

Dear Friend,

Have you ever heard of the “hospice hug”? That’s how Jennifer describes her two experiences with our hospice care in the last three years -- first for her mother, who had Alzheimer’s disease, and then for her husband, who had pancreatic cancer. She kindly allowed me to share her story with you.

“My mother and my husband had two very different lives and two very different deaths. My experiences as their primary caregiver also could not have been more different. I even grieved for them very differently. My world fell apart. I was only able to get through two such devastating losses in a row, because Hospice of the Chesapeake was right there with and for our whole family.

“Hospice respected and met their unique needs and wishes and helped our family focus on the quality of the time we had left with them. It was wrap-around care and it felt like a big hug! I could not be more grateful. I now know, without a doubt, that I want hospice care when I approach the end of my own life.”

Jennifer’s story illustrates something that’s easy to forget as we go about our lives: unless you are among the less than 20% of people who die suddenly, you are probably going to need care for weeks or months as you near the end of your life. And your family caregivers are probably going to need help.

Hospice care is focused on the patient’s dignity, comfort and peace once a “cure” is no longer possible. It is medical care wrapped up in a bundle of comprehensive support services that add up to a big hug that means you and your family are not alone. The hospice team – clinical staff, social workers, chaplains and volunteers – are right there by your side.

I remember three things with gratitude each day: how precious and fleeting life is, the love of my mother and husband, and the skilled and compassionate care we received from Hospice of the Chesapeake’s staff and volunteers - the “hospice hug.”

– Jennifer C.





Jennifer wants you to know something else: “My husband Bob really wanted to die at home. But at one point, we had to transfer him to one of Hospice of the Chesapeake’s two inpatient care centers -- the “hospital of hospice.” They’re a safety net for when pain and symptoms can’t be adequately managed at home – a promise that more help is available, if needed. What’s more – they’re very home-like and family-friendly.

“My Bob was able to return home after being stabilized at the Mandrin Inpatient Care Center for a few days. That meant so much to us! “

Jennifer’s experience shows that, when the time comes, you don’t want just any hospice, you want one like Hospice of the Chesapeake that has been around a while, has excellent staff and ratings, and has the capacity and flexibility to provide family-centered care, come what may, through the journey with illness and loss.

On any given day, we care for nearly 500 patients and their families in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties. We are a nonprofit and we rely on community support to cover unreimbursed costs and the special programs we’re known and loved for – such as the Chesapeake Life Center, Chesapeake Kids, and We Honor Veterans. Won’t you please join Jennifer in sharing the hospice hug with others who need it by making a generous year-end gift today?

With Gratitude,

Ben Marcantonio
President & CEO

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