



*Hospice House Campaign*  
MISSION HOSPICE & HOME CARE

## Frequently asked questions

### What is a hospice house?

A hospice house is a quiet, peaceful facility specifically designed and staffed to provide hospice care to patients in the last weeks of life. The focus of a hospice house is keeping the family around the patient; spiritual and psychosocial support is available to help families through the bereavement process.



### Why do we need a hospice house?

Care in a hospice house provides patients with quality, compassionate care much less expensively than if they were in the hospital. Our hospice house offers care for patients at the end of life who would otherwise be in a hospital.

The hospice house offers a compassionate option for patients in the end stages of life who need of intensive, round-the-clock symptom management that cannot be provided at home.

Although hospice houses are common in other parts of the country, California has only about ten. Ours is the only hospice house in San Mateo County.

### Who stays in the hospice house?

The hospice house allows us to care for patients who need intensive, round-the-clock hospice care that cannot be provided at home. The house also offers short stays for terminally ill patients whose caregivers need a few days of respite. Specifically designed for end-of-life care, our hospice house allows us to provide excellent care (at a lower cost) for patients at the end of life who would otherwise require hospitalization.





## Where is the hospice house?

After a long search for suitable land on which we could build a new hospice house, we found in the heart of San Mateo an exceptional existing residential care home. The home is bright, well-kept, and centrally located in the Hayward Park neighborhood.

The facility has 10 rooms, including two that are set up to accommodate couples. Because it is actually a complex of two five-room units, the space feels quite homelike and intimate.

## What kind of care do patients receive in the hospice house?

Our professional staff provides intensive pain management and skilled round-the-clock hospice care in a serene, homelike setting. Full-time palliative care allows loved ones to spend quality time with the patient while professional hospice staff attend to the patients' physical needs.

Our hospice house is managed by a full-time nursing program director. Patients are cared for by experienced hospice nurses, home health aides, hospice physicians, social workers, spiritual counselors, and volunteers to provide quality, round-the-clock hospice care and family support.



## How does the hospice house serve families?

As with all of our hospice care, the focus at the hospice house is on family support and patient comfort. The hospice house is designed not only for patients but also for their family and friends. It includes places for families to gather, as well as room for overnight guests.

The common areas and lovely gardens at the 16th Avenue property offer a beautiful, welcoming environment. Our social workers, bereavement counselors, spiritual counselors, and volunteers support families throughout the end-of-life process.

## How are patients admitted?

Mission House is small, with a limited number of rooms. As space is available, individuals are admitted when the family and physician decide that hospice care would best be provided in the hospice house.

Mission Hospice works with each patient, family, and physician to find the best place for each person to receive our hospice care.



## How long do patients stay in the hospice house?

While each patient's experience and needs are unique, patients typically stay in the hospice house a few days to a few weeks.

## What does this care cost? Who pays for it?

As with our existing programs, Medicare and private insurance pays much of the expense of patient care. Donations support patients not covered by insurance or Medicare, or when insurance doesn't cover the actual costs of delivering quality care and service. The costs associated with room and board in the hospice house are privately paid, based on a sliding scale.

Mission Hospice is committed to providing compassionate end-of-life care for all patients, regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay.





## How can I support the Hospice House Campaign?

You can make a single gift or a multi-year pledge by check or credit card. We'd be glad to talk to you about memorial and honorary gifts, along with naming opportunities at Mission House. Of course, we are happy to keep your gift anonymous if you prefer.

## I already give to Mission Hospice. Can't my gift support the hospice house?

Current generous donations from the community make up the difference between the reimbursement rate of our current services and the quality care we provide - and fund care for people who do not have insurance. The Hospice House Campaign will require generosity above and beyond our supporters' annual gifts. Pledges are available, and may be paid in installments.

## How else can I make a gift?

Many employers offer matching gift programs that can effectively double the size of your contribution.

With a donation of appreciated securities, you avoid paying capital gains taxes and can deduct the fair market value of the stock at the time of your contribution.

Please consider including Mission Hospice & Home Care in your estate planning. A planned gift is a meaningful way to ensure that your support of our work will continue past your lifetime.



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