

The circle is growing...more and more hospitals, hospices, long-term care facilities, and other programs are providing innovative, high-quality palliative and end-of-life care and reaching more people in more ways. These programs are having a profound impact on patients, families, and communities at their most vulnerable times of life. At the same time, they help us celebrate our humanity as providers and practitioners...strengthen our links to our communities...and make palliative and end-of-life an indispensable part of the spectrum of high-quality care.

This year's Circle of Life Award honorees approach palliative and end-of-life care in unique ways, in ways that reflect both their institutional culture and community needs. All have experiences and ideas to share with the rest of our nation's hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities. We hope you will read their stories, share in their triumphs, and join us in honoring their accomplishments.

Congratulations to the 2005 award winners and Citation of Honor recipients whose stories are told in this booklet. Their stories of compassion and care are truly what health care is all about.

Thanks to the organizations that have joined together to sponsor these important awards: the American Hospital Association, 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 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

But the real heroes are all the hospitals, health care systems, hospices, nursing homes, and community programs that shared with us their programs through Circle of Life Award applications. Their commitment to extending palliative and end-of-life care throughout the nation is touching lives everywhere.



Steve Franey
Chair
Circle of Life Awards Committee
2004–2005



Dick Davidson
President
American Hospital Association