

NEWSLETTER



IT'S GOOD TO BE GOOD

The best person I know isn't a human being (and, no, it's not a dog either). It is a collection of human beings. When it was incorporated 46 years ago as a not-for-profit organization in Massachusetts, Good Shepherd Community Care was born, legally, as a person. This legal personhood is shared by all incorporated entities, of course, but not all incorporated entities are so good as Good Shepherd.

What makes Good Shepherd a better person than other persons I know (including myself) is that it exists and was created solely for the benefit of others. It does not exist to enrich itself, its owners, shareholders (of which there are none), investors, or anyone other than the members of its community.

I often reflect on how fortunate I feel to work for the best person I know. I know that many of our staff feel the same way. I, personally, may not be the best boss in the world, but the people who report to me know that they are not working for me – they are working for Good Shepherd. It is our goal that everyone who works and volunteers at Good Shepherd knows that, and perhaps that is part of the reason that Good Shepherd has been named a Top Place to Work in Boston for the past 2 years. The time a person spends at work represents a large portion of their life. It is a wonderful feeling to know that this large chunk of our life not only benefits the patients and families we serve, but is put to that use by a person with pure motives.

As the Board of Directors and leadership staff began our current strategic planning cycle, we decided to do so by better articulating our vision:

At Good Shepherd, we envision a community in which every person is comforted by the abiding knowledge that they will be respected, valued, supported, and companioned when navigating serious illness or loss.

You, the members of our community who support Good Shepherd, are an integral part of the group of good people who make the person of Good Shepherd possible. One thing we identified in our strategic plan that is crucial to the organization's ongoing ability to fulfill its mission and bring about its vision, is the need to recruit enough employees and volunteers to meet the growing needs within our community. You may be able to help us do that. If you know of someone who is looking for an employment or volunteer opportunity to make a positive difference in people's lives, please recommend us to them. I can assure you that the long term rewards of working for this amazing person will make them look back to you with gratitude for doing so.

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As a member of the Board, I appreciate that Good Shepherd continues to prioritize compassion, quality and above all people, when this day and age, selling out is easier and more common than strategically sticking to a grass-roots mission with determination and thoughtful innovation.

–Cathi Jones, Board Member and Nurse Navigator, Home Hospital MassGeneral Brigham, NWH

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Tim Boon, President & CEO

ENHANCING ACCESS AND DELIVERING QUALITY: OUR RACIAL EQUITY COMMITTEE IN ACTION

At Good Shepherd, we know that being inclusive does not mean treating every patient the same. From the start of our work as a not-for-profit organization, equitable care has been a core part of our mission. Maintaining an intentional focus on DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging) in our practices, policies, programs, initiatives, and partnerships is crucial to developing patient trust and engagement. Higher levels of patient trust and engagement have been proven to lead to better patient outcomes, higher quality of care, and overall satisfaction. Good Shepherd prioritizes empathy, understanding, and cultural sensitivity that is influenced by DEIB practices to ensure that our community members receive compassionate care tailored to their individual needs. We specialize in providing and customizing this care for people who are experiencing serious illness, the end of life and/or the loss of a loved one.



Our current DEIB goals include greater service to Black communities across the greater Boston area, staff support around engaging in issues related to race and identity, and racial diversity across our Board of Directors and management team. Our Racial Equity Committee, composed of staff, Board members and leadership across all levels, helps our organization further achieve our goals throughout a broad range of programming.

As part of our organization-wide DEIB improvement initiative, we are excited to be in the beginning stages of forming meaningful partnerships with the Louis D. Brown Institute and We Are Better Together, two organizations with a shared mission of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by trauma, grief, and loss.

This summer, informed by the thesis work of Darrell Hyche, a Pedi Pal Employee who started as a HEARTplay Intern, HEARTplay will pilot a program at We are Better Together. His thesis, titled “Grief Like Mine: A literature review exploring culturally-informed grief work for black youth using dance movement therapy,” served as the catalyst for this equitable programming and community collaboration initiative.

As we continue to deepen the work across traditionally underserved communities, we look forward to sharing our successes with you. This work has just begun and we are stronger together!

“Our family was so lucky to have Good Shepherd care for our mom! You made it possible for mom to live her last week of life with dignity, comfort and respect. You were thoughtful, kind, compassionate and honest. You made it possible for those who loved mom the most to feel secure, reassured and informed. You educated us, you consoled us and you were always there for us. Mom passed just as she lived life, with valor, beauty and grace. For all those things we are all so grateful that Good Shepherd was our hospice.” – Family Member



FLASHES OF HOPE

This spring, our Pedi Pal team hosted its annual Flashes of Hope photography event for patients and families enrolled in the program. Flashes of Hope is widely recognized as the most popular Pedi Pal program event, where local professional photographers volunteer an afternoon of their time to photograph families who are receiving pediatric palliative care services from Good Shepherd.

This year, 22 families participated in this joyous event and received a free photo package, which included a personalized family sitting and several black and white photographs from their shoot. This special event offers an opportunity that might otherwise be challenging for many of these families due to the medical complexities of their child. It creates a safe, non-judgmental space with photographers who take their time to capture beautiful photographs and memories. For some families, this event is the only occasion they have to be photographed as a whole. Each year, in addition to welcoming new families, we welcome back returning families, who give thanks for this invaluable opportunity.

"We sincerely appreciate the hard work and efforts that go into making Flashes of Hope possible year after year. You are truly spreading love," explains Usha, whose daughter is enrolled in Pedi Pal. *"The many years of pictures have become spectacular memories for us. We applaud the determination the team has demonstrated and look forward to the event every year. We are so thankful and can't express how grateful beyond words we are for all that you do."*



*With deep appreciation to photographers:
Jake Belcher, Mike Ritter, and Kathy Tarantola*

A LESSON ON GIVING: ADRIANA'S STORY

AGE 10

This year I participated in Girls on the Run for the second year and was invited to run the BAA 5K. My dad has run the Boston Marathon twice before to raise money for Good Shepherd and so I decided I could do the same!

The reason I decided to make the race a fundraiser for Good Shepherd's HEARTplay program is because in my life, I have experienced the losses of loved ones. I lost my uncle Adrian and uncle Mick before I was born who I never got to meet. I lost my great aunt who I never got to know too, and a few years ago my dog Alfie died. But I am so very grateful I still have loving parents and a little brother and I know it is important for people to have support when they are sad about losing a person that they love. So if I can combine my love for running with raising money for a good cause, then that makes it that much more special. I really love to run and a big help with my running is my 'star power'.

Girls on the Run was an amazing help. They encourage girls to be brave and confident and let their star powers shine - kind of like what HEARTplay does! I hope that my story will encourage others to let their star power shine. The experience of running is amazing especially with a group. I hope at one point Good Shepherd could make my dream come true by helping some of the girls who have lost loved ones run for them.

Adriana and mom, Jennifer Sax, pictured on right.



The incredible achievements of our three runners: Rachel Mathewson, Stephen Campbell and Adriana Kelledy's, respective races helped Good Shepherd raise over \$30,000 to support our mission (10k+ over our goal and the most we have ever raised from runners!). We are beyond grateful to our runners, who were fueled by the generous contributions from our community and by their own personal experiences with grief and the end of life.

"GIVE BACK, GET INVOLVED. LIFE IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT"

These were the words of my dear friend and colleague for the past 20 years, Susan Paley, as she was honored for her retirement from The Village Bank earlier this spring.

This September will mark 20 years for me working for Good Shepherd Community Care. Also this summer, I will turn 45. In celebration of these two important milestones, on my birthday, I will be participating in my first SPRINT Triathlon where I will swim a half a mile, bike 10.8 and run 3.4 miles in support of the one of a kind organization that I have spent my entire adult professional career.

I'm thrilled to be able to combine my love for moving my body with my love for the mission of Good Shepherd in this special way. So please don't just be a spectator for my race - but get involved by joining me in my fundraising campaign this summer!

Donate now via the QR code.

Jennifer Sax, Vice President of Advancement



CORPORATE CHAMPIONS CIRCLE: PAVING A PATH FOR OUR PROGRAMS

For 46 years, through the generous support of our community and business leaders, Good Shepherd Community Care has been delivering the highest quality of care, support and education for patients and their families who are experiencing serious illness, the end of life and grief. As a mission-driven not-for-profit, we consistently value people over profit and rely on community leaders to ensure that we will be here to provide exceptional care for those who need it. This summer, we are incredibly honored to highlight the founding members of our first ever Corporate Champions Circle!

Corporate Champions provide invaluable funding for our programs while receiving public recognition across a broad spectrum of Good Shepherd's programs, events and initiatives all year long! There are sponsorship opportunities at all levels and we are currently seeking Champions for the 2024/2025 program year. This is the perfect opportunity for a small business or a large corporate entity.

The work of not-for-profits like Good Shepherd is not possible without our community champions! For more information about how you can become a Corporate Champion, email Fiona at fcusack@gscommunitycare.org.



FROM OUR CHAMPIONS

"It is a fitting extension of our own mission to support Good Shepherd in this way. I speak for our entire organization in saying we are proud to be founding partners of this initiative and to support the meaningful, life enriching work that Good Shepherd provides to so many."

-Joseph Frias, President & CEO at North Hill

"An unwavering commitment to families drives their care, and we are thankful for their principled and dedicated partnership."

-Karen Caponetti, President & CFO at Geriatric Resource Centre

"We recently lost one of our own team members, who happened to also be named Erin, and our team really came together to support her family, so this cause is very close to our hearts. We wanted to support the crucial work that Good Shepherd is doing to comfort those grappling with losing a loved one."

-Teresa Burns, Executive Director at The Cambridge Homes



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Institute Dinner



"EVERYBODY HAS A STORY"

Confronting biases and barriers in health care, a chaplain and a physician unite to bring compassion and humanity to our country's most vulnerable patients.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

BOSTON MARRIOTT NEWTON
2345 COMMONWEALTH AVE
NEWTON, MA 02466

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. JESSICA ZITTER

[GSCOMMUNITYCARE.ORG/EVENTS](https://gscommunitycare.org/events)

 Good Shepherd
Community Care

GOOD SHEPHERD SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Good Shepherd Institute Speakers Bureau offers expert education, encourages communication and promotes community dialogue with the aim of optimizing the final stage of life. Our speakers deliver in-person and virtual presentations and workshops on a wider range of topics for both lay and professional audiences, including aging, caregiving, serious illness, dying, death, grief and other significant life transitions. Continuing education credits for nursing, social work and case management professionals are available upon request. Recent additions to the Speakers Bureau are: "Riding the Wave: Describing and Supporting Provider Grief," "Medical Aid in Dying - An Overview," and "Creating Family-Centered Bereavement Services." See an expanded programs list at GSCommunityCare.org/Good-Shepherd-Institute or by scanning the QR code below.

For more information about our Community Education Events or Speakers Bureau, please call (617) 969-6130 or email kbancroft@gscommunitycare.org.

Join us for an intimate conversation with Dr. Jessica Zitter about her upcoming film *The Chaplain of Oakland* including sneak-preview clips and moderated discussion about the importance of racial equity in all phases of life and illness. Jessica Zitter, MD, MPH is a physician, documentary filmmaker, and writer working to improve how we die in America. Learn more at GSCommunityCare.org/Events or scan the QR:



PRIDE IN CARING

Good Shepherd celebrated this month with an organization-wide Pride Spirit Week leading up to the Boston Pride For the People Parade on Saturday June 8th. The week consisted of many fun activities to honor and spread awareness for the LGBTQIA+ community. We wrapped up the week-long festivities by partnering with the LGBT Senior Pride Coalition to march in the Parade.

"It was amazing to see our team come together, showing our pride and support for the LGBTQIA+ community. We want to keep the spirit of pride alive and continue to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for all!" Says Pao Mendez, Pedial and Hospice Art Therapist.



DID YOU KNOW...

THAT LAST YEAR GOOD SHEPHERD VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED OVER 4,000 HOURS OF SERVICE FOR A COST SAVINGS OF \$183,268.00.

The work of our dedicated volunteers makes it possible for Good Shepherd to continue delivering the highest quality of care, support and education for those experiencing or anticipating serious illness and loss. You can make an important difference in the lives of others by joining our dedicated team of hospice volunteers. Volunteers make visits to patient homes and the Parlin Hospice Residence, they provide integrative therapies, help with administrative tasks and make phone calls to bereaved families. We also offer opportunities to volunteer from the comfort of your own home. Learn more about volunteering with Good Shepherd at GSCommunityCare.org/Volunteer.





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