



**Now More than Ever**  
*Building the Future of Care in Elkhart County*



# Our Mission & Vision

At Center for Hospice Care (CHC), our mission is to improve the quality of living by providing compassionate hospice and palliative care and bereavement services. We envision a community where no one has to face the challenges of a serious advanced illness alone.

## Building on a Legacy of Compassion

The Elkhart Campus has been a cornerstone of compassionate care in Elkhart County, serving as a place of comfort and support for patients and families navigating life's most challenging moments. A pivotal part of this campus is Esther's House, a seven-bed inpatient unit that provides short-term medical care for pain and symptom management as well as respite care for families. Named in honor of Esther Streffling through a generous contribution by the Streffling Foundation, Esther's House exemplifies the power of philanthropy to create spaces that truly embody compassion and dignity.

The campus also features the Gardens of Remembrance and Renewal, a serene outdoor space supported by many donors who have left lasting legacies through named gifts for bricks, benches, trees and other features. These gardens provide a tranquil environment for reflection and solace, further enhancing the campus's role as a haven for healing.



# Our Impact in Elkhart County

## Patients Served

Over 15,000 patients in Elkhart County since our inception.

## Esther's House

More than 2,500 patients have received compassionate care at our inpatient unit in Elkhart. Esther's House is available for patients who need short-term, intensive care for symptoms that can't be managed in their home setting as well as respite care.

## Bereavement Support

Over 5,000 bereavement clients have found comfort and guidance through our group programs and individual counseling in Elkhart County.



# Why This Initiative?

Now more than ever, we need to invest in Center for Hospice Care's Elkhart Campus in order to continue meeting the growing and diverse needs of the community. CHC is embarking on a comprehensive renovation and expansion of the Elkhart Campus. Our \$1 million initiative will enhance our Elkhart facilities and infrastructure, ensuring a safe, accessible and welcoming environment for patients, families and staff.

This project represents our commitment to maintaining and enhancing a space that embodies compassion and care.



# Key Projects & Needs

**The Elkhart Campus improvements include the following projects, totaling \$1,000,000:**

## **New Furnishings & Aesthetic Updates**

Modernizing and enhancing patient, guest and employee spaces for improved functionality and comfort.

## **Access Control System/Door Release**

Improving security and accessibility.

## **Nurse Call System**

Enhancing patient safety and staff response times.

## **Wanderguard System**

Ensuring the safety of at-risk patients with advanced monitoring technology.

## **Aluminum Door Replacement**

Replacing worn doors with upgraded aluminum for safety and energy efficiency.

## **AV Upgrades & Integration**

Implementing advanced audiovisual systems to improve communication and education capabilities.

## **Roof Replacement**

Ensuring the safety and integrity of our buildings.

## **Water Softener System**

Upgrading water systems to enhance operational efficiency.

## **Maintenance Garage**

Adding a state-of-the-art facility to support campus operations.

## **Enhanced Outdoor Spaces**

Offering serene spaces for reflection and family moments.

## **Pergola Replacement**

Providing an updated outdoor feature for shaded reflection and gathering.

These projects represent our commitment to maintaining and enhancing a space that embodies compassion and care.



# A Community That Cares

Over the years, many individuals, families and organizations have supported our vision for the Elkhart Campus. The rededication of our inpatient facility as Esther's House in honor of Esther Strefling is just one example of the generosity that fuels our mission. The countless contributions to the Gardens of Remembrance and Renewal highlight the community's enduring commitment to creating a space for comfort and reflection.



## Naming Opportunities

Donors will have the chance to leave a lasting legacy through naming opportunities, including:

- Patient Rooms
- Spiritual Reflection Room
- Gazebo and Gardens
- Maintenance Garage
- Bereavement Counseling Rooms
- Common Areas



## How You Can Help

Your support will help us ensure that the Elkhart Campus continues to be a beacon of hope and care for generations to come. Contributions of any size make a meaningful difference and bring us closer to realizing our vision of compassionate, high-quality care for all.





# History of Hospice Care in Elkhart County

In 1982, a group of community leaders started the Elkhart Community Hospice and began serving patients throughout Elkhart County. In 1997, Center for Hospice Care expanded its services to include Elkhart County, providing comprehensive hospice and palliative care to Elkhart County residents. Responding to increasing demand for hospice care, CHC opened an office in Elkhart in 2001.

In 1999, Elkhart General Hospital took over the Elkhart Community Hospice, and in 2005, Elkhart General Hospital merged its hospice program into CHC's. This integration resulted in CHC becoming the largest and most comprehensive provider of hospice services in Elkhart County, ensuring that patients received consistent and compassionate care. This growth enhanced and expanded the availability of hospice care in Elkhart.

As CHC cared for more patients in Elkhart, community leaders and volunteers encouraged and generously supported the establishment of a CHC owned facility that incorporated a seven-bed inpatient unit. The donation of an 11-acre site in Elkhart resulted in the establishment of a warm, homelike setting for patients and families in 2008. This facility was rededicated in



2018 as "Esther's House" in honor of Esther Strefling, whose family made a generous gift through the Strefling Foundation in appreciation of the compassionate care she received.

Since its inception, CHC has served over 47,000 patients and their loved ones through hospice and palliative care services, as well as providing grief counseling and community education. The organization's mission to **improve the quality of living** continues to guide its efforts in Elkhart County and beyond. In 2023, CHC received the prestigious Circle of Life Award, acknowledging its innovative and comprehensive approach to caring for those with serious advanced illnesses. This national recognition highlights CHC's commitment to excellence and its significant contributions to the field of hospice care.

# Instruments of Giving

## Outright Gifts

Contributions of cash or check (not attached to a pledge) can be used immediately by Center for Hospice Care.

## Pledge Payments

Gifts of cash, check or credit card directed towards fulfillment of a multi-year commitment to Center for Hospice Care.

## Matching Gifts

Made by companies that wish to multiply the charitable giving of their employees. Most participating companies will match gifts dollar for dollar, and some will double or triple match employee donations.

## Gifts of Securities

Often involving significant tax benefits to the donor, contributions of appreciated securities can be transferred to Center for Hospice Care as pledge payments, outright gifts or planned gifts.

## Planned Gifts

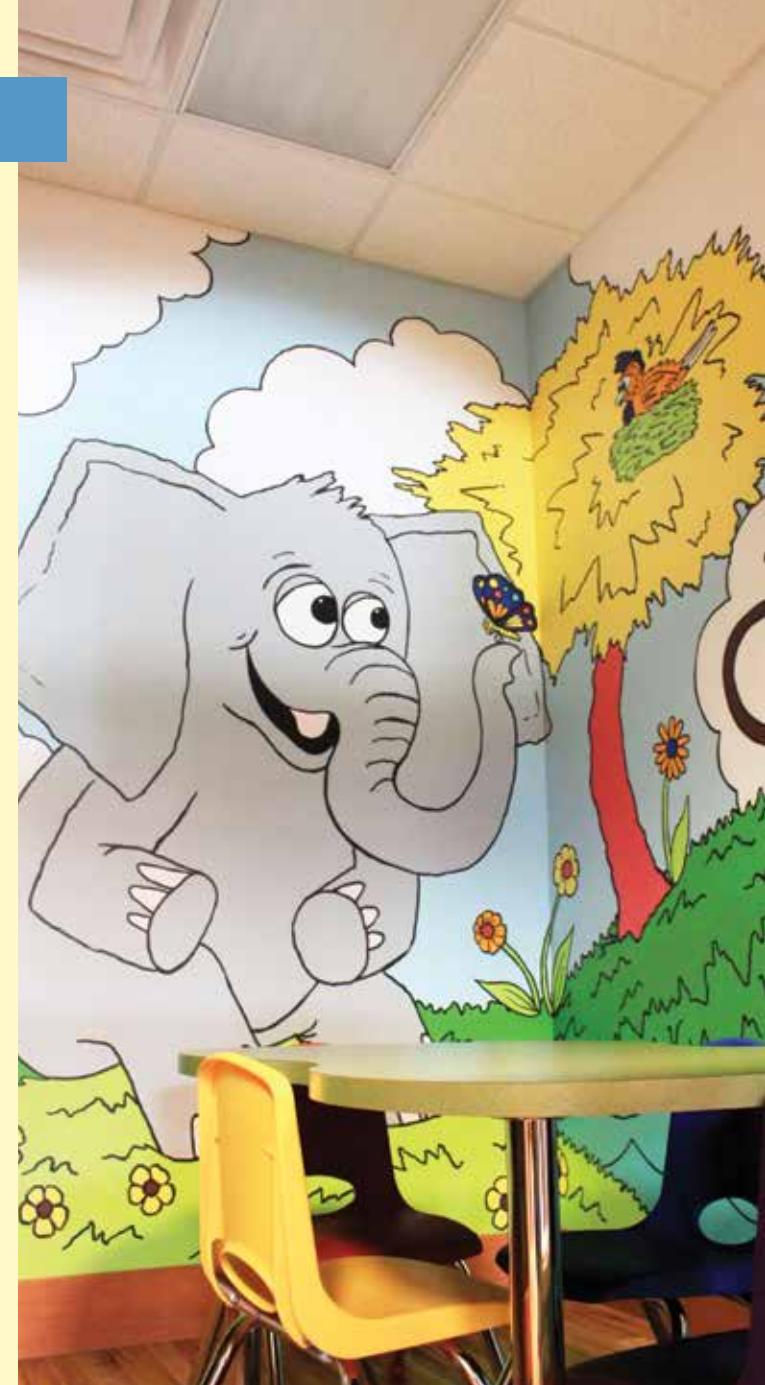
Include bequests, unitrusts, annuities, insurance policies and retirement assets.

## For More Information

Please contact Chris Taelman, chief development officer at Hospice Foundation, supporting the work of Center for Hospice Care, at:

## Hospice Foundation

22579 Old US 20 East  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
574.243.3713  
taelmanc@CFHCare.org



# Center for Hospice Care Board of Directors

Kevin Murphy – **Chair** • Andy Murray – **Vice Chair** • Dale Patterson, MD – **Treasurer** • Diane Krill – **Secretary**

Matthew Anderson • Roland Chamblee, Jr. • Brian Huber, MD • Cindy Kilgore

Bunmi Okanlami, MD • Terry Rodino • Jodi Spataro • Jeff Wysong



22579 Old US 20 East • Elkhart, Indiana 46516

574.243.3100 • 800-HOSPICE

[www.CFHCare.org](http://www.CFHCare.org) • [www.FoundationForHospice.org](http://www.FoundationForHospice.org)

*Both Center for Hospice Care and Hospice Foundation are 501(c)(3) organizations*