

# Impact Report

September 2025



*You made a real difference for Carl, a 75-year-old veteran facing terminal cancer. Your support helped cover the cost of movers to take away Carl's old bed, making room for a comfortable hospital bed that will bring him the rest and relief he deserves.*

*After his hospice team set up the new bed, Carl gave a big thumbs up and said, "Oh, I need to try this out." He told us he's expecting the best night's sleep. Seeing him at ease gave his hospice team something to celebrate and serves as a reminder about why this work matters.*

*Your support makes moments like this possible.*



**Hospice Help**  
FOUNDATION

## Building a Strong Foundation for the Future

Since 2008, you have made it possible for Hospice Help Foundation (HHF) to bring urgent relief to hospice patients and their families in their most vulnerable moments. **Together, we've provided over \$500,000 in financial assistance to more than 900 patients across New England and beyond.** Every gift has translated into warmth, dignity, and peace of mind.

This past year, the need for our assistance rose sharply. We invested in strengthening our organization so we can serve even more patients in the years ahead. **With grant funding and your support, we implemented our strategic plan, added vital staff, and laid the groundwork for new fundraising initiatives.**

Your generosity has allowed us to aid well over a hundred patients this year, covering rent to prevent eviction, paying overdue utility bills to keep people safe, and making final wishes come true.

**Cuts to federal programs like LIHEAP (Low-Income Heating Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), and Meals on Wheels will place even greater strain on families in hospice care.** With a growing base of committed donors, we are a safety net for hospice patients who have nowhere else to turn.

**None of this would be possible without you.** Thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us not only to meet today's needs, but to grow into a future where every hospice patient can live their final days with comfort and dignity.

With our heartfelt appreciation,

Julie Stone  
President

Abby Sherwood  
Executive Director

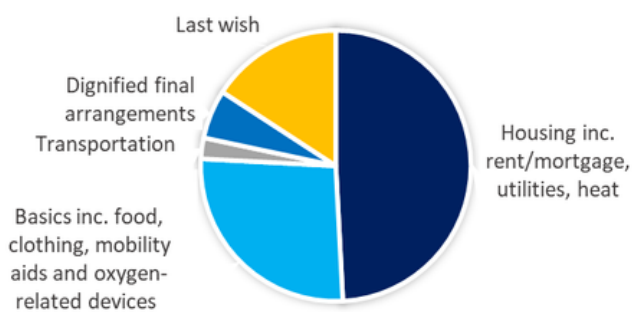
# Hospice Help Foundation

## 2025 AT A GLANCE

**So far this year you've made a difference to low-income hospice patients in over twenty states, ranging in age from just two years old to over ninety.** Your contributions helped improve the lives of patients throughout New England and beyond. In 2025, thanks to you, we helped patients in Kentucky, Nebraska, and Washington, DC, for the first time.

The average amount of the awards you made possible was \$480. **Support for patients this year has ranged from as little as \$25 to as much as \$1500 in extreme circumstances of need.** Here's a breakdown of how your support aided patients and their families in the first eight months of the year:

### AWARDS BY CATEGORY, JAN.-AUG. 2025



Hospice staff submit applications on behalf of their patients for help funding essential items that will have a direct impact on patients' comfort and well-being that they couldn't otherwise afford and that are not covered by insurance. **HHF donors help relieve patients from the stress of financial hardship so they can focus on living every remaining day to the fullest.**

## YOUR IMPACT



"We are so appreciative of your charity. We would not have the means to pay the rent to keep our mom in her home for end of life care without your generosity. Thank you so much for giving our family the stress relief of financial issues during our time of need. We cannot thank you enough!!!!"



"My chair replaces my legs. Right now, I can go only a few blocks, but with this repair I can go to the store and all the way around the city. It will allow me to visit with my friends again."

# Impact Report Sept. 2025

## TANGIBLE BENEFITS

*\*These numbers reflect data from January to August 2025*



### PATIENT SUPPORT

125 patients and their families have received essential support.



### HONORING VETERANS

10 Veterans benefited from life-improving financial assistance.



### DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

20 individuals from diverse and underserved communities received an extra layer of help.



"You are a godsend and have saved us from more stress and anxiety than we could have handled. Thank you so much."

## NEW LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

This year we welcome a new executive director, **Abby Sherwood**, as longtime ED Marsha Filion steps down in preparation for an international move with her family.



Abby comes to us after years in nonprofit leadership and political advocacy. She's excited to expand the reach of HHF and increase the number of hospice patients we provide financial assistance to.

We're thrilled to share that HHF has welcomed two new part-time staff members:

**Jeff Deck**, our Foundation Coordinator, who is leading our donor communications, appeals, and systems.



**Nora E. Hanke**, our Patient Support Coordinator, who is overseeing the patient support process and coordinating with social worker partners.



Their passion and experience are bringing new energy to the team!



# FUNDED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY

HHF is a 501(c)3 charity that does not receive state or federal funding. HHF's operating budget is supported through the generosity of private foundations, businesses, hospitals, banks, civic organizations, and individual donors.

HHF also maintains a philanthropic relationship with the hospice providers listed below, who support the Foundation with the memorial donations they receive.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2025

### **Julie Stone - President**

*Granite VNA*

### **Marta Hurgin - Vice President**

*New Hampshire Legal Assistance*

### **Dimitri Panacopoulos - Treasurer**

*BerryDunn*

---

### **Janice Kanteres**

*Retired Hospice Nurse*

### **Michele Lovell**

*Weeks Medical Center*

### **Vanessa McElroy**

*Consultant*

### **Abby Sherwood - Ex-officio**

*Executive Director*

A big THANK YOU to **Lisa Brown** (York Middle School), **Briana Marshall** (Brightspot Consultants), and **Anne McSally** (Retired Pediatrician & Grief Facilitator), who termed off in 2025.

## KATHRYN THORNTON LEGACY FUND

Hospice Help Foundation is proud and thankful to continue to receive donations through a fund dedicated to the memory of Kathryn Thornton.

After Kathryn, a hospice nurse, passed away unexpectedly in 2019, her friends and family created the Kathryn Thornton Legacy Fund

to honor her life and her commitment to her patients.



This month, the 6th annual Kathryn Thornton Picnic was held in Pennsylvania. To date, Kathryn's family, friends, and colleagues have raised over \$68K. These funds help provide comfort and relief to vulnerable hospice patients, allowing her compassionate spirit to continue changing lives through the work of Hospice Help Foundation.



**Hospice Help**  
**FOUNDATION**

400 Little Harbor Road #1105, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Tel: 603-766-0444 | Fax 603-677-1482

[executivedirector@hhelfoundation.org](mailto:executivedirector@hhelfoundation.org)

[www.hhelfoundation.org](http://www.hhelfoundation.org)