

# Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

## The Profound Impact of My Global Partners in Care Internship in South Africa

by *Ethan Harned*

For the last two and a half years, I have interned with Global Partners in Care (GPIC). Last year during my university break, I spent two months working with the [Palliative Care Association of Uganda \(PCAU\)](#). Building off of that experience and my work as an office intern with GPIC, I spent my break this year on a field internship in South Africa.



With Joan Marston, my internship supervisor at the APCA conference



With the "Sunflower Club," volunteers and staff from Sunflower Children's Hospice in Bloemfontein

For the bulk of my time, I worked with Joan Marston and the team at Sunflower Children's Hospice in Bloemfontein, South Africa. We collaborated on a project exploring how palliative care services are addressing the social determinants of health in adolescents living with HIV in South Africa. I will forever be grateful for this experience to learn more about the work of children's palliative care as it has influenced my future trajectory.

Before arriving in Bloemfontein, I spent two weeks in Cape Town. During my first few days, I had the fortunate opportunity to support the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) at their [20th Anniversary Kickoff](#) at the 2024 IHPBA Congress. Given my support of GPIC communications over the last couple of years, I assisted APCA during their celebrations by coordinating the public response on social media. One of my highlights from this weekend was working closely with the APCA team. I have had the pleasure of collaborating with them on several projects in the past, but this was the first time I had the opportunity to work with them in-person and get to know the team on a personal level.

Following my experience working with APCA, I spent the next week learning about children's palliative care work in the Western Cape. Dr. Michelle Meiring and her team at [Paedspal Pediatric Palliative Care](#) graciously hosted me for several days while I was in Cape Town. I appreciated the opportunity to observe their team as they collaborated on specialty care in both the out-patient setting and at Red Cross Children's Hospital. Dr. Meiring and the Paedspal team have an incredible vision for the future of children's palliative care on the continent, and it was remarkable to see this vision take shape in the community.

[Continue reading this article](#)

## World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Toolkit

The Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance has launched this year's toolkit for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. The theme for this year's event is "Ten Years Since the Resolution: How are We Doing?" It reflects on the progress made in advancing global palliative care and serves as a reminder of what work lies ahead. **World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2024 will be held on Saturday, 12 October. To view the toolkit, [click here](#).**

To prepare the global palliative care community for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2024, WHPCA will hold a webinar to explain this year's theme and resources in more depth. **Join an informational webinar with WHPCA on 4 September, 2024 at 9 AM EST. Register [here](#).**



### Community-led Group Intervention for Grief & Bereavement in Uganda

Dr. Eve Namisango, the programmes, research and development manager at APCA, recently published an article on a community-led grief and bereavement intervention implemented in Uganda. Read more in [this eHospice article](#).

### Send Us Your Stories!



As GPIC celebrates its 25th anniversary, we want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our partners. Please share with us any stories relating to your work! We would love to take this opportunity to celebrate your partnership.

### Register for the Third National Palliative Care Congress in Benin

From 17-19 October, the Beninese Palliative Care Association and the National Palliative Care Program are partnering with the French-speaking International Federation of Palliative Care (FISP) to put on the 2024 National Palliative Care Congress of Benin. To learn more, please [visit the conference website](#).

### Capture the Essence of Palliative Care by Joining the APCA Photography Competition

The annual APCA photography competition is accepting submissions until 30 August. Submit a photograph that you believe encompasses the work of palliative care. To learn more about the competition and submit your photos, please [visit APCA's website](#).

**Help us spread the word! Follow us on social media and share our story with your networks.**



## Support Global Partners in Care with Workplace Giving

Global Partners in Care (GPIC) participates in federal, state and local workplace giving campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If someone you or someone you know is part of a workplace giving campaign, we encourage you to support the important work of GPIC in this way.

**Thank you!**

**Our CFC ID is 11018.**



**Learn more about workplace giving programs**

**Our Contact Information**  
\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
\*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

