



# Coordinating Care

Hospice of Green Country sets the standard for providing compassionate care, supportive services, and dignity for patients and their families navigating the end-of-life journey.

**W**hen a loved one is faced with a terminal condition, patients and their families often question end-of-life care options. Should they consider hospice care? If so, when is the right time?

"Hospice care is not a death sentence," says Patty Wilson, executive director at Hospice of Green Country. "It emphasizes patient autonomy and respects the individual's desire for quality of life while offering compassionate care for patients, support for caregivers, and services for families when they need it most."

She notes that hospice care is most beneficial when used for several months prior to death, as it eases suffering throughout the process. "The more time we have with patients and their loved ones, the more we can help," she says.



**Patty Wilson, Executive Director  
Hospice of Green Country**

As the oldest hospice in northeastern Oklahoma, Hospice of Green Country has served the community of Tulsa for more than 30 years and is the only community-based, United Way-supported, multicultural, multifaith, nonprofit hospice in the area.

## Caring for Caregivers

At Hospice of Green Country, care is offered on a continuum and comes with a host of benefits to address the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs surrounding the end-of-life journey for all parties involved, including caregivers.

"We believe in caring for the individuals who care for the patients," Wilson says. "We look at what the caregiver needs to support and empower the patient, which ultimately allows families to stay in their own homes, surrounded by their cherished memories."

"For example," she continues, "our Stay At Home program is a partnership that allows caregivers to continue working, and we offer respite care for the much-needed breaks required for long-term caregivers."

Under the guidance of the patient's physician, a multidisciplinary team of experts—including nurses, social workers, chaplains, bereavement counselors, and volunteers—works to make every moment count.

To that end, the Pet Peace of Mind program, which began at Hospice of Green Country and has since been replicated nationwide, provides food and routine healthcare for companion animals. "Pets are critical to the well-being of both patients and caregivers," says Wilson. "By providing care for the animal companions of patients who lack the ability or resources to keep pets, we make sure animals provide comfort as long as possible."

At Hospice of Green Country, Wilson and a diverse team of specialists come together to make the most of every life. "We are dedicated to guarding the comfort and dignity of individuals," says Wilson. "We provide nurturing guidance from a holistic viewpoint, so we can help patients and their loved ones navigate uncertainty with support. We put the human factor back into the equation and coordinate care for not only the patient, but the whole family."



**For those with an end-stage illness, hospice can provide holistic, supportive care. Considering these questions can help when evaluating end-of-life care options.**

Will various treatment interventions increase the length and quality of life?  
What will happen if there is no medical intervention?  
What will make the patient most comfortable?  
Does the patient have a goal to accomplish?