



Compassion Quarterly

Connecting Community Through Care

UNDERSTANDING WHEN HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE CAN HELP

Right Care. Right Time.

Nothing in healthcare seems easy. When someone you love is living with a chronic illness, recovering from surgery, or experiencing a general decline in health, it can be difficult to know when to ask for extra help, and where to turn to receive the quality care your loved one deserves.

For more than 40 years, Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County has been a trusted part of our community. Grounded in compassion and local hearts, our staff are more than healthcare professionals. They are your friends, neighbors, and fellow community members. When searching for the right care, you can feel confident choosing a team committed to providing compassionate, patient-centered support. Finding the right care is important. Knowing the right time to bring in that care can be even harder.

We hear it all the time:

"Is it too soon?"

"I think I can manage on my own."

"I'm not ready."

Whether your loved one needs home health services following a hospitalization, medication education, skilled nursing care, or therapy services, our team can bring care directly to your home. By coming to you, we help red the stress and burden that often falls on caregivers.

Sometimes, however, families begin noticing a different pattern. More frequent falls. Additional trips to the emergency room. Increased difficulty managing daily activities. A longer recovery after illness or hospitalization. When those changes become more common, it may be time to explore hospice services.

Hospice is a word that often brings fear and uncertainty. To us, hospice means support. It means having a team that advocates for both the patient and family while focusing on comfort, dignity, and quality of life. Hospice isn't about giving up. It's about making the most of the time that remains, whether that time is measured in weeks, months, or even years.

Choosing the right care at the right time can make all the difference for both you and your loved one.

If you're unsure whether home health or hospice services may be appropriate, don't hesitate to reach out. Our experienced clinical team is here to answer questions, provide evaluations, and help guide you through your options every step of the way.



RIGHT CARE. RIGHT TIME. SUPPORT WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

Steps of Support

On June 6, Hospice of Dickinson County partnered with Village Manor as the Gold Sponsor for their annual Steps for Support Relay Walk. This relay-style event was designed to raise awareness for four chronic illnesses that affect many Village Manor residents; Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Alzheimer's disease and dementia, Parkinson's disease, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

Participants had the opportunity to walk a lap alongside a Village Manor resident and continue walking to earn entries into prize drawings based on the number of laps completed. Along the route, educational tables provided information about each chronic illness, helping participants gain a better understanding of the challenges many individuals and families face every day.

Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County hosted the Alzheimer's and dementia awareness table, offering educational resources for residents, families, and community members. Visitors could participate in a memory game, enjoy root beer floats, pick up awareness bracelets, and contribute to our Memory Lane display.

The Memory Lane poster quickly became one of the most meaningful parts of the event. Participants were invited to write the name of a loved one or share a special memory on a purple footprint in honor of someone affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Throughout the day, more than 30 names and memories were added, creating a powerful visual reminder of the lives touched by these diseases. Events like Steps of Support help bring awareness, education, and support to those living with chronic illnesses and the families who care for them. Having access to the right resources and support at the right time can make a meaningful difference in the journey of both patients and caregivers.



Question of the Quarter

What does Right Care, Right Time mean to you?

It means that we are here for our patients at every stage of their health care journey. We provide the right care to the right patient when and how they need it. When that level of care changes our plan changes. We adapt, adjust and provide. -Stephanie Salay

This statement to me means that by getting the help that you need at a time that you need it, you then receive the best care and treatment that you can have versus waiting until it's no longer effective
-Kylie Engle

Right care means having the right assessment and diagnoses by skilled clinicians to get the best care for the support of comfort and a health before disaster strikes. -Dana Dean

It means that getting care you need, before things turn into an emergency or a crisis situation is vital in ones health and happiness. -Cece Murphy

Care that aligns with a person's needs, no matter where they are on their journey. -Melissa Peterson

Meeting people where they're at during some of the most difficult seasons of their life, and providing support and direction to help them improve. -Alley Picking

It's critical to provide what the patient needs at the right time to prevent rehospitalizations and decline in health status. -Leslie Welsh

Caregivers Corner

The Myth of Waiting

As caregivers, many of us tell ourselves the same thing:

"We'll call when things get worse."

It sounds reasonable. After all, if your loved one is still managing at home, still having some good days, or still maintaining a level of independence, why bring in additional support?

The truth is that waiting often becomes the default plan for many families. Not because they don't want help, but because they're unsure if it's needed yet. They may worry they're overreacting, taking resources away from someone else, or admitting that things have changed.

Unfortunately, support is often most effective before a crisis occurs.

A fall, an emergency room visit, medication confusion, increasing caregiver stress, or repeated hospitalizations are often signs that additional help may be beneficial. Whether through home health services or hospice care, early support can provide education, resources, symptom management, and peace of mind for both patients and caregivers.

The goal isn't to take over. The goal is to come alongside families and provide the right support at the right time.

One of the most common things we hear from families after services begin is simple:

"I wish we had called sooner."

You don't have to wait until you're overwhelmed. You don't have to wait for a crisis. Sometimes the best time to ask questions is before you think you need the answers.

Because the right care at the right time can make all the difference.

HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE OF DICKINSON COUNTY
PRESENTS

Caregiver Connections

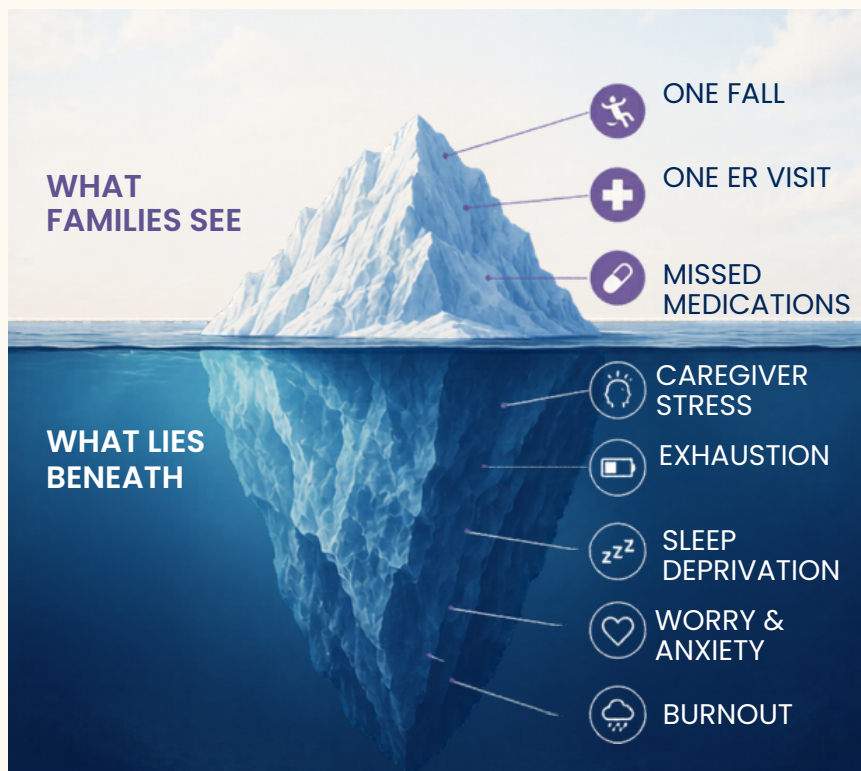
"A circle of understanding, strength, and renewal."

Join us for a welcoming space where caregivers can connect, share experiences, and find support. Each session offers encouragement, practical tips, and resources to help you navigate the challenges of caregiving.

Join our Caregiver Support Group sessions on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Location: 1111 N Brady St., Abilene

Caring for you.



Compassion in Action

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY TAYLOR KNAUSS, HOSPICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

This past quarter, we had the opportunity to celebrate the individuals who help make our agency even better than it already is, our volunteers.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is celebrated each year during the third week of April, and we always look forward to finding a special way to recognize the people who generously share their time, talents, and compassion with our patients and families.

This April, we hosted our second annual Volunteer Auction. Each volunteer received an envelope filled with "contribution cash" and had the opportunity to bid on a variety of items, ranging from snack baskets and word puzzles to larger prizes such as a neck and back massager. We partner with Memorial Health System's Volunteer Corps to help ensure all volunteers throughout the health system are properly recognized and appreciated for the difference they make every day.

The event is always filled with laughter, friendly competition, fun surprises, and the chance to spend time with fellow volunteers who share a passion for serving others.

Hospice volunteers play a unique and important role in the care we provide. Whether they are visiting with patients, providing companionship, assisting with special events, helping in the office, or offering respite to caregivers, volunteers help ensure that no one feels alone during their healthcare journey. Often, it is the simple acts, a conversation, a listening ear, or a friendly visit, that make the biggest impact.

Our volunteers remind us that compassionate care extends beyond medical treatment. They help bring comfort, connection, and support to patients and families when it matters most.

If you have ever considered becoming a hospice volunteer, we would love to visit with you. There are opportunities for a variety of interests, schedules, and talents, and even a few hours each month can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Taylor Knauss, Volunteer Coordinator, at 785-263-6630.

Small acts. Big impact. Extraordinary hearts.



Legacy Lane Update!

We are excited to share that our Remembrance Garden is continuing to move forward! This fall, we will officially break ground on a beautiful space designed for reflection, remembrance, and peace. The garden will serve as the permanent home for the memorial bricks purchased through our Bricks R Us fundraiser. To ensure their longevity, the engraved bricks will line the concrete walkway, creating a lasting tribute to loved ones while guiding visitors through the garden. As we continue bringing this vision to life, we are also seeking donors interested in sponsoring benches or picnic tables to help complete the space and provide a welcoming place for visitors to sit, reflect, and remember. If you would like to learn more about memorial bricks, sponsorship opportunities, or making a donation toward the garden, please contact our office at 785-263-6630. Together, we are creating a place where memories can be honored for generations to come.

What's Coming Up?

- Caregiver Connections meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
- GriefShare's Loss of a Spouse Program is Sunday, July 26th from 2p-4p at the Abilene Home Health and Hospice Office
- Watch for Home Health and Hospice in both the Herington TriCounty Parade and CKFF Parade in Abilene!
- GriefShare will start Aug. 5th and run through Oct 28th. Sessions are from 2-4p at the Abilene Home Health and Hospice Office.



Grief Support Group



MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
Home Health & Hospice of Dickinson County
ABILENE  Salina Regional Health Center

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

Contact Us Today

Wednesdays 2-4pm
Aug 5-Oct 28 2026

Hospice of Dickinson County
1111 N. Brady St. Abilene, KS

Questions?
Contact Anita 785-263-6641

griefshare.org

Grieving the death of a spouse?

Or do you know someone who is?



Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar.

You'll hear:

- Practical advice from others who've been there.
- What to expect in your grief.
- How to cope with life without your spouse.
- Why it won't always hurt this much.

LOSS OF A SPOUSE

Please join us for this encouraging seminar.



MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
Home Health & Hospice of Dickinson County
ABILENE 



Sunday July 26th, 2026
2pm-4pm
1111 N Brady
Abilene, KS 67410

Questions? Call Anita
785-263-6641

With Heartfelt Gratitude

Thank you to the following individuals, families, businesses, and organizations whose generosity supported Home Health & Hospice of Dickinson County during the second quarter of 2026. Your kindness makes compassionate care possible.

Bryan & Laura Armendariz	Julie Holk	Marcia Nieder
Ellen Alvarez	Jim & Deborah Howie	Dean & Bernie Nogle
Mike & Sue Alexander	Mark & Susan Johnson	Sally Nelson
Tim & Tiffany Bays	David & Patricia Kahle	Barbara & James Reid
Greg & Pam Becker	Ann Klug	Jerold & Donna Reid
Edwin or Velda Becker	Joe & Nancy Knopp	Joan Reiff
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Pam Blouin	Linda Martin	Todd & Melissa Rice
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Enno & Yvonne Burhoop	Dennis McCosh	Karen Scheer
Michael & Linda Carlson	Ryan & Loretta McMillen	Lois Shaw
Brenda Cain	Virginia & Mitchell Meehan	Benson & Caroline Smith
Duane & Amanda Cain	Lyle Miller	Rolinda Smith
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Jenell Hartman	David & Kathy Hasker	West's Plaza Country Mart
Larry or Lacinda Heller	Angie Hoerner	Carol Whitehair
Ray & Kathy Hoffman	Larry & Lacinda Heller	Mark Wilson
Harvey Wood	Guy & Ann Winters	Carol Wright
Pinnacle Bank Abilene	Salina Embroidery Works – Beth Bryant	Dean Zsamba



MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
Home Health & Hospice of Dickinson County

ABILENE  Salina Regional Health Center

