

Kosciusko Home Care & Hospice, Inc.



Stories of Hope

Bucket List-Honoring Last Wishes

- Ride in a Viper, my favorite car.
- Trip to visit sister for the last time.
- Got to attend granddaughter's graduation.



Kosciusko Home Care & Hospice, Inc. receives **"Patient Survey 5-Star Rating"** from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This was the **highest rating** and was awarded to us **by our patients.**

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Improving the Quality of Life of People in your Community



Kosciusko
Home Care & Hospice, Inc.

Caring for Mom & Dad –Through the Eyes of the Caregiver



Cindy's memories of both her parents include lots of laughter, tears, struggles, and knowing she was there every day to care for them. Cindy moved back home with her parents after her mother Shirley was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in 2007. ALS progressed slowly and left Shirley unable to speak, care for herself, and breathe without a ventilator.

For 6 years Shirley's husband and daughter, with the support of family, friends, and Kosciusko Home Care cared for Shirley in her home. The Home Care nurses & aides assisted with medical care and bathing. **"They never treated my mom like she was sick and lifted her spirits when they visited. They became like family,"** said Cindy.

In 2008 Ernie, Cindy's father was diagnosed with cancer and continued his fight with cancer until 2015 when there was no hope for a cure and he wanted his last days to be about quality of life. Ernie and Cindy received the support of the Hospice nurses, social workers, aides, & volunteers during those last few months.

"The support I continue to receive from the Home Care & Hospice staff after the loss of both parents helps me get through the hurt," said Cindy.

Our Home Care Receives Prestigious Award

Only **five Indiana agencies** were selected by Deyta Analytics to receive the national honor of being named as a 2015 HHCAHPS Honors Award Recipient. HHCAHPS Honors is a prestigious award recognizing **home health care agencies** that continuously provide **quality care as measured from the patient's point of view.**



Bereavement Care & Grief Support is a Lifeline to Families

Shirley Tatter's husband of 58 years spent his last 2 months on hospice services. It was Warren's wish to die at home surrounded by his family & friends. Shirley shared, "I would have not been able to keep Warren at home without hospice services." Warren & Shirley's pastor suggested they consider hospice and advised it was **better to start hospice early**. Shirley enjoys recalling memories of Warren, "He had a great sense of humor up to the very end and people that knew him called him one of the good guys."

Shirley attends the **grief support group** offered at **Kosciusko Home Care & Hospice led by the medical social workers**. She has attended the support group for 3 years because it not only helps her, but she feels she can help others that are new to grieving. "I look forward to the grief support groups to meet new friends," shared Shirley. For many people, the support group can be a break in the loneliness that often comes with grief.

Our trained professionals **provide bereavement care and grief support for families for up to 13 months after the loss of a loved one**. Some families decide to continue with the care and support beyond the 13 months.



Music Relaxation Provides Comfort to Hospice Patients



Music often brings comfort to us all during our lifetime. The powerful memories we have of much loved songs from our childhood, church, family events, and happier times. **Bob Jarboe, Hospice Spiritual Counselor and Susan Foegley, Hospice Volunteer** have used their musical gifts to bless people in our community at the end of their lives. Both Bob and Susan honor the last months, weeks, or days of our hospice patients by playing their favorite songs.

"Often I play sacred or classical music because it has a calming melody," said Susan. Hospice patients are invited to share their favorite songs if they are able to speak. **"It is a privilege to be with our patients. It feels like at the end of someone's life that we are standing on Holy Ground,"** shared Bob and Susan.

Our Home Care & Hospice Patients Served in 2015

- * 500 + patients
- * 18,000 patient visits
- * 172,000 miles driven by staff to visit patients

Forty years ago, Joy Carlson, Imogene Canan, June Reed, Helen Shrode, Nancy Zellner, Shirley Rhoades, Jane Chinworth, and Doris Hartter saw a need in our community.

These 8 nurses recognized patients would recover more comfortably in their own homes and the costs would be less expensive than extended hospital or nursing home stays. These visionary women founded a **not-for-profit home care** agency that would provide nursing care as well as physical, occupational, and speech therapy to the **homebound in 1976**.

Celebrating 40 Years of Serving Local Residents

"Hometown Care for Hometown People"



In 1982, Hospices Services were added, providing 24 hour, on-call nursing and support through aides, homemaker, medical social workers, volunteers, and a spiritual counselor.

Services were also added to help **disabled Veterans and the elderly who were a risk**. The **Lifeline program**, which is an emergency response system filled a growing need that allows the elderly or ill to remain in their home with safety monitoring.

It has been our honor to care for our local residents, neighbors, & friends for 40 years.