



35<sup>th</sup>

*Anniversary*

Living a Good Life... at the End of Life

# 2017 NHPCA ANNUAL REPORT



nebraska hospice &  
palliative care association

advocate. educate. support.



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## REFLECTIONS

*Heath G. Boddy, President and CEO*

This report on the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association's 2017 activity comes to you just as NHPCA is closing in on 35 years of service to Nebraska hospice and palliative care providers. For 35 years, a statewide organization has united Nebraska nurses, physicians, social workers, chaplains, volunteers, administrators, educators, and so many others in their quest to help Nebraskans at the end of their lives.

As your NHPCA team was going through archives, we found notes from a meeting held in 1980 to discuss the creation of a statewide organization. The notes of Dr. Tom Perkins indicate that the group decided the following should be addressed by a state association: public and professional education, standards, the definition of hospice care, the development of a hospice referral and information system, provider reimbursement, research, how membership should be determined, and forms of political action. While adjusting to meet members' needs based on changes in society, the regulatory and reimbursement environment, and technology, NHPCA still proudly advocates on behalf of members just as those early meeting notes propose.

This report provides a glimpse of this important work in 2017. Each day, the NHPCA team aims to support Nebraska's hospice and palliative care providers with stewardship in mind, through high-quality work, with integrity, and with great professionalism.



*Heath G. Boddy  
President and CEO*

# advocate.

In 2017, NHPCA members made two trips to Washington, D.C., to advocate on behalf of Nebraska's hospice and palliative care providers.

In May, the NHPCA team and members met with U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and other members of Congress from Nebraska.



As part of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's July 2017 Advocacy Intensive, NHPCA members and staff met with Nebraska's members of Congress.

Nebraska is well-represented at the national level in other ways, too. In 2017, NHPCA's Jennifer Eurek served on the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Council of States Steering Committee. In addition, members Tim Snyder of Hillcrest Hospice served on NHPCO's Professional Education Committee and Carla Thompson of Hospice of Siouxland and member Marcia Cederdahl served on NHPCO's Quality and Standards Committee.



Jennifer Eurek



Tim Snyder



Carla Thompson



Marcia Cederdahl

In 2017, former NHPCA Chair Linda Rock of Scottsbluff received the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Galen Miller Leadership Award "for her professional leadership in the field and her dedication to advancing hospice and palliative care."



Former NHPCA Chair Linda Rock

At the federal level, NHPCA followed the progress of the Rural Access to Hospice Act, which would address barriers restricting patients' primary care physicians from serving as their attending physician when they elect hospice care, and the Medicare Patient Access to Hospice Act of 2017, which would allow physician assistants to serve as the attending physician.

Also, at the federal level, NHPCA kept members informed of regulatory and reimbursement issues affecting them. These included payment; emergency preparedness; the August launch of Hospice Compare, a consumer resource; and HEART, a new data collection and patient assessment tool.

At the state level, NHPCA monitored several Nebraska legislative bills, including those related to palliative care, aid in dying, and perinatal hospice care. The proposed aid in dying bill did not pass in 2017; but both LB506, which required DHHS to establish a perinatal hospice website, and LB323, which required DHHS to establish a palliative care website and advisory council, passed. Later in 2017, NHPCA was appointed to serve on this Council by Governor Ricketts.

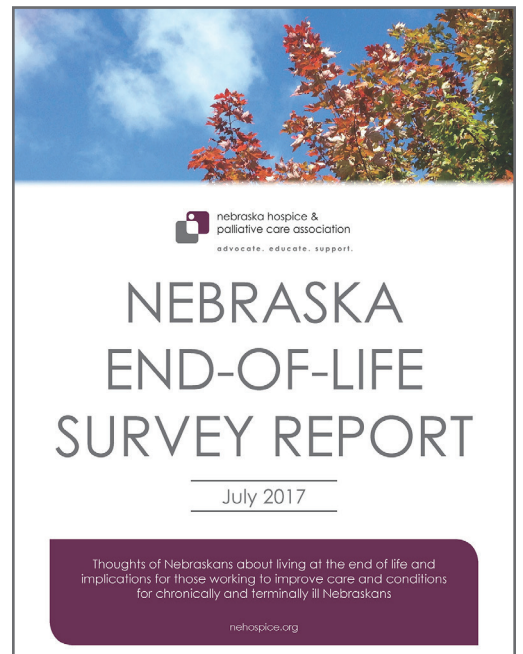
# educate.

In 2017, NHPCA released its fourth Nebraska End-of-Life Survey Report. The survey and report were made possible by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield Fund for Quality and Efficient Health Care Donor Advised Fund of Nebraska Community Foundation. The report shares the results of a random survey conducted across Nebraska households to gauge perceptions of a range of end-of-life issues, including wishes, pain, fear, advance planning, and knowledge of hospice and palliative care. The 2017 report contains graphs and tables and compares data with the 2003, 2006 and 2011 reports to show trends and changes in perceptions. The report and its supporting tools, including PowerPoint slides and one-sheets for consumers and physicians, are available to NHPCA members in their education efforts.

On Sept. 19, a press conference was held at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln to announce the release of the 2017 Nebraska End-of-Life Survey Report. Senator Mark Kolterman spoke at the press conference, along with NHPCA Board Chair Gary George and NHPCA team members.



Senator Mark Kolterman



NHPCA conducted 14 workshops at nine locations throughout Nebraska for hospice and palliative care professionals. Three of these education opportunities were web-based. Topics included advocacy, emergency preparedness, veterans, and regulations. In addition, conference calls were held for social workers, chaplains, and volunteer coordinators three times in 2017.

who care for patients and families with chronic or terminal illness. Nationally-known speakers included Dr. James Avery, one of the "50 Most Influential Physician Executives," and Judi Lund Person, Vice President of Regulatory and Compliance for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Five members received scholarships to attend NHPCA's 2017 "Living a Good Life...at the End of Life" Conference: Lydia Bockus, CHI Health at Home – Omaha; Jennifer Clark, Methodist Home Health and Hospice; Lani Glaser, Tabitha Hospice – Lincoln; Jean McKechnie, VNA Hospice; and Jenni Smith, AseraCare Hospice – Lincoln. The scholarships are funded by the Galen Miller Memorial Education Fund and proceeds from the conference raffle.



Proceeds from a raffle at NHPCA's 2017 annual conference benefit Nebraska's hospice and palliative care professionals.

The Nebraska Hospice-Veteran Partnership, a collaboration with the Department of Veteran Affairs, works to ensure Nebraska's veterans near the end of life receive the best care possible. NHPCA held three Nebraska Hospice-Veteran Partnership meetings in 2017. Eighty percent of Nebraska hospices also participated in the We Honor Veterans national campaign, which is designed to empower hospice professionals to meet the unique needs of dying veterans. Hospice agencies across the state recognized dying veterans through special pinning recognition. Last year, more than 1,000 pins – twice as many as 2016 – were obtained through the Hospice-Veteran Partnership for use in these poignant ceremonies.



WE HONOR VETERANS

# support.

The recipients of the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association annual awards were recognized at the 2017 "Living a Good Life...at the End of Life" Conference in Lincoln. In addition to the awards below, more than 20 Outstanding Hospice Volunteer Awards were presented to individuals from across the state for their exemplary service.



The 2017 Spirit of Hospice Award was presented to Lydia Bockus of CHI Health at Home in Omaha for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the hospice philosophy of care.



Valerie Height of Hillcrest Health Services was presented the 2017 Shining Star Award for her exceptional leadership in the promotion of end-of-life services and work to educate others on the unique end-of-life needs in her community.



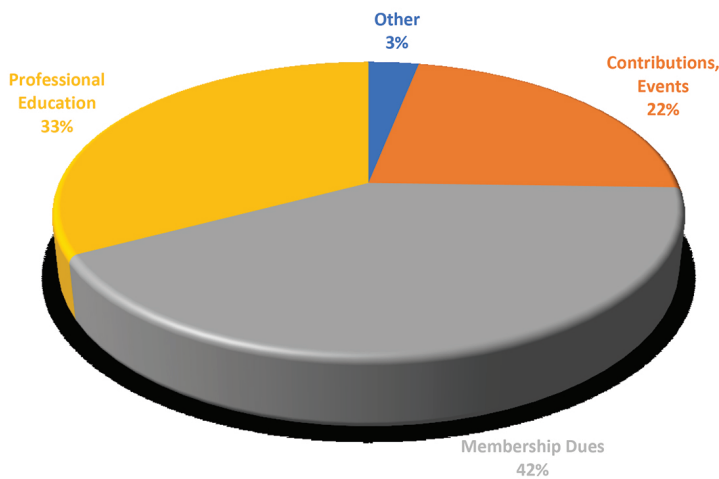
Harold Krueger, CEO of Chadron Community Hospital and Health Services, was awarded the 2017 NHPCA State Impact Award – the association's highest honor – for his exceptional contributions to Nebraska's hospice community.



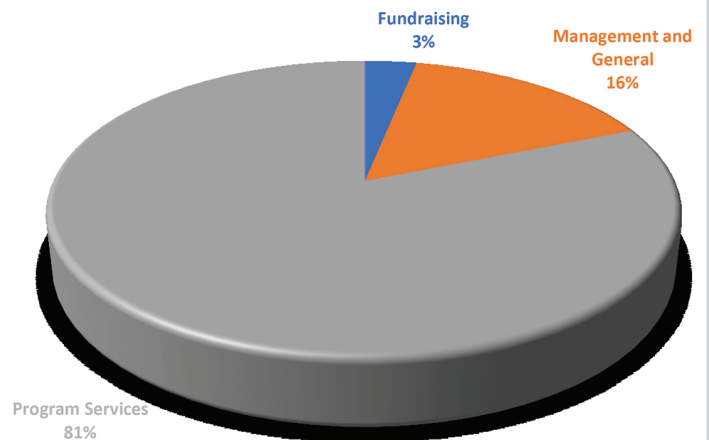
Governor Pete Ricketts proclaimed November 2017 as Hospice and Palliative Care Month in Nebraska.

NHPCA provided educational hospice resources for patients and families through the "Hospice lets me be..." outreach campaign. The campaign focuses on real-life stories to promote hospice benefits, awareness, and connect people with resources. NHPCA distributed educational worksheets, videos, stories, and other outreach materials to member hospices across the state. Materials were updated in 2017 to incorporate data from the new Nebraska End-of-Life Survey Report.

## REVENUE \$199,339



## EXPENSES \$245,091



Note: 2017 Nebraska End-of-Life Survey expenses were incurred in 2017, while the project's revenue arrived in 2016.



# Thank You

The Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous support in 2017.

## GIFTS

### \$50-\$99

Deborah Berger  
Heath Boddy, in honor of Lyn Wineman  
Vaughn Christiansen, in honor of wife, Clarice  
Cheryl Eldridge  
Douglas Gibson  
Lynn and Cindy Gray  
Mark and Susie Greene, in memory of Barry Segell  
Bruce Hayden, Jr., in memory of Richard C. Wiedwilt  
Richard Henrichs  
Thomas J. Hix, in honor of Gordon Harrow and Barbara Hix  
Richard Jackson  
Randy and Trish Johnson, in memory of Michael Cerny  
Janet and Vernon Kuhl, in memory of their parents  
Joyce Luster  
Linda A. Mayer, in memory of Eleanor Zywiec  
Dale Olson  
Dean Papenhagen  
Loretta Rieke  
R.L. Rosberg  
Norman Sack  
Dan and Marg Schlitt  
R.G. Seiter  
John S. and Kathleen D. Williams, in memory of Edwin Williams and Ann Shoff  
Valerie Wittstruck  
Robyn Chamberlin  
Carol Tillotson  
Rhonda and John Glenn Davis, in memory of Phyllis and Eldon Canfield  
Aloha and Tom Schmid  
Jean Pacholski, in memory of Judie Pacholski-Wood and Richard Pacholski

### \$100-\$249

Hal and Mary Daub  
Alice Diamant, in memory of Ardyce Dames  
Myron and Julie Dorn, in memory of Ruth Salomons  
Robert Frank  
Thomas and Mary Holley  
Nancy Knight, in memory of Dorothy Ann Dose' Otis  
Rosella Lalich, in memory of Jack Bourdless  
Diane Mulcair, in memory of Mom, Ann Fisher  
Jennifer M. Nelson, in memory of Gary W. Nelson  
Kirk Nolan Teters  
Nancy Peter, Betty Wilberger, Joe McLaughin, Corey Peter, and Ben Peter, in memory of their sister, aunt and great aunt  
Randal Petersen, in memory of Agnes Petersen  
Norman and Corine Simon  
Bai Si Tran  
Raymond and Marilyn Trumble  
Robert Way  
William Workman  
Mao Pham  
Deaun Trayer  
Patricia Ladenburger, in memory of Ray and Evelyn Ladenburger  
Charlotte Schenken  
Bob Throop, in memory of Byrdie

### \$250-\$499

Lora Arnold, in memory of Keith Arnold  
Toby Nelson, in memory of Selma Nelson

### \$500-\$999

William and Carol Clausen  
Mark Emig  
Anna Marie and Paul White  
Sharon Stanner

### \$1,000-\$2,000

Cynthia and Bob Milligan  
Bob and Becky Reisdorff

### Galen Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund

Sandy Kuhlman  
Bob Ward

## 2017 NEBRASKA END-OF-LIFE SURVEY REPORT GRANTOR

Blue Cross Blue Shield Fund for Quality and Efficient Health Care Donor Advised Fund of Nebraska Community Foundation

## 2017 "LIVING A GOOD LIFE...AT THE END OF LIFE" CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND GRANTORS

After Hours Triage  
AseraCare Hospice  
AseraCare Hospice – Beatrice  
AseraCare Hospice – Kearney  
AseraCare Hospice – Norfolk  
AseraCare Hospice – Omaha  
AseraCare Hospice – O'Neill  
AseraCare Hospice – York  
HoriSun Hospice  
Hospice Care Connection  
HospiceRx  
Methodist Home Health & Hospice

## 2017 MEMBERS

### Hospices

AseraCare Hospice – Beatrice  
AseraCare Hospice – Grand Island  
AseraCare Hospice – Kearney  
AseraCare Hospice – Lincoln  
AseraCare Hospice – Norfolk  
AseraCare Hospice – Omaha  
AseraCare Hospice – O'Neill  
AseraCare Hospice – York  
Beatrice Community Hospital Hospice  
Chadron Community Hospital Hospice Services  
CHI Health at Home  
CHI Health at Home – Omaha  
Community Healthcare & Hospice  
Compassionate Care Hospice  
Endless Journey Hospice Care, Inc.  
Faith Regional Health Services Hospice

(member list continued on next page)

### **Hospice Members, continued:**

Fremont Health Hospice  
Hillcrest Hospice Care  
HoriSun Hospice, Inc.  
Hospice and Home Healthcare  
of Saunders County  
Hospice Community Care of  
Nebraska  
Hospice of Columbus  
Community Hospital  
Hospice of Siouxland  
Kindred Hospice  
Kindred Hospice of Fremont  
Mary Lanning Hospice  
Methodist Home Health &  
Hospice  
Pathways to Compassion  
Hospice  
Pathways to Compassion  
Hospice – Lincoln  
Providence Medical Center  
Hospice  
Regional West Medical Center  
Hospice – Alliance  
Regional West Medical Center  
Hospice – Scottsbluff  
RuralMED Home Care Resources  
Sidney Regional Medical Center  
Home Health & Hospice  
St. Francis Hospice  
St. Joseph Villa Homecare &  
Hospice  
Tabitha Hospice  
Tabitha Hospice – Central  
Tabitha Hospice – East  
Tabitha Hospice – West  
Valley County Health System  
Hospice  
VNA Hospice

### **Hospice Facility Members**

Hospice House – The Josie  
Harper Residence  
The Monarch by Eastmont

### **Business Partner/Allied Health Partner Members**

Bryan Medical Center  
Children's Hospital & Medical  
Center Hand in Hand/  
Palliative Care  
Community Pharmacy  
Hospice Rx/Medtrak Services  
Roper & Sons  
Southeast Nebraska Cancer  
Center  
Total Triage/After Hours Triage

### **Individual Members**

Mary Baker  
Marcia Cederdahl  
June Eilers  
Connie Engelbart  
Gayle Gengenbach  
Susan Kufeldt  
Stephen Lazowitz, M.D.  
Carol McShane  
Sara Parks  
Linda Rock  
Aloha Schmid

### **Developing Hospice Members**

Avalon Hospice

### **NHPCA LEADERSHIP**

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CHPN, NHA, Lincoln  
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Diane Randolph, RN, BSN,  
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Community Engagement Chair,  
Tim Snyder, MA, Bellevue  
Advocacy Chair, Lisa Weber,  
MSW, Columbus

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Kathryn Bergen, Director of  
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A Proud Member of



Thank you also goes to the many Nebraskans who donated to NHPCA through a Community Health Charities workplace giving campaign or the Combined Federal Campaign.

*Every effort has been made to correctly identify supporters. We apologize for omissions or errors. If your name is not listed in the manner you wish, please call 402-477-0204 or email [info@nehospice.org](mailto:info@nehospice.org).*



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# NHPCA

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at the End of Life”



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