



## The “Grace” of Gracious Care Hospice

*Gracious Care Hospice offers end-of-life care steeped in kindness, compassion, and a distinctly personalized approach.*

**T**he patient was in mid-30s—far too young to be looking at the end of his life. “The cancer had spread throughout the body, and the family was distressed and in denial, trying desperately to manage their loved one’s pain and navigate the chaos of medical care. They had no medical coverage, but we stepped in to help,” recalls Andreea Benea of Gracious Care Hospice, a privately owned Portland-area hospice.

“Every single team member, from nurses and doctors to social workers and chaplains, was touched by this case and visited the young patient every day,” she continues. “Our multilingual staff made sure the patient and the family

understood every option.”

With the pain and complex medical care managed, the patient’s family could simply be with their loved one, finding connection, peace, and acceptance in the final weeks. “This is where the ‘grace’ in ‘Gracious Care’ comes in,” says Ioana Cristurean. “We are here to provide quality of life at the end of life.”

### Growing Grace

In 2022, Gracious Care’s team oversaw the end-of-life care of more than 150 people. As word spreads about Gracious Care’s singular focus on highly individualized, holistic, patient-centered care, the organization continues to grow. Most patients receive hospice care in their own homes, where they feel most comfortable. Others are cared for in adult foster homes, assisted living facilities, residential and memory care facilities, or nursing homes.

“We go wherever our patients call home,” says Cristurean. Same-day admissions and fast responses to referrals are trademarks of Gracious Care, she adds.

Studies show that patients enrolled in hospice care live, on average, 29 days longer—and with a higher quality of life—than those not in hospice. Yet even today, myths abound about hospice. Rather than being prohibitively expensive, hospice care is completely covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most major insurance companies. Even

more important, rather than “giving up” on a patient, this complex medical specialty focuses on providing comfort for patients with a terminal condition who have fewer than six months to live.

The goal is to provide pain relief and comfort via a multidisciplinary team that supports each patient and family during one of life’s most profound experiences. While doctors and nurses provide state-of-the-art palliative (comfort based) medical treatments, other team members offer spiritual and emotional support as well as massage, music therapies, and other modalities.

“If you call Gracious Care Hospice at 2 a.m., we will answer the phone; we will know your name, and we will know everything about your loved one,” says Benea. “That attention to detail is so important. We are dedicated to our patients, regardless of creed, belief, or background. Every individual matters to us.”



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