

<u>Licensed Social Worker — Haley Rhode</u>

Waiting to Start Hospice Care? Here's Why Sooner Is Better

When faced with a serious illness, many families hesitate to begin hospice care, fearing it signals "giving up." In reality, hospice offers comfort, dignity, and an improved quality of life, and starting earlier can bring profound benefits. By prioritizing relief over aggressive treatments, hospice helps patients manage pain and symptoms effectively, preventing unnecessary hospitalizations and exhausting medical interventions. Without it, families often find themselves making frequent ER visits as symptoms worsen, whereas hospice provides proactive care—ensuring pain, nausea, and breathing difficulties are managed compassionately wherever the patient resides.

Hospice care extends beyond physical treatment, offering emotional and spiritual support through dedicated nurses, social workers, aides, volunteers, and chaplains. Families receive guidance during this challenging journey, while patients are surrounded by warmth, understanding, and respect. Early enrollment also allows space for meaningful conversations, reflection, and closure—ensuring loved ones have the time to express their deepest thoughts and make important decisions.

A common misconception is that hospice is only appropriate in the final days or weeks of life, but this often delays vital care. Hospice can provide months of comfort-focused treatment, allowing patients to live fully and focus on living well in the time they have left, rather than waiting until suffering becomes unbearable. Embracing hospice sooner rather than later shifts the focus from crisis to quality of life, offering peace, support, and dignity when it's needed most.

-Haley Rhode LSW

"Let Us Walk This Journey With You"

Hospice of Murray County would like to come and speak to community members, church groups, medical professionals, groups for men or women, families, and friends in our surrounding areas to help educate on various topics surrounding end-of-life care and available resources.

By educating you about our Hospice program and services we offer, it is our hope that everyone who can benefit from our program and services will know about their options and have the ability to ask for our help, sooner rather than later

If you would like more information about Hospice please contact us @ 507-836-8114 or email Haley @ haley.rhode@hospiceofmurraycounty.com and we would be more than happy to talk to you.

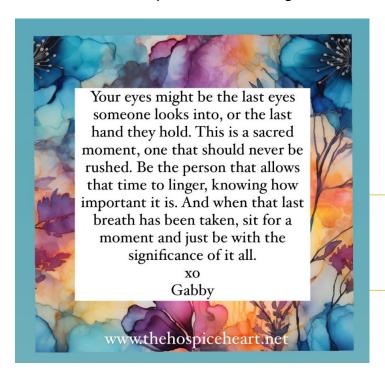


Volunteer Coordinator—Mary Baune

Though it feels as if summer has only just begun, it is already half over. As we prepare for the Hospice of Murray County's Annual Rummage Sale, we invite volunteers to join us in supporting this cause. Whether you can offer a few hours or a full day, your help is appreciated. Volunteers are needed for setup, organization, sales, food preparation to serve all workers and clean up. If you know of individuals or a group looking for community service projects, please let us know. Hospice of Murray County is also looking for volunteers to donate side-by-sides to aid moving items from

one building to the next. Hospice is also seeking temporary use of enclosed trailers to assist with transporting the remaining items following our Rummage Sale. Your support helps us manage the Rummage Sale efficiently and continue serving our community This is our biggest fundraiser of the year!

I would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful in the past years as well as the present. We are ever so grateful for your help and continued support!





"Quality Care you know and expect"

Hospice is always in need of volunteers throughout the year. We have several loyal volunteers that go south for the winters and need volunteers to fill in from time to time. If you're off work early or looking for something to do on your days off, we can work with your schedule and plan accordingly. If this is something that might interest, please E-mail me @ mary.baune@hospiceofmurraycounty.com Mary Baune Volunteer Coordinator

Our House Coordinator—Eden Bengtson-Carney -LPN

Whether you donate your time or something from our wish list, it is truly appreciated. Donations throughout the year help Our House allocate funds to the most needed areas. If you have any questions about donating or want an update on our wish list, contact Eden Bengtson-Carney, LPN|House Coordinator, at 836-8114.



"Your #1 Choice for Hospice Care in the Community Since 1987"

Our House Wish List

Eggs

Brownie/cake mixes

Large body pillows

Cribbage board

Bird seed

New -Large Coolers

New- Electric Roasters

Deep pocket Single Sheet Sets

Towels & Wash Cloth Sets

New- Electric Razors (men/women)

Paper Products

-paper towels

-toilet paper

-napkins

-paper plates, cups & silverware

Ziplock Bags

Cases of Water

Pork or Beef Bundles

Summer 2025



PO Box 86 * 36 Park Drive * Slayton MN 56172 Phone : 507-836-8114 * Fax : 507-836-6462 * Email : hospicemc@hospiceofmurraycounty.com

Administrator — Marti Engelkes

I hope that you are all having a wonderful summer so far! The temps have been warm, the rain plentiful and wind breezy. I thought I'd share a little bit about what I would like you all to know about our Hospice team.

At Hospice of Murray County, it is my expectation and practice that ALL members of our staff are representatives of our Hospice and the qualities you would expect are cultivated and valued by all.

We are all members of a team; with the mission to provide the best end of life care to the communities we serve.

The voice of our hospice is that voice that first answers the phone when a referral is called into the office, or a call to Our House. It's first "Hello, how can I help you" when you walk into the Hospice office.

The face of our hospice is the face of that Home Health Aide with gentle demeanor and kind word for an overwhelmed, sleep deprived caregiver....

Our professionalism is demonstrated by that Hospice staff, be it a Social Worker, Volunteer Coordinator, Home Health Aide, Volunteer, Chaplain, Nurse, who upon entering the home of a lonely, disfigured patient for the first time looks into their eyes, introduces herself, respectfully addresses them by their first name, smiles and says "I'm here to help you."

Our tact is demonstrated by that Nurse who upon entering the ill kept, malodorous home of a patient, smiles and says, "Hi, Mr. Johnson, it's good to see you again."

Our poise is demonstrated by that volunteer who while delivering equipment faces an angry, anxious caregiver and calmly defuses the situation by acknowledging the fear and heartache felt..." Mrs. Jones, I'm glad to be able to bring you what you needed; this will help your husband now. Are you OK?"

Our image.... Well, what better image but the calming presence of a clinician who in the middle of maelstrom, can and is willing to help?

We are here for our patients. We are here for our families. We are here for our communities. Through anything. Many say that they did not know what Hospice was until they needed us. We want the community to know us more than that. We want the community to know us BEFORE they need us. We want to be part of the community that you can ask questions to before you need hospice. We can help out. Call us or join us in a community activity. We'd love to see you.

Marti Engelkes, LSW Licensed Social Worker, Administrator

Our Staff

MARY BAUNE EDEN BENGTSON-CARNEY AUDREY BRAUN PAM BUSSWITZ ASHLEY CARLSON LUCILLE DESLAURIERS HEATHER ENGELKES STEPHANIE FORD BRIANNA HARGIS CATHY KOR DR. CAROL L LANG SADIE LAPPEGARD ANN MUECKE ASHTON KALAS MICHELLE KALAS DR. RICHARD KLINGLER OLIVIA LEWIS HALEY MEREL ANN MUECKE ASHLEY OPDAHL TAYLOR OSSEFOORT LEROY REESE HALEY RHODE MCKENNA SAMUELSON DR. LARRY SANCHEZ CHANTEL SCARSET DIANE SCARSET JESSICA SUNDAHL LORI VON HOLTUM GRACE WILLIAMS

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