



# Hospice Companies that Strive for Success, Family.



Left to right from back:  
Nina Waldron, BSN, Alternate Director of  
Clinical Services, Rev. Dr. John McCormick,  
Director of Chaplaincy Services, Ryanne  
Hollingsworth, BSW, BSN, Director of Clinical  
Services, Jacquelyn Kelley, MSW, ACSW,  
LCSW, Director of Social Services

## Autumn Journey Hospice

Autumn Journey Hospice expresses the importance of hospice and the reasons for hospice care.

“Since I’ve been a hospice patient, I have experienced genuine peace of mind. I feel confident that I will be taken care of, in accordance with my wishes. There will be no more trips to the hospital, trips that, with few exceptions, accomplished very little. There will be no more needles or invasive procedures. My comfort is the center of hospice philosophy.”

- **Judy Chamberlin,**  
a hospice patient.

A vision of caring for people became a reality in 2005 for Autumn Journey Hospice. Their leadership is crafted by personal care, love and compassion.

Autumn Journey Hospice is a locally owned and operated hospice provider. They provide hospice care and services at no cost to:

- Medicare Part A beneficiaries
- Texas Medicaid recipients
- military veterans who receive benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs through the North Texas Veterans Health Care program

As a smaller hospice provider, they place a great deal of importance on the quality of their staff. They employ only registered nurses who have Bachelor’s degrees in Nursing. Two of our nurses have thirty years of experience in hospice and have previously been recognized by the Texas Nurses Association as two of the Top 100 nurses in North Texas. Another of their nurses has twenty five years of hospice experience and was recognized as

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Employee of the Year by a former hospice employer. All of their social workers are medical social workers with Master's degrees. Autumn Journey Hospice Director of Chaplaincy Services has a doctorate degree in counseling in addition to being an ordained minister. Our home health aides are all trained and registered as Certified Nursing Assistants.

Autumn Journey's staff members share one belief that sets them apart from many professionals. To each of them, hospice care is not simply a job, it is both a responsibility and way of life. Each member of their staff is deeply committed to the hospice concept and excellent patient care.

#### The positive prospective of hospice is:

- affirms life but never denies death
- recognizes dying as a normal process of life
- honors wishes and offers choices
- allows the individual to maintain control of his/her life
- brings commitment and compassion to caregiving
- strengthens families
- encourages faith, hope and caring

When people choose to receive hospice care, four new people enter their lives and the lives of their families. These four people are hospice staff members; a registered nurse case manager, a social worker, a chaplain and a home health aide. During the course of hospice care, these four people establish such a strong emotional bond with the client and family that they quite often become accepted quite literally as part of the family.

Hospice is caring that is very different from any of the experiences our clients and their families have had in their previous contacts with the medical community.

Those Autumn Journey Hospice serve are far more than clients. Just as they become part of their families, our clients become their friends and an important part of their family. The care and concern for each client and family member goes well beyond the rules, regulations and requirements that define and enforce their responsibilities as a hospice agency.

Autumn Journey Hospice mission is *"We want to inform and educate the public and the medical community about the importance and benefits of hospice care. And, "We strive to provide*

*the best possible palliative hospice care.....care that emphasizes compassion, dignity and the ability to control your own life.....for our terminally ill clients, their caregivers and families."*



The beliefs of the pioneers who were instrumental in creating and developing the hospice concept:

**Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, Psychiatrist and Author of "On Death and Dying"** "We live in a very particular death-denying society. We isolate both the dying and the old, because it serves a purpose. They are reminders of our own mortality.

We should not institutionalize people. We can give families more help with home care and visiting nurses, giving families and the patients the spiritual, emotional and financial help in order to facilitate the final care at home."

**Dame Cicely Saunders, Founder of the Hospice Concept** "You matter because you are you. You matter to the last moment of life and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die."

**Sue Fox McGovern, Hospice Volunteer;** an observation from one of the many volunteers who are so important to hospice:

"The greatest fear of those who are terminally ill is not death and pain, but the fear of being left alone, of dying without anyone by their side. Hospice provides patients and their loved ones the assurance that they will not be abandoned, but attended with love and care when they need it the most."