



## PROOF POSITIVE

# Focusing On Quality Of Life For Hawai'i's People

*By Scott Nilsen, director of corporate social responsibility at Islands Hospice*

**M**any people think of hospice as the end of a lifelong journey. At Islands Hospice, we believe it's a patient's opportunity to write his or her final chapter.

While providing hospice care isn't easy, it offers comfort, peace and dignity to patients in their final days or months. Since 2008, our 200 staff members have walked with thousands of patients and their families. In the last two years alone, we've cared for close to 4,000 patients and their loved ones.

Hospice is different from other types of medical care. It focuses on the quality of life that remains for patients with a life-limiting prognosis of six months or less. Hospice provides pain relief, and emotional and spiritual support wherever a patient calls home. Patients can also receive care at our two in-patient hospice locations.

Through hospice, the Wongs found peace as they went through the process of losing their mother and grandmother. They visited every day, seeking comfort from staff members and volunteers on what to expect near the end. With her pain managed and her family around her, Mrs. Wong had

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***In 2018, Islands Hospice will give \$600,000 to support various causes in the community.***

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Islands Hospice staff, family and friends participated in the O'ahu Walk to End Alzheimer's last month. **PHOTOS COURTESY ISLANDS HOSPICE**

a peaceful last few days, and her family was better prepared to navigate the grief that followed.

Patients and families don't pay a penny for hospice care. We partner with Medicare, Medicaid and insurance companies to cover the full cost of services. Our donor-supported patient benevolence fund helps pay for uninsured expenses, like funeral costs and even basic necessities like groceries.

We're fortunate to impact not only our patients, but also our community. In 2018,

Islands Hospice will give \$600,000 to support various causes in the community. We have also made a \$2 million, multiyear commitment toward addressing a critical issue in our state through the Hawai'i Homeless Healthcare Hui (H4) project.

What we need most is your time. Volunteers make a world of difference in the lives of patients and families who often need a hand to hold. Give the gift of your companionship or donate to our benevolence fund by visiting [islandshospice.com](http://islandshospice.com).