



Heart-Centered Care for All Ages

Since 1983, **Regional Hospice** has been a community leader, pioneer, and treasured resource for end-of-life care.

Providing compassionate hospice care for adults, children, and babies has been Regional Hospice's overarching mission for more than 40 years. Founded in 1983, the organization was originally designed for cancer patients who needed access to loving end-of-life care, but it has grown into much more than that.

For patients facing life-limiting illnesses like dementia, Alzheimer's, cardiac issues, ALS, cancer, Parkinson's, or end-stage renal failure, Regional Hospice has an expert, multidisciplinary team ready and waiting to help patients transition peacefully. The team includes physicians, nurses, social workers, CNAs, chaplains, bereavement counselors, therapists who provide sound healing, Reiki, gentle massage, and meditation, as well as hospice-trained volunteers, musicians, and pet partners who provide additional comfort, care, and companionship.

Regional Hospice was founded as a nonprofit so no patient would be turned away because of financial needs. The agency relies largely on funding from generous donors and public and private grants to fill the gap of private insurance as well as Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

A majority of Regional Hospice's patients live in private homes or assisted living and skilled nursing facilities across Connecticut. Regional Hospice also partners with Nuvance/Northwell Health to provide hospice services at Danbury, New Milford, and Norwalk Hospitals. And in



A tranquil pediatric suite at the *Center for Comfort Care & Healing*.



2015, the hospice opened a residential *Center for Comfort Care & Healing* in Danbury, where anyone can receive concierge-level, 24/7 care in one of 12 patient suites.

"Whether we're caring for patients and their loved ones in the community or at our inpatient Center, we're committed to ensuring every experience is warm, peaceful, and deeply meaningful," says ToniAnn Marchione, President and CEO.

Experts in Pediatric Care

Regional Hospice works with patients of all ages and is a pioneer in the pediatric space. Currently in Connecticut there is a critical need to increase access to pediatric hospice care.

"We are the only standalone hospice taking care of children in the state of Connecticut," says Marchione, who notes that children, unlike adults, are still eligible for concurrent, curative care even while on hospice services. "Our pediatric team is specially trained in taking care of our most fragile patients. The multidisciplinary team includes child life specialists who can help patients and their families understand what's happening from an individualized developmental perspective.

"Our goal," she adds, "is to triple or quadruple the number of medically complex pediatric patients our team can care for at any given time, from roughly 8 out of 120 total patients today to as many as 30 in the future." Marchione, who is also co-chair of a statewide task force exploring ways to expand pediatric hospice and palliative offerings throughout Connecticut, is a major advocate for expanding pediatric access to hospice services overall.



ToniAnn Marchione, President and CEO, and Dr. Robert Kloss, Medical Director

A LOVING LEGACY

In 1983, Danbury Hospital's Robert Kloss, MD, and two other oncologists founded Regional Hospice with the intent of helping dying patients at home while bringing peace and healing to their families.

Though the organization has grown significantly over 40-plus years, Dr. Kloss has remained committed to the cause, serving as both an oncologist at Nuvance/Northwell and the beloved medical director of Regional Hospice, where he helps bring peace, compassion, and the opportunity for a dignified death to well over 1,000 terminally ill patients each year.



REGIONAL HOSPICE®