2008-2009 Annual Report

NHPCCP Leadership, 2008-2009

Board of Directors
President Joanie Kush, RN, MS, CHA, VHA Hospice, Omaha
Vice President LuDonna VanEngen, RN, CHPN, Saint Elizabeth Hospice, Lincoln
Secretary Linda Todd, RN, BA, Hospice of Siouxland, Sioux City, Iowa
Treasurer Aloha Schmid, RN, CHPN, Hospice of Tabitha, York
Chair, Advocacy Committee, Lisa Weber-Kohler, MSW, Hospice of Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus
Chair, Community Engagement Committee, Jean Suari, RN, Faith Regional Hospice, Norfolk
Chair, Development Committee, Beth Nelsen, RN, CHP, NHA, Eastmont Towers Community, Lincoln
Chair, Professional Education Committee, Bonnie Brown, RN, BGS, Alegent Health Hospices, Omaha
Chair, Research and Quality Improvement Committee, Greg Schieke, MBA, CIMP of Nebraska

Board of Advisors
Hal and Mary Duda, Honorary Co-Chairs
Tom and Nancy Osborne, Honorary Co-Chairs
Dr. John and Jana Haggstrom
Terry and Judy Neury
Bobbie and Cynthia Milligan
Lee and Carol Rowse
Dei and Phyllis Toebben
Dr. Ed Vandenberg

Community Health Charities of Nebraska Board of Directors, NHPCCP Representatives
State Board of Directors, Mary Lee Fitzsimmons, RN, PhD, Alegent Health Hospices, Omaha
West Central Board of Directors, Adrienne Redwine, BSN, CHPN, Grand Island
Lincoln Board of Directors, Carol Ernst, MA, NHA, Eastmont Towers Community, Lincoln

Staff
Patricia Snyder, NHA, Executive Director
Jennifer Eurek, CSW, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Jan Tooker, LCSW, Executive Assistant

By the Numbers
Nebraska Hospice Admissions:
2007: 5,811
2008: 6,529

Nebraska professionals certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine or the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses:
8 physicians
1 advance practice nurse
64 registered nurses
8 licensed practical nurses
26 nursing assistants

A Message from the Executive Director

As Nebraska’s hospice and palliative care association, NHPCCP shares families’ personal hospice stories. We find it a privilege that families talk with us about their most life-changing events. These stories allow us to educate others on the importance of knowing options at the end of a life.

In conjunction with our work in the areas of advocacy, professional education, quality improvement and research, the telling of these stories is making a difference; an estimated 12 percent more Nebraskans utilized hospice in 2008 than the previous year.

Last year, much of NHPCCP’s focus was placed on preparing members for changes in Medicare’s regulations, or Conditions of Participation (CoPs). We also encouraged Nebraska’s hospice advocates to speak out against proposed rate cuts to hospice. These efforts paid off as Nebraska’s hospices transitioned to the new CoPs in December, and rate cuts were stayed off for at least another year.

Fiscal year 2008-2009 was NHPCCP’s first full year of operations through a management contract with the Nebraska Health Care Association. This relationship is showing results for NHPCCP. It provides for the sharing of office and classroom space, talents and resources. The arrangement has also allowed NHPCCP to expand its membership base to include long-term care facilities. Most importantly, it has provided sound financial management for the organization. It has been a natural fit.

I challenge you – whether you are a member, a health care professional, a donor, a policymaker, or a member of the media – to become even more involved in the work of your state hospice association. Even though more than 6,500 Nebraskans used hospice last year, there is a long way to go to see that every terminally ill Nebraskan benefits from the comforting care of hospice.

Sincerely,
Patricia Snyder, Executive Director

NHPCP Mission
A statewide partnership to improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans who have chronic conditions or are near the end of life and to support the various communities who care for them.

Hospice’s Benefits
- People who utilize hospice live on average 29 days longer than those who don’t
- Hospice saves Medicare $2,300 per patient
- Ninety-eight percent of those who don’t use hospice benefit

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
Last year, NHPCCP worked to inform the public about the benefits of hospice. NHPCCP was known to be on television, newspaper or radio more than 100 times. Appealing TV public service announcements raised awareness of hospice. Countless church, civic, veterans and professional organizations received presentations about hospice in their communities. And, NHPCCP’s Web site, nehospice.org received 67,000 visitors, many seeking to find a hospice in their area.

Deven (center), 6, and his family experienced the benefits of hospice. His family allowed NHPCCP to publicly share their story because they believe “Deven’s life had a purpose.”

Read Deven’s story at nehospice.org
Returning Nebraskans in Pain to Work

For the third year, NHPCP administered a demonstration project that works with Nebraskans who have pain keeping them from employment. By working with a palliative care team, Ticket to Work Palliative Care Program participants addressed their pain and symptom issues in order to return to the workforce. Thirty-one percent of program participants that were not previously employed have returned to the workforce. In FY 2008-2009, the program was funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Nebraska Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation.

Advocating for Pain Care Improvements

NHPCP and the Nebraska Pain Initiative developed a partnership with the American Pain Foundation’s Power Over Pain Action Network (POPAN), a grassroots network working to transform pain care in the U.S. through public awareness and education. With NHPCP’s staff serving as POPAN’s state leaders, the relationship has provided new resources for consumers and professionals.

Professional Education

NHPCP is the primary organization dedicated to serving Nebraska’s end-of-life professionals. These include physicians, nurses, nursing home staff, chaplains, hospitals, social workers, therapists, volunteer coordinators, volunteers, and others. Last year, more than 800 professionals received education from NHPCP.

The April 2008 “Living a Good Life...at the End of Life” Conference welcomed nearly 300 people to the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The annual conference is the center of discussion for professionals serving individuals at the end of life. A May workshop titled “From Philosophy to Bedside: Implementing a Palliative Care Program in Long Term Care” provided new information for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Summer training was held in Ogallala, Lincoln and Omaha to prepare hospice staff for upcoming changes in regulations.

“NHPCP continued offering its preparation class for nurses planning to become certified in hospice and palliative care, as well as networking conference calls for hospice social workers, volunteer coordinators and chaplains. A workshop was held in July to help healthcare professionals know their role with patients’ advance directives.

Two audio conferences were held: one on the basics of quality improvement and another that provided an open dialogue between the State and hospice providers. Nurses and other professionals attended an October workshop on managing chronic pain.

Lastly, NHPCP partnered with the Nebraska Health Care Association to host a November program on how hospices and nursing homes can hold successful relationships.

“NHPCP is known nationally for its triennial end-of-life survey, which looks at Nebraskan’s perceptions of a variety of issues including pain, fear, grief, support, advance directives, and more. Last year, NHPCP began seeking funding for the next survey which will be implemented in 2009-2010. In addition, Nebraska’s hospice professionals participated in a national research study on the “Core Values of Hospice Professionals.” The study was still being implemented at the time this document was published.

Monitoring Regulatory Issues Affecting Patients and Providers

NHPCP is often the first to notify its members of important regulatory changes.

In 2008, hospice providers were provided with extensive training opportunities to prepare them for new regulations being implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in December 2008. In addition, NHPCP provided ongoing consultation on the changes as individually needed by Nebraska’s hospices.

Each year, professionals who work with individuals at the end of life come from across the region to attend NHPCP’s “Living a Good Life...at the End of Life” Conference.

Responding to Hospice Rate Cuts

In FY2008-2009, NHPCP advocated to its members and federal policymakers the importance of acting to halt Medicare rate cuts to hospices. Such cuts would have had devastating effects for the state’s hospice providers who already operate with minimal profit margins. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the proposed cuts were halted for one year but NHPCP continues to respond to permanently overturn the cuts.

Cutting Edge Research

NHPCP is known nationally for its triennial end-of-life survey, which looks at Nebraskans’ perceptions of a variety of issues including pain, fear, grief, support, advance directives, and more. Last year, NHPCP began seeking funding for the next survey which will be implemented in 2009-2010. In addition, Nebraska’s hospice professionals participated in a national research study on the “Core Values of Hospice Professionals.” The study was still being implemented at the time this document was published.

Revenue and Expenses at a Glance

NHPCP is a member of Community Health Charities of Nebraska (CHC), a federation that raises funds for Nebraska’s health charities through workplace giving. Monies raised through companies’ payroll deduction campaigns benefit CHC’s 18 member agencies, including NHPCP.

Through speaking engagements, display booths, co-branding, and representation on CHC’s three boards of directors, NHPCP has worked to strengthen its relationship with CHC and its participating businesses. Last year, these efforts provided a 51 percent increase in funds directed to NHPCP from CHC.

NHPCP continues to respond to permanently overturn the cuts.

Last year, NHPCP disseminated more than 20 Special Bulletins to its members, providing the most up-to-date and pertinent information about such issues as drug recalls, billing and coding requirements, and proposed cuts to hospice payment rates.

“You are very well informed...”

“You made things very understandable...”

This financial information is provided from the audit report completed by Thomas, Kunc & Black, LLP, for fiscal year April 1, 2008, through March 31, 2009.
The Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership thanks the following organizations and individuals for their generous support given from April 1, 2008, through March 31, 2009.

**Hospices**
- AseraCare Hospice Omaha
- Abundant Life Hospice, Falls City
- Hospices
- LaDonna VanEngen
- Laurie Smith
- Linda Robinson Rutz
- Adrienne Redwine
- Diane Randolph
- Pat Meierhenry
- Annette Kasselman
- Mary Gordon
- Gary George

**VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS AND EXHIBITORS**
- Community Health Charities workplace
  - Cherline Zimmerman
  - Nicole Tooker
  - Margaret Tooker
  - Jackie Stewart
  - Jenna Peate
  - Alma Parent
  - Pat Meierhenry
  - Dodie Leslie
  - Kristin Grant
  - Kathy Cannon
  - Jann Britton
  - Naomi Ballard

**MEDIA SUPPORT**
- KLKN TV
  - KolNKGTV.com
  - Lincoln TV 54+ Senior Newspaper

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES**
**VOLUNTEERS AND SPEAKERS**
- Bonnie Brown
- Cindy Calhoun
- Kathy Gast
- Gary George
- Mary Gordon
- Stacey Hopper
- Paul Jansen
- Annette Kasselman
- Pat Meierhenry
- Renee Pickeler
- Diana Randolph
- Adrienne Redwine
- Linda Ryan
- Paul Jansen
- Laurie Smith
- LaDonna VanEngen

**MEMBERS**
- Abundant Life Hospice, Falls City
- AseraCare Hospice Lincoln
- AseraCare Hospice Norfolk
- AseraCare Hospice Omaha

**Developing Hospice**
- Hillcrest Home Care, Bellevue

**Organizations (Jan 1- Dec 31, 2008)**
- Alzheimer’s Association of the Great Plains
- Bryan/LGI Palliative Care Program
- Bethus, Maurer & Love
- Children’s Hospital Hand in Hand Program

**BECOMING Dually Licensed**
- Hospice House-Josie Harper Residence, Omaha
- The Monarch, Lincoln
- Nebraska Health Care Association
- Nebraska Hospital Association
- Nebraska Medical Association
- UNMC College of Nursing

**Long Term Care-Nursing Facility**
- Amosworth Care Center
- Birchwood Manor, North Bend
- Countrywide Home, Madison
- Good Samaritan Society, Millard
- Hamilton Manor, Aurora
- Heritage of Emerson
- Homestead Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Lincoln
- Life Care Center of Omaha
- St. Joseph’s Villa, David City
- Sunrise Country Manor, Milford

**Long Term Care-Assisted Living**
- The Arbors, Lincoln
- Cottonwood Villa, Ainsworth
- The Independence House, Lincoln
- Kirkwood House, Wayne

**In Home Health Care**
- Hillcrest Nursing Home, McCook

**VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS AND EXHIBITORS**
- Bonnie Brown
- Cindy Calhoun
- Kathy Gast
- Gary George
- Mary Gordon
- Stacey Hopper
- Paul Jansen
- Annette Kasselman
- Pat Meierhenry
- Renee Pickeler
- Diana Randolph
- Adrienne Redwine
- Linda Ryan
- Paul Jansen
- Laurie Smith
- LaDonna VanEngen

**MEMBERS (Jan 1- Dec 31, 2008)**
- Abundant Life Hospice, Falls City
- AseraCare Hospice Lincoln
- AseraCare Hospice Norfolk
- AseraCare Hospice Omaha

**Hospices**
- AseraCare Hospice Lincoln
- AseraCare Hospice Norfolk
- AseraCare Hospice Omaha

**Developing Hospice**
- Hillcrest Home Care, Bellevue

**BECOMING Dually Licensed**
- Hospice House-Josie Harper Residence, Omaha
- The Monarch, Lincoln
- Nebraska Health Care Association
- Nebraska Hospital Association
- Nebraska Medical Association
- UNMC College of Nursing

**Long Term Care-Nursing Facility**
- Amosworth Care Center
- Birchwood Manor, North Bend
- Countrywide Home, Madison
- Good Samaritan Society, Millard
- Hamilton Manor, Aurora
- Heritage of Emerson
- Homestead Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Lincoln
- Life Care Center of Omaha
- St. Joseph’s Villa, David City
- Sunrise Country Manor, Milford

**Long Term Care-Assisted Living**
- The Arbors, Lincoln
- Cottonwood Villa, Ainsworth
- The Independence House, Lincoln
- Kirkwood House, Wayne

**Volunteer Speakers and Exhibitors**
- Bonnie Brown
- Cindy Calhoun
- Kathy Gast
- Gary George
- Mary Gordon
- Stacey Hopper
- Paul Jansen
- Annette Kasselman
- Pat Meierhenry
- Renee Pickeler
- Diana Randolph
- Adrienne Redwine
- Linda Ryan
- Paul Jansen
- Laurie Smith
- LaDonna VanEngen

**MEMBERS (Jan 1- Dec 31, 2008)**
- Abundant Life Hospice, Falls City
- AseraCare Hospice Lincoln
- AseraCare Hospice Norfolk
- AseraCare Hospice Omaha

**Hospices**
- AseraCare Hospice Lincoln
- AseraCare Hospice Norfolk
- AseraCare Hospice Omaha

**Developing Hospice**
- Hillcrest Home Care, Bellevue

**BECOMING Dually Licensed**
- Hospice House-Josie Harper Residence, Omaha
- The Monarch, Lincoln
- Nebraska Health Care Association
- Nebraska Hospital Association
- Nebraska Medical Association
- UNMC College of Nursing

**Long Term Care-Nursing Facility**
- Amosworth Care Center
- Birchwood Manor, North Bend
- Countrywide Home, Madison
- Good Samaritan Society, Millard
- Hamilton Manor, Aurora
- Heritage of Emerson
- Homestead Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Lincoln
- Life Care Center of Omaha
- St. Joseph’s Villa, David City
- Sunrise Country Manor, Milford

**Long Term Care-Assisted Living**
- The Arbors, Lincoln
- Cottonwood Villa, Ainsworth
- The Independence House, Lincoln
- Kirkwood House, Wayne

Every effort has been made to correctly identify supporters. We apologize for any omissions or errors. If your name is not listed in the style or manner you wish, please call 402/477-0204 or email info@nehospice.org.