

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide



More Than Comfort: My Pediatric Palliative Care Journey

John Couri, University of Notre Dame, GPIC Intern

Danny Thomas, the founder of [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#), said, "No child should die in the dawn of life." Danny had a dream when he opened the doors of St. Jude in 1962, and it has lived on ever since. When I first reflected on the hopeful words of this Lebanese philanthropist, who also was an American nightclub comedian, it was difficult for me to come up with ways I would be able to contribute to the mission. Fortunately, the field of pediatric palliative care led me to my answer.

In summer 2019, I interned at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. At the time, my career goal was to become a physician scientist, and enriching the lives of patients through breakthroughs in laboratory research was an area I thought I must be a part of. During my internship, I realized bench research was not something that I wanted to do for the rest of my life, but one aspect of the summer kept me resilient and deepened my interest in healthcare: the Lunch & Learn Lecture Series sponsored by St. Jude's Pediatric Oncology Education Program.

I participated in the one-hour lecture series every day during lunch, listening to professionals discuss topics ranging from the genetics of leukemia to ethical issues in pediatric research. A lot of lectures focused on the clinical side of healthcare and provided a platform for students to ask questions and talk with medical doctors and scientists, allowing me to connect with them on both a personal and professional level. One talk that truly opened my eyes was "Integrating Palliative Care into Pediatric Oncology Practice", as it seemed to ignite an inexplicable fire within me.

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#HatsOn4CPC



On Friday, October 9th the team at Global Partners in Care (GPIC) donned hats and masks to support the International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) event [#HatsOn4CPC](#) – Hats (and Masks) on for Children's Palliative Care. Every year, on the second Friday in October, ICPCN holds a virtual awareness event highlighting the global need of palliative care for children. This year, masks were added because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to ICPCN, there are over "21 million children in the world who live with a life-limiting illness or condition that will or could drastically shorten their lives." The lack of adequate palliative care around the globe causes these children to have a poor quality-of-life and suffer from symptoms and pain that could be controlled and significantly improved with the introduction of palliative care into their treatment.

Global Partners in Care took this opportunity to highlight each of their four pediatric palliative care partners and the amazing work they do to give children the best quality-of-life.

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Celebrating World Hospice & Palliative Care Day

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) is an international day to raise awareness for the need of those living with a life-limiting illness to have access to quality palliative care. Organized by the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance, it takes place every year on the second Saturday in October. This year's theme was [My Care, My Comfort](#).

To celebrate, many of our partners hosted events, some in person and some virtual, that helped to raise awareness on October 10th – this year's WHPCD. Read more about our partner celebrations! [Click to read more](#)

New resource from the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance - [2nd Edition of the Global Atlas of Palliative Care](#).

University of British Columbia Virtual Palliative Care Course

Join the [UBC Division of Palliative Care CME Day](#) on **Friday, October 23rd** for a full-day virtual course consisting on Palliative Care initiatives in a variety of settings (including urban emergency rooms, rural hospices, vulnerable and remote communities).

The event is for palliative care clinicians of all disciplines, health care managers, public health specialists, and anyone else interested in the development of palliative care services.

Visit: <https://ubccpd.ca/course/palliativecare2020> for more information.

COVID-19 and Children's Palliative Care Resources

ICPCN recently launched a new e-learning course, [Adopting a Children's Palliative Care Approach to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The course is currently available in English and free to access. ICPCN also has a [general resource page](#) on coronavirus and children's palliative care.



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