Casa de la Luz Foundation transitions to Roots & Roads Community Hospice Foundation

Dear Friend,

We are excited to share with you a reflection of our past and a window into our future by introducing Roots & Roads Community Hospice Foundation, formerly Casa de la Luz Foundation. This name change reflects our journey on the road to expanding and integrating end-of-life work more deeply in the roots of our Tucson community, and Southeastern Arizona as a whole. The new name and logo represent a continued commitment to our vision: ensuring all hospice patients and their loved ones are empowered to transform the end-of-life experience into the final act of living well.

The past year not only led us to our new name but, with gifts from generous individuals like you, allowed us to increase support in order to meet the high demand created by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 devastated our community, forcing more individuals to face end-of-life and economic hardships, which created a 38% increase in the need for financial assistance amongst those we serve. Roots & Roads is proud to continue meeting those financial needs as well as pivoting educational programming to ensure that all have access to high quality end-of-life education and resources.

Our name is new, but our commitment remains dedicated and focused on hospice patients, their families, and fulfilling end-of-life needs. Through a recent strategic planning process, we have humbly remembered our past, both successes and challenges, that has led us to where we are today: an independent, local Foundation with a strong set of priorities, goals, and values that will ensure every individual is empowered to transform the end-of-life experience into the final act of living well.

With Gratitude,

Julie Evans
Executive Director

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

The past year allowed Roots & Roads to reflect on our history, solicit feedback from the community, and ultimately adopt a new name and expanded service area. Guided by our values, and committed to achieving measurable goals, Roots & Roads pursues strategic priorities to ensure that all hospice patients have access to the support they need during end-of-life.

OUR GOALS

1. **Increase access to swift financial support** that alleviates stress and provides comfort to hospice patients across our community.
2. **Promote the community’s understanding, value, and support of hospice and palliative care.**
3. **Encourage conversations and access** to information, resources, and referrals for professionals and the public regarding end-of-life issues and bereavement services.

OUR VALUES

**COMPASSION**
We are consistently and inclusively responsive to those we serve.

**COLLABORATION**
We seek partnership with others to leverage diverse skills and resources to further our mission and mutual goals.

**STEWARDSHIP**
We are fiscally responsible, always considering available resources, needs of our community and our donor’s expectations.
In hospice, every moment counts, thank you for making it possible for families to make ends meet in a very emotional and painful time.

~ ARIA HOSPICE SOCIAL WORKER

Our Mission: Roots & Roads Community Hospice Foundation fulfills the needs of local hospice patients and their families and increases the understanding of, and access to, end-of-life support. Our vision is that hospice patients and their loved ones are empowered to transform the end-of-life experience into the final act of living well.

MISSION IN ACTION

PATIENT REQUESTS
- 98 requests were fulfilled for a total of $79,480 in financial support of basic needs
- 97 individuals participated in bereavement groups and received free workbooks to support their grief process

PATIENT FUND REQUESTS
- 47% housing assistance
- 3% transportation
- 11% other (safety equipment & repair, food, utilities)
- 39% final arrangements

VETERANS HONORED
- 108 veterans honored & presented with a blanket adorned with their military branch

End-of-Life Conference Attendees
- 235 attendees

Five Wishes Distributed
- 6,026 wishes

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- BOARD PRESIDENT: Alan Barreuther
- VICE PRESIDENT: Kasey Hill
- TREASURER: Ed Fix
- SECRETARY: Genie Williams
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Julie Evans
- OPERATIONS MANAGER: Jennifer Arvizu
- Rachel Sass
- Alex Ryckman
- Dr. Kevin Carmichael
- Karyn Damschen
- Sally Dodds, Ph.D.
- David Fife

2020 FINANCIALS
- REVENUE: $348,132.79
  - Contributions: $323,093
  - Grants: $19,000
  - Educational Conference: $3,925
  - Events: $2,113
- EXPENSES: $337,358.41
  - Programming: $226,094
  - Admin: $105,010
  - Fundraising: $5,353

Our Mission: Roots & Roads Community Hospice Foundation fulfills the needs of local hospice patients and their families and increases the understanding of, and access to, end-of-life support. Our vision is that hospice patients and their loved ones are empowered to transform the end-of-life experience into the final act of living well.
The Art of COVID

COVID-19 shifted the way in which Roots & Roads was able to provide programming and significantly increased the need for support. Pivoting the annual end-of-life conference to online educational sessions has led us to connect with even more individuals and explore a variety of topics surrounding end-of-life. The pandemic also inspired kindness and creativity that led people to make masks for hospice staff and inspired the Art of COVID project.

Early in the pandemic, hospices had their protective equipment orders canceled, which led to a call for community members to fill this vital need. The website (theartofcovid.org) was created to capture the images of art, craft, music, poetry (as well as other creative forms) - and their origin stories - to memorialize this extraordinary time in our history. Individuals were invited to submit their images (and stories about what inspired their creation) as well as their general thoughts around COVID-19 and mortality. Roots & Roads received 40 art and story submissions from individuals and groups making masks or using their creative skills in other ways during the pandemic. The project created community connections despite the social isolation posed by COVID-19.

This important work takes a partnership, and, because of you, Roots & Roads is able to meet the increasing demand for end-of-life financial requests. Thank you to the individuals, businesses, and community partners who help ensure access to support when it is needed most. Roots & Roads has a robust and dedicated Board Finance Committee and Board of Directors who ensures responsible stewardship of the gifts we receive.

Our patient was having a very difficult time in his life & with his diagnosis. He had recently lost his dad to covid-19 & was coming onto hospice at a young age. He shared about his love for his three kids and his desire to write letters to them & get them each a build-a-bear with his voice recorded in them. As his chaplain, I was aware of the financial hardship of the family & contacted the Foundation for help. The patient received build-a-bear gift cards and expressed immense gratitude for the gift of an enduring connection to his children.

~ CASA DE LA LUZ HOSPICE CHAPLAIN
He had no family and his friends were not able to provide the support needed. Thank you once again for taking the burden off the shoulders of our patients and their families.

~ CASA DE LA LUZ
HOSPICE SOCIAL WORKER