

# Lower Columbia Hospice

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

"In the absence of a cure, care makes all the difference."

Most People know what kind of health care they want at the end of life, but few know that it is called hospice. The vast majority of Americans say they want to die at home in comfort and dignity, but many are unaware that this is the kind of death hospice can facilitate. Despite its many advantages, more than 25 years after its introduction in this country, hospice remains a mystery to most Americans. Hospice encourages referrals early on, so that the patient and family may benefit from the comprehensive services that we provide.

The gift of hospice is its capacity to help families see how much can be shared at the end of life through personal connections. Many families look back on their hospice experience with gratitude, as a time of unique connection and sharing. Hospice is designed to help families make the most of this time together and to do everything possible to promote a peaceful dignified death.

Hospice programs offer dying people medical care that emphasizes comfort, but hospice care extends beyond strictly medical concerns. Using a team approach, hospice also provides emotional and spiritual support to address the needs of the whole family, the dying patient and the grieving relatives. Most hospice care is provided at home unless that is not possible. When home care is not feasible, hospice care is provided in nursing homes, foster homes and assisted living facilities.

Everyone facing terminal illness struggles to come to terms with death in his or her own way. For many families, few decisions are more difficult than determining whether and when to invite hospice in. Recognizing this, hospice welcomes inquiries from families who are unsure about their needs and preferences.



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**Hearts for Hospice:** This event, held in November & December, allows community members to purchase a beautiful handmade ornament in honor or memory of a loved one. Ornaments are displayed in Christmas trees at Columbia Memorial Hospital with the names of those being honored on them.

**Race to the Bar:** This fundraiser, held the Saturday after Labor Day each year, is a 5K/10K running/walking event that occurs on the beach at Fort Stevens. Participants run or walk from the Peter Iredale toward the South Jetty (ie Columbia River "Bar") and back as a way of remembering loved ones who have passed away.

## DONATIONS

Donations allow us to provide end of life care to all residents of Clatsop County despite their financial situation. Donations can be mailed to Lower Columbia Hospice at 2111 Exchange Street, Astoria, OR 97103

## VOLUNTEER

Hospice Volunteers are caring and compassionate people who give from their hearts to people in need. They offer support to patients and their families with visits providing presence and companionship, listening, shopping, housework and/or caregiver support. Volunteers also assist in the hospice office to provide in-direct patient support.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Lower Columbia Hospice

2111 Exchange Street  
Astoria, OR 97103

### Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide compassionate end of life care to those we serve.

### Vision/Goals:

Our Vision is to:

- Recognize that individuals and families are the true experts in their own care
- Support our staff so they can put our patients and families first
- Find creative solutions which add quality to life
- Strive for excellence beyond accepted standards
- Increase the community's awareness of hospice as part of the continuum of care.

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