# HIGH PEAKS HOSPICE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

# EXECUTIVE STATEMENT



As High Peaks Hospice looks back on its 33rd year of caring for patients and families in upstate New York, I find myself reflecting on how we've grown as an organization and the many lives in the communities we serve that have been supported by our excellent staff and volunteers.

2019 was a year of progress in many ways. Statistically, our census stayed steady in the mid-60's all year, leading to a 17% increase in patients served over the previous year. Regarding community partnerships, we now have a dedicated liaison with Glens Falls Hospital. Not only has this position deepened our relationship with the hospital, we're using what we've learned to grow our relationships with the other hospitals in our area. We also put together our new Community Engagement Team. This group's focus is reaching into the communities where we live and work to share the benefits and services of hospice.

I am deeply thankful for your dedicated support. It is through donations, hours of volunteer service, creating community partnerships, and staff that help High Peaks Hospice support the well-being of the communities we serve.

Most of all, I thank the families who have trusted us to care for their loved ones during one of life's most important times.

Nick...

#### NICK GEORGE

**Executive Director** 

### Mission Statement

Dignity, comfort and peace at the end of life.

High Peaks Hospice provides end of life care that listens with respect, cares with compassion, supports with choice and comforts with understanding – wherever you call home.

# SERVICE STATISTICS

Total Patients Served: 512

Total Patient Care Days: 23,557

Average Length of Stay: 57 days

Average Daily Census: 65





It has been a very positive year for the Bereavement Care Program at High Peaks Hospice!

- Ed Johnston transitioned from being a Bereavement Coordinator to becoming the Spiritual Care Chaplain for our northern catchment area.
- Jackie Foster, having managed volunteers in our northern region, stepped into the Bereavement Coordinator role, adding Grief and Loss support groups in Essex, Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. She has recently completed certification for the Rainbows for All Children program and has plans for a busy year.
- Dean Brown's role as our southern region
  Bereavement Coordinator has expanded provide
  excellent grief support to families and staff as well
  as give leadership to the Circle of Care Team,
  which includes Spiritual Care Chaplains, Social
  Workers, Volunteer Coordinators, and Bereavement
  Care Coordinators. He continues to be a
  community presence with his well-attended
  support groups the first and third Wednesdays of
  the month and through his service in a local fire
  department.

The opportunity to be present to people who are living in grief is a unique privilege. Bereavement Services supports the families of our service area with support groups, bi-annual Remembrance Gatherings for families, Hope for the Holidays Christmas events, and Rainbows for All Children. We are encouraged to see our efforts expand and result in greater outreach within community schools, churches, and agencies that reach out to us for Bereavement Care. We are grateful for the trust of those we serve. We look forward to the many opportunities 2020 will bring to our healing work.

### VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Volunteers continue to be an integral part of our hospice team! These dedicated individuals support the mission and vision of the agency through a variety of roles: direct patient visits, bereavement, office administration, outreach, development and Rainbows.

In addition, there are those whose volunteer service takes on a very tangible form like the making of quilts, afghans and fleece blankets to give to patients as they come on service as new members of our Hospice family. Others bring holiday cheer each December to our patients and their families by baking cookies that are delivered by Care Team "elves" as they make their visits. Others creatively utilize articles of clothing belonging to our patients to make Memory Bears and pillows for their loved ones to cherish once they have passed. During 2019 the combined effort of our volunteer cadre in performing these diverse acts of service, represented 852 hours; a cost savings to the agency of \$25,717.

We have seen some transition in the leadership of our volunteers both in the northern region and in the south. Jackie Foster transitioned from Volunteer Coordinator in the Tri-Lakes area to Bereavement Coordinator. Kathy Schoolcraft transitioned to Compliance Coordinator for the entire agency after serving the Mineville area as a Volunteer Coordinator.

Bringing fresh energy to the team as Volunteer Coordinator for the combined northern areas is Tracee Boyea. She is already making positive contributions to the administration and development of the volunteer program! Her efforts will be further strengthened by the hiring of a new Volunteer Coordinator in the Glens Falls office. This comes as a result of the current coordinator, Rosalie Brown, transitioning into a Hospice Ambassador. Our thanks to Jackie, Kathy and Rosalie for the service they rendered in their respective territories within our catchment area and the foundation they established. We're excited about the strengths that



Tracee and her new counterpart will bring to their roles and the development and growth that will take place under their leadership inside the volunteer program, within the greater Circle of Care!



For the past six years, Rainbows for All Children at High Peaks Hospice has been dedicated to being the premier source of support for all youth as they navigate grief and heal from loss, whether from death, divorce, deployment, or other trauma.

This programming fosters awareness that youth require support to heal. Over 83% of all children living in the US will experience the loss of a loved one during their childhood.

Children who experience the trauma and grief associated with losing a parent or guardian are at an increased risk for learning, emotional and behavioral issues as well as physical health problems, aggression, substance & alcohol abuse.

Rainbows' programs are for children from all economic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds and are free for all participants. They support development and strengthen both problemsolving skills and appropriate behavior and anger management.

On behalf of myself, my fellow facilitators Jackie Foster, Ed Johnston, Jessie Gibb and the entire Bereavement Team at High Peaks Hospice, we look forward to another year of hope, healing and togetherness!

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

#### Operating Revenue: \$3,815,925

#### **Operating Expenses**

Patient Related Expenses: \$921,134 Salaries Wages and Benefits: \$2,287,801 Administrative and Facility Expenses: \$597,740 **Total Operating Expenses: \$3,806,675** 

#### **Development Income**

Memorials and Bequests: \$28,530 Fundraising and Contributions: \$265,835 Grants and Other Income: 25,459 **Total Non-Operating Income: \$319,824** 

Net Income: \$329,074

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you're interested in joining our Board, please call 518-987-6247 or email starkleson@highpeakshospice.org Peggy Wiltberger, President Amy Foy, Vice President Julie Connors, Treasurer Mark Quaresima, Secretary Jim Horwitz Sister Donna Irvine Michael Miles Jackie Dunn Beatrice Beguin Sharon Shannon



### 2019 Donor List

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