

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

Happy Holidays!

From Global Partners in Care

As 2025 comes to a close, we are grateful and inspired by the momentum this year has created. It has been a year of connection, action and transformation. The new collaborations and initiatives that emerged this year have strengthened our shared mission in powerful ways. Your partnership remains essential to advancing access to compassionate palliative care, and we are grateful for your engagement and support.

We continue to be inspired by the young people with whom we work – our student interns. They have the opportunity to learn about palliative care, support our partners and bring new ideas and energy to our work. In this edition, you will hear reflections from Lillie, Audrey and Anesu who spent time this year working with partners in South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

We hope this holiday season brings you opportunities to find joy, celebrate community and spend time with family and friends. We look forward to continuing our work with you in 2026!

Growing Together at Sunflower Children's Hospice

A Reflection from Lillie Stewart

My experiential internship with Global Partners in Care gave me the opportunity to explore pediatric palliative care from many perspectives. I witnessed how comprehensive care for patients and families opens doors to building community, strengthening connections and encouraging learning. Through two months with Sunflower Children's Hospice in Bloemfontein, I gained awareness of palliative care, myself and the culture and history of South Africa.



When I arrived at Sunflower House, an inpatient care unit serving around 12 children at any given time, I was delighted to find a colorful playground and bright yellow sunflowers painted around the outside of the building. When I walked inside, little ones greeted me with open arms and big smiles. I came in with an open mind, but I admit I was surprised by the vibrant energy in the house. When I thought of palliative care for children, I didn't envision it being quite as loud or bright as this. Hearing giggles reminded me of something I'd learned working with grieving children 8,000 miles (13,000 km) away: regardless of their circumstances, children deserve the chance to be children first.

For the children in Sunflower's inpatient programs, the house provides a much-needed space where patients receive the attention and stimulation they need to live each day to the fullest. Beyond the walls of the house, Sunflower also serves over 300 children through its community outreach programs.

[Read more of Lillie's reflection](#)

Learning the Story of Care Through People

A Reflection from Audrey Adon-Rosario

This summer, I interned with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) and Global Partners in Care (GPIC) to learn more about palliative care in different settings. Pursuing a degree in biology with a concentration in biomedical sciences and a minor in public health at the City University of New York, I was eager to see how professionals provided and facilitated healthcare that supports the whole patient.



As soon as I joined the ELCT team in Arusha, I helped them prepare for their 63rd anniversary dinner gala. I helped with a presentation for the event which helped me learn a lot about the organization quickly. Having a key role in an event of this size early in the internship was energizing, and it gave me a broad understanding of how crucial ongoing partnership and engagement is to the work of ELCT.

After the dinner gala, I began visiting partner health facilities, often with the Selian Lutheran Hospital Palliative Care Team as they provided home-based services across the region. Observing these visits was one of the highlights of my summer – I was able to witness firsthand the impact of individualized care. We would spend hours with each patient and their loved ones talking, singing, praying and even sometimes eating with them. I would see patients' eyes light up from having their experiences acknowledged and catered to by the team, which was quite inspiring. Witnessing these moments and working with the team instilled in me the importance of holistic care, especially for patients facing severe medical challenges. In the future, I aspire to deliver a similar quality of care that accounts for patient needs while leveraging connections and resources.

[Read more of Audrey's reflection](#)

At the Crossroads of Care: My Time at Island Hospice and Healthcare

A Reflection from Anesu Matara

During my time interning with Island Hospice and Healthcare, I had the pleasure of accompanying social workers and nurses on home visits and hospital rounds. I also had the privilege of participating in the monthly Chikwaka Roadside Clinic, which brings palliative care services to rural areas of Zimbabwe.

On June 25, I accompanied a team of nurses and social workers on this roadside clinic at various stops. In total, there were five stops. Most of the patients were already registered with Island, so their check-ups primarily involved continuing their medication supply. At most of the stops, I helped distribute medication and other supplies. The nurses would note the medications needed based on symptoms, and I would retrieve the appropriate items and hand them to a nurse, who would then explain how to take each one. We also visited the Shearly Cripps Children's Home, where we distributed donated knitted blankets, dolls, gloves and scarves.



During my time at Island, I also took part in home visits. During these visits, I typically accompanied a nurse who attended either a follow-up or a new referral.

[Read more of Anesu's Reflection](#)

Updated Essential and Expanded Palliative Care Packages Released

The Global Access to Palliative Care Latin America (GAP-LA) Project – coordinated in partnership with nine institutions worldwide, including the University of Edinburgh, IAHP and ALCP – has released updated Essential and Expanded Palliative Care Packages for both adults and children. These resources outline core components needed to strengthen palliative care services across diverse settings and support policymakers, clinicians and advocates working to expand access.

[Learn more about the updated packages here.](#)

New Palliative Care Resolution Adopted in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Member States in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region have adopted a new resolution strengthening their commitment to integrating palliative care across health systems. The resolution emphasizes expanding access to essential medications, building workforce capacity, improving service delivery, and ensuring palliative care is embedded across all levels of care – especially for people living with serious illness. This marks a significant step toward advancing national and regional efforts to reduce health-related suffering.

[Read more here.](#)

Upcoming Palliative Care Conferences in Early 2026

IAPCON 33rd Annual International Conference of the Indian Association of Palliative Care (IAPC)
12-15 February 2026
iapcon2026hyd.com/index.php

7th Kenya Hospice and Palliative Care Association (KEHPCA) National Palliative Care Conference
25-27 February 2026
kehPCA.org/conference/

Asociacion Latinoamericana de Cuidados Paliativos (ALCP) 12th Latin American Congress of Palliative Care
11-14 March 2026
distritoanhembi.com.br/en/events/ccp-2026-en/

9th Singapore Palliative Care Conference
16-19 April 2026
spcc.sg/event/0939a4c6-bceb-4823-bb61-8d880f70a7fb/home

All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHP) 7th All Island Children's Palliative Care Conference
23-24 April 2026
cpcc.ie/

European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) 20th World Congress
14-16 May 2026
eapcnet.eu/congress/2026/

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Support Palliative Care Learning Opportunities

Your donation to GPIC helps us engage students in learning opportunities that deepen their understanding of palliative care and directly contributes to partner programs. Help us form the future of these inspiring young people!

Don't forget you can also support GPIC through workplace giving campaigns in the U.S. Our CFC ID is 11018. [Learn more.](#)



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