Providence Hospice LA Develops Innovative Fellowships

The Sisters of the Little Company of Mary Chaplain and Social Work Fellowships in Hospice and Palliative Care

Over ten years ago, during a series of late-night brainstorming sessions at the hospital, Dr. Glen Komatsu and Chaplain Denise Hess hatched an innovative idea. Why not create a 12-month residential fellowship to train a social worker and a chaplain in all aspects of hospice and palliative care? The fellowships would highlight the importance of psychosocial and spiritual care and demonstrate how it can be practiced at a high level, potentially leading to leadership positions in the field. Continued on page 2
Residential fellowships are well-established for physician specialty training in palliative care and hospice. However, there are very few social work fellowships and, until now, NO chaplain fellowships in the country. Dr. Komatsu and Denise recognized that the national quality standards for the field required high quality psychosocial and spiritual care. However, the number of qualified social workers and chaplains to do specialty level palliative care and hospice were difficult to find and most of their training was on the job after being hired to a position.

In 2022, Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation’s visionary Board, recognizing the shortages of qualified clinicians in all disciplines and the importance of psychosocial and spiritual care, unanimously approved the funding of this novel fellowship program.

The Sisters of Little Company of Mary were extremely impressed with this program and provided the lead gift, which led to the naming of the fellowships in their honor. The Hearst and Green Foundations were also excited by the fellowships and made significant grants in support of the program.

Leslie Adams, a clinical social worker and certified spiritual director, will be the Fellowship Program Director and Mentor. Dr. Glen Komatsu will be the Program Co-Director and Mentor. Denise Hess brings her expertise in Curriculum Development and will serve as a consultant for the program. Their collective knowledge, experience and passion for the work will create a memorable experience for the fellows.

Leslie Adams emphasizes the importance of having Dr. Komatsu as a mentor.

“He’s a gifted palliative care and hospice physician, as well as someone who has helped build innovative and high-quality programs across the hospice and palliative spectrum. The fellows will have the privilege to learn from best-in-class mentors, programs, and leaders throughout Providence.”
Dr. Komatsu believes that the impact of these fellows will reach far beyond what anyone could imagine. Each fellow will have a ripple effect, touching countless lives throughout their careers – patients, families, and colleagues. The potential to touch thousands of lives is truly remarkable.

Dr. Komatsu’s own journey began with a one-year palliative care fellowship at Harvard while he was working at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance as a neonatologist. The Sisters of Little Company of Mary, driven by their mission to care for the underserved and vulnerable, the sick and the dying, wholeheartedly supported his desire to establish a palliative care program at the community hospital. He left Torrance in 2004 to spend the fellowship year in Boston with his family. Their visionary decision to invest in palliative care laid the foundation for the ongoing impact Dr. Komatsu continues to make in the field.

The Sisters of Little Company of Mary, Providence TrinityCare Foundation’s Board and Providence Hospice and Palliative Care share the common vision to be a national leader in improving end-of-life care through programs like these fellowships. This program serves as a model for others who strive to make a difference in hospice and palliative care.

Their collective knowledge, experience and passion for the work will create a memorable experience for the fellows.
Letter from Board Chair
Scott Sharpe
Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation Board Chair

“We again are leading the practice of hospice and palliative care in so many ways.”

Dear Friends –

I have had the pleasure of being involved with Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation for many years. Like you, I’m a community member whose life has been touched by the great compassion and expertise of Dr. Glen Komatsu and our outstanding caregivers. I’m honored to be in the role of Board Chair this year and wanted to share a few thoughts on how our work continues to evolve to serve the needs of our patients and families within the greater Los Angeles community.

We again are leading the practice of hospice and palliative care in so many ways. We have a new Fellowship program that you’ll read more about in this report. Our thanks and gratitude go to the Order of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary – USA Region, along with Hearst Foundation and Green Foundation, for their visionary support of this unique national model. The Social Worker and Chaplain Fellowships, under the direction of Dr. Glen Komatsu, Providence Hospice & Palliative Care Los Angeles Chief Medical Officer, and Leslie Adams, MSW, Fellowship Program Director, begins on July 1st. The Fellows will augment our team for the next year, and we know that Fellows tend to grow into leadership positions in the field. We look forward to this new effort which we believe will help so many families in future years.

Our recent grant to develop end-of-life options for individuals experiencing homelessness is another great example of how we innovate to meet community needs. Too often, hospital patients are being discharged with a life-limiting illness and no stable home to go back to. We have developed a model program that enables our Foundation and caregivers to place these individuals in board and care facilities so that they can receive the care they need to live out their remaining days in dignity and comfort. This program is made possible thanks to the generosity of Providence Community Investment and UniHealth Foundation.

I hope you will find a way to become involved this year in our work. There are several great events that you can attend, as well as volunteer opportunities if you have the time.

Thank you again for your support and generosity. We are truly grateful for the trust and confidence you have shown in us.

Sincerely,
Scott Sharpe
Sisters of the Little Company of Mary – Investment in Fellowships

Most of us in our community know Little Company of Mary as the hospital down the street, but the namesake of these Medical Centers in San Pedro and Torrance is the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary – an international Catholic Congregation whose ministry is to pray for and to care for the sick, poor and dying.

The Sisters of the Little Company of Mary strive to provide compassionate care for the sick, the dying and those in need. The Congregation is known for its commitment to holistic healthcare, including hospice and palliative care. The Sisters recognize the importance of compassionate, highly skilled caregivers for those with chronic or life-limiting illnesses, which includes not only doctors and nurses but chaplains and social workers who help care for the heart and soul of all patients, families, and staff.

Realizing and appreciating the need for chaplains and social workers assistance in this work, the Sisters are investing in the Providence Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain and Social Worker Fellowship Program with an incredible contribution of $1.5 million to develop and maintain the program.

The Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain and Social Worker Fellowship will develop leaders in palliative care, not just palliative medicine, as it perfectly embodies the mission of the sisters of prayer for and care of the sick, poor, and dying. It stands as a legacy to their Foundress Venerable Mary Potter and a wonderful testament to the sisters’ continuing service to our communities.
Letter from Fellowships & Education Chair

Jim Sala
Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation Board Member Chair, Fellowships & Education Initiative

“Our once again, the Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation is meeting community needs and breaking new ground nationally.”

Dear Friends –

I’m so pleased that you’re able to learn of the first Fellows in this new program! To me, this is exactly how our staff and volunteers are supposed to work together to better serve the community and the field of hospice and palliative care.

Our Operations team identified the need for fellowships for other caregiving professionals besides doctors. Our Board of Trustees happily approved the idea for new Social Worker and Chaplain Fellowships and asked our Foundation staff to find funding to support them. Thanks to some wonderful leadership gifts, including an extraordinary pledge from the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, we are now able to have Matthew Bradley as our Chaplain Fellow and Janet Mejia as our Social Worker Fellow start on July 1st.

Once again, the Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation is meeting community needs and breaking new ground nationally. I’m proud to be part of this effort and hope you choose to join us.

Sincerely,

Jim Sala

Welcome to Foundation Executive Director Matthew Scelza

The Foundation welcomed Matthew Scelza as Executive Director in June 2022. Scelza brings more than 25 years of nonprofit leadership and fundraising experience in a variety of service organizations. He most recently worked as Regional Director for the Lupus Foundation of America.

Scelza has spent his first year getting to know the community and learning how our caregivers provide whole person care. He will be working closely with our Board of Trustees and our five-person team to expand our fundraising and community outreach.

Scelza began his career as a VISTA volunteer in the Boston area and an ESOL teacher in New York City. He is a graduate of Stanford University, with a B.A. in American Studies and a M.A. in Education.
I began my work at Providence as a Fellow more than 15 years ago. That is how I know the incredible value of fellowships, both to the doctor learning a new field and to the organization benefitting from additional help. I’m grateful that, thanks to the generosity of the TrinityCare Hospice Foundation, we’re able to partner with Children’s Hospital Los Angeles for not one, but two, Pediatric Hospice and Medicine Fellowships.

Nationally, we face a critical shortage of board-certified Pediatric Palliative Care physicians. Expanding CHLA’s capacity is the best way to grow the pediatric palliative care workforce in Southern California. Furthermore, the CHLA Palliative Care team is one of Providence KidsCare (PKC)’s largest referral sources, and fellows training at CHLA support the families served by PKC with a remarkable level of continuity of care as they follow patients from hospital to home.

Providence Hospice has had physician fellows join our hospice and palliative care teams for clinical rotations for as long as I can remember. We fill a vital gap in the Fellows’ training, as their fellowship year generally is spent at an academic hospital, with a heavy focus on inpatient palliative care. It is crucial that the fellows spend time with our teams learning about outpatient palliative care and hospice.

We mentor physician fellows from three programs (UCLA, Cedars Sinai Medical Center and CHLA). They spend several weeks per year immersing themselves in our interdisciplinary team meetings and home visits. They learn what hospice care looks like, and the fellows walk away from these rotations with a deepened sense and understanding of caring for patients at home. Of the eleven fellows rotating with us each year, only one is doing a pediatric HPM fellowship. Thanks to the foundation’s foresight and generosity, next year, this number will increase to two!

Having fellows is a strong asset for a hospice agency. We not only teach the fellows, but they also teach us. Our staff has embraced the physician fellows and enjoys taking them out on visits. Being involved in fellowship training also lends us visibility and credibility as a valuable community partner – and sometimes as a workplace for fellows after they graduate.

Our visionary Board of Trustees and its philanthropy are contributing to positive change in both our community and to our families by supporting the growth and development of our workforce.
Chaplain and Social Work Fellows Spotlight: Matthew Bradley and Janet Mejia

Our chaplaincy fellow, Matthew Bradley, served as a chaplain resident at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center from 2022-2023. Prior to his residency, he completed a unit of clinical pastoral education at UCSD Health, where he worked as part of the Palliative Care team. Before coming to the field of chaplaincy, Matt managed a meditation studio in Brooklyn, New York. He is dedicated to promoting mindfulness and well-being through meditation. Matt holds a Master of Divinity in Buddhist Chaplaincy from University of the West and a Master of Fine Arts from the American Conservatory Theater.

Our social work fellow, Janet Mejia, has been part of our Providence Hospice and Palliative Care LA County Intake Department for over four and a half years, where she discovered her passion for the field of social work. She has a background as a medical assistant working with both pediatric and adult populations. She attended El Camino College where she earned two associate degrees and continued to pursue her Bachelor of Arts at California State University Dominguez Hills, graduating with department honors. Janet is a first-generation college graduate, a single mother, and a passionate soon-to-be social worker, all while continuing to work full time as she now concludes her Master of Social work from Arizona State University.

Janet and Matt will begin their year-long residency in July of 2023. Over the year they will gain clinical experience in both inpatient and home-based palliative care as well as hospice care for both the adult and pediatric populations. Throughout the year, they will be exposed to a rich array of nationally known palliative care leaders and will be mentored nearly daily by Program Director Leslie Adams, MSW, and Co-Director Glen Komatsu, MD. Importantly, this fellowship program is committed to creating a supportive and caring environment to encourage fellows to deepen their commitment to internal growth and self-awareness through action and reflection during this transformational year.
Thank you for joining us at Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation’s Sunday by the Sea Food and Wine Tasting Gala!

After two years of re-imagining Sunday by the Sea, we are thrilled that you were able to join us live and in person, back at the beautiful seaside estate overlooking Lunada Bay. We are pleased to announce that because of you, we raised nearly $285,000 to support the work of our caregivers and physicians who provide critical end-of-life care to patients and families in need.

We welcomed hundreds of our friends and supporters from the community, who enjoyed fabulous food, wine, and craft beers from the best of the South Bay. Entertainment, auction, and the always fun beer pull made for a perfect Sunday.

Special thanks to our event chair, Sharon Martinez, and auction chair, Marilyn Prindle, for their dedication and volunteer leadership.

Jacky Glass and Mark Tiffany

Robin Haney and Lynn Taylor

Sondra Heitzler, Kathy Johnson, Robin Haney, Gayle Theodora Drake, Marnie Gruen

Bruce Greenspoon, Dr. Debra Lotstein, Dr. Glen Komatsu
Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation Honors Sister Terrence Landini, Sister Carol Pacini and the Sisters of Little Company at its Annual Embassy Dinner

Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation recently celebrated its Embassy Dinner on the tennis courts of Jacky Glass’ home in Palos Verdes Estates. Over 110 friends and community supporters were on hand to bestow a special honor, The Glass Family Award for Philanthropy, Leadership and Service, upon Sister Terrence Landini, Sister Carol Pacini and the Sisters of Little Company of Mary for their dedication to and support of the programs and services of Providence TrinityCare.

Sister Carol Pacini, Regional General Supervisor, and Sister Terrence Landini, Superior of the Little Company of Mary convent in Torrance, have dedicated their lives to caring for the poor and vulnerable during and especially at end of life. Their passion and dedication to home-based palliative care has allowed them to support Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation with a $1 million gift to further expand the community-based palliative care program now and for future patients and families.
Layla Paige and Friends’ Walk Hosted by Jack Black Raises nearly $150,000 for Providence Kids Care

On Saturday, October 8th in Palos Verdes Estates, over 500 walkers joined actor, musician and comedian, Jack Black for Layla Paige and Friends’ Walk for Providence Kids Care, celebrating the life and legacy of Layla Paige and all patients touched by Providence Kids Care, formerly known as TrinityKids Care. The magical morning began with a heartfelt song by Nicholas Tana in honor of his daughter Cat, a current PKC patient. The Sonnens shared their story of their daughter Layla, and then Kandis Wannamaker, along with Jack Black and Luke Sonnen, got everyone up on their feet and ready to walk with a high-energy exercise routine. The walk along the cliffs was breathtaking and when the walkers returned, they were able to enjoy food and activities, raffle prizes, and an amazing art auction featuring works created by Providence Kids Care patients and their families.

*Layla’s Walk* was truly an example of the entire community coming together to help support children and their families when they need it the most. All proceeds of the event benefited Providence Kids Care, the only hospice and palliative care program dedicated to children in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

See Layla’s story at foundation.providence.org/laylaswalk.
Light Up A Life Tree Shines Brightly for Providence TrinityCare

Throughout the November and December months, a special tree at the TrinityCare office was filled with special stars purchased in memory of lost loved ones. Gifts from these special trees 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 through Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation and Providence Kids Care. This year’s Light Up A Life Tree Lighting Ceremony was an outdoor event allowing friends and family members to honor and celebrate those who have passed during the year.

Dr. Glen Komatsu and Lynn Taylor

Eleanor Acore and Dr. Roland Summit

Ed DeRenzis, Matthew Scelza, Scott Sharpe

Imelda Correa, Margaret Servin, Nancy Langevin

Shelly Berg, Jacky Glass, Kay Wardell
2022 Honor Roll of Giving
Gifts of $250+ for the time period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

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Tiger Squadron
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TL Plough Wines
Torrance Bakery
Verde Canyon Railroad
Kandis Wannamaker
Whitcraft Winery
Suzy Zimmerman Insurance Agency, Inc.
Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation
2022 Financials

FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS

- Providence Kids Care .................................. $815,265
- Community Based Palliative Care .................. $1,157,788
- Necessities of Life .................................... $31,123
- Bereavement Programs .................................. $145,837
- Caregiver Education and Fellowships ............... $197,321
- CharityCare (Patient Care) ......................... $161,938
- Other .................................................. $2,907

FUNDS RAISED BY APPEAL

- Direct Mail ........................................... $121,095
- Honor/Memorial ..................................... $77,717
- Employee Giving .................................... $28,811
- Special Events ...................................... $436,295
- Grants ................................................. $1,032,471
- Major Gifts .......................................... $2,155,483
- General Donations .................................. $197,565
- Planned Giving ...................................... $100,000

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022 – STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Cash and Cash Equivalents... $1,508,314
Pledges Receivable ............... $1,490,000
Investments ......................... $13,259,556
Affiliate Receivable .............. $31,021
Total Assets ....................... $16,288,891

Annual Contributions .......... $4,038,897
Investment Income ............... $(1,153,330)
Revenues ............................. $2,885,567
Gifts in Kind ........................ $40,770
Total Revenues ................. $2,926,337

Total Fundraising Expenses .............. $744,386

*These totals reflect unaudited financials.
Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation
2023 Board of Trustees and Staff

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About Providence Hospice and Palliative Care

Providence Hospice and Palliative Care Los Angeles (formerly known as TrinityCare) has a long and dedicated history of providing excellent, innovative approaches to care. It started as a small hospice service and has developed into a regional program with a dedicated staff of more than 225 serving all of Los Angeles and Orange counties. Since 1977, Providence Hospice and Palliative Care has provided compassionate care and services to more than 67,000 patients and families. In 2001, TrinityKids Care, now Providence Kids Care, was created as the only dedicated pediatric hospice in the region serving all of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. In 2022, Hospice and Palliative Care served more than 7,500 patients and families. The Providence TrinityCare Hospice Foundation proudly supports the services of Hospice and Palliative Care.