

I'm Joe Rogers, Executive Director of Hospice of Humboldt.

The comments I hear most often when I tell people I work at Hospice is, "Thank you. You were a blessing for my family. I don't know what we would have done without you".

Hospice of Humboldt began as an all-volunteer organization. We have been providing end of life service to patients and their families since 1979

In 1989 Hospice was certified as a Medicare provider and part of your Medicare benefit is quality end of life care, provided in your own home or wherever you live. With this revenue Hospice of Humboldt had the funding to pay for more staffing to serve a larger number of local residents.

Hospice care provides you with comfort care and symptom management. You will have a doctor's oversight of your care, an R.N. who may visit once or twice a week and is available 24 hours a day, visits from medical social workers who can help with practical matters like insurance paperwork, finding an additional caregiver, completing advance directives, or helping the family with grief. If the patient or family requests a spiritual counselor we provide a chaplain who can share solace and rituals from your own faith. Home health aides provide personal care for patients such as bathing and grooming. All our clinicians help teach family members how to care for their loved ones in their own familiar surroundings. Hospice has a very active volunteer program to help families with patient care and grief support. All of this personal care plus medications and medical equipment related to the patient's terminal diagnosis are available for free under your Medicare benefit. Hospice also provides grief support and bereavement to families for up to 13 months after their loved one has passed away.

Anyone can make a referral to Hospice for a free information visit and have a conversation about your situation and our services.

To be accepted to Hospice service our patients must have a diagnosis of 6 months or less to live. Most patients and their families see the greatest benefits from our compassionate care when they sign up for Hospice earlier rather than later in their disease progression.

As part of our mission to we are excited to announce we are building the Ida Emmerson Hospice House where patients who can no longer be cared for at home can live in a peaceful, home-like setting.

The new Hospice campus has three new buildings that include the Ida Emmerson Hospice House, a Home Care building where our home care clinicians will work from and a Chapel in the Redwoods for the reflection and solace of patients, family and community members. This new campus couldn't have been built without the generous donations from the community. The homecare building and chapel will be open this fall and the IEHH is scheduled to open in early 2016.

Those of us who work at Hospice are so pleased we can provide this expanded level of care to our community. It completes our mission of providing heartfelt care when you and your family need it most.