

Hospice of the Bluegrass is now

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Fall Newsletter | 2017

Bluegrass Care Navigators receives Circle of Life Award™

Third national honor for agency this year



Dr. Melinda Estes (left), AHA Executive Committee, and Liz Fowler (right), President and CEO, Bluegrass Care Navigators

We are honored that the American Hospital Association has presented us a 2017 Circle of Life Award™ “for innovation in palliative care and for improving the care of patients near the end of life.”

AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack noted that, as the only repeat honoree, we have done “incredible work incorporating palliative and end-of-life care into all aspects of care, from primary to specialty.” Now in its 18th year, the Circle of Life Award™ celebrates programs

that have made great strides in palliative and end-of-life care.

The award is our third recent national honor. We reported in our last update that the organization was named a 2017 Hospice Honors Elite recipient in June, placing it among the best in the nation.

Only one month earlier, Modern Healthcare had named us one of its prestigious “2017 Best Places to Work” award winners, based on employees’ input.

These three major national awards reflect praise from our hospice families, our staff and the health care community – for nearly four decades of providing expert, compassionate care.

Through the strength and diversity of our community and provider partnerships, we continue to take a strategic approach to the care continuum.



CIRCLE of LIFE®

For example, our new Adult Day Health Care center will open soon in Frankfort for adults with physical or mental conditions resulting from age or illness. The center will offer nursing

care, help with medications, physician visits, recreational opportunities, snacks and catered meals while giving family members a safe place for care during the day or break from caregiving.

We’ve launched Bluegrass Home Primary Care in Fayette and Jessamine counties for those who are “home limited” by multiple medical conditions. Dr. Jennifer Skorupa, board certified in Family Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine, is sharing her primary care experience as well as her expertise in palliative medicine.

In nearly 40 years of caring, we have grown to provide a full complement of services for the seriously ill, from nursing to palliative to hospice care. As we prepare for our anniversary next year, we are honored and humbled that patients, families, employees and the health care community feel we are one of the best.



Recognitions!



Congratulations to Sue Snider (left), winner of the Distinguished Leader award, and **Eugenia Smither** (right), winner of the Award of Excellence, at the Kentucky Association of Hospice and Palliative Care (KAHPC) annual conference.

In her early work as a nurse liaison at UK, Snider educated

hundreds if not thousands of physicians, nurses and students about hospice and end of life care. She holds master's degrees in Nursing and Social Work and, as our Associate Clinical Officer for Nursing, has been a committed leader, educator and innovator.

Smither, Vice President of Compliance and Quality Improvement, oversees compliance, quality, accreditation, infection control and patient safety. She has served on two Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Technical Expert panels, and participated on the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) Quality and Standards Committee. Her research and quality work have led to tools that ensure best practices in patient-caregiver engagement, and she is a nationally recognized expert in hospice Quality & Compliance.



Cincy Magazine and NKY Magazine named our Catherine "Cathie" Hils Schack, RN,

(left), one of the Top 25 "Faces of Healthcare." The award honors health care professionals who are "making a difference in Northern Kentucky and paving the way for those who follow."

Schack, a cum laude graduate of Edgecliff College, Xavier University, has worked with Bluegrass Care Navigators for 5 years and is based in our Florence, Kentucky office.

It was a packed house at the Frankfort Country Club in August,

where nearly 170 guests turned out for this year's "Jazzin' It Up" cocktail party. Keith McAliley set the mood, playing a few jazz tunes on the grand piano, followed by music from Joey and the Cruisers.



Lindsay Kampfer, Executive Director, Frankfort, welcomes guests

The online auction was a great success again this year, with winners from California, Florida and Alabama.

"This event has been amazing and I know first-hand the work you do. In my opinion, this is the only charity that matters. Count me in for next year," said Julie Williams, committee volunteer and designer.

Proceeds from the event will support in-home hospice care, bereavement, our "Pet Peace of Mind" program and the new Bluegrass Adult Day Health Care center in Frankfort.



New Programs and Services



Bluegrass Home Primary Care

Residents of Fayette and Jessamine counties with medical conditions who are “home limited” now have access to expert care at home. Bluegrass Home

Primary Care offers medical care that is patient-oriented and prevention-focused, and is capable of providing 24/7/365 coverage.

Jennifer J. Skorupa, MD, board certified in Family Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine, has been deeply involved in primary care for the last 6 years, most recently serving patients in rural Kentucky. Her dual certification is a unique benefit for her patients and their families, providing primary care experience as well as expertise in palliative medicine.



Bluegrass Adult Day Health Care

Bluegrass Adult Day Health Care will soon open a center in Frankfort,

offering an engaging program for adults who have physical or mental conditions resulting from age or illness.

The program is designed for a loved one who needs care during the day while their caregiver is at work or taking a break. Experienced health care professionals will provide expert social and medical care, including help with medications, personal care, scheduled physician visits and nursing care.

The new facility also features on-site nurses and clinical caregivers certified in first aid and CPR, as well as snacks and hot, catered meals with feeding assistance, as needed.

Bluegrass Adult Day Health Care will offer a wide variety of activities tailored to meet individual needs and interests, such as group activities and clubs, outings, exercise programs, music and movies, cooking, gardening, arts and crafts, yoga, pet therapy and spa services.

Located just off US-421 N / Wilkinson Blvd., at 643 Teton Trail, Frankfort, the new facility will be open Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. If you or someone you know is in need of Adult Day Health Care, call 502.223.1744 to discuss your needs and schedule a tour.

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Bluegrass Grief Care



EVENTS CALENDAR

Follow Bluegrass Care Navigators:



OCTOBER

1 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

To provide help and inspire hope to those affected by breast cancer through early detection, education and support services. Visit: www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month

3 Compassionate Friends — Lexington

First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Support group for parents, siblings or grandparents who have experienced the death of a child. Contact: Suzie McDonald, 859.576.7680. Center for Grief and Education, 2409 Greatstone Point

3 Perinatal Loss Grief Group — Lexington

First Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Support group for parents who have experienced loss due to miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death. Contact: Debbie Mueller, 859.260.6904. Center for Grief and Education, 2409 Greatstone Point

5 Candid Conversations — Kenton County

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. A discussion of end-of-life planning, including advance directives. Brookdale Senior Living Edgewood, 2950 Turkeyfoot Rd., Fort Mitchell, Ky.

13/14 Bourbon Chase

Support the Bluegrass Care Navigators team in this 200-mile journey across the Bluegrass State. Visit: www.bourbonchase.com/bluegrass-hospice-care

14 World Hospice & Palliative Care Day

A unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world. Visit: www.thewhpca.org

20 Volunteer Training — Cynthiana

Friday, noon. Join us for a training to become a Bluegrass Hospice Care volunteer serving our Cynthiana Office (Harrison, Bourbon, Scott and Nicholas counties), 1317 US HWY 62 E, Cynthiana, Ky. Visit: give.bgcarenav.org/volunteer-training-registration

21 Howlin' Halloween Bash

8 p.m.–midnight. Includes dinner, a live band, dancing, a raffle, silent auction and costume contest (costumes are optional). Tickets are \$80 and you must be 21 to enter. Hazard Community & Technical College, 1 Community College Dr., Hazard, Ky. Contact: Kim Boggs at 606.439.2111 or kjboggs@bgcarenav.org

NOVEMBER

1 National Hospice/Palliative Care Month

A time to draw national attention and awareness to this special kind of care.

9 The Conversation — “It's Never Too Early Until It's Too Late”

Thursday, 5:30 p.m. A conversation about end-of-life planning. Contact: Starlette Engelhardt, sengelhardt@bgcarenav.org, 859.486.7390. First Baptist Church, 4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Ky.

Learn more about upcoming events: www.bgcarenav.org | 855.492.0812

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