roots & roads
Community Hospice Foundation

Annual Report 2021

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much” – Helen Keller

Dear Friends,

2021 was quite the year! We moved offices, rebranded from Casa de la Luz to Roots & Roads, and hired our first ever Director of Community Engagement. Despite these changes, what remained constant was our commitment to financially help hospice patients and their families, to educate our community about end-of-life issues, and to support end-of-life care advancements. None of this would have been possible without YOU!

Your gifts transform the end-of-life experience into the final act of living well. Whether your support comes in the form of helping pay for housing, the production of our educational series or the purchase of items used to calm agitation in patients living with dementia, please know that your support makes EVERY difference.

We hope that 2022 is filled with health and happiness for you and yours. Our team is working on some amazing projects in this new year which we look forward to sharing with you soon. Please consider signing up to receive our occasional emails which will keep you “in the know” by visiting our contact page at rootsandroads.org/contact-us/

We are honored to have you walking beside us on this journey.

With deep gratitude,

Julie Evans
Executive Director

Ps. Please reach out with suggestions, questions, resources, and anything else that can help us be the best possible support for those at end-of-life. We can be reached via email at supporting@rootsandroads.org or via phone at (520) 351-5441.

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Hospice Partnerships

Roots & Roads partners with hospice providers to help patients live their final days in comfort and with dignity by supporting expenses not covered by insurance such as housing, transportation, safety equipment, and final arrangements. In 2021 we increased our ability to provide support by forming partnerships with hospice agencies that serve Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Pinal Counties. Thanks to financial support from community members, and the collaborative work of staff from Casa de la Luz, Harmony, Heartland, and Valor Hospices, we were able to serve over 400 individuals and their families when it was needed most. With gifts from generous individuals like you, we will continue to meet the increasing needs of hospice patients and their families in the years to come.

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.

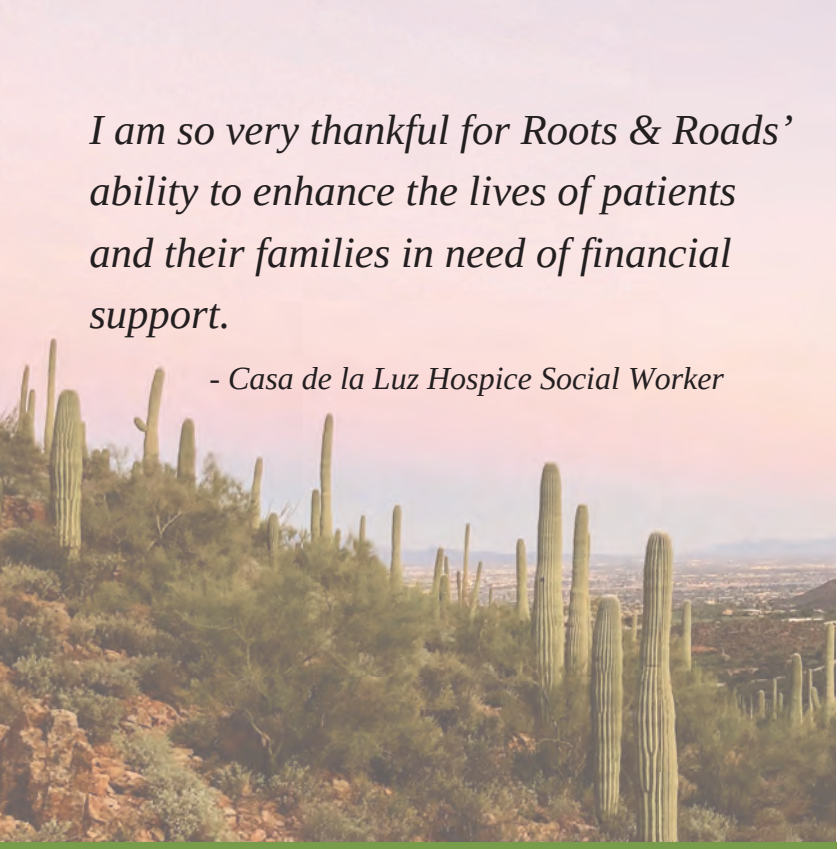
3. Encourage conversations and access to information, resources, and referrals for professionals and the public regarding end-of-life issues and bereavement services.

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.



I am so very thankful for Roots & Roads' ability to enhance the lives of patients and their families in need of financial support.

- Casa de la Luz Hospice Social Worker

Staff

Julie Evans
Executive Director

David Fife
Director of Community Engagement

Jennifer Arvizu
Operations Manager

Our 2021 Board of Directors

Board President
Kasey Hill

Vice President
Rachel Sass

Treasurer
Ed Fix

Secretary
Alex Ryckman

Alan Barreuther
Dr. Kevin Carmichael
Karyn Damschen
Sally Dodds, Ph.D.
Sharon Fitzpatrick
MaryAnn Juarez

2021 Virtual Conference Series

Death Creations: Embracing Death for a Fuller Life

Our 21st year of providing End-of-Life education in the community.

Over 1000 participants took part in our monthly virtual series.

Sessions were led by local and national leaders, helping us all reduce our fear of death through fun and engaging events, as well as heartfelt conversations.

"The information in the programs I attended was informative, pertinent, and thoughtfully presented. Keep up the great work. I'm continually amazed at the variety of offerings you have had over the years."
– EOL Series Survey participant

2021 Series Topics

- Death Becomes Us
- Caregiver: A Love Story
- Game Night: Death Deck
- Dementia: The Struggle is Real
- Human Composting:
  An Ecological Death Care Option
- Children and Grief Educational Workshop
- Suprising Benefits of Water Cremation
- Grief During the Holidays

Thank you to everyone who participated, and a very special thank you to all of our sponsors, including Universal Series Sponsor, The Connie Hillman Family Foundation!

All recordings are offered on our website as an ongoing source for education regarding end-of-life.

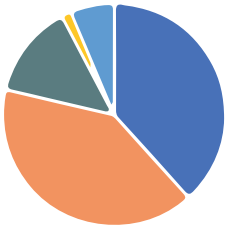
Our Mission

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

95 PATIENT REQUESTS
were fulfilled for a total of $66,594.70 in financial support of basic needs

160 INDIVIDUALS
participated in Bereavement Groups and received free workbooks to support their grief process



Patient Requests Funded
$66,594.70

43% Housing
41% Final Arrangements
15% Other
1% Transportation

184 VETERANS HONORED
& presented with a blanket adorned with their military branch

1000 REGISTERED ATTENDEES
participated in our 1st Virtual Education Series: Death Creations

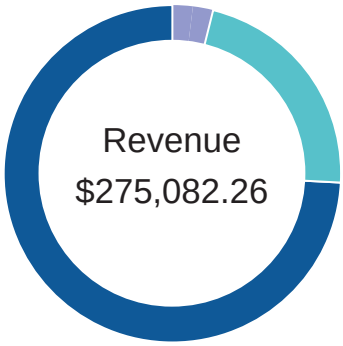
6750 FIVE WISHES
Advance Care Planning Booklets were distributed

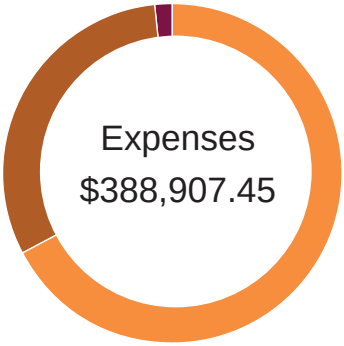
2021 Financials

$203,330.96
Contributions

$61,202.50
Grants

$10,548.80
Educational Events





$266,548.54
Programming

$117,774.00
Admin

$4,584.91
Fundraising

The Crosswalk - Walking with you through the journey.

A resource for navigating serious illness and end-of-life care decisions.

A crosswalk is a safe space used to navigate oncoming traffic. We chose this metaphor for our new resource for several reasons:

When given a life-limiting diagnosis...

- it can feel like the world is coming at you rapidly and decisions must be made in haste
- you might not know what your options are for moving forward
- you could be unsure which path is the right one for you

Roots & Roads is here to walk you through the journey, no matter where you start.

Our vision is to transform the end-of-life experience into the final act of living well. Although our focus is on hospice care, we realize that a comprehensive resource is needed to guide our community from time of diagnosis.

Should you choose to pursue treatment, we offer resources for questions to ask your provider. You may be wondering what palliative care is and we provide answers along with information about providers in your area. If you determine that hospice care is best for you, we want you to be fully informed about who provides it and what services you're entitled to. We also want to support your family through their journeys in caregiving and grief.

In 2021, the idea for The Crosswalk was born when community members asked Roots & Roads to address the need for easily accessible, accurate, and unbiased information regarding end-of-life and serious illness care. ***We are humbled by the importance of this initiative and invite you to share your experiences and thoughts (via email at supporting@rootsandroads.org) so that this resource will be as inclusive and accessible as possible.***

If it weren't for the generosity of Roots & Roads Community Hospice Foundation, another patient of mine, a homeless terminally ill veteran, would have been on the streets without stable housing. Roots & Roads graciously paid for this individual's month-long hotel room stay until we were able to get him into more stable long-term housing. Roots & Roads' generosity is very much appreciated by me and my patients!

-Harmony Hospice Social Worker

The Crosswalk

A resource for navigating serious illness and end-of-life decisions

Received a life-limiting diagnosis

Take a breath, Talk with loved ones, Take time to feel

Resources:
- Coping with a life-threatening illness

Determine what care is best for you

Resources:
- Serious illness and end-of-life care
- Questions to ask your provider

Seek Treatment

Resources:
- Questions to ask your provider
- Community resources

Palliative Care

Resources:
- What is palliative care?
- What are the benefits?

Hospice Care

Resources:
- What is hospice care?
- How to choose a provider
- Listing of hospice providers in southern AZ

Admission to Hospice

Resources:
- Levels of hospice care
- Patient/Caregiver resources
- Dying process

Discharge

Resources:
- What happens when a patient is discharged from hospice?
- Appealing a hospice discharge
- Returning to hospice care

Death

Resources:
- Final details
- Next steps

Bereavement

Resources:
- Bereavement groups
- Grief resources (books, articles, websites)

I just wanted to thank you. A request for support was submitted, and I know it was somewhat unconventional, but it all worked out because of your foundation's incredible generosity. Please share our gratitude to those who so generously assist those in desperate need.

~ Heartland Hospice Social Worker

We are grateful for you!

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