A Bittersweet Journey Toward Space and Peace

Oliver Boubion was referred to Providence TrinityCare’s pediatric palliative care program in January 2020 after the five-year-old had been discharged from a local children’s hospital. The family was back home with yet another new diagnosis in hand related to a devastating brain injury Oliver had sustained at birth.

It was a cycle that Oliver’s mom and dad, Suzi and Conrad, had become all too familiar with – a daily dance between joy and grief. She welcomed our caregivers into her home, and from the very first conversation was open and honest about the difficulties they had been facing. She recounted through her tears how bittersweet the last few years were – a period she described as one of “wading through the darkness until we find the light.” Each day has been filled with a cycle of successes and losses she struggled to make sense of.

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A Bittersweet Journey Toward Space and Peace

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It wasn’t supposed to be this way. Suzi and her husband had always hoped to raise their family away from the urban noise of Los Angeles. They had even purchased a plot of land on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. But Oliver’s birth injury led them on a different path—a path no parent could possibly prepare for. They left the NICU with little hope, a lot of fear, and a child who would require around-the-clock care for the rest of his life.

Since then, Suzi has devoted herself to Oliver’s success. She worked tirelessly to put together a team of doctors, educators, caregivers, and therapists, all working to ensure his progress. She fought daily to help him preserve every bit of functionality he had, battling LA traffic three days a week with two children in tow to ensure he had access to the best therapy in Southern California.

Eventually the pace started to take a toll on Suzi, her marriage, and Oliver’s younger brother, whom Suzi lamented “deserved more of my time.” Tough decisions needed to be made. They were presented with interventions meant to prolong Oliver’s life, but those same interventions could also prolong his suffering.

While both parents had the same hopes and dreams for Oliver, each viewed the path ahead through their own individual lens. The team facilitated conversations with them together and individually that allowed them to express their concerns and fears about the future.

Space was provided where Suzi could ask the profound questions that often left her feeling judged by other medical professionals.

In the early days of the pandemic, Suzi made a quick trip to Washington to escape the chaos in LA, but it left her feeling stranded and fearful of coming back. She reached out to the team and tearfully expressed her concerns. Oliver was too fragile to fly; how would they get back? Should they come back? The TrinityCare team helped alleviate her fears and work through this difficult decision. The rural life in Washington could possibly provide the peace they had been searching for.

Our social workers assured her that the most important thing they could give their son was a home filled with love—which they had been doing abundantly every day of Oliver’s young life.

When Suzi and Conrad ultimately made the decision to stay in Washington, the team worked to connect them with the palliative care team at Seattle Children’s Hospital.
We tried to provide a space where Suzi could ask the profound questions that often left her feeling judged by other medical professionals.

The new palliative team and pediatric specialists welcomed the family with open arms. Suzi and Conrad felt they had finally found their new medical home, a place where the complexities of a medically fragile child felt understood.

At Christmas, Suzi sent a letter with her holiday cards updating family and friends on the year 2020.

Included in the one our caregivers received was a note that read, “You are the people who provided the support we needed to get here and make our dreams come true. It’s all still unfolding. But I do really think this was the right place for our family.”

The TrinityKids Care team is filled with gratitude that Oliver has landed exactly where he’s meant to be, with a new group of professionals who will walk beside him as the next part of his story unfolds. Suzi ended by writing, “Thank you for helping us see the potential of a little space. And a little slower pace.”

We are grateful the Boubion family is happy and where they want to be and that Providence TrinityKids Care was able to ease their way and help them in their time of need.
Layla Paige’s VIRTUAL Nature Walk Raises over $90,000 for TrinityKids Care

Over 300 walkers from the South Bay and beyond joined Layla Paige’s VIRTUAL Nature Walk for TrinityKids Care, celebrating the life and legacy of Layla Paige and all patients touched by TrinityKids Care. The morning started with a welcome message from actor Jack Black, then Matt and Reese Sonnen shared the heartwarming story of their daughter, Layla and their family’s journey with TrinityKids Care. Cristina Davis then led everyone in a vigorous warm-up routine, and it was time to walk!

To participate in the 2021 Walk this October, please call 310.543.3440 or log in at providence.org/ptcf.

See Layla’s story at trinitykidscare.com.
Sunday by the Sea Goes Virtual

In the middle of the pandemic, friends old and new celebrated the 29th Annual Sunday by the Sea Food and Wine Tasting Gala – Reimagined in the comforts of their own homes. All participants received a special gift bag with two vintage Sunday by the Sea wine glasses and a bottle of wine. Food was ordered from the many restaurant supporters of TrinityCare, and guests purchased opportunity tickets to win a VIP weekend getaway to Terranea Resort, and settled in to celebrate.

At 3:00 pm Providence TrinityCare Foundation Board Chair Lynn Taylor, invited all participants to join her in a special Facebook Live presentation. Streaming live from the elegant Palos Verdes Estates seaside home of Carolyn Elliott, Lynn shared stories of the programs and services of Providence TrinityCare and thanked the sponsors and guests who helped make this annual fundraiser a success!

Providence TrinityCare Foundation Honors Lynn Taylor at its Annual Embassy Dinner

Just before the pandemic forced us to stay home, the Providence TrinityCare Foundation celebrated with over 130 longtime friends and supporters at our annual Embassy Dinner held at the DoubleTree Hotel. A special honor, The Glass Family Award for Philanthropy, Leadership and Service, was bestowed upon Lynn Taylor for her dedication to and heartfelt support of the many programs and services of Providence TrinityCare Hospice and Palliative Care.

Lynn is the current Board Chair of the Providence TrinityCare Foundation and has most recently spearheaded the Thousand Cranes Endowed Chair Campaign in honor of Dr. Glen Komatsu, raising nearly $4 million. Her efforts have allowed Dr. Komatsu the opportunity to develop exceptional training and educational opportunities for caregivers, volunteers and staff that embrace the “Whole Person Care” approach in supporting our patients and families.
Volunteer Spotlight: Charlotte Lazar-Morrison

Meet Charlotte Lazar-Morrison, volunteer with Providence TrinityCare’s adult hospice program

When Charlotte retired from her career in human resources, she looked for a way to stay busy and give back. She was familiar with hospice, having lost her husband in 2007 and then her mother in 2016. After looking at all the opportunities, becoming a part of the team at Providence TrinityCare Hospice sparked her interest.

Charlotte works with the adult hospice program, supporting patients and families in a variety of ways: going grocery shopping, providing respite care, and making home visits to patients who don’t have family nearby.

She is also involved with the Hear Me Now storytelling program at Providence, created in partnership with StoryCorps. The program helps bring patients to a sacred space where they are able to share and record their life stories, which are then stored at the Library of Congress for family and loved ones to hear years from now.

When asked to reflect on a few special stories, Charlotte recently said, “One day I had a young man who was taking care of his elderly mother ask if I could stay with her while he took his girlfriend to church. I also had one woman I loved to visit who painted watercolors. She was on hospice and had dementia. She was always smiling, upbeat, and really brightened my day! She was in a board-and-care and her daughter worked and lived far away, so I was happy to visit.”

During the pandemic, Charlotte has been unable to go on home visits and has instead supported patients and families on the phone. She has also participated in some of the Zoom classes now being offered from art and science for children to “paint and sip” for adults. TrinityCare volunteer coordinators have even dropped off art supplies at homes for people to use during these fun workshops.

Charlotte looks forward to going back into patients’ homes again soon. For information on volunteering with Providence TrinityCare Hospice, please contact Peggy Martin at 310.543.3442.
Caregiver Spotlight: Tristian Mitchell

Meet Tristian Mitchell, clinical supervisor and social worker with Providence TrinityKids Care pediatric palliative care program

While Tristian was in graduate school at UCLA, he interned in an outpatient oncology clinic where he was introduced to palliative care. “I knew at that point I wanted to work in the medical field, and I began applying to as many places as possible so I could begin work as soon as I graduated. After a few weeks, I received a call from Providence TrinityCare asking if I was available to come in to interview. I don’t think I would have applied if I realized that the position was working with terminally ill children, but I went and was hired. I joined the TrinityKids Care hospice team, and after six months, I was called to be on the growing pediatric palliative care team.

I found my calling on the pediatric palliative care team, which still surprises me because I had never seriously thought about a career in hospice/palliative care for children prior to TrinityCare. I thoroughly enjoy the families I work with and recently was promoted to Clinical Supervisor for my team. Working with our families is important to me, so I wanted to make sure I could still balance a caseload while managing our team. Because of the support from my manager and team, it has worked out and has been such a great experience.

I approach our work by showing up every day, fully present, open to learning whatever it is our families teach me, as they’ve been my greatest teachers in this work. I let each family tell their story so I can see their journey through their eyes. Every family is different and is living through difficult circumstances.

One family I have been with for four years has a son, Grayson, whom I met when he was 16 and we began caring for him. Grayson was diagnosed with a brain tumor in early childhood that he’s still working hard to live with, and, as a result, he struggles with anxiety. We have found that using art, music, and talk therapy helps work him through his anxiety. Along with helping Grayson, I’m also there to be an advocate and listening ear for his mother, Michelle. Being able to stand alongside families like his is why I do this work.”

Tristian says he finds joy in working with patients and families from diverse backgrounds and is especially passionate about serving individuals who belong to marginalized groups. Tristian is grateful to serve in a role that allows him to be a part of the solution, working toward providing more equitable health care to disadvantaged groups and communities.
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Gifts of $250+ for the time period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

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Providence TrinityCare Foundation 2020 Financials

FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS

- TrinityKids Care ........................................ $595,455
- Community Palliative Care ........................ $1,099,689
- Patient Care Assistance ......................... $104,501
- Necessities of Life ...................................... $4,354
- Bereavement Programs ............................... $124,999
- Caregiver Education & Fellowships ........ $159,197
- Other ..................................................... $58,059

FUNDS RAISED BY APPEAL

- Direct Mail ............................................. $54,107
- Honor/Memorial ...................................... $118,732
- Employee Giving .................................... $40,326
- Special Events ............................... $256,859
- Grants ................................................. $2,154,050
- Major Gifts ........................................... $305,000
- General Donations ............................. $139,982
- Planned Giving ................................... $7,308

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020 – STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

- Cash & Cash Equivalents .............. $882,775
- Investments ................................. $11,937,479
- Pledges Receivable .................... $2,791,711

Total Assets ....................... $15,611,965

- Total Assets .............................. $15,611,965
- Total Liabilities ....................... $17,197

Total Net Assets ............... $15,629,162

- Annual Contributions .............. $3,032,260
- Investment Income ................. $686,375
- Revenues ............................... $3,718,635
- Gifts in Kind ............................... $18,954

Total Revenues ...................... $3,737,589

- Total Fundraising Expenses .............. $726,898
Light Up A Life Tree Shines Brightly

A special Light Up A Life tree was filled with stars to benefit the Providence TrinityCare Foundation throughout December. This tree at the TrinityCare offices was filled with special stars purchased in memory of lost loved ones. These gifts are used to provide the comfort of hospice and warmth of the holiday season to the lives of our neediest, terminally ill patients and their families.

2020’s Light Up A Life Tree Lighting Ceremony was a special drive thru celebration, socially distanced and safe, but still a wonderful remembrance of those who have passed.

About TrinityCare

Providence TrinityCare Hospice is a regional hospice and palliative care provider with a mission to provide compassionate service for all, especially the poor and vulnerable. TrinityCare started as a small, local service that has grown into a regional program with four interdisciplinary teams and a dedicated staff of more than 200 serving all of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Since 1977, TrinityCare staff has provided compassionate care and services to more than 50,000 patients and families. TrinityKids Care was created in 2001 to help children with life-limiting illnesses live as normally as possible, for as long as possible, in their own homes. TrinityKids Care is the only dedicated pediatric hospice and palliative care provider serving all of Los Angeles and Orange Counties.