



THE CARING VOICE

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APRIL - JUNE 2026

Friends of Hospice,

With the rising temperatures, snow melting, and light returning, our community is reminded once again that Spring is here. The season invites us to notice the small but certain signs of renewal, longer days, softening ground, and first hints of grass. It's a time that naturally turns our attention toward expansion, growth, and possibility.

At Hospice of Anchorage, we feel that same sense of momentum. Over the past several months, our organization has grown in meaningful ways. We have increased the number of donations and resources going out into the community, strengthened our outreach efforts, and seen a rise in volunteer engagement and participation. Each of these steps reflect our ongoing commitment to preparing hearts, embracing life, and honoring loss.

As we move forward, I invite you to keep an eye out for our Bloom Into Spring letter, which will share more about the work ahead and the many ways we continue to support individuals and families navigating terminal diagnosis, dying, and grief.

Thank you for being part of this community and for helping us nurture hope and purpose as the world around us begins to bloom once more.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Susie

Suzanne R. Smith
Executive Director

In this newsletter:

Operations Update

Message from the
Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Caregiving and
Anticipatory Grief
Support

Happy Anniversary to
Staff!

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Highlight

Thank You to Our
Donors

Operations Update

As Hospice of Anchorage approaches the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2026, the organization continues to build momentum through thoughtful planning, strong community engagement, and steady operational programming. Over the past quarter, we have welcomed new volunteers, staff members, and board members who each bring fresh perspectives, compassion, and dedication to our mission.

This season has also been a time of preparation for the year ahead. Staff and leadership have been engaged in careful budget development, continued process improvement, and strategic planning to ensure that Hospice of Anchorage remains a sustainable and responsive resource for our community. New programmatic calendars are being developed to guide educational offerings, support groups, and outreach activities, helping us provide consistent and meaningful opportunities for connection and support throughout the coming year.

At the same time, the organization is actively exploring new funding opportunities to sustain and expand programs that serve our community. These efforts reflect a shared commitment from staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners to strengthen the foundation of Hospice of Anchorage while honoring the generosity of those who support this work.

As we close another fiscal year, we are grateful for the dedication of everyone who helps make this mission possible and look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

Gratefully,

Ann

Ann Corbett
Operations Director

Message from the Board

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I'm writing on behalf of the Board to share an important update: after careful consideration, we will not be holding our 2026 Annual Gala.

This thoughtful decision reflects our commitment to compassion, as several key members of our community are currently facing significant health challenges. Hosting a large-scale event under these circumstances would not align with the care and balance we strive to uphold.

Our mission—to help individuals and families prepare for and live well with terminal diagnosis, dying, and grief—guides us to extend that same compassion inward to our own team.

Instead of the gala, we will focus on a series of smaller, intentional campaigns throughout the year. These efforts will allow us to continue honoring and engaging donors, partners, volunteers, clients, and families in meaningful ways.

Please be assured that our organization remains financially stable and fully committed to providing all services at no charge. This shift reflects our values, not a change in our promise to the community.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to connecting with you in new and meaningful ways in the year ahead.

With appreciation,

Paloma

Paloma Hawn
Board President

Upcoming Events

April: 18th - Compassionate Companion Training 10AM-4PM
24th - Chair Yoga with Aprille Cage 6-7PM
29th - Men's Health Fair 10AM-3PM

May: 1st - Volunteer Appreciation: Garden Party 5-7PM
7th - Writing with Kindness with Kim Reynolds 5:30-7PM

June: 5th - Volunteer Connection: Legacy Service Project 4-6PM
13th - Healing Trails Grief Walk 10-11:30AM



Caregiver & Anticipatory
Grief Group
Wednesday's
April 8 - June 24
6:00-7:00PM

Happy Anniversary!

While a year may not seem long, reflecting on my work anniversary reminds me just how much has been woven into these twelve months. My role at Hospice of Anchorage has grown from Administrative Assistant to Administrative and Communications Coordinator, and with that shift has come a meaningful expansion of responsibility. I'm not only the gatekeeper of our office but I also support marketing, content creation, outreach, program facilitation, and events. This position challenges me, stretches my creativity, and continues to shape me both personally and professionally.

When I tell people I work for hospice, I often hear that it "takes a certain kind of person." As the primary person answering our phones and greeting people at the door, I understand why. Every day, I speak with individuals navigating end-of-life for themselves or someone they love: caregivers supporting their partner with dementia, a young spouse facing their partner's terminal cancer, families worried because their grandmother has stopped eating. Between the pauses, the tears, and the uncertainty, I hold space for listening, grounding the moment, and offering what support I can.

Even on the heavy days, I love this work most of all for the clear impact we make. I witness the gratitude of people receiving durable medical equipment or essential medical supplies at no cost. I hear how a robotic pet or baby doll brings dramatic comfort to someone with dementia. I see the relief and empowerment in participants after I teach a class on end-of-life planning, the dying process, and what to do after a death.

One moment in particular of this year continues to stay with me. I received a card from a grief group attendee who wrote, "Because of your leadership of this group, I am walking away a little stronger, a little less broken, and a little more able to talk about my grief." That card is kept on my desk next to my office phone, reminding me why I do this work and why I'm committed to helping our organization expand its reach. I know the impact we have is real, powerful, and deeply needed. And I'm proud to be part of carrying that mission forward.

Angie

Angela Frank
Administrative and Communications Coordinator

Volunteer Spotlight

"When I retired from teaching I knew that I would have no problem keeping myself busy with volunteer work, but I was not as confident that I would find an organization whose culture and structure I could fully embrace. As a volunteer at HOA, I feel that my time is valued, my personal skills are utilized, and I am able to make meaningful connections with other volunteers and staff members. HOA has become my volunteer home."

Leslie



Volunteer Highlight

As a newly retired teacher, Leslie Hannam felt inspired to share her talents through volunteer work. After exploring several organizations, she applied to Hospice of Anchorage, and once we connected with her to share our mission and opportunities, we knew we had found someone special.

Since joining our team, Leslie has donated countless hours with enthusiasm, kindness, and reliability. She stepped in seamlessly when another volunteer needed to pause service, and she has used her gifts to support her Compassionate Companion and strengthen our Spark of Joy program. She is also one of the first to respond when emergent needs arise.

Leslie brings joy, warmth, and balance to every interaction, all while honoring her own commitments with grace. We are truly better because of her. Thank you, Leslie, for putting your care into action on behalf of Hospice of Anchorage.

Krista

Krista Petersen
Volunteer Program Coordinator

Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Ann Corbett
Operations Director

Kae Quick
Palliative Care Case
Manager

Angela Frank
Administrative &
Communications Coordinator

Krista Petersen
Volunteer Program
Coordinator

Carolyn Stone
Masters of Social Work,
Intern

Dear Donors,

When the returning light becomes impossible to ignore, we know Spring has arrived. We feel it on our skin, notice it in the lengthening days, and sense it in our spirits. It invites us to remember that a time for renewal is here, and that life is worth being celebrated.

In hospice work, we walk alongside individuals and families during some of life's most tender moments. We witness grief, love, courage, and the profound vulnerability that accompanies the end of life. Yet spring reminds us of an essential truth: our work is not only about honoring death but also honoring life.

Your generosity makes this possible. Because of you, we can support our community in living fully, with dignity and comfort, in the time they have. You help us create moments of joy and connection, moments that affirm that life remains rich, beautiful, and deeply worth honoring.

May the light bring you a sense of awakening and feelings of renewal in your own life as spring begins once more. This season teaches us that even amid loss, there is room for warmth, growth, and the quiet miracle of beginning again.

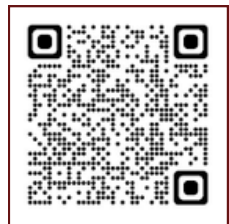
Thank you for walking with us and helping us celebrate life in all its forms.

With gratitude,

Hospice of Anchorage Team

Supporting Our Mission

Every donation helps us provide no-cost support to Alaskans navigating terminal diagnosis, dying, and grief. From client care to our resource center, DME loan closet, and community education, your contribution directly strengthens the services so many rely on. If you're able, we invite you to give and help us continue preparing hearts, embracing life, and honoring loss.



Hospice of Anchorage

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