# HIGH PEAKS HOSPICE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



In some regards, 2020 was like the previous few years for us at High Peaks Hospice. We set our goals for the year, adjusted along the way due to the challenges we faced, and we emerged at the end stronger. Yet, this wasn't a typical year because the challenges we faced were not only at work but in every area of our lives. That added a fair bit of extra stress, fear, and anxiety that isn't there normally. And, even with the added challenges, High Peaks Hospice emerged stronger/better than we were a year ago.

I attribute our success every year to one incredibly important factor: HPH is a team who works together! We're not perfect – there are all sorts of factors that attempt to thwart our progress. Working together is how we work through those factors, as a team, as friends, as co-workers. Every successful person at High Peaks Hospice understands the importance of the care we give to our patients and to each other. Together, we prevail over any challenge put before us. Supporting this statement are the statistics from 2020. Most hospices experienced around a 20% drop in patients last year, while we ended 2020, not only with approximately a 20% increase, we also managed to break our daily census record on several days. We also increased staffing levels to better support our patients.

While the events of last year created turmoil, High Peaks Hospice managed the turmoil and closed the year as a success for our patients and our business.

Michal George

NICHOLAS GEORGE

**Executive Director** 

## Mission Statement

dignity, comfort peace

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.

## Admitting Diagnosis

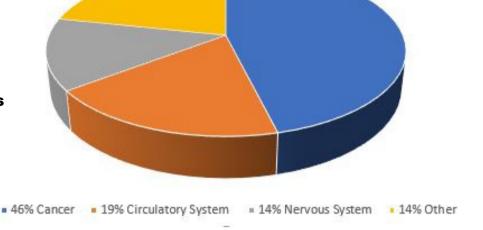
## Service Statistics

Total Patients Served: 565

Total Patient Care Days: 32,859 days

Average Length of Stay: 43 days

Average Daily Census: 73





Our bereavement program at High Peaks Hospice has stayed strong in 2020. For most of us our world as we knew it has been turned upside down, but our bereavement program rose to the challenge and has made the appropriate adjustments to provide support to our families we serve throughout the agency and within the community. In September 2020, Kirby Kay Clark took the position as Bereavement Coordinator, and all three office locations had their first drive up remembrance gatherings. Even though this was a small turn out, the families that came enjoyed

fellowship with other families in the parking lot and received dragonfly ornaments in honor of their loved ones. In December 2020, our program sent out Hope for the Holidays packets to families to help them get through the holidays without their loved ones. In addition, Kirby Kay added another support group for individuals that were 13 months and beyond in their grief journey. Having two support groups allowed space for new people to join. In 2020 the Glens Falls location had the opportunity to serve 50 families through our bereavement support program and 20 community clients.

The Northern Region Grief Support Groups were merged and safely continued by utilizing Zoom through the pandemic shut down. They met on the third Thursday of the month and welcomed new participants. Bereavement support is currently ongoing for over 151 individuals in the Northern Region. This service is available for our patient's families and friends.

The opportunity to be present to people who are living in grief is a unique privilege. The Bereavement Support Program provides our families with five areas of service, Home visits, telephone calls, newsletters, trained bereavement volunteers and grief support group supports. In addition, we provide 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 and growing the bereavement program in 2021.

## Volunteer Update

In the wake of COVID-19, our hospice volunteer program looks a little different, but it has continued to exist, evolve and grow. Our volunteers have continued to support the mission and vision of High Peaks Hospice through a variety of roles including patient visits, bereavement support and office administration. In addition, there are volunteers that make Memory Bears and pillows utilizing articles of clothing belonging to our patients to make for their loved ones to cherish once they have passed.

In March, Maureen Losch joined Tracee Boyea to complete our volunteer services leadership team. They have been working diligently to keep our volunteers engaged. Recruitment and training have continued despite being in the midst of a pandemic. Measures were taken to make sure new and veteran volunteers were safe and comfortable with training and assignments. Although 2020 was a challenge the Volunteer Coordinators look forward to re-engaging their band of volunteers.





Rainbows for All Children (Rainbows) is 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. Rainbows fosters awareness that youth require support to heal. High Peaks Hospice Proudly nurtures a community of effective Rainbows-trained Facilitators, supported with a repository of resources designed to guide youth in their grieving process.

in 2020, HPH celebrated 7 Years of Rainbows and we could not do this without the support of faithful and generous donations made yearly throughout the entire catchment area. This past year brought some new challenges to our children's bereavement program, as the COVID-19 pandemic stifled our ability to work as we once were able to. However, this did not stop our Bereavement Team from rising to the occasion, Jackie Foster, our Northern Bereavement Coordinator and Trained Rainbows Facilitator was able to start a group at the Moriah Central School District Main Campus in Moriah, NY where she brought Rainbows to the cohorts in the elementary building. While Hospice Clinical Social Worker Hadley Adams, LMSW was able to start a Grief Support group for the High School cohort.

As for the future, Southern Children's Grief Facilitators Marie Marvullo, LMHC and Jackie Foster, will partner to support training in a new Rainbows for All Children Program, an evidence-based practice that focuses on loss of any kind during the current pandemic. This new program is called "Silver Linings" and will be High Peaks Hospice's first formal response within therapy, specific to the effects and outcomes of the coronavirus pandemic for children. This training was supported financially through the generous donation of High Peaks Hospice Board Member and Bereavement Volunteer Rick Bergeron.

High Peaks Hospice is excited about the future of our Children's Grief Support Programs and looks forward to serving the youth of our communities in the year ahead!

- Marie Marvullo, Director of Hospice Services

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Revenue: \$4,386,104

### **Operating Expenses**

Patient Related Expenses: \$766,102 Salaries Wages & Benefits: \$2,965,932 Administrative & Facility Expenses \$760,526

**Total Operating Expense:** \$4,492,560

#### **Development Income**

Memorials and Bequests: \$156,518

Fundraising and Contributions: \$139,041

Grants and Other Income: \$45,713

**Total Non Operating Income:** \$341,272

Net Income: \$234,816



# Board of Directors

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If you're interested in joining our Board, please call 518-897-6244 or email cmccool@highpeakshospice.org.

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## \$250-\$999

## Continued

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