Opening New Doors to Hospice Care... for 20 Years

1995 – 1999

The American Hospice Foundation launches, with a mission to raise the visibility of hospice and reach out to underserved populations.

OUR MISSION:
To improve access to quality hospice care through public education, professional training, and advocacy on behalf of consumers.

OUR VISION:
Hospice will be an integral part of our society, culture and belief systems.

Grief at Work booklet (1996)
“an instant classic” – Business & Health

Grief at School booklet (1996)

Grief and Faith booklet (1997)


Initial collaboration with AARP (1998)
– PSA

Grief at Work inspires a series of Wall Street Journal articles. Culminating in Grief at Work being listed as one of six trends to watch in the 21st century. This leads to Naomi Naierman being interviewed for NBC News and Good Morning America. (1999)

Alzheimer’s Disease & Hospice booklet (1996)

Initial Grief at School workshops (1998)

Grief at School Manual (1998)

WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ articles:
For Harried Workers In the 21st Century Six Trends to Watch (December 29, 1999)

A Workplace Can Seem Cold and Indifferent to a Grieving Employee (January 13, 1999)

Some Readers Offer Thoughts on Helping Grieving Colleagues (January 20, 1999)
Hospice report card development work, including focus group research on the report card format and a survey of national hospice and managed care leaders. (2000)

On Veterans Day, training director Helen Fitzgerald was a featured speaker at the annual National Firefighters Memorial attended by President Bush (2001)

Grief at School CD-ROM (CEU-approved self-study course) for school-based professionals (2002)

Grief at Work materials recognized by The Employee Assistance Quarterly (2003)

First “Hospice Summit” convened to discuss how hospice providers and managed care organizations can work together to coordinate end-of-life care. (2003)


Paul Clendening, president of a Kansas City bank, recognized the need to educate his employees about grief at work due to his own tragic experience. After the death of his young son in 1998, Paul worked harder than ever without allowing himself to grieve. Until it caught up with him. “Thanks to AHF’s educational materials, I learned that unresolved grief can compromise work performance as well as personal relationships. I decided to share these materials with my staff as they contained valuable lessons about making our work environment more compassionate and accommodating to employees suffering a loss. The result was a grateful staff and a boost in morale.”
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2005 – 2009

Naomi served as co-chair to the National Framework and Preferred Practices for Palliative and Hospice Care Review Committee of NQF, crafted the framework that will guide nationally endorsed quality measures for end of life care. (2005)

AHF sponsored Crossing Over Jordan in NYC, a conference that celebrates the richness of African-American traditions surrounding death and dying. (2005)

Website redesigned, to include an extensive library of articles on hospice, caregiving, and grieving. (2007)

NQF highlighted Report Card in article, “Helping Consumers with Hospice Care Decisions” (2009)

AHRQ used graphics from Report Card on its website, noted how measures are helpful (2009)

What’s Your Hospice IQ? brochure published in English and Spanish (2005)

Funded grants for local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to inform people about the Medicare Hospice Benefit (2005)

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Partnership with Legacy.com to reach more consumers with our educational articles (2009)

Published article on hospice report card development work in The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety, a peer-reviewed journal. (2009)

Tested report card with 130 hospices in 5 states (2009)

Legacy.com

What’s Your Hospice IQ?

American Hospice Foundation
Developed training program, “Responding to Grieving Clients,” for a large financial services firm to enhance skills of call center employees dealing with grieving clients who had a loved one die. (2010)

Awarded grant from Purdue Pharma to offer workshops on “Improving Pain Assessment in Persons with Dementia.” Workshops presented at national and state conferences of professionals working in eldercare, hospice and home care. (2011 - 2013)

Under a grant from the California HealthCare Foundation conducted a pilot project to collect hospice quality data, assessing the ability and willingness of hospices to provide such data. (2012)

Awarded grant from the California HealthCare Foundation to survey CA hospices to determine their readiness for public reporting of comparative quality metrics and their willingness to publicly report voluntarily. Found that a majority of CA hospices would voluntarily share comparative quality data. (2011)

A Descriptive Study of California Hospice Providers’ Perceptions of Public Reporting of Quality Data Using the Family Evaluation of Hospice Care Survey was published in the American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, a peer-reviewed journal. (2013)

Partnered with Altarum Institute on a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), identifying hospice quality measures with the most relevance to previous users of hospice and those with no exposure. (2013)

Legacy grant to Altarum’s Center for Consumer Choice in Health Care to build a Web-based tool to enable dying people and their families to compare hospices based on quality. (2014)

What Consumers Want to Know About Quality When Choosing a Hospice Provider, American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, a peer-reviewed journal. (2014)

Published “Pain & Dementia” booklet. (2012)

Legacy grant to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to launch an initiative to help grieving children of veterans. (2014)