

Hospice of Anchorage

VOL. 7

THE CARING VOICE

JULY 2025

Friends of Hospice of Anchorage,

As the season warms, HOA is excited to share this summer 2025 update highlighting our continued commitment to compassionate care and operational excellence. I am most grateful for the full complement of incredible team members we now have at HOA! These ladies are the lifeblood of our non-profit as are our inspirational hospice volunteers.

Here is a rundown of your current HOA team

(*part-time employees are denoted by an asterisk):

Clinical Program Manager – Stefanie LeBarre, LCSW

Operations Manager – Ann Corbett

Case Manager – Kae Quick

Volunteer Program Coordinator – position advertised and interviews pending*

Admin. Program Assistant – Angie Frank*

In addition to our great team of employees and volunteers alike, we must also recognize our HOA student interns! With the most gratitude, we have come to the end of our first year with social work student interns. Many of you may have had the pleasure of working with either Leeann Brewster, our Master of Social Work intern or Tracy Israelson, our Bachelor of Social Work intern. These two incredible human beings have been such a delight to work with and train in the hospice philosophy. We bid them farewell with our greatest thanks for the way they have served this community.

More great news is that Maya Thayer is our newest social work intern who will continue to be with us until August 15th. We thank Stefanie LeBarre, our Clinical Program Manager, for her exceptional mentorship and professional supervision of our students and we are excited about two new prospective interns for the coming school year. What a success that has been for HOA!

We truly appreciate all our friends of Hospice of Anchorage. We simply could not do this work without you! Our team is deeply committed to ensuring excellence in all service delivery yielding the utmost hospice services available to our community. And, if you haven't seen our gorgeous entryway lately, please swing by to see the great work of some of our volunteers and clients alike. I smile each time I go by to see what blooms because of many hands committed to this mission. I am honored to serve by your side! Thank you for your time and support. Have a great summer!

Warmly,

Susie

Suzanne R. Smith*

Executive Director

Welcoming Our New Team Member > Kae Quick

Kae Quick is our Palliative Care Case Manager. Originally from a small town in Western Montana, she moved to Eagle River in 2003. She has a strong foundation in psychology, education, and family support. She earned a BA in Psychology from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi in 2003.

Kae and her husband, Mike, started their family with the birth of their first of three children in 2005. She spent the first several years raising her children and actively volunteering in the community and schools. She became certified as a parent coach during COVID. This specialized training gives her the ability to guide families through emotional challenges with empathy, structure, and respect of individual values. She is very excited to join the HOA team and hopes to do justice to the position with her compassionate, organized, holistic approach to helping clients navigate the complexities of palliative care with dignity and understanding.



< Welcoming Our New Board Member Dawn Humenik

Dawn Humenik has called Anchorage home since 2011, after spending several years living and working overseas. A Maryland native, she moved to Alaska to be closer to her now-husband, and has since become deeply involved in the community. Professionally, Dawn serves as an Operations Specialist at the University of Alaska Anchorage's Small Business Development Center, where she supports small businesses across the state in accessing much-needed funding and resources.

Drawn to meaningful volunteer work, Dawn connected with Hospice of Anchorage after feeling called to support others through end-of-life experiences—a journey inspired by personal loss and a desire to give back in a more impactful way. Since completing the Compassionate Companion program, she has supported clients and families, and contributed to volunteer and staff appreciation efforts.

Dawn brings to the Board a unique blend of professional insight, compassion, and dedication. She's especially interested in shifting the conversation around death toward one of openness and dignity, and in supporting both caregivers and families. Outside of work and volunteering, Dawn enjoys reading, travel, gardening, and exploring all aspects of well-being—from fitness to mindfulness.

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907.561.5322 | info@hospiceofanchorage.org | 2612 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99508

Upcoming Events



Grief Support Group

July 11 – Sep. 26th
Friday's @11AM-12:30

We welcome you to a space where you don't have to walk through grief alone. Guided by Alan Wolfelt's insightful book, *Understanding Your Grief*, this group offers a safe and gentle place to explore your emotions, share your story, and find comfort in the company of others who understand.



Grief Paint Night: July 24 @6:00PM

Grief can feel like a storm with no shore in sight. We invite you to a peaceful space where you can simply be—no need to explain, fix, or move on. Together, we'll slow the breath, ground ourselves in the present, and allow room for sorrow, memory, and healing to unfold without judgment.



Mindfulness Meditation: Aug. 14 @6:30PM

Join us for an evening of healing through art. Whether you've lost a loved one recently or long ago, this gentle gathering offers space to honor your journey, express your emotions, and connect in a creative, compassionate environment. No artistic experience needed. No cost. All supplies provided.



End-of-Life Planning: Sep. 22 @6:00PM

A compassionate and informative gathering designed to help individuals and families explore the practical and emotional aspects of preparing for life's final chapter. Whether you're planning for yourself or supporting a loved one, this event offers a safe space to ask questions, share stories, and begin the journey with confidence.

Hospice of Anchorage Gala: Oct. 25 at 6:00PM >

Step into a world of enchantment where twilight blooms and masked elegance meet under the stars. Join us for *Masquerade in the Garden*, a magical evening celebrating compassion, community, and end-of-life care.

> **Tickets Now Available!** Secure your place at this unforgettable gala featuring a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, and captivating silent and live auctions. Purchase your tickets at auctria.events/HOA2025 or follow the QR code to prepare for a night of mystery and meaning.

> **Become a Table Sponsor.** Host your own enchanted corner of the garden! Table sponsors receive premium seating, recognition in event materials, and the chance to gather friends or colleagues for a night to remember. To sponsor a table, visit auctria.events/HOA2025 or follow the QR code.

> **Accepting Silent Auction Donations.** We're curating a collection of high-quality silent auction items that reflect the beauty and spirit of the evening. From artisan goods to unique experiences, your donation helps us continue our mission. To contribute, visit our gala website, email info@hospiceofanchorage.org or call us at 907.561.5322.



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Volunteer Program Coord.

Dear Donors,

Thank you to our generous donors for your unwavering support. Your continued trust in our mission and the work we do for the Anchorage community means the world to us. We truly couldn't do it without you.

With gratitude,

Hospice of Anchorage Team

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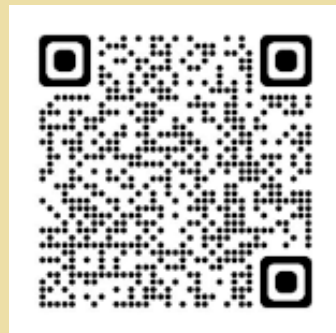
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Community Members

A Helping Hand

Our services and resource center at Hospice of Anchorage are offered completely free of charge to those in need. By making a gift today, you're investing in our community—helping individuals and families throughout Anchorage navigate a terminal illness, dying, and grief with dignity, support, and compassion. Together, we can continue to provide comfort when it matters most.



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