

THE REFERRAL

SHARED KNOWLEDGE FOR BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES



MEETING THE MOMENT: CARING FOR MARYLAND'S RAPIDLY AGING POPULATION

Maryland is standing at the edge of one of the most profound demographic shifts in its history. **Every day, thousands of Americans turn 65, and by 2030, nearly one in four Marylanders will be an older adult.** This transformation isn't on the horizon—it's already here. And it demands a coordinated, compassionate system capable of meeting rising needs long before a crisis occurs.

For healthcare providers, this trend underscores an essential truth: earlier referrals are no longer just ideal—they are imperative. As patients age with increasingly complex medical, social, and emotional needs, connecting them to supportive services sooner directly improves their quality of life, stabilizes care pathways, and reduces unnecessary hospitalizations.

EARLIER REFERRALS ARE NO LONGER JUST IDEAL—THEY ARE IMPERATIVE.

As Maryland's largest independent nonprofit hospice, Hospice of the Chesapeake has long been at the forefront of responding to this shift. With decades of trusted expertise in serious-illness and best-of-life care, the organization continues to build systems that make proactive, patient-centered referrals easier for clinicians.

This commitment is further strengthened by a new alignment under Chesapeake Health Partners, where Partners In Care Maryland, Inc. joins Hospice of the Chesapeake in supporting aging adults across the community. While each organization retains its identity and mission, their shared efforts expand the reach of early-intervention programs, volunteer networks, and supportive services that help older adults stay connected, independent, and cared for.

As Maryland's aging population grows, one thing is clear: **referral partners need strong, coordinated resources they can trust.** Hospice of the Chesapeake remains committed to ensuring those resources are ready—meeting patients where they are, and long before they need hospice.

IT'S NATIONAL HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH!

This month, The Referral is dedicating special issues to the clinicians, caregivers, and community partners advancing the mission of hospice and palliative care. In this second release, we bring forward the narratives and resources that deepen understanding, expand access, and support early referrals.



REFER EARLY. BETTER OUTCOMES.

[ONLINE CLINICAL REFERRAL FORM](#)

WHAT EVERY FAMILY DESERVES: SARAH WRIGHT'S CALL TO TRUST HOSPICE CARE


[Watch Full Interview](#)

At Hospice of the Chesapeake's inaugural **Sip & Savor: A Taste of Prince George's**, the air was full of music, food, and celebration. But it was a single story, a deeply human one, that cut to the heart of why the community had gathered.

"Hi, my name is Sarah Wright, and I was the mother of Sean Hill," she began. Her voice, steady and sure, carried the weight of lived truth. Sean was 17, autistic, nonverbal, and living with complex medical needs. When Johns Hopkins told Sarah he had only weeks to live, she made a decision grounded in love and experience. She chose hospice. She chose home.

Sean lived not two weeks but three months — three months marked by dignity, comfort, and joy. Each week, a Hospice of the Chesapeake volunteer violinist visited their home and played Michael Jackson at Sean's bedside. **Even on his toughest days, Sean lifted his head, smiled, and listened. "He understood everything," Sarah said.**

Hospice, she insisted, cared for more than Sean. It cared for her. It cared for her children. It cared for the family's grief before and after loss. When Sean transitioned peacefully at home, the hospice team returned to sit with the family, not in mourning alone but in remembrance. And then, in a moment that stilled the room, Sarah revealed that the violinist performing at Sip & Savor was the same musician who had once sat at the foot of Sean's bed. **"I'll never forget him," she said. "He brought my son joy."**

Her message expanded into advocacy, especially for African American families who are less likely to access hospice due to mistrust, misinformation, and systemic inequities. "Hospice isn't a death sentence," she emphasized. **"It is quality. It is relief. It is support. And families deserve that."** In a space celebrating food, culture, and community, Sarah's story reminded everyone why events like Sip & Savor matter. **Hospice of the Chesapeake served 742 patients in Prince George's County in 2024, providing nearly 45,000 days of care — each one an opportunity for dignity, choice, and connection.**



Sarah Wright with Officer Alexander Strachan

Her call was simple and powerful:

Trust hospice. Seek support early. Let no family walk this journey alone.

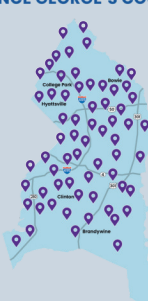
WE ARE HERE!

Our expanded county maps offer an at-a-glance guide to Hospice of the Chesapeake's coverage area.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



CHARLES COUNTY



CALVERT COUNTY

