Whole-person care addresses the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of patients and their families. At Providence TrinityCare, we embrace this practice in both our Hospice and Palliative Care programs.

Iyashi Care

As the first of its kind in the nation, the Keiro-Providence Iyashi Care program leverages Providence’s nationally renowned leadership in palliative treatment and Keiro’s deep experience and history of providing health and support services to older adults in the Japanese American and Japanese community. Advancing quality of life through our whole-person approach, Iyashi Care provides palliative care for older Japanese American and Japanese adults with chronic and serious illnesses.

Continued on page 2
Continued from page 1

Iyashi Care

Cultural values still very much influence healthcare decisions for patients in the Japanese American and Japanese community. It is a common mentality during medical treatment that one should gamaburu (endure through difficult times, including poor health and discomfort). Shikata ga nai (it cannot be helped) is another view that patients often have of their illness because they think that nausea or fatigue is simply a side effect of their medication that they must tolerate. Even if the patient recognizes their symptoms or situation as something that can be managed, they may employ enryo (to behave with modesty, to be reserved, to be humble or to hesitate) because they would rather not burden their loved ones or doctors with their problems. The Iyashi Care team recognizes these cultural values and is equipped to address them as they work to enhance the quality of life and medical experience for older adults in the Japanese American and Japanese community.

Fifteen years after beating cancer, Masami found herself battling a familiar enemy. Iyashi Care helped Masami and her husband, Hiro, navigate the health care system while fighting her illness. “The team truly is a group of care specialists. They know how to support us medically and, more importantly, emotionally,” says Hiro. For more information and stories on Iyashi Care, please go to keiro.org.

Community Palliative Care

The Kamyab Family from Santa Monica, CA share their experience with Providence TrinityCare.

“My mother Esmat, was diagnosed with a heart infection in 2018. After she was released from the hospital, she was referred to TrinityCare’s Community Palliative Care program as an alternative solution to continue treating her condition.

TrinityCare’s Community Palliative Care program has been extremely effective in addressing my mother’s overall wellbeing. The level of care and attention that my mother has been receiving since 2018 has been exceeding our expectations.

My mother has recovered from her heart infection and her condition is relatively stable as a result of the continuous and necessary care she receives from TrinityCare’s Palliative Care program. It’s allowed us to have the palliative care available 24/7 and has saved her from going to the ER and subsequent readmission.

TrinityCare’s Community Palliative Care program is absolutely the best for patients who have a similar condition as my mother. The program is very effective in providing the right level of attention and medical care while ensuring patient’s holistic wellbeing. The program keeps patient’s best interests in mind while providing the best possible care to make the journey of life peaceful and less stressful.”

Letter from the Foundation Chair

“Though we certainly miss seeing you in person, your love and support over these last several months is still very present and deeply appreciated.”

Dear Loyal Friends,

We are truly grateful for all you do to help us continue to provide the very best possible care to all of our patients and their families. And what an amazing job our caregivers have done during this unprecedented time. As an act of appreciation our Board decided to gift every caregiver of TrinityCare with a set of scrubs imprinted with our logo (see page 4). The joy and gratitude that we received back from them was rewarding beyond measure reminding me once again of the reciprocity of giving and receiving and the true meaning of being a cheerful giver.

As our services expand so do our fundraising efforts. Without missing a beat, we have moved very successfully into virtual fundraising with our Second Annual Layla Paige’s Nature Walk for TrinityKids Care exceeding our expectations.

Board members Jim Zapp and Robert McNerney have hosted virtual salons for the Palliative Care and Necessities of Life initiatives with more to follow in upcoming months. Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about these important services and we will certainly put you on the guest list.

Finally, I am delighted to say that our Board is expanding as well. Over the last few months we have been very fortunate to add several talented and committed members to our Board giving us new and heightened energy and expertise.

With love,

Lynn Taylor
Providence TrinityCare Foundation Board Chair

SUNDAY by the Sea
In the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, friends old and new celebrated the 29th Annual Sunday by the Sea, Food and Wine Tasting Gala... Reimagined in the comfort of their own home.

All participants received a special gift bag with Sunday by the Sea wine glasses and a bottle of wine. Before the event started, special menus of our South Bay restaurant partners were provided for take out of appetizers and meals and guests purchased opportunity tickets to win a VIP weekend getaway to Terranea Resort, and then 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 from the elegant Palos Verdes Estates seaside home of Carolyn Elliott, Lynn shared stories of the programs and services of Providence TrinityCare.
Thank you, Caregivers

Providence TrinityCare caregivers continue to ensure that all patients and families always receive excellent compassionate care during the pandemic and have handled these extra responsibilities and challenges with grace and love.

With the deepest appreciation for all TrinityCare Hospice and Palliative Care staff, a special gift of new Figs brand scrubs and jackets were given to all caregivers by Medical Director, Dr. Glen Komatsu and the Foundation Board of Trustees.

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 Larissa Sonnen shared the heartwarming story of their daughter, Layla and their family’s journey with TrinityKids Care.

The top three photos from this year’s walk and Family Scavenger Hunt each won a $50 Visa Gift Card!

Winning Photos

Clockwise from right: Lynn Taylor, Marianne Ayala, Anne O’Halloran, Dr. Glen Komatsu, Gustavo Lopez

Honor Your Loved One with a Star on the Tree of Life

In honor National Hospice and Palliative Care month, we invite you to place a star on our Tree of Life.

When you make your holiday donation in honor of your loved one, we will write their name on a special star and place your star on our Tree of Life.

Your gift will help sustain the services that Providence TrinityCare provides throughout the year and bring comfort and warmth into the lives of our most vulnerable patients and their families. For more information please call us at 310.543.3440.

Thank you to our friends who gave so generously in 2019. We apologize for missing the listing of your name in our Annual Report. These gifts were made for the time period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Michelle & Chris Cartwright
Brian Marcontell
Loisanne Marcontell

Maureen O’Neill
Jeffrey Paul
Jonathan Severn

Lorraine and Mike Sonnen
Maria Treglia

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Annual Embassy Dinner Honors Lynn Taylor

In early March, just before the pandemic, the Providence TrinityCare Foundation celebrated with over 130 longtime friends and supporters at the annual Embassy Dinner. A special honor, The Glass Family Award for Philanthropy, Leadership and Service, was bestowed upon Lynn Taylor for her dedication to heartfelt support of the many programs and services of TrinityCare Hospice and Palliative Care programs.

Caregiver Spotlight: Dr. Martina Meier

I love being faced with a tricky patient situation and then working with our team to carve out an outside-the-box-solution for this specific situation. Trinity not only allows, but actually encourages, me to use that creativity.

My greatest reward comes from caring for patients and importantly, their families, at the end of life. There is so much honesty and vulnerability, but also pain. If we as the hospice team can mitigate some of the pain and have an impact on how the last phase of life is remembered by the bereaved family, if the patient feels truly cared for, these are the greatest rewards of my work. As I progress in my career, or get older, mentoring my younger colleagues in their career has also become a rewarding part of what I do.

Introduce us to your family. What do you most enjoy doing together?

I love spending time with my husband and our two daughters, Nina and Maya. I really enjoy the day-to-day things, such as having meals together, and spending time with other families. My kids and I recently started reading together at bedtime again—it’s a great way for us to bond!

Spiritual Spotlight: Rick Ortolano

Rick Ortolano has been a chaplain with Providence TrinityCare for more than 15 years. After graduating from seminary in the Bay Area during the 80’s, he moved to the East Coast where he became a teacher of religious studies. Several years later, he moved to Southern California and became acquainted with TrinityCare Hospice when he volunteered to help with the bereavement support programs for families suffering from a loss. When Rick heard that TrinityCare was expanding its spiritual care team and hiring a chaplain, he quickly applied and was a perfect fit.

His interest with hospice began when he attended a seminar on death and dying. “Yes, I know it’s not for everybody, but for me it made sense. I’m feel honored to help people. I feel privileged to go to work each day. It’s rewarding. I bring hope to patients and their family that this does not need to be a terrible experience. I have a saying: “Practice active listening.” When people feel heard and understood they open up and come to an acceptance.”

TrinityCare is fortunate to be part of the Providence Health System and has a Clinical Pastoral Education program for all chaplains. The program brings together theological students, qualified laypeople, and clergy of all faiths (pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, and others) into supervised encounters with people in crisis.

“I’ve been mentored and have been a mentor. It’s a wonderful program!” Rick says.

Rick recently shared a story about an 87-year-old patient named Rosa. “I received a call from Rosa’s daughter requesting a chaplain visit to come and pray with the patient. She had been experiencing consistent anxiety, and her medications were providing minimal relief. I asked her if she had any worries or concerns, and she told me she is afraid of being separated from God. I talked with her about God’s ever-presence and unconditional love for her, and assured her that God was with her, holding her, and would never leave her. The next day, Rosa’s daughter phoned to say thank you and that Rosa’s anxiety had diminished remarkably.”
About TrinityCare

Providence TrinityCare Hospice is a regional hospice and palliative care provider with a long and dedicated history for providing excellent end-of-life and supportive care. Our mission is 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.

Reasons is the official newsletter of the TrinityCare Foundation (Tax ID 33-0261016). If you have questions or comments please contact Peggy Martin at 310.543.3442 or peggy.martin@providence.org.

Hospice volunteer Shirley sewing patches on our TrinityKids Care bears for pediatric patients and siblings. If you are interested in volunteering please call us at 310.543.3400.