

### **About Us**

Founded in 1989, Hospice Caring, Inc. is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that provides companionship and practical support for Montgomery County residents with serious illnesses and their families, as well as emotional support for anyone grieving the death of a loved one.

Our small staff and 300 + volunteers provide non-medical services, free-of-charge, none of which are covered by Medicare or other insurance. Our direct services are delivered by screened and trained volunteers, all of whom have completed at least three full days of specialized training.

Hospice Caring has been awarded the *Maryland Nonprofits Seal of Excellence* and has been named by the *Catalogue of Philanthropy* as one of the best small non-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area.

### **Our Mission**

Hospice Caring provides caring, compassionate, practical and high-quality, non-medical support services, without charge, to Montgomery County adults and children facing a life-threatening illness or grieving the death of a loved one.

### **Our Vision**

Hospice Caring envisions a community that accepts death as a part of life; where the processes of dying and grieving are embraced without stigma; where everyone has access to support services without charge; and where no patient dies alone and no one grieves without support.

### **Our Values**

- Presence, caring, and compassion
- Quality services that honor personal choices
- Culturally competent support, accessible to all
- Programs that make a positive difference
- Our volunteers and partners whose support is crucial
- Being an integral part of our community
- Responsible management of resources

### **Our Service Area**

We serve all of Montgomery County, Maryland. The Volunteer Helping Hands program serves patients wherever they reside (private homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, etc). Bereavement groups and educational sessions are held in schools and other convenient locations throughout the community.

## Programs

### Volunteer Helping Hands (Caregiving)

Volunteer Helping Hands, Hospice Caring's patient and family program, offers short-term, practical, social and emotional support for people of all ages with a serious illness and no reasonable prospect of a cure.

Services include but are not limited to: companionship and emotional support, assistance with household tasks, respite care, patient advocacy, and limited transportation to appointments. Hospice Caring is licensed by the state of Maryland as a limited hospice care program. While we do not provide medical services, we supplement medical hospice and we also support patients who are still pursuing curative treatment.

### Bereavement Services

#### Adult Support Groups

Bereavement support groups, facilitated by trained volunteers, allow participants to meet others who are also grieving, share their stories, and learn from one another. Specialized groups include adult child loss, parent loss, sibling or friend loss, spousal loss, and suicide loss. Additional groups are formed based on community need.

#### Good Grief Clubs for Children

These seven- week support groups help children in grades K-12 explore their feelings, develop healthy coping strategies, and find comfort and safety in learning that they are not alone. These groups are facilitated by trained Hospice Caring volunteers in partnership Montgomery County Schools, independent schools, and other community-based organizations.

#### Camp Erin® Montgomery County

This overnight weekend camp for grieving children is part of a national network of Camp Erin programs. It serves children and teens ages 6-17 and offers age-appropriate discussions and creative, fun-filled activities designed to help children share their feelings with peers who have had similar experiences. Camp Erin Montgomery County is a partnership between HospiceCaring, the Moyer Foundation, and Bar-T, a premier childcare provider.

### Community Education

Our Community Education program works to raise awareness and better equip people to address end-of-life and grief-related issues. We host an educational series called Seasons of Caring, teach lessons on loss and grief in schools, offer continuing education (CEU) workshops for professionals, and facilitate dialogue on relevant topics in the community.

To learn more about any of the programs listed above, make a referral, request a workshop, volunteer or donate to Hospice Caring, Inc., please visit [www.HospiceCaring.org](http://www.HospiceCaring.org) or call 301-869-HOPE(4673).