

# Bereavement Support

patient has lived and died in the way he or she wanted, family members are still experiencing loss and overwhelming grief, and wondering how they will face the future. Our bereavement program provides information and support for one full year following the death to help survivors adjust to the loss of their loved one and to learn new skills for living.

Hospice care does not end when the patient dies. We know that even in the case of a "good death", when the

# Paying for Hospice

Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance providers offer a hospice benefit for eligible patients that covers the cost of medications, medical equipment and services provided by the Hospice Team. VNA Plus also has staff that coordinates insurance and payment on behalf of the patient and family so that you can focus on more important things during this time. As a community-based, not-for-profit agency, we also offer additional options for financial assistance for those in need.

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# You are Not Alone

Making the decision to use hospice care is never easy. For many of us, death is unfamiliar territory that stirs up strong emotions including anger, fear of the unknown, and a desperate sense of wanting to do what is "right" for our self or our loved one. We want you to have as much information as you need to make a decision that you are comfortable with. Call us anytime with your questions and concerns; you may also request a free copy of "End Of Life...Helping With Comfort and Care", a National Institute on Aging publication that addresses physical, emotional and practical issues.



If you would like to learn more about the Charlier Center, you are welcome to schedule a personal tour; request a DVD; or take a virtual tour at [www.vnaplus.org/services/hospice/tour-charlier-center/](http://www.vnaplus.org/services/hospice/tour-charlier-center/).

*"With the help of VNA Plus we could look on Dad's death as a positive thing...a natural thing...a life-giving thing."  
- Sister Jennifer Miller*



For more information on VNA Plus services, or to learn more about Hospice volunteer opportunities, please call the office nearest you:

## Evansville, Indiana

812-425-3561 or 800-326-4862

## Princeton, Indiana

812-385-8857 or 800-659-4862

## Tell City, Indiana

812-547-7967 or 800-743-4862

## Eldorado, Illinois

618-273-9305 or 800-736-4862

VNA Plus is a mission-based, charitable organization that has served the community since 1888. Each year, the cost of caring for our hospice patients exceeds our resources; donations assist us in caring for those in need. Please call the office nearest you or visit our website to learn more about donation opportunities.

Additional VNA Plus services include Medicare/Medicaid certified home health nursing, therapies, wound care and more; and private duty assistance with everyday living needs such as housekeeping, companionship, personal care, medication management and the Lifeline Medical Alert. Please call for availability of services in your area.

It is the policy of VNA Plus to treat all patients without regard to race, color, national origin, age, or disability.



# Hospice Care

*Our  
Community Roots  
Run Deep*

# What is Hospice?

First, let us tell you what hospice is not. It is not a particular place. It is not just for cancer patients. And it is not a single service provided by a medical professional.

Hospice is an approach to care that reinforces the desire to live each day to the fullest in ways that are personal and meaningful; and to receive support and guidance in learning to accept death as a natural part of life. VNA Plus translates this philosophy into specialized care that involves our patients and families in all decisions, emphasizes symptom management and pain control for the duration of the illness, and offers coping strategies for the emotional and spiritual challenges caused by serious illness, separation and death.

Hospice is generally for individuals with a life expectancy of six months or less. It is similar to palliative care in that it provides comfort measures to the dying person as well as support to family members; however with hospice, treatments specifically aimed at curing the person's illness are stopped. It is important to know that choosing hospice does not have to be a permanent decision. You may have a change of condition – or a change of heart – that leads to discontinuing hospice care either temporarily or permanently. You and your family always have the right to make this decision.

Hospice is also not limited to the last few hours, days or weeks of life. Many of our patients and families benefit greatly from receiving hospice care in the early stages of a terminal illness.

*You matter to the last moment of life, and we will do all we can to help you die peacefully, but live until you die.*

*– Dame Cicely Saunders, Founder of Hospice*

## It's About You & Your Life

Care offered through VNA Plus can be provided in your home, in a long-term care setting, or in some cases, in the John and Betty Charlier Hospice Center, located within the VNA Plus Evansville building. A team of specially trained hospice professionals are on-call 24 hours a day to assist patients and families. The team includes a hospice and palliative care certified medical director; your personal physician; physical, occupational and speech therapists; a dietitian; certified home care aides; medical social workers; a pharmacist and spiritual care counselors.

Specifically trained in caring for those with a limited life expectancy, our clinical staff takes care of patients' physical needs, while social workers and spiritual care counselors assist with the emotional journey through the final phase of life. Volunteers also play a vital role, visiting with our patients, assisting with errands and other activities, performing clerical duties, sharing special talents, and providing much-needed breaks for family caregivers.



## The John & Betty Charlier Hospice Center

For patients whose pain or symptoms cannot be adequately managed at home – or for those who do not have family members to assist with their care – the Charlier Center is a beautifully-designed 24-hour inpatient facility that feels like home...not a hospital. Located within the VNA Plus building, the Charlier Center combines professional medical care with comfortable surroundings and supportive services for patients and their families. Limited respite care is also available for hospice patients whose family members need a break from caring for their loved one at home.

