and families:

A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older — Make a gift through your IRA You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to Houston Hospice with no impact on your current cash flow. Just contact your IRA administrator.

Name Houston Hospice as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. You may direct a specific dollar amount or percentage of your account, which can be accomplished outside of your estate plan. Simply contact the administrator of your retirement account for a change-of-beneficiary form.

Review and update your Will if you bought or sold a home or business, married or divorced, or lost or welcomed a new member to your family. Remember that a bequest in your will enables you to leave a lasting legacy, with a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime.

To learn more about year-end giving and inclusion in The Azalea Legacy Society, please contact **Aida Matic, CFRE**, at **(713) 677-7123** or **amatic@houstonhospice.org**.



Join The Garden Club of Houston for the 81st Bulb & Plant Mart on October 12-14 at The Church of St. John the Divine. To learn more, visit www.gchouston.org

Proceeds support beautification, education, horticulture, and conservation projects in the greater Houston area, including the historic gardens at Houston Hospice.

Thank you to The Garden Club of Houston for its dedicated support of Houston Hospice and its legacy of philanthropy in our community.

