



Local Hospices and Volunteers Serve With Compassion

While Arthur was at Williams House, the inpatient hospice unit of The Washington Home & Community Hospices, he wished to experience the opera one final time. In his 70s and battling the effects of pancreatic cancer, Arthur asked The Washington Home & Community Hospices to help make his wish a reality.

“Our staff worked with his family and, together, we arranged for one of D.C.’s local opera singers to come and give a small performance for Arthur and his family here in our very own Garden Room,” recalls Phyllis Dillinger, COO and CFO of The Washington Home & Community Hospices. “A few days and decorations later, the room was filled with arias, and the vibrations of the singer’s tenor tunes echoed on.”

This is just one way that the empathetic staff – and dedicated volunteers – at The Washington Home & Community Hospices in Northwest DC show

compassion for those in their care.

“Our volunteers are valuable members of the hospice team – going through vigorous trainings and background checks, similarly to staff, to ensure they’re ready and able to anticipate and serve our patient-families’ needs,” says Dillinger. “Their role in our circle of support is an integral part of our overall approach.”

The organization has been committed to its mission of providing superior end-of-life services since it was founded in 1888. In addition to operating the Williams House, a nine-bed inpatient hospice facility with 24-hour care, The Washington Home & Community Hospices also offers in-home hospice care to residents of Washington, D.C., and Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland.

“As a non-profit hospice organization, we make it our duty to make the most out of the limited resources we have,” says Dillinger. They aren’t driven by “the bottom

line,” Dillinger says, but by providing the best-quality care to their patients.

**Story by Tara Shubbuck
The Washington Home &
Community Hospices
CFC #80571**



Lobby of The Washington Home’s inpatient hospice facility, Williams House.



◆ The Washington Home’s dedicated staff and volunteers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON HOME & COMMUNITY HOSPICES

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