

# 15

## things you should know about hospice

### 1 hospice focuses on life

When you have a life-limiting illness, Hospice of Kitsap County offers compassionate, expert care that helps you to live each day to the fullest. Once the decision has been made to stop curative treatment, the focus is on attainable comfort rather than unachievable cure.

While end-of-life is obviously an extremely difficult part of the life cycle, it also provides special opportunities—to strengthen relationships, to put one's affairs in order, to find spiritual peace. This is only possible, however, if the patient can find effective relief from the pain and symptoms characterizing the progression of life-limiting illness.

### 2 hospice comes to you

When surveyed, more than 90 percent of Americans said they would prefer to die at home. Yet more than two-thirds die in nursing homes and hospitals.

Hospice of Kitsap County is not a place; it is a comprehensive program of services that come to you. We want you to be as comfortable and alert as possible, spending precious time with your loved ones in familiar surroundings whether a private home, apartment, or long-term care facility.

### 3 hospice serves all

The Medicare hospice benefit covers all expenses involved in your hospice care. Hospice care also is covered under Medicaid and most private insurance plans.

Hospice of Kitsap County provides care to everyone regardless of ability to pay. We can do this thanks to the support and generosity of the community we serve.

### 4 hospice is expert medical care, but towards a different goal

The shift is from cure to comfort. Hospice of Kitsap County patients work with a special team of health professionals with expertise in palliative care—a medical specialty devoted to relieving pain and managing symptoms, not to curing a disease. Few doctors and nurses outside hospice have this specialized training.

### 5 hospice cares for the patient & their loved ones

When a patient is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, everyone involved experiences periods of stress, uncertainty, doubt, worry, and confusion. Hospice of Kitsap County treats you and your loved ones—family members being whomever the patient determines to be his or her family—as a single unit of care.

### 6 hospice is on-call 24 hours

Besides regularly-scheduled home visits, you can always talk by telephone to a nurse who is trained to assess unexpected situations. The nurse can answer your questions and ease your mind. When the situation warrants, a doctor or nurse can be dispatched to the home at any time. We can be reached by phone 24 hours daily, 365 days per year.

### 7 hospice regards death as part of the continuum of life

Hospice neither prolongs life nor hastens death. We provide personalized services, information and a caring community so that you and your family can make end-of-life a time that need not be filled with fear and anxiety.

