

INTRODUCTION

The 2004 Circle of Life Award marks the award's fifth year celebrating innovation in palliative and end-of-life care. The award has honored an array of hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities, and in doing so has highlighted for all health care providers how high-quality, innovative, compassionate palliative and end-of-life care can be essential to patients, families, and communities. Through this award, the field has seen how different types of providers can adapt each other's successes and ideas and work together to bring better palliative and end-of-life care to our communities.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2004 awards and Citations of Honor; their stories are told in this booklet. Award recipients are: Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, Fort Myers, Florida; St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children, Bayside, New York; and University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas.

The seven programs receiving 2004 Citations of Honor are: Broadway House for Continuing Care, Newark, New Jersey; Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado; The Medical Intensive Care Unit at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island; St. John's Palliative Care Program, Joplin, Missouri; Mercy Supportive Care, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Pontiac, Michigan; West Virginia Palliative Care Network, Morgantown, West Virginia; and Zen Hospice Project, San Francisco, California.

We hope you will read their stories, share in their triumphs, and join us in honoring their accomplishments.

The American Hospital Association sponsors the Circle of Life Award in conjunction with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the American Medical Association and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, with funding through grants provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Special thanks to all of these organizations, and to all the hospitals, health care systems, hospices, nursing homes, and community programs that, through Circle of Life Award applications, shared with us their palliative and end-of-life programs. Thanks also to the Circle of Life Award Committee and, especially, to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for its generous support.



Steve Franey
Chair
Circle of Life Awards Committee
2003–2004



Dick Davidson
President
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