Spring is a season of new beginnings, which we recently experienced as **we celebrated the first day of spring this week with the opening of Bluegrass Adult Day Health Care in Frankfort.** The beautiful facility will welcome adults with mental or physical limits and features fun activities in warm surroundings. We are pleased to expand our services, giving caregivers a great option for support as they work or need daytime assistance for a loved one.

**We are also just weeks away from opening a 10-bed hospice care unit at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.** Our inpatient teams have cared for patients throughout UK Hospital for some years, yet this new unit will provide our patients and families the chance to enjoy calm, relaxed surroundings along with our expert hospice care. Being one of very few hospice inpatient care centers in the country located in an academic medical center, we will have the unique opportunity to not only provide care but for training and education.

This winter brought many opportunities to celebrate our dedicated staff. As extreme weather struck many of our communities with snow, ice and flooding, our teams managed to see patients in remote, rural areas despite many obstacles placed in their paths. As a health care provider, we know that our patients and their families are counting on us to be there when they need us – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We appreciate the effort and grit of our staff as they faced tough weather days and delivered necessary care to those we serve.

**This year we are celebrating a very special milestone.** March 18 marked 40 years since a small nonprofit hospice run by volunteer doctors, nurses and aides welcomed its first patient. Gladys Dotson, a Lexington resident became the first patient of Community Hospice of Lexington, which has grown into Bluegrass Care Navigators. While we now help more than 12,000 patients a year in our different service lines, hospice care remains at the heart of our mission. In 2017, we were lucky and very thankful to care for more than 5,600 patients and their families in 32 counties through Bluegrass Hospice Care.

We hope you will enjoy the stories in this newsletter. They show the spirit of giving and caring we see so often in the work we do.

Liz Fowler, President & CEO
Bluegrass Care Navigators
We are celebrating our 40th anniversary this year and would like to know how our services have touched your life. Please take a quick moment to tell us how our staff, our services or our support has made a difference in your life or the life of someone you love, at: bgcarenav.org/40voices

Comings and goings

Stephanie Greene joined us in November as our new Vice President & Chief of Hospice Services. She came to us from Caretenders / Almost Family, a provider of home health nursing, rehabilitation and personal care services, where she was the regional executive director. Stephanie has extensive experience in developing strategic relationships with corporations, community organizations and health care providers.

Denise Burton, RN, BSN, CHPN, was promoted, leaving her position as nurse supervisor to become the new executive director for Northern Kentucky.

Deede Byrne retired as chief operating officer in August for the warmer climate in Florida, capping 27 years of hard work, commitment and leadership.

Carla Foster retired in December as executive director of our Northern Kentucky operations after 12 years with the agency. “As a leader, she gained respect and confidence by consistently being an available resource of knowledge, encouragement and support for her staff, colleagues and peers,” said President and CEO Liz Fowler.

We welcome Stephanie and Denise to their new roles and thank Carla and Deede for their years of service and dedication to our mission.

Donations pour in to Hazard Care Center

The Greg and Noreen Wells Hospice Care Center in Hazard asked for help with coffee, creamer and condiments for patients and families, and word spread quickly through social media. Once again, area residents came through, filling rooms with load after load of needed supplies. Next, shoppers and workers at the local Save-a-Lot donated the proceeds of their food drive to the center.

Thank you, Hazard, for this amazing response and your continued support!
Thank you, Don Jacobs

**A huge thanks to everyone in the Don Jacobs family,** strong supporters of Bluegrass Care Navigators. Your generosity will make a profound difference for families facing a serious illness or a recent loss. This wonderful donation can provide care for a patient for several months or support individualized grief counseling for more than 40 people. Thank you for helping our families.

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**Bundle Up with Bourbon & Blues**

More than 300 people gathered at the Keeneland Sales Pavilion in Lexington to enjoy the 2018 “Bundle Up with Bourbon and Blues.” Guests enjoyed Kentucky-themed cuisine, bourbon workshops provided by Four Roses, Limestone Branch and 1792 distilleries, and dancing to the sounds of the Jordan English Band. Once again, the Mystery Boxes were received with great anticipation and excitement.

**The best part?** The proceeds from the event are now being used to provide expert and compassionate care for Bluegrass Hospice Care patients and their families.
Care That’s Right for You or Your Loved One.

Bluegrass Extra Care  
Bluegrass Home Primary Care  
Bluegrass Adult Day Health Care  
Bluegrass Transitional Care  
Bluegrass Palliative Care  
Bluegrass Hospice Care  
Bluegrass Grief Care

Learn more about our grief & loss support groups & other events:  
www.bgcarenav.org  |  855.492.0812

APRIL

15–21 National Volunteer Week  
Recognize the integral role volunteers play in advancing patient engagement and quality care. Visit www.ahvrp.org to learn more.

16 National Healthcare Decisions Day  
Inspiring, educating and empowering the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. Visit www.nhdd.org to learn more.

22 A Walk to Remember — Hazard  
2 p.m. Join us for a memorial walk dedicated to parents and families who have suffered the loss of a child regardless of age, including unborn children. 57 Dennis Sandlin MD Cove, Hazard, Ky. Call 606.439.2111 for more info.

28 National Prescription Drug Take-back Day  
This event aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Visit deadiversion.usdoj.gov to learn more.

MAY

1–30 Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month  
Honors devoted professionals for their compassion and dedication to the care of the critically ill and injured. Visit www.sccm.org to learn more.

6–12 National Nurses Week  
Celebrating the role nurses play in delivering high quality care to patients around the world. Visit www.nursingworld.org/education-events/national-nurses-week to learn more.

6–12 National Hospital Week  
Saluting the millions of women and men who are committed to improving the health of their communities. Visit www.aha.org//ahia/get-involved/national-hospital-week to learn more.

10–17 National Nursing Assistants Week  
Recognizing nursing assistants and others who provide daily care in nursing homes and a variety of other long-term care settings. Visit cna-network.org to learn more.

JUNE

10–17 National Nursing Assistants Week  
Recognizing nursing assistants and others who provide daily care in nursing homes and a variety of other long-term care settings. Visit cna-network.org to learn more.