



"You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but to live until you die."

-Dame Cicely Saunders, Founder of the first hospice



Hospice Philosophy

What is the hospice philosophy?

- The hospice philosophy is rooted in the centuries-old tradition of preparing gifts for those embarking on a long journey.
- Today, hospice care reflects the belief that quality of life should be encouraged and supported when quantity of life is limited.
- Hospice care helps people with a life-limiting illness live their final months in comfort and with dignity.

The hospice philosophy embraces these values:

- You have the right to be informed of all options available to you and you have the right to choose those options that meet your values, culture and beliefs;
- You have the right to live your remaining days as fully as possible;
- You have the right to experience relief from physical, spiritual and emotional pain that frequently accompanies a life-limiting illness;
- You and your family have the right to care that supports you as whole individuals;
- You have the right to a sense of peace knowing your family will continue to receive grief support after you have died.



“We knew that Mark’s prognosis wasn’t good, but we also knew that we had today and that we had help from hospice...With that, we decided to do what we could for today – and for each day remaining. Our hope was to make one good memory of each day...When you think about it, it’s not a bad way for anybody to live.”

-Wife of a hospice patient



Hospice Team

You are not alone.

You and your family are at the core of the hospice team and are at the center of all decision-making. A family may include relatives, friends, neighbors, or extended family.

You won't have to give up your doctor.

Care is available from a doctor of your choice and a hospice team of professionals. This team includes nurses, social workers, spiritual caregivers, grief counselors, hospice aides, volunteers and physical, occupational, speech and nutritional therapists. Depending on the hospice agency, additional therapies that support your comfort may also be available, such as music therapists, pet therapists and massage therapists.



We are here to work together.

Because your wishes are unique, the hospice team will work with you and your family to choose the care services that mean the most to you.



"I felt a very heavy burden on my shoulders lighten perceptibly because I knew there would be trained people to share with our family the care of my husband."

- Wife of a hospice patient



Hospice Service

Your care needs are unique.

The care of each person varies. You and your family decide how often and what type of services will help you feel most comfortable, while staying true to your values.

To support you and your family, a hospice team works to:

- Provide care that relieves pain and symptoms. This care includes medication and physical, occupation, nutrition, and/or speech therapies;
- Respond to emergencies or questions 24/7;
- Offer counseling and spiritual support;
- Teach families and caregivers specific care techniques, such as turning, positioning and transferring, bathing and giving medications;
- Arrange for necessary equipment such as hospital beds, oxygen, bedside commodes and wheelchairs;
- Coordinate any additional help and special services needed in the home;
- Offer grief support, which may include writing letters, making telephone and personal contacts, counseling, or providing opportunities to share experiences in organized support groups;
- Provide information about hospice care settings outside the home, such as nursing homes or residential hospices;
- Provide or coordinate short-term inpatient care, or respite care, when a caregiver needs relief.

Contact MNHPC

Call (651) 917-4616 or visit www.mnhpc.org if you need additional help finding providers or if you have general questions about hospice care for you or your loved ones.