



"The Heart of Caring"



Lovejoy Children's Hospice Program Opening

"Hearts & Hands"

Children from our area who are diagnosed with life-limiting illnesses often receive treatment in out-of-town or out-of-state pediatric centers. Their parents are forced to make difficult, even heart-breaking, decisions. Some parents choose to be with their children in the hospital, while their other children stay with relatives or friends. Some use up family leave time from their jobs, and then lose their jobs because they are with their dying child. The additional costs associated with travel, living away from home to be near the hospital, and sometimes loss of employment adds to the trauma of watching their child decline. The moment arrives when parents want and need to bring their child home to spend quality time surrounded by family and friends. Yet many of our children die away from home, without the support of extended family, surrounded by strangers and equipment, with intravenous tubes and catheters extending from their small bodies. Pediatric hospice care in our area will support parents in bringing their children home to familiar, loving surroundings.

Lovejoy Hospice utilized past experience, surveys and research to identify the need for a program of care to meet the unique hospice needs of local children and their families. The goal of the pediatric hospice care program is to ensure that all children in our area with life-limiting illnesses have access to the highest quality of life while being cared at home.

Lovejoy Hospice provides care for all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. Medicare and other insurance carriers provide reimbursement but it does not cover the cost of offering hospice care to all who need it, which is our mandate in order to receive Medicare compensation. Many services that we provide to the community including bereavement services for children or adults, training in hospice concepts for local medical professionals, resource materials, outreach and education to civic groups and pediatric equipment purchases are also not reimbursed. Expanding services for pediatric care with the "Hearts & Hands" program will require both initial and on-going specialized staff training in clinical care, bereavement and social work. The total cost for planning, training, equipment and implementation of the project for 2007 – 2010 is estimated at more than \$173,000.

Lovejoy Hospice is our free-standing "home grown" not-for-profit organization that came into being through the efforts and team work of many hundreds of local volunteers, sponsors, benefactors and community professionals. Services are available to all regardless of their ability to pay. The development of this program fits into the current activities and long-range plans of Lovejoy Hospice to increase access to hospice care and bereavement services for families and patients of all ages in the coming years.

Why we need your help

- We want to make children's home hospice care a reality for our area.
- For 2008 reimbursement by Medicare is increased by 3.3% for Josephine County based on a federal evaluation formula. However, our local costs for equipment, staffing, transportation, telecommunications, utilities and pharmaceuticals have all risen many times more than that.
- Our area population, and therefore the need for hospice care, is growing at a very rapid rate.
- As a community-based not-for-profit organization we compete for the best nurses, social workers, chaplains, home health aides and administrative personnel with agencies in other Oregon counties that are reimbursed by Medicare at a significantly higher rate than Josephine County.

Respect

Advocacy

Integrity

Community

Teamwork

Hospice and Spiritual Help

This story comes from one of our Lovejoy Hospice Chaplains.

Jan was a postal carrier who really loved people. Her whole life revolved around meeting new people and making friends. When she got sick she had to stay at home and couldn't get out to meet people anymore. When I went to visit her she was very unhappy and did not want to talk with me. I suggested that we get to know each other as new friends. She was reluctant but she proceeded to tell me a story about when she was carrying mail. She used to keep a box of dog biscuits on the dashboard of her truck for the dogs on her route. At one home there was a horse that learned to stick his head into the truck and eat biscuits right from the box.

One day when Jan was at this particular home to deliver mail, the owner came out and said, "You have to stop feeding my horse dog biscuits!" Jan asked why and the owner said, "Because now I can't even get near my horse unless I have a biscuit!" Jan replied, "I can't stop, it would just kill me." At that point in her story, I asked Jan to stop and do what is called a "perception check." I suggested: "being unable to see your friends is really killing you inside. Your physical body is ravaged by this disease but your spiritual part is being ravaged by the lack of interaction with your friends. At that point Jan began to cry. "That's right" she said and then began to open up and talk to me.

Looking to the Future

Here are the major Lovejoy Hospice projects planned in the next few years:

Pediatric Hospice and Palliative Care Service

As described in the opening article, this is a major expansion of our service designed to meet a pressing community need of families and children.

Public education on the benefits of early referral

Statistics show that early referral benefits patients and their families physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially and allows them to anticipate and plan around end of life issues.

Feasibility studies to identify service needs based upon on the rise in retirees in our area. With our senior population growing demands for hospice care will continue to rise. We want to be fully able to meet those needs.

Acquire an integrated computerized system for patient care

To serve our patients efficiently and accurately and stay current with health care regulations and standards for patient records management it is essential that we transform to a computerized system.



Your Gift of Caring to Lovejoy Hospice

Last year, because of caring people like you, Lovejoy Hospice provided 6,137 patient care home visits, 3,950 adult bereavement contacts and served an average of 58 patients per day.

Please join us this year in reaching our goal to successfully launch the Hearts and Hands Children's Hospice Program and make it possible for Lovejoy Hospice to continue to serve all ages in our community, regardless of ability to pay.

- \$1000 covers the cost of a series of bereavement classes for adults and children
- \$300 covers 1 day of care for a hospice child
- \$200 covers the cost of one visit from a nurse

A gift of any size matters. If you can, consider pledging for 2008 and 2009 as well. Your gift can help provide bereavement care for a child or palliative care to ease the pain of a terminally ill adult or child. Call us if you have questions. There are all kinds of ways to help. 541-474-1193

Excellence

Stewardship

Respect

Advocacy