

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



The Best Care When it Matters Most  
• In Your Home Or Our Hospice House •

Southeast Coastal Georgia's Premier Non-Profit Hospice Provider Since 1980



## 2018 message from the CEO



*Karen Brubaker Miller*  
LCSW, ACHE

# 2018 WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR HOSPICE OF THE GOLDEN ISLES.

Our dedicated Hospice team received national recognition for outstanding quality of care, hosted an inaugural benefit for our new Hospice endowment, received generous support from our Hospice Auxiliary and other community partners, and celebrated our 12th annual Lights of Love community memorial service.

Last year Hospice of the Golden Isles served almost 600 patients and their families and provided \$770,000 of uncompensated patient care for some of the most vulnerable residents of our community.

HGI received HEALTHCAREFirst's national Hospice Honors award recognizing exceptional family satisfaction with our services for the sixth year in a row. Hospice of the Golden Isles is the only hospice in Georgia that has received this special recognition every year since the award was established.

Golden Isles Palliative Care partners with Southeast Georgia Health System (SGHS) to operate the Health System's Palliative Care Center. In November 2018, the Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Palliative Care Outpatient Clinic at the SGHS Brunswick campus. The Palliative Care program is growing rapidly and making a real difference in the lives of patients living with serious illness in our community. For more information, please visit [goldenislespc.org](http://goldenislespc.org) or [getpalliativecare.org](http://getpalliativecare.org).

Hospice of the Golden Isles has served southeast coastal Georgia for almost 40 years at home, in nursing homes, and in our Hospice House. We are your trusted, non-profit, hometown hospice under the direction of a local Board of Directors and are experts at providing comfort care when it matters most. Our hospice team is grateful for your confidence in us and for your faithful support of our mission.

## Our Community Partners



St. Mary's United Methodist Church Foundation



2015, 2018 RECIPIENT

**HOSPICE**  
HONORS elite

2012-2018 RECIPIENT

**HOSPICE**  
HONORS

### HOSPICE HONORS

2018 marked the SIXTH consecutive year that Hospice of the Golden Isles (HGI) was named a Hospice Honors recipient by Deyta Analytics. HGI is the ONLY hospice in Georgia to receive this national award all six years it has been awarded and is the ONLY area hospice to receive the Hospice Honors Elite designation in 2018. Hospice Honors is a prestigious program that recognizes hospices providing the highest level of quality care as measured from the caregiver's perspective.

### DEDICATION OF FRIENDS OF HOSPICE WALL

Prior to the annual Lights of Love celebration, HGI donors and supporters gathered in the lobby of our Hospice House to unveil the new Friends of Hospice donor recognition wall. This permanent tribute is the latest expression of gratitude to past and present major donors to HGI. We were honored to have several of our Founders in attendance, "whose substantial gifts of \$100,000 or more contributed to our strong foundation of serving our community." Among those featured on the wall are the Thomas family who have raised over \$250,000 over the years at their annual R.E. Thomas Memorial Benefit. The Auxiliary of Hospice of the Golden Isles is also highlighted for their ten years of support and raising over \$625,000 in the past decade.

Donations of \$10,000 or more to the Hospice of the Golden Isles Endowment or directly to HGI will be recognized in the Golden Heart Dove Society. Donations of \$50,000 or more will be permanently recognized in the Benefactors Circle on the wall.



# FULL CIRCLE, testimonials



## The Butler Family

“Within the first month of Hospice Home Care, I went from feeling overwhelmed with our situation and a crushing sense of grief, to having a complete plan for the final days of this journey with Hospice. It was simply amazing all that is accomplished through Hospice. From helping to facilitate medical equipment and supplies delivered right to our door to the nurses, CNAs, social workers, pastoral care, and all members of the Hospice team of angels. Please don't wait until your situation brings you on the brink of despair. Let Hospice of the Golden Isles be your safety net!” *Nancy Butler*

“The support and care that we received from Hospice truly enabled us to fulfill a promise we made to Dad: that he would be able to stay in the comfort of his home surrounded by family. The Hospice team was competent, professional, yet extremely compassionate and completely dedicated to Dad's care, immediate needs, and most importantly, his dignity. We will forever be grateful to Hospice of the Golden Isles for walking alongside us in this journey of love and compassion for our beloved father, husband, grandfather and friend.” *Kelly Butler Valentine*

“Being the caregiver for a loved one can be a tremendous burden both physically and mentally. The wonderful Hospice staff not only took care of my father but also my mother. Having the nurses walk in the house and give Mom a hug and words of encouragement helped her through dad's final days. Hospice isn't for the family, they ARE family.” *David Butler*



*Miriam Cristobol and Lynn Goldsworth*

## The Goldsworth Family

“When my husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma, we went to the Mayo Clinic for treatment. After 3 years of surgeries, chemo, radiation and chemo trials, his doctor realized there was nothing more she could do and therefore transferred him for palliative care with Hospice of the Golden Isles.

We decided to keep him in the comfort of our own home and could not have done this without the help of Hospice. Initially, a team from HGI came to our home to assess and determine his care, which at that time was mainly pain relief. But in time as his needs increased, they supplied whatever was necessary for his comfort. Perhaps more importantly than his physical needs, though, his mental needs — as well as mine — were met with our loving, caring Hospice nurse, Miriam. We always looked forward to her visits. She would sit on his bed and have wonderful conversations with him, while comforting me and my daughter who was with us his last few weeks.

We're forever grateful for Miriam and the staff at HGI and could not have gone through this painful time without them.”

*Lynn Goldsworth*



## The Bogus Family

“Words cannot begin to express the overwhelming gratitude we feel for Hospice of the Golden Isles. You entered our parents' lives at the most vulnerable time and were more than just caregivers, you became family. A family that embraced mom and dad and gave them a home away from home. You sustained them and eased them through many nights of pain and discomfort.

That's why we encourage our neighbors to support Hospice of the Golden Isles so that other families can experience the same compassionate care, providing peace, comfort and love.”

*Cherry Bogus Thompson*

**“These earthly angels gave my family and our mom the respect and dignity that everyone so deserves.”**

*Kim Taylor*



## The Taylor Family

“Our mom, Mama T, was our reason for choosing Hospice of the Golden Isles. We were devastated when she suffered a life altering stroke and we were definitely not prepared. As a family, my brother, sister and I were faced with the decision of where our precious mother would spend her last days on Earth and we chose HGI.

We were all very anxious, nervous, and lost but from the moment that we arrived with our mom at HGI, we were treated like FAMILY! We began to relax and feel peace for the first time since her stroke. The entire staff was so accommodating in every way... from allowing Mom a gazillion visitors to guiding us with loving wisdom of what to expect of her hospice journey to her eternal life. Each staff member was available to us 24/7. These earthly angels gave my family and our mom the respect and dignity that everyone so deserves.

If Mama T were here today to express her gratitude and thanks, she would say to everyone at HGI, “Thank you for guiding and loving on my three children while I was here for my final earthly adventure. I LUVS YOU ALL!!”

*Kim Taylor*

## highlight of 2018



### HOSPICE OF THE GOLDEN ISLES ENDOWMENT EVENT

The first Hospice of the Golden Isles Endowment party was held at the A.W. Jones Heritage Center. The guest of honor was hospice champion Dewey Benefield who was surprised by a tribute from guest speaker, UGAs Loran Smith as well as a video greeting from the legendary Coach Vince Dooley. Benefield was recognized for his part in UGA's history as Poet Laureate.

The event was underwritten by the William O. Inman, III Family, the Sumerford Family Fund, and the Robinson Investment Group. Event hosts were Brooke Sumerford and Nancy Wainwright; guest speaker was Ben Slade. Guests enjoyed cocktails, live music and bid on auction items and all proceeds went to the Endowment and were doubled by a special grant from the St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation.

The Hospice of the Golden Isles Endowment is a permanent fund dedicated solely toward sustaining the hospice's mission of caring for those in need of the specialized level of hospice care, regardless of ability to pay. The fund managed by the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation.



### GOLDEN ISLES PALLIATIVE CARE RIBBON CUTTING

In partnership with Southeast Georgia Health System (SGHS), Golden Isles Palliative Care held an open house ribbon cutting for its new clinic in the Outpatient Care Center at SGHS.

Palliative Care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness with a focus on providing relief from symptoms and stress. The Golden Isles Palliative Care clinical team includes a physician who is board certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, a nurse practitioner and a nurse navigator.



### INAUGURAL DOVE SOCIETY PARTY

In honor of our Dove Society donors, a lovely spring-time cocktail party was hosted at the private Yacht Club home of one of HGIs benevolent donors. Guests enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music, and spectacular views from the waterfront home. The event culminated with an additional generous donation by the homeowner.

## signature events



### WINE WOMEN & SHOES

Once again, the Auxiliary of Hospice of the Golden Isles hosted its signature event, Wine Women & Shoes, at the Sea Island Cloister, benefiting Hospice of the Golden Isles. This was the fifth year this event has been held locally and the second year, event co-chairs Becky Derrick and Stephanie Jacobs organized this epic benefit. Always well-attended, guests and patrons enjoyed specially curated wine selections, Marketplace fare, and the best silent and live auction around. The fashion show and luncheon, hosted by the charming Shoe Guys, is always the icing on the cake for this anticipated annual event. It gets better each year!

### AMERICANA & BLUES FESTIVAL 2018

Local musician Jeff Bickel and his wife, Pam started the American & Blues Festival as a benefit for Hospice of the Golden Isles eight years ago. It has had several different locations throughout the years - from Jekyll to St. Simons to the mainland. This year's event started during First Friday in downtown Brunswick at Jekyll Square and the party continued the next night at The Club at Bennie's Red Barn on St. Simons. Raising close to \$6,000, this event showcased great music for a great cause!



### R.E. THOMAS MEMORIAL BENEFIT

It's a well-oiled and well-attended machine! Joyce and Johnny Thomas, along with their family and friends, hosted the 14th Annual R.E. Thomas Memorial Benefit for HGI. This anticipated yearly event, held at the Brunswick Shrine Club, has raised more than \$250,000 over the years. Following the mouthwatering Coastal GA fried shrimp and prime rib dinner from Mudcat Charlie's, guests enjoy entertainment provided by the talented Thomas family and friends. We continue to be humbled by the support and generosity of everyone who comes together to execute this event. We are in awe of how seamlessly they seem to pull it off.

### VETERANS DAY APPRECIATION LUNCH

It was an honor to serve the veterans, active military and their friends and families again this Veterans Day. This year's lunch followed the parade and ceremony in the Casino Atrium at the St. Simons Island Pier Village. Southern Soul Barbeque provided the bag lunches and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hodnett Cooper Real Estate joined HGI as a presenting sponsor. Table sponsors included United Community Bank, First Coast Benefits Solutions, Peachtree Pest Control, McGinty Gordon and Associates, HomeLife on Glynco, Glynn County Republican Party, Ocean Petroleum, Parker's. In-kind sponsors were Beachview Event Rentals and Design and Chick-Fil-A of St. Simons. Because of this generosity, we provided lunch for 170 people, of whom 105 were veterans or active military. Thank you for your service!

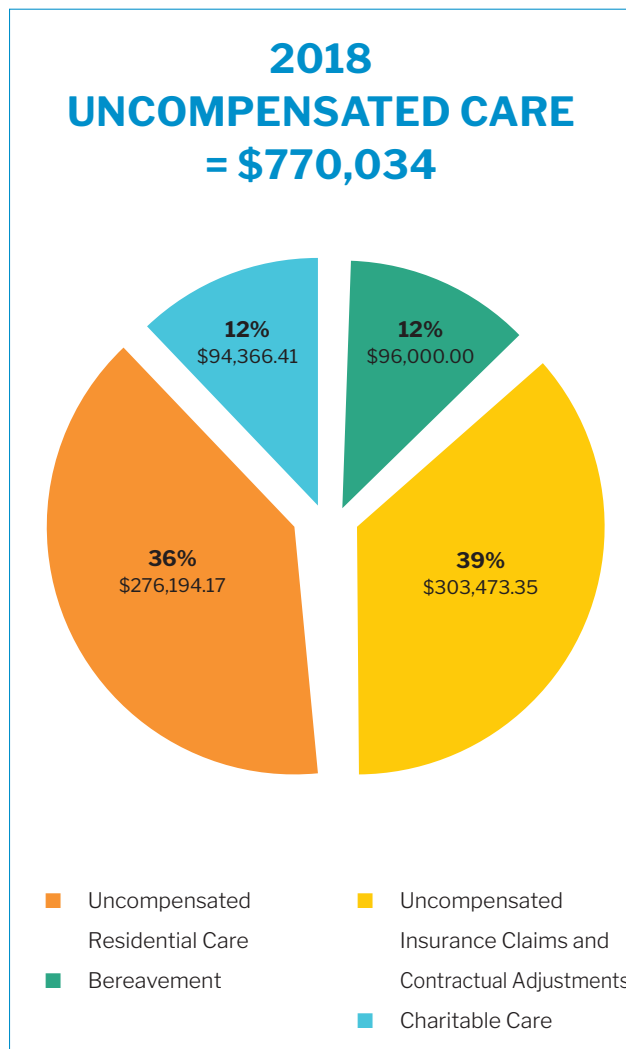
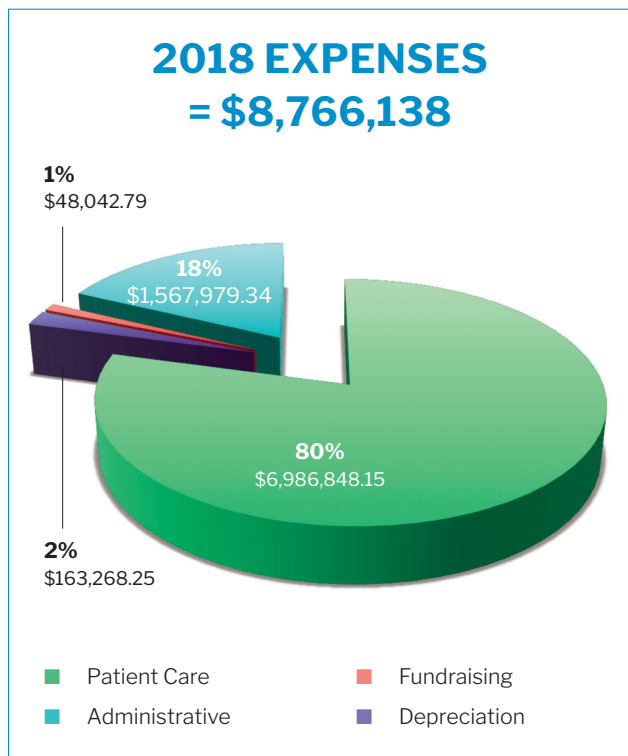


### LIGHTS OF LOVE

The holiday tradition continues at Hospice of the Golden Isles with the 12th Lights of Love service of remembrance followed by the beautiful lighting of the hospice grounds. We begin the season with poignant holiday readings and endearing festive music. Before the community service, a reception was held in the Nunnally Conference Center in celebration of the Dove Society members, the generous donors who gifted \$1000 or more during the year. Additionally, we dedicated and unveiled the Friends of Hospice wall which is a permanent visual tribute to legacy gifts and generous contributions past and present. We look forward to adding to the wall and expanding our Dove Society and hospice holiday fellowship.

## 2018 in numbers

It is thanks to generous donors like you and supporting organizations that include the Auxiliary of Hospice of the Golden Isles, Southeast Georgia Health System, and the United Way of Coastal Georgia, we are able to provide award-winning, expert hospice care to anyone who needs us regardless of ability to pay.



**108 EMPLOYEES**

**46 NURSES**

**26 CERTIFIED NURSES AIDES**

**15 HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE  
CERTIFIED NURSES + AIDES**

**45 VOLUNTEERS**

**4090 VOLUNTEER  
HOURS**

**106 AVERAGE DAILY CENSUS**

**38,837 PATIENT DAYS**

**571 PATIENTS SERVED**

**ANNUAL REVENUE \$9,627,351**

**(FOR YEAR)**

# Dove Society and Boards



## 2018 HOSPICE OF THE GOLDEN ISLES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Seated, from left: Julie Martin, Helen Benefield Billings, Brenda Boone-Cove

Standing, from left: Christy Jordan, Rev. Paul McKenzie, Rev. Tom Purdy, Pat Cooper, Dave Snyder, Catina Tindall, Rev. Marcia Cochran, chairman, Con Holland, Denesha Summers, John Galland, James Vivencio

Not pictured: Billy Copelan, Elaine Griffin, Margie Dorsey, Tricia Smith



## AUXILIARY OF HOSPICE OF THE GOLDEN ISLES

### 2018 LOCAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018 marked the 10th year the Auxiliary has championed the mission of Hospice of the Golden Isles.

From left: Elaine Goodwin, Glenn Ferrell, Joan Hearn, Denesha Summers, President, Donna Johnson, President Elect, Maryalice Kimel and Lucy Thomas



We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the members of our Dove Society whom we recognize on the following levels



**DOVE SOCIETY**

#### **Golden Heart Doves (\$10,000 or more)**

Robert L. Maffett  
Hugh Nunnally  
Frank Salvati  
Joyce and Johnny Thomas  
Infinity, Inc.  
Southeast Georgia Health System  
St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation  
Terry Thomas Foundation  
The Auxiliary of Hospice of the Golden Isles, Inc.  
United Way of Coastal Georgia



**DOVE SOCIETY**

#### **Ruby Doves (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

Pam and Jeff Bickel • Janice Lamattina  
Brooke and Rees Sumerford • Karleen and John Thompson  
Jane Watson • James D. Wethern  
Charlene Stahl, Mixed Nuts on St. Simons Island  
Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church, Frederica  
Grand Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Martha Duke Cook Revocable Living Trust  
River Rats Inc., DBA Two Way Fish Camp  
St. Simons Island Rotary Club, Marshes of Glynn



**DOVE SOCIETY**

#### **Emerald Doves (\$5,000 - \$9,999)**

Grace Compton • James Gilbert • Susan Hoffman  
William O. Inman • Jamice Meschke  
Diana and Reg Murphy  
I-95 Toyota and Scion  
St. Simons United Methodist Church



**DOVE SOCIETY**

#### **Turtle Doves (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

Dewey Benefield • Susie and Jim Benefield  
Stacey Berger • Helen and Don Billings  
Mary Beth Boone and Chuck Michio  
Angela Britt • Thomas Brooks  
Louise and Keith Calhoun • Rev. Marcia Cochran  
John Cox • Margie and Bud Dorsey • Harry Easterling  
Alice Glenn • Emily Glickstein • Donna and Don Heins  
Sandra and Darrell Hendrix • Debbie and Con Holland

Mary and Dwayne Hoven • Christy and Chris Jordan  
Patricia Kerns • Tina and Bill Kirby  
Jeanne Marie and Jim Kiss • Antonia B. Laird  
Cynthia Lampkin • Robin and Davis Love, III  
Deb Maner • Julie and Jack Martin • Karen and Mark Miller  
John Morrissey • Molly and Bill Norrett • Harry Owens  
Lee Peterson • Arthur Pittman • Joseph Prendergast  
Sybil C. Ralston • Jay Robinson, Jr. • John A. Rodman  
Terry Schneider and John Boney • Donna and Robert Shupe  
Tricia and Charlie Smith • Doyle Thomas  
Margaret and Hal Trammell • Nancy and Dale Trenda  
James Vivencio • Susan Walden • James G. Waters  
Billie C. Wiggins • Thornton Willingham  
Muriel and John Windolf • Deborah Wright  
The Family of Peggy Christian  
Ameris Bank, Brunswick  
Pat Cooper, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hodnett  
Cooper Real Estate  
Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home  
Catina Tindall, First Coast Benefit Solutions, Inc.  
Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. - Brunswick Chapter  
Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin PC  
Golden Isles Cruise Lines  
Brigitte Ponsell, Ponsell Heating and Air Conditioning  
Post Court Developers, Inc.  
Prime South Bank  
St. Simons Presbyterian Church  
The Heritage Bank  
Turner & Associates Insurance  
**In Kind Gifts**  
Golden Coast Golf Carts  
iHeart Media  
Sunbelt



## SHARE OUR VISION

In 1980, Hospice of the Golden Isles began with a volunteer staff and a handful of patients. Today, our vision to become our community's premier hospice and palliative care provider has become a reality with over 150 team members and volunteers. HGI proudly provides expert hospice and palliative care to hundreds of families in our coastal community. If you wish to make a contribution, please call us or visit our website for more information.

**Every gift makes a difference.**



**FOR INFORMATION OR REFERRALS**

**912-265-4735 or toll free at 866-275-6801**

[www.HOSPICE.me](http://www.HOSPICE.me)



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