

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS IN BUSINESS

# 40 years of compassionate care for the seriously ill

**H**osparus Health has been providing compassionate care for patients and families facing serious illness wherever they call home since 1978. Our care teams are recognized and respected nationwide for innovation and expertise in hospice and palliative care for the most complex health issues.

Now one of the top 20 nonprofit hospice organizations in the United States, Hosparus Health serves nearly 7,600 patients and their families in 37 counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. With 650 employees and the support of more than 600 volunteers, our mission is to improve quality of life for anyone facing serious, chronic and life-limiting illness.

## How we started

In the mid-1970s, a group of thoughtful citizens concerned with the needs of the terminally ill began meeting to discuss how to help ensure the best quality of life for this

vulnerable population. A few years later, these dedicated individuals incorporated Hospice of Louisville (HL) as a nonprofit. The all-volunteer organization accepted its first patient in June 1978. In 1980, HL started the first pediatric hospice program in the country, Kourageous Kids.

In the 1990s, HL merged with hospice organizations in Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky to become the Alliance of Community Hospices & Palliative Care Services. In 2008, the combined organization was renamed Hosparus, a word meaning “we guide our guests,” to reflect how our care teams guide patients on their final journey. We added “Health” to our name in 2017 to reflect the changing healthcare landscape and lead the charge in serving more patients and families, well before the end of life.

## What has changed over the years?

Our mission to improve quality of life has never been more relevant, 10,000 baby

boomers are turning 65 years old every day, and up to 85 percent of them are living with at least one serious illness. They are taking back control of their care, demanding to live better, longer. As a result, we recognized the need to expand our services beyond traditional hospice care to include advanced illness care and management. To access hospice, a patient must have a life expectancy of six months or less.

In today's ever-changing world of new therapies and treatments, it is not always easy to put a time frame on illness. Unlike hospice, advanced illness care can be provided at any age and any stage of acute or chronic illness, and care can also be provided along with curative treatments. We've always been focused on quality of life, and now we want to help patients live better for months or years, rather than days or weeks.

## Our plans for the future

To help more seriously ill patients and their families than ever before, Hosparus



# HOSPARUS HEALTH®

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[www.HosparusHealth.org](http://www.HosparusHealth.org)  
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 Louisville, KY 40205

Health has set a two-year strategic goal to serve 10,000 patients and families a year by 2020, and we are well on our way. To achieve that milestone, we're adding staff and resources across our entire service area. Unlike many for-profit providers who are merging to stay competitive, our growth will be organic, as a result of high demand for our expert care. And thanks to the support of our generous donors, we are poised to be the No. 1 provider of choice in the region for the next 40 years and beyond.

## Celebrating 40 Years of Compassionate Care

In the mid-1970s, a group of thoughtful citizens believed people deserved to have the best quality of life possible until the end of life. These selfless volunteers brought a new kind of care to our communities called “hospice.” They weren't sure if it would work or if it would last – they tried it anyway.

Thanks to their bold efforts, this year, Hosparus Health celebrates 40 years of service. Our teams of professionals and volunteers have cared for more than 114,000 patients and families since we admitted that first patient in June 1978.

Today our local, compassionate Care Teams of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, CNAs, counselors and volunteers provide:

- Pain & Symptom Management
- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Specialized Care for the Seriously Ill
- Grief Counseling & Spiritual Support
- We Honor Veterans Program



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