

Hearts for Hospice

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Monthly Donors:

Making A Difference, One Month At A Time

The ancient Greeks believed that gems were born from the tears of gods. Gulfside Hospice GEMs are often born from tears of gratitude instead.

GEM, or Giving Every Month, supporters find comfort in keeping the memory of their loved ones alive by making a gift each and every month to support Gulfside Hospice. The amounts are often small but, over time, have helped hundreds of patients and their families find comfort. Perhaps the most inspiring Gulfside Hospice GEM is a woman who has made a \$10 gift every month for 19 years. Her devotion to the memory of her husband is touchingly profound.

By giving a little each month, donors make a huge impact in the lives of hospice patients and their families.

At Gulfside, every donation helps provide for the hospice care patients and their families need in one of the most difficult moments of their lives. Gulfside even provides care to hundreds of patients who have no private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid coverage.

Unlike for-profit hospices, Gulfside Hospice asks for donations from the community to make sure no patient is turned away because of an inability to pay. By giving a little each month, donors make a huge impact in the lives of hospice patients and their families. Gulfside Hospice GEMs have chosen from a variety of methods to make their monthly gifts. Some set up a monthly transfer from



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their bank accounts, others provide us with their credit card information or send a monthly check and one special donor sends donations from her retirement fund.

By making \$5, \$10, or \$25 gifts each month, GEMs don't have to stretch their budgets to bring comfort to those who need it most. These monthly donations make a world of difference to patients who otherwise could not afford the cost of medication and medical equipment to treat their chronic, life-limiting illnesses.

For more information on becoming a Gulfside Hospice GEM or to set up your monthly donation online, visit www.ghppc.org/make-a-gift or call Shay Lessman, Fundraising Communications Assistant, at 727-845-5707.



What Donors Really Give To Our Hospice Families

By Tom McQueen, Gulfside's Director of Spiritual Care and Bereavement

Some time ago at a fundraising event in Zephyrhills, I met one of our many wonderful donors who was working that day as a volunteer. She said to me, "Chaplain Tom, I can only pray that my small contributions make life a little easier for our patients and their families." I said to her, "Evelyn, I'm going to pray that God helps you to see what an enormous blessing you are to them."

When I began my ministry at Gulfside Hospice, I learned that as our time in this world ends, most people want and need three basic things:

1. In addition to the professional and competent care we provide, patients, caregivers, and families yearn for a partner on their journey. The relationships that we establish with them are equivalent to priceless treasures that become a sacred memory in their family's legacy.
2. Affirmation, empathy, and understanding are three gifts that fortify the expertise we bring to our ministry as hospice clinicians. Whether it was the 28-year-old patient I met dying of breast cancer, or the 102-year-old blind woman struggling with COPD, sometime in the first two or three minutes of our conversation, I led with a version of, "You matter to me. I am here for you. And I will be here to take this journey with you." The fear

of dying alone, with no one to be there for you or the family you are leaving behind, is often devastating.

3. The ministry of serving the dying at any age is not a J-O-B or a move up the career ladder; it is one of the most enriching, life-giving vocations any human being can embrace. So while the patients and families we care for certainly require clinicians of every specialty and skill, what they crave most is a human being that knows how to reach out and positively touch their lives.

As hospice professionals, we strive each day to heal the hearts of those that are broken souls, to soothe the spirits of patients paralyzed by the fear of death, and to mend the lives of spouses, brothers, sisters, children and relatives whose sadness and emptiness at the loss of their loved one is almost too much to bear.

Our greatest blessing is knowing that we are supported by a community of generous and caring benefactors whose contributions, donations, and volunteer initiatives give our patients and families what they yearn for the most: to be listened to, to be cared for like a family member, and to receive the support that will create a legacy of positive memories for their loved ones.



Facebook Fundraising: Using Your Birthday To Make A Difference

Facebook has always been a great way to get connected with friends and family wherever they are across the globe. Now, it's offering a tool for you to support the causes you care most about as well. The best part is it only costs your birthday.

Facebook allows users to create birthday fundraisers ahead of their special day to support charitable organizations while taking no fees from the donations received. Gulfside Hospice has recently benefited from the generosity of its Facebook Friends through Facebook's birthday fundraisers. Hundreds of dollars in donations received this year are supporting hospice patients and their families in their greatest moment of need.

Facebook allows users to create birthday fundraisers ahead of their special day to support charitable organizations like Gulfside Hospice, while taking no fees from the donations received.

When Chris Dyer's father passed away on hospice services, he used Facebook to reach out to his friends and ask them to raise funds for his birthday fundraiser. Getting started was simple. According to Chris, "Facebook itself actually reaches out and asks if you'd like to start a fundraiser for your birthday. I wanted to give back somehow for all

the help and Facebook is how a lot of my friends and I communicate, so I figured it was a good platform for a fundraiser. That way my friends, my mother's friends, and my dad's friends could see the fundraiser and help donate."

Setting up Gulfside Hospice as the beneficiary was as simple as searching for the organization name and selecting it from a list. After selecting the organization, Facebook walks you through customizing your personalized fundraising page and creating a personalized message to your Facebook friends to ask them to support your



fundraiser. “The process was one of the easiest processes I’ve been through,” Chris said. “And as it turns out, I have amazing family and friends that helped me reach my goal and donated more than I could imagine.”

“I wanted to give back somehow for all the help and Facebook is how a lot of my friends and I communicate, so I figured it was a good platform for a fundraiser.”

Chris gave back in honor of his father, Mike, who passed away under Gulfside Hospice’s care. “He was one of the most amazing men I’ve ever met, and he was absolutely loving of his family and all of his friends,” Chris said.

“His youthful excitement over football games from where he went to college, or just the smile and the twinkle in his eyes was always enough to make anyone and everyone smile. He always loved to joke around and was just all around an amazing person.”

Chris has many fond memories of his father, but his favorite was when he surprised his father for his last birthday. Chris lives in Tallahassee. His father was receiving hospice care in Pasco County. “He passed a little over a week after his birthday, and while I knew we were close to his passing I wanted to surprise him for his birthday,” Chris said. I drove just to see him and his smile and his excitement just to see me was something I’ll never forget. It’s something that I’ll always keep with me.”

Supporting hospice is important for Chris because of the care his father received. Knowing that the care team was there in Mike’s time of need made Chris confident in his decision to give back to Gulfside. “The experience was amazing from the time we got there until we had to leave,” said Chris. “The staff, especially the nurses, were absolutely amazing. The treatment of my father and of all of his visitors and family was perfect.”

For help with setting up your own Facebook fundraiser for Gulfside Hospice, contact Shay Lessman, Fundraising Communications Assistant, at 727-845-5707 or shay.lessman@ghppc.org.



Pictured above, Chris and his father Mike, attending a football game together to cheer on Florida State University.

Follow Gulfside for fundraising ideas, events, announcements and more.

[Facebook.com/GHPPC](https://www.facebook.com/GHPPC)



3 Estate Planning Myths That Can Hurt Your Family

By Myrna Serrano Setty,
Estate Planning & Elder Law Attorney



Myth #1: “Estate Planning is only for the very rich or old.”

False! You don't need to be rich or old to start planning. That's because estate planning is for anyone who may pass away or get really sick. And that can happen to anyone! Estate planning is about making sure that someone can manage your finances if you're incapacitated, your health care wishes are carried out, your kids are taken care of and that your property goes to the right people.

Myth #2: “Estate Planning is too expensive.”

False! In fact, exactly the opposite is true. In the long run, good estate planning saves both time and money. Without an estate plan, your loved ones may have to deal with confusion, undue financial hardship and family drama, in addition to probate, which can cost a lot more than your initial investment in an estate plan.

Myth #3: “I don't need a Living Will because my family will “do the right thing.”

False! If you're sick and dying and unable to communicate, your loved ones need to know exactly where you stand on end of life issues. What does “do the right thing” even mean? We all hear terms like “extreme measures,” “life support,” and “ventilator” – but what does that stuff really mean and do you understand it well enough to explain your wishes? Because attorney Myrna Serrano is specially trained as an advance care planning facilitator, she can help you understand these terms, help you talk about it with your loved ones, and document your wishes. Everyone needs a Living Will. Don't burden your loved ones with trying to figure out what “do the right thing” means to you.

Special thanks to The Law Firm of Myrna Serrano Setty, P.A. for use of this article.

Save the Dates!

Charity Fashion Show

Thursday, Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Heritage Springs Golf & Country Club
in Trinity

Fashion Show presented by
Dillards at The Shops at Wiregrass,
Lunch, Vendors, Prizes & More

www.GHPPC.org



Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sims Park
in New Port Richey

Register and start
fundraising at
HospiceLegacyStroll.org





Gulfside offers a variety of ways to remember loved ones on our Walls of Caring, in our Butterfly Gardens and with memorial gifts.

From July 30 through October 21, 2018, generous donations were given to Gulfside Hospice from families and friends in honor or memory of the following loved ones, who will remain in their hearts forever:

Butterfly Garden Gift:

Fernando A. Paredes

In Honor or Memory:

Florence E. Allen

Kathleen I. Anderson

Marguerite Arsenault

Elizabeth R. Bisbee

Barry C. Boren

Fred Bowie

Anna L. Bradberry

John Carmody

Carol A. Carter

Hazel L. Caselnova

Marjorie Chynoweth

Frank Cielensky

Larry G. Coats

Robert I. Cochran

Margaret E. Conlin

James T. Cox

David Currier

Ira D. Decker

Lillian DeFiore

Vernon R. Dilks

Velma Van Dine

Robert L. Dodds

Greg Donadio

Donald M. Dornfelt

Ann J. Douglass

Michael J. Dyer

Billy F. Enzor

Gary P. Fagan

Cheryl A. Fiske

Robert Flabbi

Elizabeth A. Foley

James E. Foulkes

Judith A. Fox

Retha M. Fox

Ronald D. Fox

Nita W. Fox

Richard A. Fricke

John J. Fryza

Harry Galowitsch

Norma M. Garard

Thomas A. Giannone

Robert H. Gilbertie

Gennaro Giorgio

John Gold

Andrew Gold

Barbara Golden

Ruth E. Gross

Ruth S. Haas

Norma M. Hare

Henry C. Hensley

Karen L. Hile

Sherry Van Hout

Josephine Janiszewski

Juanita T. Kellas

Constance S. Kindred

John A. Kline

Myrtle E. Knutson

Ruchi Kothari

Richard D. Lawler

Joann B. Lester

Louise Lombardo

Eunice MacAvoy

Bernard P. Magrino

Jeanette Mahany

Patricia Matthews

Thomas G. McKain

John S. McNaboe

Caroline L. Merriam

Frank Minauf

Elora Mudgette

Robin G. Murray

Maxine L. Nelson

Betty J. Neyer

Barbara V. Nollman

Marie Nuzzo

Peter Di Orio

Stanley R. Otulakowski

Barbara Otulakowski

Martha Pagliuca

George F. Parker

Joseph C. Passero

Susan Patterson

Grace E. Penny

Iris Perez

Gloria Perrone

Judith L. Petryna

David B. Phelps

Gincy A. Piazza

Dorothy C. Piotrowski

Dennis J. Pocsatko

Robert Povolny

Allan J. Powers

Thomas J. Prapas

Kenneth B. Pratt

Zoia A. Prosnikova

Chester Rakowski

William I. Rice

Angelina Rober

Ronald O. Rosengren

Britta V. Rossiter

Kathryn Rushe

Joseph A. Salemi

Grace Santmyer

Carole L. Saus

Elizabeth Savage

Evelyn E. Schauer

Lavina M. Schletty

Jack A. Scull

Bernice E. Selmeski

Patricia Sims

Philip J. Siniscalco

Laura L. Smith

Sandra L. Snyder

Thelma Springer

Joseph F. Sternal

Henry W. Suske

Gerald F. Tepatti

Jack A. Thiele

Alayne B. Tiemeyer

Vern E. Torkelson

Albert F. Ward

Joyce Wheaton

Eleanor L. Willner

William H. Winters

Kyle G. Wixson

Mary Lou W. Wright

Mary S. Young

Phyllis J. Young

Costandia Zervoudis



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Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

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Fall 2018



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