

Focus on. Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide



The Invaluable Role of Palliative Care in HIV Care

by Ethan Harned

Globally, there are an estimated 39.9 million people living with HIV/AIDS. Early in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, palliative care was recognized as vital in supporting patients and their families through end-of-life care. The advances in antiretroviral therapies ensure HIV patients can now live long lives with the disease. However, they still face numerous health-related challenges throughout their lifetime, which places many burdens on families and health systems. As a result, palliative care continues to play an important role in the care of HIV patients and their families in much of the world.



Mural painted by Nairobi Hospice in Kenya (Credit: Nairobi Hospice)

People living with HIV are more at risk for developing several types of cancer and also dying from cancer. In addition, they are more likely to develop mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression due to the increased stress of living with an HIV diagnosis. The disease can also make them more vulnerable to other illnesses such as pneumonia and tuberculosis, which are more common in low-resource settings. As these health challenges arise, palliative care providers can play a vital role in helping patients manage these complex conditions by addressing issues to improve a patient and their family's quality of life.

Those most at risk of contracting HIV are often members of vulnerable populations such as young adults, displaced populations and those living in poverty. These populations are also often marginalized in health systems across the world. Palliative care providers are specially trained to recognize those with the highest risks in their communities, and the holistic approach palliative care organizations use in their communities gives them the ability to properly support their patients and families.

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Reflections on My Global Partners in Care Internship

by Chloe Wang

As an intern at Global Partners in Care (GPIC) this past summer, I had the opportunity to explore the intersection of healthcare, social justice and global collaboration. As a neuroscience and applied mathematics student at the University of Notre Dame, this internship enabled me to apply my academic knowledge and deepen my understanding of the challenges communities face in accessing palliative care within a global context. GPIC was the perfect platform for this learning journey, particularly aligning with the social justice theme that resonates deeply with me as a [Notre Dame Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar](#).

As I progressed through my internship, I realized how crucial GPIC's role is in connecting palliative care providers and organizations with the resources and opportunities they need to grow. The work often goes unrecognized because GPIC serves as a bridge — an unseen but essential part of facilitating global collaboration. Yet, it is precisely this bridging work that makes all the difference. Throughout my time, I had the opportunity to contribute directly to this mission by creating detailed informational briefs and concept notes that highlighted potential partnerships and collaboration opportunities. Through these projects, I gained a clearer understanding of the importance of learning and knowledge exchange which can ultimately drive collective growth and better healthcare outcomes around the world.



Chloe Wang, University of Notre Dame student

I saw firsthand how essential it is for organizations around the world to stay connected, share resources and collaborate to enhance the quality of care. Being part of that mission was deeply rewarding, knowing that we were contributing to a shared goal of improving healthcare on a global scale. The work I completed played a small yet significant role in helping these palliative care organizations grow and succeed through international collaboration.

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Webinar on Managing Complex Pain in Children

The International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) is putting on a webinar about the management of complex pain in children. The webinar will take place on Thursday, 21 November, from 4-5:30 PM UK time. [Register here.](#)



ELCT Advocates Across Tanzania on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) recognized World Hospice and Palliative Care Day by bringing together the Ministry of Health and key stakeholders to commit to the expansion of palliative care services. Furthermore, they raised awareness at their satellite facilities across the country about the work of palliative care.



Watch the World's Largest Palliative Care ECHO Session

On October 18, the Palliative Care ECHO Project hosted the world's largest session to date online and at the McGill International Palliative Care Congress. Experts from around the world discussed palliative care advancements in their respective settings and stressed the importance of collaboration in advancing global palliative care. [Watch the session here.](#)



Hospice Ethiopia Celebrates World Hospice and Palliative Care Day with a Heartfelt Gathering

At the end of October, Hospice Ethiopia gathered their partners and collaborators to celebrate their accomplishments in advancing palliative care in Ethiopia. They also took time to hear from patients and stakeholders to reflect on where palliative care can continue to grow in Ethiopia. [Read more from Hospice Ethiopia.](#)



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African Palliative Care Education Scholarship Fund

Help Train the Next Generation of Palliative Care Leaders

The [African Palliative Care Education Scholarship Fund](#) supports health and social care professionals to train in palliative care. These scholarships support education that not only transforms the individual recipient, but has ripple effects into the communities in which they serve. The fund was established in honor of social worker, [Dr. Bernice Catherine Harper](#), and palliative care nurse, [Kath Defilippi](#).

Please consider an end-of-year gift in memory of these trailblazing women!



The training has been a life transforming experience for me and will continue to go a long way in alleviating the suffering of patients in Africa.

- SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Kath Defilippi



Dr. Bernice Harper

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