



Held with *Care*, Surrounded by *Love*

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



COVER STORY: Held with *Care*, Surrounded by *Love*



The Southern California Hospice Foundation received a call from a social worker at Hoag Hospital regarding a 48-year-old mother of three who had been diagnosed with terminal colon cancer. As the patient prepared for discharge, she faced an impossible situation: there were no available Medi-Cal beds in skilled nursing facilities, and

she had no financial resources. Formerly a massage therapist, she had been unable to work since becoming ill.

The social worker asked whether Heavenly Home could accept her as a non-funded resident. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to welcome her and her family, ensuring she received compassionate end-of-life

care in a safe and loving environment.

When we asked how we could bring her comfort, she shared something that weighed heavily on her heart: her youngest son had turned eight while she was still in the hospital. She had dreamed of giving him a birthday party and worried she might never get the chance.

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Our team moved quickly. Within two days, the backyard was transformed into a celebration filled with games, laughter, a piñata, and gifts. For a few beautiful hours, worry gave way to joy. Thanks to donor generosity, the birthday boy received his very first bike. A volunteer carefully adjusted the training wheels, and he rode in happy circles, his smile

lighting up the entire backyard.

This mother stayed with us for only one week—but in that time, she was surrounded by love, dignity, and peace. She was able to witness her child's happiness, hold her family close, and know they were cared for.

This is what your generosity makes

possible. Because of you, a mother was not alone. A child felt celebrated. A family found comfort during unimaginable days. Your support allows Heavenly Home to open its doors to those with nowhere else to turn—and to create moments of love that last far beyond a lifetime. Thank you for making this care possible.

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2025, the Southern California Hospice Foundation continued its commitment to ensuring that no one faces the end of life alone. Guided by compassion and sustained by community, our work reached far beyond any single program—touching patients, families, caregivers, and communities throughout Southern California.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that dignity belongs to everyone, especially in life's final chapter. Through the Heavenly Home, we provided a peaceful residence and around-the-clock care for individuals with nowhere else to turn. Through Angel Assistance and wish fulfillment, we met practical needs and honored deeply personal final requests. Through We Honor Veterans, we recognized lives of service with gratitude and respect. And through bereavement support and community education, we walked alongside families before, during, and after loss—offering presence, guidance, and hope.

Throughout the year, we witnessed moments that affirmed why this work matters: families gathered at bedsides, favorite songs filling quiet rooms, veterans receiving long-overdue recognition, and final wishes fulfilled with tenderness and care. These moments—often simple, always profound—are the true measure of our impact.

As the need for end-of-life housing and supportive services continues to grow, the Heavenly Home operated at full, or nearly full capacity throughout the year, while our broader programs responded to an increasing number of requests for help. Together, they form a continuum of care that meets people where they are, honors their story, and upholds dignity at every step.

None of this is possible without you. Your generosity, trust, and belief in this mission allow compassion to remain present—steadily and faithfully—until the very last breath.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Duran".

Chris Duran
Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Wulfestieg".

Michelle Wulfestieg
Executive Director

HEAVENLY HOME HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, the Heavenly Home provided residential end-of-life care to 27 residents ranging in age from 48 to 100, with an average age of approximately 82 years. The majority of residents were female (approximately 70%), reflecting broader demographic trends in advanced age and hospice utilization.

Residents presented with complex, end-stage diagnoses including heart failure and advanced cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's and other dementias, Parkinson's disease, advanced cancers, COPD, liver disease, and severe malnutrition, underscoring the high-acuity nature of care delivered within the Home's residential care facility for the elderly hospice model.

CARE AND SUPPORT METRICS

- **Days of Service:** The Heavenly Home delivered 1,733 total days of residential care in 2025, reflecting sustained demand for stable, end-of-life housing and support.
- **Care Hours:** A total of 41,590 hours of hands-on care were provided, demonstrating the intensity of 24/7 supervision, personal care, and end-of-life support required by residents.
- **Payer Mix:** Care was supported through a diverse payer mix, including private pay, Medi-Cal (ALW), CalAIM, and donor-subsidized placements, reinforcing the Home's role as a safety-net option for individuals with limited financial resources.

- **Length of Stay Variability:** Resident stays ranged from 1 day to more than 300 days, highlighting both crisis placements and extended hospice housing necessitated by caregiving gaps and housing instability.

TRENDS AND IMPACT

- **High-Acuity Medical & Cognitive Needs:** A significant portion of residents required care for advanced neurological conditions, heart failure, and late-stage cancers, affirming Heavenly Home's capacity to support residents with complex, progressive conditions in a non-institutional setting.
- **Extended Residential Hospice Care:** Multiple residents remained in care for six months or longer, reflecting the growing need for residential hospice options amid caregiver shortages and limited affordable alternatives.
- **Equitable Access Through Philanthropy:** Donor support played a critical role in underwriting care for residents supported by Medi-Cal, CalAIM, or charitable subsidies—ensuring dignity, safety, and continuity of care regardless of ability to pay.
- **Residential Hospice Model Effectiveness:** The Heavenly Home continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of a small-scale, home-based hospice environment in delivering high-touch, person-centered care while reducing reliance on institutional settings.

1,733
Days of Service

41,590
Hours of Care



PATIENT HIGHLIGHTS

Through our Angel Assistance Program, we address the individualized needs of hospice patients that fall outside the scope of traditional hospice benefits—whether that support involves help with a utility bill, access to nutritious food, or the fulfillment of a final wish.

Many recipients of Angel Assistance are residents of the Heavenly Home, though the program extends beyond our walls to support hospice patients throughout the community. Regardless of where a patient resides, Angel Assistance ensures that financial hardship or logistical barriers do not diminish dignity, comfort, or meaningful moments at the end of life.



WHERE PEACE IS POSSIBLE

We welcomed Janet, a 65-year-old hospice patient who found deep comfort in the garden. Each day, her bed was gently wheeled beneath the gazebo, where warm sunlight filtered through the trees, birdsong filled the air, and the quiet presence of loved ones surrounded her. In that peaceful space, Janet was able to rest, reflect, and simply be—held by nature and by those who cared for her most.

Though her time with us was brief, it was meaningful. After just seven days, Janet passed peacefully beneath the gazebo, encircled by family and friends. In those final moments, there was no urgency, no fear—only love, serenity, and dignity. Few places offer such a gentle setting at the end of life, and it was an honor to provide Janet and her family with that gift.

TO SEE THE OCEAN ONE LAST TIME

Honoring final wishes has always been central to our mission. Over the years, we have learned that, at the end of life, what matters most is not comfort alone—but the opportunity to create meaningful moments that loved ones will carry forward.



Ira, a devoted father living with metastatic lung cancer and only weeks to live, had one simple wish: to feel the ocean breeze again, surrounded by family. Since a hospitalization in June, he had not been able to spend time outdoors with his grandchildren, sisters, nieces, and daughter.

With your support, we arranged specialized transportation to safely bring Ira to the shoreline and home again. There, with sand beneath his feet and the sound of the waves nearby, he shared laughter, stories, and quiet moments with those he loved most—creating a memory that will endure long after that day.

THE GIFT OF TOGETHERNESS

Married for 43 years, Janice and Elmer met while working at American Motors in Wisconsin. What began on a busy factory floor grew into a lifetime of quiet devotion. Married in 1982, they remained deeply connected – spirited Janice and steadfast Elmer – through every season of life.



As Janice's health declined, Elmer became her sole caregiver despite his own worsening condition. With no nearby family or support, Janice made the courageous call for help when it became clear they could no longer manage alone. Both entered hospice care with one simple wish: to stay together.

Their hospice team called the Heavenly Home.

Janice arrived first—just 45 minutes before Elmer. With tears in her eyes, she shared, "I can't imagine life without him." Our team placed their beds side by side so they could hold hands, finding comfort in each other's presence even when words were no longer possible.

A week later, Elmer peacefully passed with Janice by his side. Though heartbroken, she took comfort in knowing they had remained together until the very end.

Just three weeks later, Janice passed as well—reunited with the love of her life.

That gift of togetherness, and the dignity it brings, is made possible because of you.



WE HONOR VETS

The We Honor Veterans program exists to ensure that those who served our country are recognized, thanked, and honored at the end of life. Through this program, we had the profound privilege of celebrating five veterans—heroes of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—whose courage helped shape our nation. One of our World War II veterans was featured on ABC7 News, allowing a wider community to witness a moment of gratitude, remembrance, and dignity.

These meaningful tributes are possible because of generous supporters like you—ensuring our veterans are not forgotten, but honored with the respect and compassion they so deeply deserve.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Community Outreach Program advances understanding of hospice care, honors lives well lived, and elevates conversations around dignity at the end of life. Through education, storytelling, and media engagement, we ensure that the experiences of our patients, families, and veterans are visible and valued within the broader community.

This year, we expanded our public presence by engaging a per diem publicist to strengthen strategic outreach and media relations. Our team provided educational presentations to Fullerton College’s Death and Dying course and participated in end-of-life care forums, including the Crestone End of Life Project, contributing professional insight and compassionate perspective to important community conversations.

Storytelling remained a cornerstone of our outreach. We participated in the “Passing Through” documentary, contributing to a broader exploration of hospice care and the human experience at life’s end. Our We Honor Veterans program received regional recognition through a feature on ABC7 News, underscoring the importance of honoring service with dignity and respect.

Local media further amplified these efforts. The Orange County Register featured our organization in its business section, recognizing recent grants totaling \$200,000. On November 1, the Daily Pilot ran a front-page article titled “Back Bay Book Royalty,” spotlighting hospice

patient and Heavenly Home resident Jean Pizzo. This was followed by a November 7 charity spotlight in the Newport Beach Independent, “Local Author, Hospice Resident Shares Stories One Last Time.”

Together, these outreach efforts reflect our commitment to transparency, education, and community connection—ensuring that hospice care is understood, valued, and supported as an essential part of compassionate healthcare.



18TH ANNUAL HOSPICE GOLF TOURNAMENT - LIFE. LINKS. LOVE.

We were honored to host our 18th Annual Hospice Golf Tournament – Life. Links. Love. at the beautiful Newport Beach Country Club. One hundred golfers gathered for a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and compassion. From lively game holes and dedicated caddies to a spirited happy hour and memorable dinner program, the day reflected the generosity and heart of our community.

During the evening program, we proudly presented the Medal of Bravery to Morgan Leigh Pace Roberto. With grace and courage, Morgan shared her family’s story, honoring her beloved mother who spent her final days beneath the gazebo at the Heavenly Home. Her words served as a powerful reminder of the sacredness of every life and the enduring strength of love.

We congratulate our tournament winners who helped make the day even more memorable:

Putting Contest: Frank La Russa

Closest to the Pin (Hole #4): Al Traxler – 9’1”

Straightest Drive (Hole #5): Kevin Garand

Longest Drive (Hole #10): Tom Bergerson

1st Place Team (Score: 58):

Erik Hansen • Jason Hansen • Brian Beckner • Kevin Garand

This year’s tournament raised more than \$50,000, with all proceeds directly supporting the Southern California Hospice Foundation’s mission to provide compassionate care and vital resources for hospice patients and their families.

Save the Date:

Join us for the 19th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Newport Beach Country Club on Monday, August 24, 2026.



8TH ANNUAL PRESERVING DIGNITY - ONLINE COLLABORATIVE EVENT

This year’s Preserving Dignity Giving Day was a tremendous success. In just 24 hours, and in partnership with three other nonprofits serving older adults, we surpassed our collective \$75,000 goal – raising more than \$45,000 specifically in support of the Heavenly Home.

Every gift was a powerful expression of compassion and belief in our mission to provide comfort, dignity, and compassionate care at the end of life.

To celebrate the spirit of the day, our team and volunteers embraced an “Endless Summer” theme, reflecting California’s warmth, joy, and love – the same qualities that fill the Heavenly Home each day. Every dollar raised directly supports our residents, ensuring they are surrounded by peace, dignity, and human connection during life’s most tender moments.

Hospice is, at its heart, about love.

It is about honoring each person’s story, cherishing their spirit, and walking alongside families with compassion and grace. This sacred work is only possible because of you.

Save the Date:

Join us for the 9th Annual Preserving Dignity Giving Campaign on July 8, 2026!



ANNUAL EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL DOLLED UP: WHERE FASHION MEETS PHILANTHROPY

On Wednesday, May 7, the Southern California Hospice Foundation (SCHF) hosted its third annual Dolled Up fundraiser at the elegant Pacific Club in Newport Beach. The beautifully curated event raised more than \$50,000 in support of SCHF's Heavenly Home, helping cover the cost of care for residents with limited financial resources. Presented by Apriem Advisors, guests were welcomed with a sparkling champagne reception and enjoyed a lively afternoon featuring a luxury silent auction and a special marketplace showcasing handcrafted items from women-owned businesses.



The emotional highlight of the afternoon was a keynote address from Jenna Mikos, whose best friend's mother spent her final days at the Heavenly Home. Jenna shared her deeply moving story of resilience after losing her husband, Michael, to a heart attack in 2020, followed by the deaths of her sister and aunt. She has since embraced a new chapter as guardian to her nephew, Ryan, who has Mosaic Down Syndrome, raising him alongside her son, Jackson.

For Jenna, death had long been associated with trauma — until she experienced something profoundly different at the Heavenly Home. There, she witnessed an end-of-life journey filled with love, dignity, beauty, and even laughter. Her testimony reminded guests that compassionate hospice care can transform how families experience goodbye — and underscored why SCHF's mission remains so essential for families who might not otherwise have access to this level of care.

Save the Date:

Join us for the 4th Annual Dolled Up Fundraiser on May 6, 2026, at the Pacific Club in Newport Beach.

3RD ANNUAL LEGACY LUNCHEON

"No one has ever become poor by giving." – Anne Frank

In November, we gathered at The Bungalow Restaurant in Corona del Mar to honor and express our heartfelt gratitude to our Legacy Donors — extraordinary individuals who have chosen to include the Southern California Hospice Foundation in their estate plans and ensure compassionate care for generations to come.



Legacy Society Impact:

- Nearly \$3 million in planned gifts
- Gifts through living trusts, IRAs, real estate, annuities, and stock
- A lasting commitment to dignified end-of-life care for future patients and families

These visionary supporters are building a foundation of sustainability that allows the Heavenly Home and SCHF programs to continue serving those most in need — now and well into the future.

Be Part of This Enduring Legacy

If you have already included the Southern California Hospice Foundation in your estate plans — or if you would like to learn more about planned giving — we warmly invite you to join this extraordinary community of supporters.

To explore Legacy Giving opportunities and receive an exclusive invitation to next year's Legacy Society Luncheon, please contact us.

Together, we can ensure that compassion, dignity, and love remain at the heart of hospice care for generations to come.

GET INVOLVED: MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

At the Southern California Hospice Foundation, we believe that every person has something unique to give—whether it’s time, talent, or treasure. No matter how you choose to contribute, your impact is profound.

How You Can Make a Lasting Impact:

The Southern California Hospice Foundation is sustained by a compassionate community of individuals, volunteers, partners, and advocates who believe every person deserves dignity and comfort at the end of life. There are many meaningful ways to be part of this mission:

Hospice Advisory Council

Community leaders, healthcare professionals, and advocates lend their expertise to help guide programs, partnerships, and future growth in end-of-life care.

Heavenly Home Volunteers

Volunteers bring companionship, comfort, and presence to residents through simple yet powerful acts — reading, conversation, creative activities, and heartfelt connection.

Community Fundraising & Events

Supporters strengthen our mission by serving as corporate sponsors, donating auction items, and participating on event committees that bring SCHF’s signature fundraisers to life.

Gifts in Honor or Memory

Donations made in celebration of life milestones or in remembrance of loved ones create lasting tributes while directly supporting compassionate hospice care.

Corporate & Community Partnerships

Local businesses and organizations amplify impact through matching gifts, workplace fundraisers, and in-kind contributions that support patients and families.

Legacy Society & Planned Giving

Through estate gifts and planned giving, Legacy Society members help ensure the Heavenly Home and SCHF programs remain available to future generations in need of dignified end-of-life care.

Every contribution — whether time, resources, or advocacy — plays a vital role in advancing comfort, dignity, and peace for those we serve.

Southern California Hospice Foundation

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Website: www.socalhospicefoundation.org

Your kindness creates a ripple effect of love.

Will you join us?



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

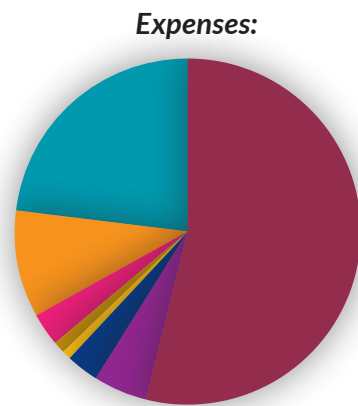
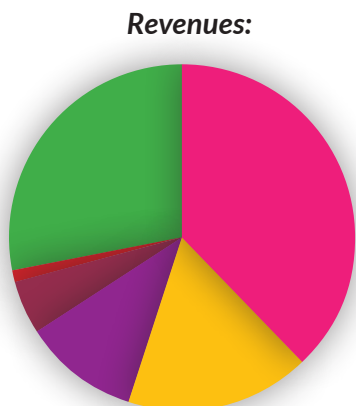
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues:

Heavenly Home, Operations	\$396,982.00	38%
Heavenly Home, Donations	\$180,022.00	17%
Heavenly Home Events Income, net	\$112,641.00	11%
Golf Tournament - net	\$51,017.00	5%
Cash Contributions	\$6,565.00	1%
Grants & Other Income	\$290,555.00	28%
Total Income	\$1,037,782.00	100%

Expenses:

Heavenly Home	\$555,781.00	54%
Patient Assistance	\$49,224.00	5%
Community Outreach	\$33,756.00	3%
We Honor Vets	\$11,231.00	1%
Bereavement	\$9,112.00	1%
Fundraising	\$27,451.00	3%
Operations	\$104,047.00	10%
Net Investment Losses	\$232,687.00	23%
Total Expenses	\$1,023,289.00	100%



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

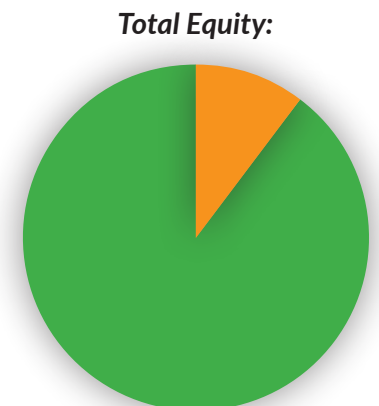
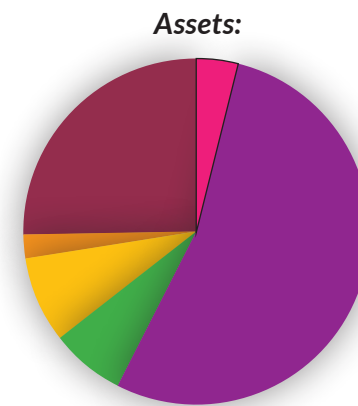
Assets:

Investments	\$150,283.00	4%
Cash With Donor Restrictions for Heavenly Home Endowment	\$2,243,826.00	53%
Cash With Donor Restrictions for Heavenly Home	\$310,444.00	7%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$327,103.00	8%
Other Assets	\$103,542.00	2%
Fixed Assets - Heavenly Home	\$1,059,855.00	25%
Total Assets	\$4,195,053.00	100%

Total Liabilities	\$90,635.00	2%
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Total Equity:

Net Assets - without donor restrictions	\$439,225.00	10%
Net Assets- with donor restrictions	\$3,665,193.00	87%
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$4,195,053.00	100%



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HOSPICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Duran – SCHF Board President

Matt Didier – Board Secretary/Treasurer -
CBRE, Office Properties

Jim Denver – Flagstar Bank

Alfonso Galvez – Alkeme Insurance

Sandy Sligar – SMS Fabrications, Inc.

HOSPICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The purpose of the Hospice Advisory Council (HAC) is to increase awareness of hospice in Orange County, educate the community about hospice, and provide a dignified environment to those at the end-of-life through the Heavenly Home.

Bruce A. Lazenby, Chairman of HAC - Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary

Carissa Bechtloff M.B.A. - City of Hope, Orange County

Rhonda L. Ducote - Apriem Advisors

Jenny Roney - Philanthropist

Vana Surmanian - Philanthropist

Kay Walker - Attorney at Law



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