

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

Celebrating 20 Years of Partnership

As GPIC celebrates our 25th anniversary, we congratulate the African Palliative Care Association on their 20th anniversary! Watch a video celebrating both milestones and read more about our long-standing partnership below.



A Shared Legacy

20 Years of Collaboration Between the African Palliative Care Association and Global Partners in Care

This year marks the 20th anniversary for the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) and the 25th anniversary for Global Partners in Care (GPIC). As collaborators, both organizations celebrate their shared legacy of working to expand access to palliative care services in Africa. The foundation for their shared legacy is many friendships between those on both continents that have been fortified through a joint mission of caring for those with life-threatening conditions.

Establishing the Foundation for a Meaningful Partnership

APCA grew out of the Cape Town Declaration in 2002, a joint statement from 28 palliative care leaders from around Africa stating that palliative care and symptom control were a human right for every adult and child with a life-limiting illness. From there, APCA was formally founded in Tanzania in 2004. In light of Uganda's record of palliative care development on the continent, APCA's first office was opened in Kampala, Uganda in 2005.

The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA), now Global Partners in Care, has been one of APCA's partners since the beginning. In coordination with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, FHSSA and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) secured a grant to establish the Diana Legacy Fund to support hospice and palliative care work on the African continent. Part of this funding supported the founding of APCA.

The success of the relationship today would not be possible without the groundbreaking work of trailblazers in both the United States and across the African continent. When asked what he credited to the long-term success of the APCA-GPIC relationship, former NHPCO president and CEO, Donald Schumacher noted that "both sides have maintained a commitment to shared learning." This shared learning has brought together those of different cultures and traditions and fostered mutual compassion, allowing for successful collaboration built on dear friendship.

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APCA and GPIC at the 7th International African Palliative Care Conference in 2022



APCA and GPIC meeting together in Kampala, Uganda in 2023

Making Palliative Care Available to the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Communities

Hearing loss has been identified as a significant public health issue, and Global Partners in Care (GPIC) recognizes it as such. Our organization prioritizes inclusive access to palliative care and is working to make end-of-life care more accessible to all people, including the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. In honor of Deaf Awareness Month, we want to emphasize the importance of access to palliative care for those with hearing loss.

According to the World Health Organization, there are 1.5 billion people living with hearing loss throughout the world. In fact, approximately 30% of all adults over the age of 60 have some degree of hearing loss. These statistics highlight just how crucial access to palliative care is for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. Still, research indicates that people with hearing loss have a limited understanding of their options when it comes to end-of-life care (Maddalena et al.). Separate research was performed to study deaf seniors, specifically.

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Joan Marston Joins the GPIC Advisory Council

We are excited to welcome [Joan Marston](#) to the GPIC Advisory Council. Marston is the founder and director of Sunflower Children's Hospice and advocacy executive for PallCHASE. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the council, particularly in children's palliative care and palliative care in humanitarian crises.

Welcome, Joan!

Save the Date for the South African Palliative Care Conference

Registration is now open for the 2025 South African Palliative Care Conference hosted by the Association for Palliative Care Centres, Palliative Care for Children South Africa and the Association of Palliative Care Practitioners of South Africa. The conference will be held from **18-21 June in Durban, South Africa**. To submit your abstract, please visit [their website](#).



2023 GPIC Annual Report

Our 2023 annual report is [now available](#).



PallCHASE Webinar on Palliative Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Humanitarian Settings

PallCHASE held a webinar in July focused on integrating a holistic palliative care approach for persons living with HIV/AIDS in humanitarian crises. The two presenters were Joan Marston and Fr. Rick Bauer. GPIC student intern, Ethan Harned, joined them to share about his recent work with Sunflower Children's Hospice which explored how palliative care can address the social determinants of health in adolescents living with HIV. [Watch the webinar on YouTube](#).

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

Many workplace giving campaigns kick off this month. Global Partners in Care (GPIC) participates in federal, state and local workplace giving campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign. If someone you know is part of a workplace giving campaign, we encourage you to support GPIC!

Our Combined Federal Campaign ID is 11018.



[Learn more about workplace giving programs](#)

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